



WORLDWIDE JOURNEYS

A SELECTION OF SMALL GROUP TOURS ACROSS SIX CONTINENTS

SMALL GROUP TOURS

Welcome to our 'Worldwide Journeys' bringing you innovative itineraries delivered by travel experts.



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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.

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



WHY BOOK WITH JULES VERNE ?

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

All departures on many tours in this brochure are guaranteed to operate with two or more passengers, so you can book with confidence that your tour will operate.

At any point in time, many departures on the remaining tours will also be guaranteed as already over our small minimum group size, 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 Gold Trusted Service Award demonstrates our commitment to getting things right.

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.

HOW TO BOOK

Please call us on 020 3131 0174, 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 cruise or rail programmes will show 'Excursions Included', indicating that sightseeing may be shared with non-Jules Verne guests.

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.

NEW TOURS

Join us on one of our new tours in 2022, we are featuring a selection of new itineraries and departures, our favourites are A week on the Nile, (page 122) sailing from Cairo and visiting the new Grand Museum and Kingdoms of Arabia (page 162) an all new itinerary visiting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; a first for Jules Verne. Please check vjv.com regularly as we add new tours throughout the year.

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 are introducing 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 UK or local tour manager. We are negotiating with our hotels to increase the number of solo groups. Please check tour price panels for Solo Groups departures.

SMALL GROUPS

Travelling as part of a small group you will enjoy a more intimate and sociable atmosphere, benefit from more personal attention from our guides and delve into your destination in more detail, getting closer to the places visited and experiencing local life in a more personal and informal setting.

Our small group sizes also avoid the congestion caused by travelling in a large group. Most tours have a maximum of 28 guests and many are limited to a smaller group size of 18 guests or fewer. However, we normally operate tours even for very small groups and our average group size is just 12 people.

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

INDEPENDENT ARRIVAL

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 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, generally 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 below.

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 0174 or groups@vjv.co.uk

EXTENSION OPTIONS

Whilst our tours follow of necessity 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 last 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

Given the wide range of cuisines in the UK, we believe in creating opportunities to sample local cuisine of your choice 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 needed). 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.



GREAT JOURNEYS OF THE WORLD

We are an intrepid race: for centuries explorers have crossed far horizons in search of distant shores on epic journeys. Yet there is still so much to be discovered, and today we share that same wanderlust. We love to travel the world searching for new and wondrous experiences. At Jules Verne, providing curious, discerning travellers the perfect combination of luxury and service enlivened with a spirit of adventure is our passion.

For more than 40 years Jules Verne has been organising incredible journeys and adventures. Exploring the most captivating destinations, discovering incredible landscapes and natural wonders, encountering wildlife in its natural environment and celebrating diversity as we delve deep into a destination through meaningful experiences and authentic connections that bring cultures together.

As the world re-awakens, we invite you to see the world through our eyes. To enjoy incredible experiences on one of our Great Journeys. Travelling in small private groups with expert local guides who reveal the very best of their destination, all the while staying in specially selected accommodation.

So whether you seek an adventure somewhere extraordinary to celebrate that special event or occasion, or you wish to experience the travel adventure of a lifetime, we invite you to join us on a Great Journey, as we explore cultural treasures, natural wonders, wildlife and people, that all contribute to form this fabulous planet of ours.

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SOLO GROUP TOURS & NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS

Travelling alone doesn't have to mean an increased cost or "penalty charge". With a rise in people who simply prefer to travel solo, no single supplement or solo holidays are in high demand.

Maximise your adventure, staying in your own room without paying more; for all of our No Single Supplement tours and solo holidays, all you have to do is decide where you'll be travelling to next!

Our solo holidays are created for the benefit of single travellers. You will join a small group of other solo travellers, following the same itinerary.

Whether you've been on numerous solo trips in the past or this is your first, we're here to support you through every step. As a specialist tour company with no single supplement and solo holidays, we create travel experiences you'll remember forever. Availability is limited.



7 nights
from
£895

GRAND HOTEL ON LAKE COMO

Stay on Italy's most exclusive lake at the historic Grand Hotel Menaggio, a favourite of Jules Verne guests for 25 years and the destination of our first group since March. Cruises to spectacular Villas Balbianello & Carlotta. Relax & explore by boat, bus & train.

**No Lake View Supp. • Solo Group (Apr/Oct)
• Regional Flights • Group Size: 5 – 28**



7 nights
from
£1395

TREASURES OF SICILY

A comprehensive exploration of Sicily's cultural heritage & ancient sites. Visit ancient Syracuse, Piazza Armerina & Selinunte. Discover the religious & cultural heritage of Palermo, Monreale & Cefalù and the natural wonder of Mount Etna. Private Palazzo visits.

Central Hotels • 7 UNESCO Sites • Solo Groups (Nov) • Group Size: 8 – 25



14 nights
from
£1995

GRAND TOUR OF TURKEY

Explore Turkey's Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Ottoman, Hittite, Trojan and Seljuk heritage from Ottoman capitals of Istanbul & Bursa and ancient Ephesus & Troy to the natural wonders of Pamukkale & Cappadocia. Pera Palas drink & Rooftop dinner.

**Solo Groups • No Single Supp. • 14 Meals
• Early Booking Offer • Group Size: 6 – 25**



7 nights
from
£795

CLASSIC KYRENIA

Visit the "classic" sites and explore Ancient Roman cities, dramatic Crusader castles and Byzantine churches. Special events include lunch at Kyrenia Harbour and Salamis and a special dinner at Bellapais Abbey. Stay in Kyrenia with a choice of two hotels.

**No Single Supplement • Solo Groups (Nov)
• Local Expert Guides • Group Size: 5 – 25**



7 nights
from
£795

CARTHAGE TO KAIROUAN

Discover the splendid Roman sites of Tunisia with visits to Dougga, Uthina and El Djem, plus the holy city of Kairouan and ancient Carthage including 6 UNESCO sites. Enjoy Special Event: The Ribat of Sousse. Stay in 5-star hotels in Tunis and Sousse.

**No Single Supplement • Solo Groups (Nov)
• 6 Lunches & Dinners • Group Size: 4 – 22**



11 nights
from
£3995

VICTORIA FALLS TO OKAVANGO

Wonderful safaris reveal Botswana's unique wildlife environment on Chobe River and at a special camp in the Okavango Delta. Stay at the iconic 5-Star Victoria Falls Hotel adjoining the 'smoke that thunders'. Hwange National Park extension.

Historic Hotel • No Single Supp. • Solo Groups (Feb) • UNESCO Site • Group Size: 2 – 8



9 nights
from
£2795

A KENYAN SAFARI

The most famous wildlife spectacle in the world, a classic safari by 4X4 land cruiser with guaranteed window seat to savannah grasslands, highlands & glittering lakes. Stay at Masai Mara, Aberdare & Unesco Rift Valley Lakes. Lunch at Ark Lodge & Bush dinner.

Solo Groups (May, Nov '22 & Sep '23) • Expert Guide • Improved Safari • Group Size: 2 – 6



5 nights
from
£2295

WILD MASAI MARA

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.

Prices Reduced • No Single Supp. • Solo Groups (Mar & Nov) • Group Size: 2 – 6



11 nights
from
£1995

GOLDEN ROAD TO SAMARKAND

Travelling the ancient Silk Road, one of the greatest trade routes in history to Tamerlane's capital Samarkand, ancient Khiva, the holy city of Bukhara and bustling Tashkent. Half board included. Learn how to prepare traditional 'Pilov' in a local home.

No Single Supp. • Solo Groups • 3 UNESCO Sites • Expert Guide • Group Size: 4 – 25



10 nights
from
£2095

THE TALE OF THE TIGER

A memorable experience, combining the 'Golden Triangle' with India's natural wonders at Ranthambore, Rajasthan's famous tiger reserve and Keoladeo National Park. Enjoy a tiger talk, a cocktail and dinner at Rambagh Palace and a Bollywood show.

No Single Supplement • Solo Group (Apr) • 7 UNESCO Sites • Group Size: 6 – 18



11 nights
from
£2045

SIKHS & EXILES

Revealing India's complex religious history in the foothills of the Himalayas, exploring Amritsar's Golden Temple, residence of the Dalai Lama, hill stations, with heritage hotels, high tea at one of Shimla's oldest residences and cooking lessons in Amritsar and Delhi.

No Single Supplement • Solo Groups (Apr & Sep) • 7 Meals • Group Size: 6 – 12



13 nights
from
£2495

SPLENDOURS OF SOUTH INDIA

A rich and varied experience visiting majestic temples, friendly villages, colonial heritage, verdant hills, the Keralan backwaters plus historic Cochin and Chennai staying at high standard properties or 'CGH Earth' hotels harmonious to the local environment.

No Single Supp. • Solo Groups (Apr 2023) • 10 Meals • 3 UNESCO Sites • Group Size: 6 – 18



13 nights
from
£2395

TREASURES OF INDOCHINA

A magnificent adventure from sophisticated Saigon, spectacular Angkor temples, hectic Hanoi, peaceful Luang Prabang to majestic Ha Long Bay with an overnight cruise. Enjoy cocktails at Saigon rooftop bar, tasting at the Bug Café, a Baci ceremony and dinner cruise.

No Single Supp. • Solo Group (10 Sep '22) • 10 Meals • 3 UNESCO Sites • Group Size: 2 – 18



11 nights
from
£2845

LOST WORLD OF THE INCAS

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.

Solo Groups (Feb) • 3 UNESCO Sites • Local Expert Guides • Group Size: 5 – 25



8 nights
from
£1845

THE BEST 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 Supp. • Solo Groups (Jun) • 12 Meals • 4 UNESCO Sites • Group Size: 5 – 25



15 nights
from
£2125

HEMINGWAY'S CUBA

A comprehensive tour of Western Cuba's most important cities and landscapes, discovering Cuba's rich colonial history and natural beauty, staying at Viñales Valley, Havana, Trinidad, Santa Clara and Varadero. Enjoy a cocktail at El Floridita.

No Single Supp. • Solo Groups (Apr '22 & May '23) • 5 UNESCO Sites • Group Size: 5 – 25

RIVER & COASTAL CRUISES

Discover a wide variety of escorted river and ocean cruises with Jules Verne. Cruises are a wonderful way to travel, allowing you to relax and watch the ever-changing scenery as you cruise by, travelling in style and comfort without the repetitive necessities of hotel formalities. The need to only unpack once is a welcome benefit.

Our choice of vessel is deliberate to reflect the flavour and ambience of the routing and our carefully selected partners share our ethos for a boutique style cruising experience, ideal for the discerning traveller with an interest in culture, history and nature.

Each vessel has an experienced captain, a professional and knowledgeable cruise director and an attentive crew to look after your needs and ensure the smooth running of the cruise.

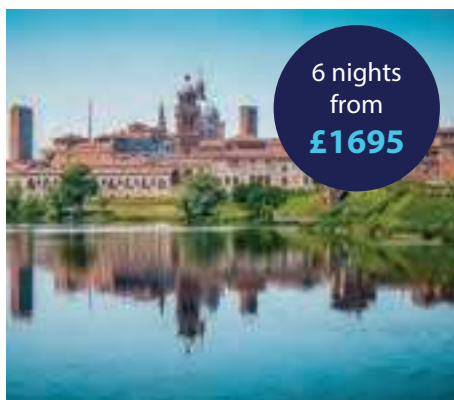


7 nights
from
£1695

ANDALUCÍA FROM THE WATER

Discover Seville and Moorish Spain including Córdoba and the Alhambra, staying mostly in Seville with leisurely cruising to coastal Cádiz on the Guadalquivir River (Great River) on CroisiEurope's MS Belle de Cadix. Excursions, meals and drinks included.

UK Tour Manager • No Single Supplement
• Early Booking Offer • Group Size: 6 – 28



6 nights
from
£1695

VENICE & THE DUCAL CITIES

A new cultural cruise from Venice on the Venetian lagoon to Mantua along the Canal Bianco. Included visits to Vicenza, Verona, Mantua, Cremona and Parma. Most excursions, meals and drinks included on board the MS Michelangelo.

UK Tour Manager • No Single Supplement
• Early Booking Offer • Group Size: 6 – 28

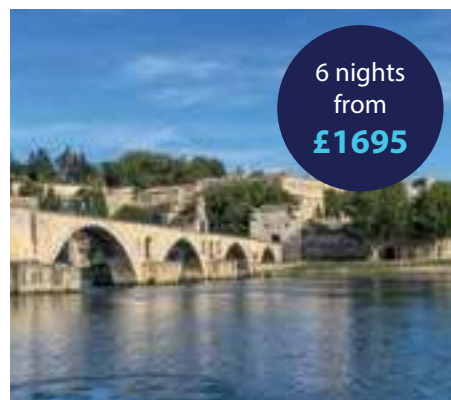


4 nights
from
£925

VENICE FROM THE WATER

Embark on the wonderful MS Michaelangelo and enjoy the Venetian experience right on the water! This itinerary allows time to explore this charming city independently or with optional excursions. Meals and drinks included on board the MS Michelangelo.

UK Tour Manager • No Single Supplement
• Early Booking Offer • Group Size: 6 – 28



6 nights
from
£1695

PROVENCE & BEAUJOLAIS

Choose to travel by plane or train to Lyon. Experience the heritage, landscapes & tastes of the Rhône, Saône, Avignon, Arles & the Camargue including 3 UNESCO Heritage sites. Excursions, meals & drinks included on board. Lyon Extension option.

UK Tour Manager • No Single Supplement
• Early Booking Offer • Group Size: 6 – 28

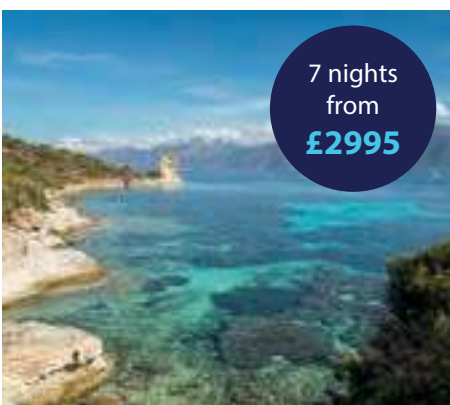


6 nights
from
£1745

BORDEAUX & RIVERS OF WINE

An improved itinerary on our top-rated vessel for food, including drinks & excursions in fascinating and scenically stunning areas. Visit rival ports of La Rochelle and Rochefort, cruise the Garonne, Dordogne & Gironde to famous vineyards, châteaux & bastide towns.

UK Tour Manager • No Single Supplement
• Early Booking Offer • Group Size: 6 – 28

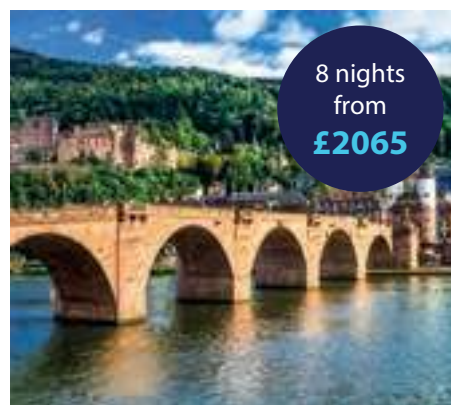


7 nights
from
£2995

DISTINCTIVE CORSICA

Cruise around 'L'Île de Beauté', the Mediterranean's most mountainous isle. Explore stunning coastlines and characteristic villages. Visit Ajaccio, les Calanques de Piana, Bonifacio, le Cap Corse, les Villages de Balagne and Porto Vecchio.

Most Excursions, Meals & Drinks Included
• Early Booking Offer • Group Size: 6 – 35



8 nights
from
£2065

TRIBUTARIES OF THE RHINE

Embark on the MS Leonardo da Vinci and cruise five contrasting rivers linking France and Germany; the Romantic Rhine, the Neckar to Heidelberg, the Main, the Saar and the meandering Moselle to Roman Trier. Excursions, meals and drinks included.

UK Tour Manager • No Single Supplement
• Early Booking Offer • Group Size: 6 – 28



8 nights
from
£2145

THE SOUTHERN RHINE

A new cruise from Cologne to Switzerland aboard A-ROSA AQUA with a no-fly option, cruising through the Rhine Gorge with visits to Mainz, Strasbourg, Colmar, Breisach, Koblenz and option to reach the Swiss Alps & ascend Mount Rigi. Visit 3 UNESCO Sites.

UK Tour Manager • Excursions, Meals & Drinks Incl. • Early Booking Offer • Group Size: 6 – 28



7 nights
from
£1995

DANUBE WALTZ

Classic cruise on the 'Blue Danube' in Austria, Slovakia & Hungary includes Imperial Vienna, medieval Dürnstein, Baroque Melk Abbey, quaint Bratislava, the Puszta & magnificent Budapest. Excursions, Meals & Drinks on board included.

UK Tour Manager • Early Booking Offer • 5 UNESCO Sites • Group Size: 6 – 28



9 nights
from
£1925

WATERWAYS OF THE TSARS

Navigate along the quiet rivers, lakes and canals between Moscow and St. Petersburg and pass through several locks to see the real Russia revealed. Calls are made at historic Uglich, Goritsy for St. Cyril's Monastery and at magnificent Kizhi.

UK Tour Manager • Drinks with Meals Incl. • 3 UNESCO Sites • Group Size: 6 – 32



8 nights
from
£1645

VOYAGE NORTHERN LIGHTS

The Classic Norwegian 'Hurtigruten' coastal cruise is an excellent chance to view the Aurora Borealis from the comfort of your vessel. The cruise starts in Bergen, then up into the Arctic Circle and on to the Russian border in search of the Northern Lights.

UK Tour Manager • UNESCO Site • Expedition Team on Board • Group Size: 8 – 25



9 nights
from
£2595

ANCIENT GREECE OF OLYMPICS

A coastal cruise around the Peloponnese and through the Corinth Canal with a guest lecturer on board, exploring Greece's iconic ancient sites at Athens, Olympia, Delphi, Epidauros and Mycenae. Excursions and meals included on the vessel.

Small Ship Sailing • Historic Vessel • 5 UNESCO Sites • Group Size: 4 – 28



7 nights
from
£3095

A ROYAL STEAMER RESTORED

A 'Royal Invitation' to the classic Nile cruise between Thebes & Nubia on the 'most luxurious steamship on the Nile', a unique restoration by Jules Verne with our Egyptian associates. Luxor Temple by night, Winter Palace cocktail & Tea at the Old Cataract.

No Single Supp. • Most Excursions & Full Board Incl. • Egyptologist • Group Size: 6 – 25



8 nights
from
£2295

PYRAMIDS & THE NILE

Combine Cairo & the Pyramids with a 5-star Nile cruise from ancient Thebes (Luxor) to Aswan viewing the great temples & tombs of ancient Egypt, the treasures of Tutankhamun the Sphinx and the Pyramids (only surviving Great Wonder of the World).

4 UNESCO Sites • No Single Supp. • Tour & River Cruise • Egyptologist • Group Size: 6 – 25



8 nights
from
£2895

SECRETS OF THE SEYCHELLES

A Small Ship Cruise in the 'Garden of Eden' in the paradise islands of this Creole Nation on an unique island-hopping voyage, uncovering white sandy beaches & incredible wildlife. Excellent value including excursions and meals.

No Single Supplement • 2 UNESCO Sites • Regional Flight Options • Group Size: 2 – 25



15 nights
from
£3445

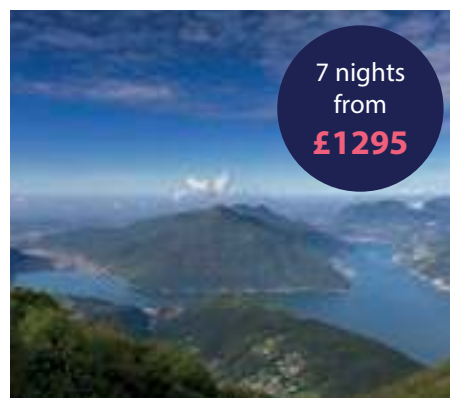
MALDIVIAN MAGIC

A relaxed cruise in the warm turquoise blue waters of the Indian Ocean, explore the marine wonderland by snorkel or diving & relax at secluded white sandy beaches. A comfortable yacht is the best way to explore the world's most beautiful archipelago.

Natural Wonders • Small Ship Sailing • Meals & Drinks Incl. • Group Size: 2 – 20

SECRET TOURS

The concept of the 'Secrets' collection is in response to our travellers who wish to revisit favourite countries which offer so much more than the classic, first-time sites. Indeed, our expert local guides often enthuse about the richness and variety that their country offers for a second or third visit. So rather than cover old ground, we have identified areas, towns and sites not normally covered on a first visit, being relatively unexplored, but also rewarding and usually less busy. The 'Secret' concept also addresses concerns expressed by our customers about 'over-tourism' at famous sites. Some recommended solutions, which we endeavour to follow are to visit less crowded sites off the beaten track, use local guides, stay in central hotels, travel in smaller groups, support local businesses and respect local culture. We hope that you too will be inspired by these tours and look forward to welcoming you in the near future on the 'road less travelled'....



7 nights
from
£1295

SECRET LAKE COMO

Travel by boat, train and small bus. to discover the three corners of Lake Como: the alpine north, Como town & the Lecco arm, staying for a week at the Jules Verne favourite Grand Hotel Menaggio. Optional excursions to St. Moritz & Lakes Orta/Stresa.

**No Single/Lake View Supps. • Historic Hotel
• Local Guide • Group Size: 4 – 12**



7 nights
from
£1345

SECRET ITALY

Stay a week in Assisi, an unspoilt medieval gem retaining the spiritual tranquillity of St. Francis. Explore Orvieto, Urbino & Ravenna. An aperitif and Umbrian wine tasting at the home of your tour host, an art collector. Calendimaggio & St. Francis Festival dates.

**3 UNESCO Sites • Historic Central Hotel
• Group Size: 4 – 18**



7 nights
from
£1695

SECRET NAPLES AND RAVELLO

Discover the palaces, castles, churches, gardens and magnificent scenery of 'the Kingdom of Naples' and the exclusive Ravello on the Amalfi coast with a chamber music concert and a dinner with Neapolitan music and entertainment. Optional Opera.

**Central Hotels • 3 UNESCO Sites • Neapolitan
Expert Guide • Group Size: 6 – 18**



7 nights
from
£1545

SECRET SICILY

Explore Sicily's cultural and natural heritage in the footsteps of 'Inspector Montalbano', including the Baroque towns of Noto, Caltagirone, Modica, Ragusa and Scicli and the Godfather village and the 'secret' Aeolian islands. Private Palazzo & 'Montalbano' visits.

**Historic/5-star Hotels • 2 UNESCO Sites
• Local Expert Guide • Group Size: 8 – 22**



7 nights
from
£1575

SECRET GREECE

In the footsteps of Alexander the Great, his father, Philip and the Gods of Olympus, exploring Macedonian, Greek, Christian & Byzantine heritage of North Greece. Cruise on Lake Kerkini & round Mount Athos. Enjoy special meals. Stay in Thessaloniki & Serres.

**Improved Itinerary • 4 UNESCO Sites • Local
Expert Guides • Group Size: 8 – 25**



7 nights
from
£2125

SECRET GERMANY

By train to Nuremberg for an unusual cruise on board A-ROSA SILVA on the lesser known Pegnitz & Main rivers away from usual cruise waterways, then join the Rhine to Cologne. Visit historic Bamberg, elegant Würzburg, enchanting Wertheim & modern Frankfurt.

**New Cruise • UK Tour Manager • 3 UNESCO
Sites • Group Size: 6 – 28**



7 nights
from
£2445

SECRET DANUBE

Discover the lesser-known Danube, sailing from the Black Sea revealing dramatic riverscapes that connect countries & capitals once behind the 'iron curtain' from Bucharest to Budapest, the most dramatic city on the Danube. Tours & drinks included.

**New Cruise • UK Tour Manager • UNESCO
Site • Group Size: 6 – 28**



7 nights
from
£1345

SECRET MOLDAVIA

Explore secluded Moldova, one of the least-visited countries in the world. Mysterious Transnistria and chic Odessa. Enjoy a traditional Moldovan lunch wine tastings in one of the impressive tasting halls at Cricova and at the prestigious Château Purcari.

Improved Itinerary • Central Hotels • Local Expert Guides • Group Size: 6 – 18



7 nights
from
£1145

SECRET BALKANS

Explore the hidden gems of Montenegro; home to some of the Adriatic's most picturesque scenery. Included visits to Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Enjoy a boat cruise on Lake Skadar and a tasting of Montenegrin wine at a small family winery.

Central Hotels • 2 UNESCO Sites • Local Expert Guide • Group Size: 6 – 22



11 nights
from
£2445

SECRET VOLGA

Cruise a spectacular but lesser-known part of Europe's longest river aboard the Russian 5-star MS Russia. Explore treasures on the trade route from Moscow to the Caspian Sea including remote cities, iconic onion-domed churches and exotic mosques.

3 UNESCO Sites • Excursions Included • UK Tour Manager • Group Size: 10 – 32



10 nights
from
£1845

SECRET GEORGIA

Revealing Georgia from the capital Tbilisi to the coastal town Batumi - remote settlements with flower-strewn meadows high up in the Caucasus mountains, unknown Black Sea coast, churches, superb wines and warm hospitality.

New Tour • No Single Supp. • 3 UNESCO Sites • Expert Guide • Group Size: 6 – 25



9 nights
from
£1645

SECRET MOROCCO

Explore this uniquely different country from mystical Marrakech to the High Atlas mountains and Atlantic coast, staying at historic accommodations in unique locations such as a riad or kasbah in the Atlas Mountains at the foot of Toubkal.

Special Meals • Historic/Central Hotels & Riads • 2 UNESCO Sites • Group Size: 4 – 12



14 nights
from
£3795

SECRET NILE

Sail into the desert from Cairo to Aswan via the ancient capitals of Amarna & Thebes visiting 'secret' sites, rarely explored temples & tombs plus the Pyramids. Observe an old way of life with the benefit of longer cruising from just one excellent 'moving' base.

Private Cocktail Reception • No Single Supp. • Egyptologist • Group Size: 6 – 25



10 nights
from
£1895

SECRET SRI LANKA

Explore the undiscovered northern region and the less crowded coastal areas including Jaffna & Trincomalee. Visit Wilpattu National Park, remarkable temples and ancient sites, including a cookery demonstration. Option to extend in charming coastal Chilaw.

Jeep Safari • 3 UNESCO Sites • 14 Meals • Local Expert Guide • Group Size: 4 – 22



16 nights
from
£2495

SECRET INDIA

Discover Karnataka region and its hidden gems from the countless temples and royal enclosures at Hampi, Mysore palace illuminated to hill stations, national parks, the Nilgiri train and princely Hyderabad, with high tea and lunches in palaces.

Regional Flights • 13 Meals • 3 UNESCO Sites • Local Expert Guide • Group Size: 6 – 18



20 nights
from
£2995

SECRET HIMALAYAN INDIA

Travel off-the-beaten-track by small vehicle on a unique tour revealing the lands of the snow mountains of the Kullu valley, holy sites of Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism and hill stations. Stay in small heritage hotels and witness fascinating holy ceremonies.

No Single Supp. • 12 Meals • 3 UNESCO Sites • Local Expert Guide • Group Size: 6 – 12

DISCOVER THE WORLD OF JULES VERNE



We have carefully distilled the authentic Jules Verne experience into a range of concise arrangements, shorter and more affordable, yet encompassing the sights, sounds and atmosphere of each destination. We create excellent value by offering a slightly larger group size, more affordable hotels and some tours with free time for independent exploration or join optional activities.

HIGHLIGHTS



4 nights
from
£595

HIGHLIGHTS OF ALBANIA

Exceptional value for a few days in the 'Land of the Eagles', staying in Durres at a seaside property with included excursions to the previous capital Kruja, modern Tirana and Ottoman Berat.



6 nights
from
£895

HIGHLIGHTS OF RUSSIA

Exceptional value to experience the magnificence of St. Petersburg & Moscow linked by a high-speed train, includes visits to the Hermitage & Kremlin.



6 nights
from
£1795

HIGHLIGHTS OF KENYA

A special offer for a safari to Kenya's lakes and premier game reserves, the Masai Mara and Amboseli National Park. Discover the stunning UNESCO site of the Great Rift Valley Lakes.



8 nights
from
£1345

HIGHLIGHTS OF VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

Discover Vietnam's contrasting cities of Hanoi in the north and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in the south together with the magnificent Angkor temples at Siem Reap.



With a few exceptions, we have found that wildlife can be difficult to spot. However, there are a number of regions not only in Africa but on all continents where wildlife still rules. You will be spoilt for choice in this wonderful collection of our ever popular wildlife experiences; they are all special and offer an insight into why we need to protect the few remaining wild places.

WILDLIFE



10 nights
from
£4995

BOTSWANA EXPLORER

Discover why this is Africa's safari capital – Botswana's rich and unique landscapes teeming with some of Africa's best wildlife that Africa has to offer.



15 nights
from
£5095

WILD NAMIBIA

Discover the Caprivi Strip, a lush region of Namibia defined by its major rivers and abundant wildlife, cross into Botswana's Chobe National Park and Zimbabwe's iconic Victoria Falls.



14 nights
from
£3495

WILD INDIA

A unique Indian wildlife tour through renowned national parks and sanctuaries, with bird watching and game drive experiences, exploring one of the richest bio-diversities in the world.



11 nights
from
£2845

WILD COLOMBIA

Explore the undiscovered Colombian Amazon and enjoy observing the varied wildlife, birdlife and marine life including humpback whales at the deserted beaches on the Pacific coast.



Whether you're searching for a long weekend away or an escorted city break, we have a wealth of cultural, tropical and relaxing trips for you to enjoy. Whether you'd love to experience some of the world's most stunning architecture, or some of the spectacular natural wonders of the globe, our escorted short breaks boast something for everyone.

SHORT BREAKS



4 nights
from
£965

'ICE' LAND OF THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

Explore the South Icelandic coast and Reykjavik, tour the Golden Circle and enjoy a stay 'in the middle of nowhere' whilst enjoying Iceland's natural phenomena.



4 nights
from
£765

THE GARDEN ISLE OF MADEIRA

A sojourn on the sub-tropical garden isle, including a scenic full day tour of the eastern corner of the island and two half day tours exploring Funchal and the southwest.



4 nights
from
£725

HERITAGE OF MALTA

Discover the great heritage of the captivating Island of the Grand Masters and the George Cross – from the historic capital to the coast and the countryside.



4 nights
from
£795

TURKISH DELIGHTS

Explore the Christian and Ottoman heritage of Istanbul with visits to magnificent palaces, mosques and churches. Enjoy a lovely cruise along the Bosphorus and wander around colourful bazaars.



Discover the wonders of one or more distant countries during one visit on a 'Jules Verne' style small group tour, including the most important sites but also exploring multiple aspects of each unique destination. With so many countries to explore, what better way to experience the maximum on a truly Grand Tour through some of the world's most amazing and awe-inspiring regions!

GRAND TOURS



10 nights
from
£1195

GRAND TOUR OF PORTUGAL

Explore by rail whilst taking in the delightful scenery of the countryside, visiting the most important cultural cities from the South to the North with Faro, Évora, Lisbon, Coimbra and Porto.



21 nights
from
£7145

THREE KINGDOMS

Meet the Mountain People of the Himalayas with visits to Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. Explore stunning alpine valleys, turquoise lakes and snow-capped peaks interspersed with fortress-like Dzongs.



22 nights
from
£3845

GRAND TOUR OF CHINA

Discover the distinctive and incomparable aspects of ancient and modern China, the world's oldest civilisation, from its exotic culture to spectacular scenery and fascinating cities.



21 nights
from
£6395

ICONIC AUSTRALIA

The splendour that is Australia has something for everyone; vast desert landscapes, white sandy shores, world class wineries and trains, and an abundance of wildlife in its natural habitat.

UNITED KINGDOM & IRELAND



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GIANTS

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THE WONDER OF WALES



CALEDONIA CALLING

INTRODUCTION

Steeped in heritage and culture, the time is right to embrace the delights and treasures that are closer to home. Scotland, a wee country with a big personality, is a real favourite. From the Highlands and Islands, of Caledonia Calling, the Inland Waterways aboard a luxury yacht on the Lord of the Glens, to Aberdeenshire on Royal Alba, a Royal favourite since 1848, when Queen Victoria fell in love with the region.

Explore Yorkshire's Roman and Viking heritage amidst the valleys and dales of God's Own Country, discover crumbling coastal castles on Northumbrian Majesty, wonder at the Lake District and revel in glorious steam journeys. Experience the beauty of Dorset on a Jurassic Journey, the Wonder of Wales, and iconic heritage in the Charming Cotswolds. Not forgetting the Emerald Isle for a literary tour, travelling In the Footsteps of the Giants. Allow Jules Verne to introduce spectacular sights, unique experiences and fine accommodation as we celebrate our home nations.

For our full range of tours visit vjv.com/europe-tours/united-kingdom

feefo^{co}



Alison Griffiths, Monday, October 4, 2021

Northumbrian Majesty

Wonderful experience - exceeded my expectations.



NORTHUMBRIAN MAJESTY



Portland Lighthouse ©Visit Britain, Rod Edwards



Jurassic Coast



Durdle Door

OVERVIEW

Poole (6 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes & Natural Wonders
Jules Verne Sightseeing
Harbour Cruise & Scenic Rail Journey
First Class Hotel
Fossil Tour with Resident Paleontologist
Tour Manager
Group Size: 6 – 18

A JURASSIC JOURNEY

INTRODUCTION

The Jurassic Coast, England's only natural UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a feast for the senses, boasting azure waters and incredible geology dating back millions of years. Soak up the relaxed maritime atmosphere of Poole, one of England's most beautiful seaside towns, an ideal base from which to explore this region of outstanding natural beauty and intrigue. Enjoy this perfect introduction to Dorset's wild and beautiful landscape, where rolling hills stand in stark contrast to a procession of sculpted cliffs alongside ancient forts and crumbling castles, proudly guarding quintessential rural villages.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Make your way to The Hotel Du Vin, Poole, for a six-night stay. Meet your fellow travellers and tour manager over a welcome dinner. (D)

DAY 2 Visit Kingston Lacy, residence of the Bankes family, dating from the early 17th century, enjoy the beautiful fine arts and antiquities. Later, transfer to Banbury Rings, an Iron-age hill fort, enjoy a stroll and take time to admire the beautiful Dorset countryside. Later explore Wimborne Minster church with a visit to the inside chained library, continue to view the town's art-deco theatre. (B)

DAY 3 Take a short walk to Poole Harbour for a cruise out into the channel. Enjoy fantastic views from the open deck, passing picturesque Brownsea Island, Sandbanks Peninsula and Studland Bay. Transfer to Chesil Beach to see the Fleet Lagoon, then

on to the Isle of Portland, which forms the southern-most part of Dorset. View Portland Bill Lighthouse and Portland Castle. Built by Henry VIII in the 1540's as defense against the French and Spanish. Enjoy a tour of the Castle to learn of its 450-year history and its role in the Second World War. (B)

DAY 4 Transfer to the Jurassic Coast town of Lyme Regis, meet your fossil expert for an introduction to the history of fossils in the region over a tea or coffee. Learn about the famous coastline and Mary Anning, a famous fossil collector and paleontologist from the 1800's. Head to the beach with your local expert in search of fossils, see Durdle Door and enjoy the marine life. (B)

DAY 5 Travel to Swanage and enjoy a train journey on the heritage railway, passing through beautiful scenery enroute to iconic Corfe Castle. Free time to explore the castle ruins, a most iconic survivor of the English Civil War. Continue to Wareham and enjoy a looped-walk of the town Walls which date back to the Saxon period. (B)

DAY 6 Travel into the north of Dorset, through spectacular countryside, stopping in the market town of Blandford, at the prehistoric hill fort of Hambledon Hill and the town of Shaftesbury, a perfect place to enjoy the beautiful views of Golden Hills. Continue to Melbury Vale Winery for a light but delicious ploughman's lunch of local produce, a guided tour of the winery before partaking in a wine tasting. Return to your hotel for a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Return journey. (B)

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room

2022 – Sundays

Apr 3	£1345	Sep 18	£1575
May 22	£1485	Sep 25	£1565
Jun 12	£1545		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £595 (Apr 3 £425; May 22 £525)
Rail Travel from London Waterloo to Poole (including transfers from the station to hotel) – £85
First Class rail supplement – from £70
Secure off-site parking – £65

Extra Nights – Poole

Hotel Du Vin (per night) – £195 (Apr 3 £155; May 22 £175)
Single supplement – £170 (Apr 3 £130; May 22 £155)

Price Includes

6 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 light lunch, 2 dinners, scenic rail journey, harbour cruise, wine tasting, itinerary as described, services of expert local driver/guides and representative.

Notes

This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot including several sites with inclines or steps, comfortable walking shoes or boots are recommended.

On occasion Wimborne Minster church can close without advance warning, at such times we will view the exterior.

Secure Parking is available on site at the cost of £10 per day, subject to availability on arrival, payable locally.

"We thought the itinerary was very interesting and the guide was excellent throughout the tour"



Broadway Tower



Chipping Campden



Blenheim Palace

5 nights
from
£1765

OVERVIEW

Moreton in Marsh (2 nights)
Tetbury (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes
Jules Verne Sightseeing
Iconic History and Heritage
Incredible Gardens
Luxury Hotels
Expert Local Guides
Group Size: 6 – 16

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room

2022 – Sundays

May 22	£1795	Sep 25	£1795
Jun 12	£1785	Oct 9	£1765
Sep 11	£1825		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £375
Rail Travel from London Paddington to Oxford,
returning from Kemble – £65
First Class rail supplement – £55

Extra Nights – Oxford

Royal Oxford Hotel (per night) – £125
Single supplement – £85

Price Includes

5 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily,
2 dinners, 1 picnic lunch, entrance fees, itinerary
as described, services of expert local driver/guides
and representative.

Notes

*This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot
including several sites with inclines or steps,
comfortable walking shoes or boots are
recommended. National Trust Members will receive
a reduction of £35. Please register your membership
numbers when you book.*

*Parking is available at Pear Tree Park and Ride,
Oxford at the cost of £30 per vehicle. Return transfers
will be provided for those passengers that park.*

** The schedule for HRH The Prince of Wales should
be available in February 2022 after which visits to
Highgrove can be confirmed. The itinerary will be
adjusted to incorporate this visit will be available at
an additional cost.*

THE CHARM OF THE COTSWOLDS

INTRODUCTION

Undulating gracefully across five counties, the Cotswolds is a delightful tangle of golden villages, thatched cottages, evocative churches and honey-coloured mansions. Immerse yourself in the best of the Cotswolds as you experience gardens galore, grandeur and 2000 years of history. Explore Royal Castles, Romans Baths, towers and nature. Visit Oxford University for a private tour, and the World Heritage site of Blenheim Palace. With amazing views around every corner and over the Cotswold escarpment, be enthralled by the slow pace and charm of quintessential England.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Meet at Oxford Railway Station. Walking tour of the University, home to 27 UK Prime Ministers and 55 Nobel Peace prize winners, with access to one of the famous colleges. Continue to Blenheim Palace, home of the Duke of Marlborough, associated forever with Winston Churchill. Explore the Palace and its wonderful gardens before transferring to The Manor, Moreton in Marsh for two nights. (D)

DAY 2 Travel to Chipping Campden, a golden-stoned medieval 'Wool Town', and explore its ancient Market Hall. Continue to Hidcote Gardens, private talk on the wonderful Arts and Crafts garden courtyards, designed by Lawrence Johnson. Enjoy a pint of 'Yubby' in the 'UK's No.1 village pub and later visit the striking folly, Broadway Tower, set within a 200-acre estate, brainchild of the great 18th-century landscape designer Capability Brown. (B)

DAY 3 Take the train to Kington to explore iconic Daylesford Organic Farm, continue to Bourton on the Water. Later visit The Slaughters, taking their name from the Old English word for 'muddy place', they are regarded as two of the prettiest villages in the Cotswolds, enjoy a riverside walk, then visit the historic market town of Stow on the Wold. Transfer to The Hare and Hounds, near Tetbury, for a three nights stay. (B)

DAY 4 Travel to Lacock, frozen in history and owned almost entirely by the National Trust, thus remaining unspoiled over the centuries. Tour the 13th-century Abbey, founded by the Countess of Salisbury. Picnic lunch, later visit Castle Combe and the National Westonbirt Arboretum one of the world's most beautiful and important plant collections, explore its tree-top walkway with stunning canopy views. (B, L)

DAY 5 Travel to Bath, exploring the canals and the World Heritage City. Visit Holburne Museum, the incredibly preserved Roman Baths and the Regency architecture of the Royal Circus and Royal Crescent. (B, D)

DAY 6 Visit Chedworth's Roman Villa, one of Britain's grandest, with extensive mosaic floors and hypocaust systems. There is the option (dependant on the schedule of HRH The Prince of Wales) to visit Highgrove for a private tour of the gardens.* Since 1980, His Royal Highness has been devoted to transforming the gardens of his private residence, which are renowned as some of the most inspiring and innovative in the United Kingdom. Transfer to Kemble station for return rail journey, or transfer back to Oxford. (B)



3 nights
from
£1485



Ribblehead Viaduct ©John Woolley

OVERVIEW

Bowness-on-Windermere (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Steam Hauled Journey
Scenic Landscapes
Historic Locomotive
Specially Selected Hotels
Lake View Rooms
Assigned Seats in Pullman-Style Carriage
Group Size: 2 – 42



Low Wood Bay Hotel, Windermere

WHISTLE-STOP TO WINDERMERE

INTRODUCTION

Indulge in a bygone era onboard the steam-hauled 61306 Mayflower. Discerning travellers can experience the romance and craft of the Golden Age of Travel on a breathtaking short-break to one of the country's most scenic and beautiful regions, travelling in Pullman Style carriages. In England's north-western corner lies ancient Cumbria and the timeless countryside of the Lake District replete with outstanding natural landscapes. Shimmering lakes and hushed mountains radiate beauty and wonder inspiring so many, from Wordsworth to Wainwright and Ruskin to Potter. Indeed, described by Wordsworth as "the loveliest spot that man hath found."

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Steam hauled departure from London with the 61306 Mayflower. Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast and a glass of fizz as you leave the capital. Travel via the West Coast Main Line, with a steam-hauled journey along the famous the Settle and Carlisle Railway as the sun sets. Dinner is served before arriving into Oxenholme for the short transfer to your chosen hotel in Bowness-on-Windermere. (B, D)

DAY 2 A day at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities or explore the Lakelands. Steamers and launches operate from Bowness Bay to Lakeside, in the south, and Waterhead at Ambleside. Nearby Brockhole, set in 30 acres of magnificent terraced gardens, with grounds stretching down to the shore of Windermere and splendid views of the surrounding countryside, is a wonderful place to start. (B)

DAY 3 Enjoy an optional excursion on two private railway lines. Travel to Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway for a return journey along the stunning seven and a half mile line which lays claim to be one of England's most beautiful. Then by road to Haverthwaite Railway, for the three and a half mile journey through lovely scenery. Returning to Lakeside, we will round off the day with a pleasure cruise on Lake Windermere to Bowness (£55). (B)

DAY 4 Depart from Carnforth, the filming location of Brief Encounter. Elevenses will be served as we travel to Stratford-Upon-Avon. Here there will be time to stretch your legs and grab a light bite before continuing the journey to London. A delightful dinner will be served before returning to the capital. (B, L, D)

THE BELSFIELD HOTEL

The Belsfield dates back to 1845, with some of its original features still remaining. This Grade II listed hotel overlooking the Bay of Bowness has a restaurant, lounge bar and WiFi (Free). 62 impeccable, Laura Ashley designed bedrooms with lake view, hairdryer, tea/coffee making facilities and TV.

MACDONALD OLD ENGLAND HOTEL & SPA

Set on the shores of Lake Windermere, with traditional country house charm, this 4-star hotel is set in mature gardens with stunning views. Restaurant, bar, spa, health centre, WiFi (Free) and 106 luxurious, traditionally furnished bedrooms. The Super Deluxe rooms have partial lake view, hairdryer, tea/coffee making facilities and TV.

DEPARTURE & PRICES

per person in a Lake View room at your choice of hotel
From London, in Pullman Carriages at a table for 4

2022 – Tuesday

Sep 27	£1485
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £465
Table for 2 – £250
The Belsfield, Superior Lake View Suite – £165
MacDonald Old England, Superior Full Lake View Room – £165
Single supplement – £300

Price Includes

Rail travel as indicated, 3 nights' accommodation at your chosen hotel, breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 2 dinners and elevenses served on board the train, seating in Pullman Style carriages, portage, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representative.

Notes

Seating is at a table for 4 in Pullman Style carriages. Meals on the train comprise a full english breakfast, 4-course dinners, including wine, water tea & coffee and elevenses. The train operates a full complement with standard, premium and Pullman Carriages. Pullman Carriages have a maximum capacity of 42 travellers.

61306 MAYFLOWER

Built in 1948 for the London and North Eastern Railway, 61306 Mayflower is one of two surviving B1 Class locomotives. Resplendent in the early British Railway's apple green livery, the Pullman carriages provide a premium railway dining experience. Passengers are seated in 1950s or 1960s carriages with wood panelling, comfortable seats, table lamps and curtains at the windows, evoking memories of a bygone era.

PRICES
REDUCED
Save up to £100
New prices shown in white



Warkworth Castle



Holy Island

5 nights
from
£1595



Hadrian's Wall

OVERVIEW

Hexham (2 nights)

Northumberland Coast (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes

Jules Verne Sightseeing

National Heritage & Iconic Castles

Victorian Townhouse Stay

Country House Stay

Expert Local Guides

Group Size: 6 – 16

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a double/twin room

2022 – Sundays

Apr 24	£1595	Sep 11	£1695
May 15	£1695	Sep 25	£1750
Jul 3	£1795	Oct 9	£1695

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £375

Rail Travel from London Kings Cross to Newcastle – £140

First Class rail supplement – from £130

Secure parking in Newcastle – £75

Extra Nights – Newcastle

Royal Station Hotel (per night) – £65

Single supplement – £40

Price Includes

5 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 2 dinners, 1 lunch, itinerary as described, services, of expert local driver/guides and representative.

Notes

This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot including several sites with inclines or steps, comfortable walking shoes or boots are recommended.

National Trust Members will receive a reduction of £10, English Heritage Members a reduction of £20. Please register your membership numbers when you book.

**25 September departure will be accommodated on the Northumberland Coast at the Doxford Hall Hotel and Spa.*

NORTHUMBRIAN MAJESTY

INTRODUCTION

Northumberland is a haven for history and heritage lovers with a plethora of Roman, Norman and Viking influences and some of the most wonderful castles. Hadrian's Walls' iconic villages and forts are beautifully preserved and sit within rolling countryside on the banks of the River Tyne. Enjoy private tours of Vindolanda and the iconic castles of the coastline including Warkworth, Alnwick, Bamburgh, Dunstanburgh, Tynemouth Abbey and of course mystical Lindisfarne.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Meet at Newcastle Station. Hugging Hadrian's Wall, depart the city, stopping at a wonderful country pub just outside Corbridge for an introduction to the tour ahead. Continue to the beautiful market town of Hexham, on the banks of the River Tyne. Visit the 6th-century Abbey, one of the first seats of Christianity in the country, and the Old Gaol, the oldest in England, explore and take the opportunity for afternoon tea. Check in at The Beaumont Victorian Townhouse for two nights. (D)

DAY 2 Travel to Hadrian's Wall, the northern frontier of a mighty empire that once covered the known world. Visit Housesteads, the most complete Roman Fort in England, with the option to walk along the wall to Sycamore Gap. Free time for lunch at The Sill and an introduction to the history and legacy of Hadrian's Wall. Continue to Vindolanda, considered by many as the jewel in the crown of the wall, for a private guided tour with one of its

prominent archaeologists. (B)

DAY 3 After a couple of days inland, head to the more remote coast for the first of two days of iconic castle visits. Walk into Warkworth Castle, visit the Hermitage, a chapel and priest's house built into the cliff on the River Coquet. Continue to wonderful Alnwick Castle, one of the best-preserved, with exquisite gardens and a private tour with a local expert. Continue to Eshott Hall*, set in the rural heart of Northumberland, surrounded by its own sprawling estate, for a three night stay. (B)

DAY 4 Journey the short distance to Chillingham Castle to view the famous herd of cattle and one of England's most haunted castles. Head to the wonderful village of Craster on the coast where we lunch at a great pub overlooking the sea, eating world-famous kippers and other seafood followed by a stroll along the coastal path to the atmospheric Dunstanburgh Castle with its spectacularly dramatic views. (B, L)

DAY 5 Travel to spectacular Bamburgh for a private tour, with behind the scenes access to this majestic castle. Continue to Lindisfarne, undoubtedly a highlight of the tour. Access is dictated by the tide which cuts off Lindisfarne twice daily. We take the bus across to the island to visit the Priory and 16th-century castle and take a looped walk of the castle and her grounds. Farewell dinner at Eshott Hall. (B, D)

DAY 6 Travel to Tynemouth, visit the beach, the Priory and Castle. Time at leisure before returning to Newcastle for the return journey. (B)



Lake Windermere



Buttermere

5 nights
from
£1165

OVERVIEW

Gilpin Valley (5 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes

Natural Wonders

Historic Hotel

Lecture and Recital

Lake Cruise on the Steam Yacht Gondola

5 Dinners & 1 Lunch

Group Size: 6 – 18



Coniston

LETTERS FROM THE LAKESIDE

INTRODUCTION

In England's north-western corner lies ancient Cumbria and the timeless countryside of the Lake District, replete with outstanding natural landscapes and links to literary history. Shimmering lakes and hushed mountains radiate beauty and wonder inspiring so many, from Wordsworth to Wainwright and Ruskin to Potter. It was Wordsworth who described the English Lake District as "the loveliest spot that man hath found". Explore Cumbria's living heritage visiting the homes of these great writers. Our base is near Kendal, staying at The Wild Boar, set amongst the beauty of the ancient Gilpin Valley, boasting exceptional standards of service, traditional interiors and delicious country-style cooking.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Make your way to The Wild Boar Hotel near Kendal. Enjoy dinner with a glass of wine and meet your fellow travellers. (D)

DAY 2 Transfer to the shores of Lake Windermere, cruise from Waterhead to Wray Castle and enjoy a walk along the banks. Stop at Claife viewing station for some superb views. Continue to Hawkshead, with free time for lunch. Next visit Hill Top, explore the former residence of Beatrix Potter, enjoy the gardens and interior, with time to relax. (B, D)

DAY 3 Visit Rydal Mount, former home of the romantic poet William Wordsworth. Our special tour begins in the spectacular gardens with a recital of some of Wordsworth's most famous poems. Enjoy

a glass of wine and gingerbread whilst you listen to a lecture before exploring the house. Continue around Rydal Lake to Grasmere, stopping at Dove Cottage (another former house of William Wordsworth) and Grasmere's famous Gingerbread shop. Continue to Keswick for some free time. Later enjoy a scenic drive around Derwent Lake and Buttermere, one of the lesser-known but equally splendid lakes in the region. (B, D)

DAY 4 Drive to Coniston via scenic Tarn How, a manmade mountain lake. Take a ride on the National Trust Steam Yacht Gondola, rebuilt to its Victorian glory and visit Brantwood, the former home of John Ruskin, on the banks of Coniston Water. Enjoy a picnic lunch on the lakeshore. Continue to Holehird in Windermere, an extensive 10-acre site, home to the Lakeland Horticultural Society, hosting a myriad of exotic and beautiful plant life, with time to explore. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Head south today to explore another side of Cumbria. Visit Furness Abbey, a former Catholic and Cistercian Monastery dating back to 1123 and home to a number of individual Grade I Listed Buildings. Travel to Ulverston with free time to explore and later visit Blackwell, an internationally significant historic house and a rare and wonderful example of the survival of the Arts & Crafts Movement. Return to the hotel and enjoy a talk and tasting of three ales, one of which is brewed in the on-site microbrewery. Farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 6 Check out after breakfast for your return journey. (B)

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a double/twin room

2022 – Sundays

Mar 27	£1195	Sep 11	£1185
May 8	£1195	Sep 18	£1185
May 15	£1185	Oct 2	£1165
Jun 5	£1225	Oct 9	£1175
Sep 4	£1185		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £275

Rail Travel from London to Windermere

Travel from Euston via Oxenholme (including return transfers from the station to the hotel) – from £165

Extra Nights – Gilpin Valley, near Kendal

The Wild Boar (per night) – £88

Single supplement – £55

Price Includes

5 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 5 dinners with a glass of wine, 1 picnic lunch, ale tasting, recital and lecture, itinerary as described, services of expert local driver/guide and representative.

Notes

This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot including several sites with inclines or steps, comfortable walking shoes or boots are recommended.

Parking, for those who wish to arrive independently by car, is included for the duration of your stay.

Dinners are from a table d'hôte menu, with three choices over three courses.

"Interesting tour, lovely hotel, great guide and driver"

**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £250
New prices shown in white

5 nights
from
£1595

Fountains Abbey ©Andrew Bulterfountains

Ribbleshead Viaduct ©Visit Britain, Matt Cant

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room

2022 – Sundays

Apr 3	£1595	Sep 11	£1695
May 15	£1695	Sep 18	£1795
Jun 26	£1725	Oct 2	£1595

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £375
Rail Travel from London Kings Cross to York – £120
First Class rail supplement – from £80
Secure parking in York – £75

Extra Nights – York

Middletons (or similar) (per night) – £110
Single supplement – £80

Price Includes

5 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily,
2 dinners, 1 lunch, beer tasting, itinerary as
described, services of expert local driver/guides
and representative.

Notes

*This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot
including several sites with inclines or steps,
comfortable walking shoes or boots are
recommended.*

*English Heritage card holders qualify for a reduction
of £10 and National Trust Members a reduction of
£20. Please register your membership numbers when
you book.*

OVERVIEW

Skipton (2 nights)
Hawes (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes
Nature & Wildlife
Jules Verne Sightseeing
Heritage Sites
Country Estate & Country House Stay
Expert Local Guides
Group Size: 6 – 16

IN GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

INTRODUCTION

In 'God's Own Country' embrace a variety of wonderful landscapes, historic abbeys, waterfalls and wildlife, Roman and Viking Heritage and fabulous National Parks. Enjoy great food and drink with a good dose of Yorkshire humour thrown in! Travel high into the Dales and visit some of the most beautiful valleys including Nidderdale, Wensleydale, Swaledale, and iconic Malham Cove. Visit stunning waterfalls and get up close and personal with wildlife in the region, with 29 bird species in the National Parks, don't forget your binoculars.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Meet at York Railway Station, travel to the fabulous Devonshire Arms, near Bolton Abbey, for lunch and an introduction to the tour. En-route to we plan to catch a local cricket match. Explore Bolton Abbey, seat of the 12th Duke of Devonshire. Take time to explore the magnificent ruins, at whose heart lies the Priory Church and Ruins of an Augustinian Priory in its beautiful riverside setting. Continue to Skipton, two nights at the Coniston Hotel and an address from one of Yorkshire's finest storytellers. (L, D)

DAY 2 Visit Fountains Abbey, one of the largest and best preserved Cistercian monasteries and explore Studley Water Gardens. Continue to Nidderdale, where we take some Alpacas for a walk through some of the valley's prettiest little villages. (B)

DAY 3 Travel west into the Dales to wonderful Malham Cove with its famous limestone pavement and huge, curved,

amphitheatre. Travel through wonderful countryside, and the slightly twisty roads to Settle with free time for lunch before we take the train towards Carlisle on this world famous line, over the Ribbleshead Viaduct, spanning Batty Moss, to Garsdale Head. Transfer to Hawes and the 16th century country house, Stone House. (B)

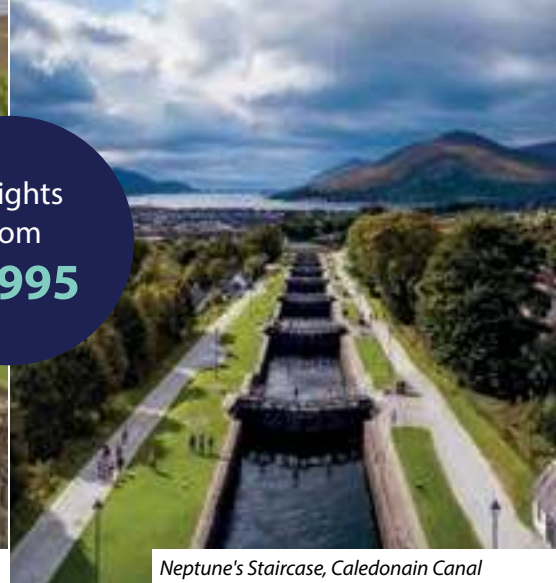
DAY 4 Stay in Wensleydale Valley and visit Hardraw Force waterfall, one of the finest in the Dales, with a spectacular drop of approximately 100ft. Enjoy a private demonstration from one of the world's premier sheepdog handlers for an insight into the lives of the sheepdog and their owners. After time for lunch in a local pub visit the Wensleydale Creamery to sample some of its wonderful cheeses. Afternoon at leisure to enjoy the hotel facilities. (B)

DAY 5 Following the route of the Tour De France, travel over Buttertubs pass and into Swaledale, a truly spectacular route. Explore Bolton Castle, with its 600 years of history, its lovely gardens, vineyard and maze. Continue to the delightful market town of Masham, famous for its breweries; Theakston's and Black Sheep. Enjoy a brewery tour with a chance to sample some wonderful beer before a final stop at Aysgarth falls on the River Ure, probably the most famous falls in the North of England. Farewell dinner, with time to reflect on your time spent in "God's Country". (B, D)

DAY 6 Travel towards York stopping at Richmond Castle, one of the greatest Norman fortresses, built to suppress the northern hordes! Continue to York Station for your return journey. (B)



Lord of the Glens



Neptune's Staircase, Caledonian Canal

OVERVIEW

Glasgow (Day 1)
Oban (Day 2)
Tobermory (Day 3)
Banavie (Day 4)
Fort Augustus (Day 5)
Inverness (Day 6)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes
Unique Luxury Yacht
Internal Waterways Cruise
Free Cabin Selection
Exclusive Small Ship Sailing
Group Size: 15 – 52



Loch Glenfinnan

LORD OF THE GLENS

INTRODUCTION

Across millennia, the Scots remain fiercely proud of a landscape where high mountains meet deep lochs and a thousand islands rise above dramatic seas. Wonderful scenery awaits on this journey of Scotland's inland Waterways. Explore, as few have, on this enchanting highland cruise from Oban to Inverness. Travelling from lock to lock, along the scenic seas and the narrow Caledonian Canal. Enjoy this panoramic voyage through the very heart of Scotland.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Travel by train from London to Glasgow. Short transfer to the Carlton George Hotel (or similar). Dinner, with time to explore the Victorian and art nouveau architecture, a rich legacy of the city's 18th-20th-century prosperity. (D)

DAY 2 Transfer to Oban for a late afternoon embarkation. The 'Gateway to the Isles', Oban is a Victorian town on a delightful bay, with sweeping views to Kerrera and Mull. Evening welcome reception and dinner. Moor in Oban overnight. (B, D)

DAY 3 Explore Oban on foot including a

visit to McCaig's Folly. Later sail to Craignure on the Island of Mull for a visit to Duart Castle, home of Clan MacLean Sited on a high crag at the end of a peninsula, commanding the channel between Mull and the mainland, entrances to Lochs Linne and Etive and the neck of the Firth of Lorne. Moor in Tobermory overnight. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Tobermory is best explored on foot with time in the morning to visit the famed gaily painted water-front. Cruise the Sound of Mull and Loch Linnhe to Corpach and the entrance to the Caledonian Canal. From sea level, Lord of the Glens ascends the spectacular eight inter-connected locks of 'Neptune's Staircase'. Built by Thomas Telford between 1803 and 1822, it is the longest staircase lock in Scotland. Moor in Banavie overnight. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 From Banavie, in the very shadow of Ben Nevis we take the West Highland train across the Glenfinnan Viaduct. Later cruise through Lochs Lochy and Oich and the stunningly impressive treelined Laggan Avenue before descending the six inter-connected locks to Loch Ness. Moor in Fort Augustus overnight. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Free time to explore Fort Augustus before setting sail along Loch Ness. Stopping briefly to view the ruins of Urquhart Castle, we continue the 21-mile transit of Loch Ness and Loch Dochfour and along the first man-made section of the Caledonian Canal. The voyage concludes with an evening farewell reception and dinner. Moor in Inverness overnight. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Disembark, by road to Edinburgh for the train to London. (B)

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double Lower Deck Cabin
Standard Class Rail Travel from London Euston

2023 – Monday/Thursday

Apr 24	£1995	Oct 19	£2045
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £795 (limited availability)
Standard Middle Deck cabin – £295
Superior Middle Deck cabin – £495
Top Deck cabin – £495
First Class rail – £150

Extra Nights – Glasgow/Inverness

Carlton George, Glasgow (per night) – £90
Single supplement – £60

The Royal Highland Hotel, Inverness (per night) – £95
Single supplement – £60

Price Includes

Rail travel, taxes and port charges, 1 night's hotel accommodation with breakfast and dinner, 5-night cruise, full board on cruise vessel, complimentary tea/coffee on board, excursions, boat manager, local expert guides and representatives.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £150

Note

On occasion, due to ferry movements, the vessel cannot moor overnight at Tobermory mooring instead in Oban, after the visit to Tobermory.

MV LORD OF THE GLENS

At just 150 feet, this elegant vessel can explore the region with ease. Featuring polished wood, teak decks and sumptuous furnishing. 27 outward facing State Cabins spread over three decks. Lower Deck Cabins have two port holes, Middle Deck and Upper Deck Cabins have a picture window. Each State Cabin has rich hardwood finishes, plush carpeting, dressing table, stool, wardrobe, satellite TV, en-suite facilities and air-conditioning/heating. WiFi free/limited.

EASTER IN THE HIGHLANDS

7 nights from £1995

Alternatively, travel to Inverness for an overnight stay before joining the Lord of the Glens for a 6-night cruise to Oban, with a visit to the beautiful Isle of Iona. Returning by road and rail, via Glasgow to London.

Unique Luxury Yacht

"Incredible scenery at a leisurely pace, first-class on-board service"

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Crathes Castle ©Visit Aberdeenshire



Balmoral Castle ©John R Rogers

5 nights
from
£1445



Dunnottar Castle

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room

2022 – Sundays/Wednesday

May 8	£1475	Sep 11	£1475
Jun 5	£1495	Oct 5	£1445
Sep 4	£1465		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £345

Rail Travel from London to Aberdeen – £195

Flight from Heathrow to Aberdeen – from £275

Flight from Gatwick to Aberdeen – from £215
(including return transfers from the station to the hotel)

Optional Extras

Upgrade to Champagne Afternoon Tea at the Fife Arms – £17

Drink Pairing with the Jacobite farewell dinner (each course is matched; Gin, Whiskey, Ale, Malt and Liqueur) – £28

Price Includes

5-nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 5 dinners including a five-course Jacobite themed farewell dinner, scenic train journey on the Royal Deeside Railway, distillery visit with whisky tasting, afternoon tea at the iconic Fife Arms Hotel. Parking at the hotel. Itinerary as described, services of expert local guides and local representative.

Notes

At Dunnottar, there are a number of steps up and down to reach the castle with limited access for those with mobility issues.

Parking for those who wish to arrive independently by car is included for the duration of your stay.

OVERVIEW

Maryculter (5 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes & Natural Splendour

Historic Hotel

Scenic Rail Journey on the Royal Deeside Railway

Exclusive Visits

Expert Local Guides

5 Dinners & an Afternoon Tea

Group Size: 6 – 18

ROYAL ALBA CASTLE COUNTRY

INTRODUCTION

Rich in history and heritage, the picturesque Dee and Don Valleys in the north east of Scotland, make Aberdeenshire truly majestic. In 'Scotland's Castle Country' lie acres of heather-clad hills, ancient woodland, stunning gardens and splendid castles, sitting proudly amid Scots pine. Royal Deeside has been a Royal favourite ever since Queen Victoria and Prince Albert first visited and fell in love with the region in 1848. Since then successive generations of the Royal Family have adopted the area as their tranquil retreat. Before them the Jacobites, The Knights Templar and Robert the Bruce all called it home. Our base is the stunning Maryculter House, dating back to the 13th Century, in a breathtaking location on the banks of the River Dee. This truly unique hotel has the threads of history woven throughout.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Make your way to Aberdeenshire.

Enjoy a welcome dinner and meet your fellow travellers over a glass of wine. (D)

DAY 2 Explore Old Aberdeen, from the 15th-century university, founded by William Elphinstone, Bishop of Aberdeen to the 18th-century merchant quarter and cobbled streets of the Channory and St. Machar's Cathedral. Continue to Seton Park on the River Don and the 13th-century Brig o' Balgownie, immortalised in Lord Byron's poem Don Juan. Travel to pretty, coastal Stonehaven, with free time to explore before visiting dramatic Dunnottar Castle, a ruined medieval fortress perched on a rocky promontory. During the English

Civil War, the 'Honours of Scotland' were hidden here from Oliver Cromwell. (B, D)

DAY 3 Visit Balmoral Castle (May-June only).

Purchased by Prince Albert as a gift for his Queen in 1852, the Balmoral Estate has been the Scottish home of the Royal Family ever since. Explore the gardens, grounds and exhibitions. Autumn departures visit the National Trust Nature Reserve, at Mar Lodge, for a guided tour and pine-flavoured gin tasting. Continue to Braemar for a fabulous afternoon tea at the iconic Fife Arms Hotel, also known for its extensive art collection. Later, visit Royal Lochnagar Distillery (or similar) for a wee dram. (B, D)

DAY 4 Enjoy an exclusive behind the scenes tour of Drum Castle and its historic rose garden. Discover tales of intrigue and romance from the turbulent days of the Jacobite risings, when the Laird of Drum fought at Culloden and eluded the Redcoats, hidden in the castle walls. Enjoy a short ride on the Royal Deeside Railway, used by the Royal Train for travel to Balmoral. (B, D)

DAY 5 Visit magnificent 16th-century Crathes Castle with its intricate maze of turrets, towers, oak panels, painted ceiling, and historic walled garden. Built by the Burnetts on land granted to them by Robert the Bruce. Later, visit the Glen Tanar Estate, Royal Deeside, in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park, famed for its beautiful Caledonian pine and wildlife. Admire the private loch and beautiful scenery. Later, enjoy a farewell Jacobite themed dinner. (B, D)

DAY 6 Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before your return journey. (B)



Isle of Skye



Dunvegan Castle, Scotland

7 nights
from
£1995

OVERVIEW

Edinburgh (1 night)

Skye (2 nights)

Stornoway For Lewis & Harris (2 nights)

Inverness (1 night)

Edinburgh (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes

Natural Wonders

Exclusive Arrangement

Jacobite Steam Train

Local Expert Driver/Guide

Group Size: 8 – 18



Jacobite Steam Train, Scotland

CALEDONIA CALLING

INTRODUCTION

This spectacular 'Highlands and Islands tour' starts in Edinburgh and traverses the beautiful scenery of Loch Lomond, the Trossachs National Park and the haunting landscape of Glen Coe. Enjoy a journey on the Jacobite Steam Train and explore the Hebrides. Skye is truly magical, the largest of the Inner Hebrides and home to some of Scotland's most iconic landscapes and majestic geological features; the Old Man of Storr, the Quiraing and the Cuillins. The beauty of the Outer Hebrides is world-renowned. Explore untouched coasts of pristine white sands and discover ever-changing landscapes as you delve into the fascinating history and heritage. Lewis, largest of the Outer Hebrides, is an island of exciting contrasts with a rich Norse history and strong Gaelic traditions. Continue to Inverness, capital of the Highlands and site of the final battle of the Jacobite Rising.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Arrive in Edinburgh, make your way to the 4-star Voco Haymarket, located to the west of the city center. Afternoon panoramic tour, continue to meet with a local kilt maker and learn a little of their craft before enjoying a welcome dinner. (D)

DAY 2 Head to the Stirling district of central Scotland, skirting the Trossachs National Park and Glencoe, stopping in Fort William, dominated by Ben Nevis. Join the Jacobite Steam Train and cross the Glenfinnan Viaduct. On arrival in Mallaig there is free time to explore before the short ferry ride over the sea to Skye. Transfer to the 3-star

Kings Arms Hotel for two nights (Dunollie Hotel on Oct 19). (B, D)

DAY 3 The Isle of Skye is a stunning 50-mile long patchwork of velvet moors, jagged mountains, sparkling lochs and towering sea cliffs. Spend a full day exploring. Enjoy sights such as the craggy Cuillin Mountains, beautiful Trotternish Peninsula, Kilt Rock and Mealt Waterfall, The Old Man of Storr and the Iron Age Dun Beag Broch. Visit Dunvegan Castle and gardens, in its idyllic loch side setting, and stop at the iconic Skeabost hotel for a delightful afternoon tea. (B, D)

DAY 4 Morning at leisure to explore. Afternoon ferry to Tarbet for Stornoway, transfer to the 3-star Caladh Inn (Cabarfeidh Hotel on May 2 & Oct 10). (B, D)

DAY 5 From Stornoway enjoy a tour of the islands, exploring the Isle of Lewis and Harris, with a visit to a traditional Harris Tweed weaver. (B, D)

DAY 6 Head to the UK's windiest corner and the Butt of Lewis Lighthouse. Continue to ancient Callanish Standing Stones and Carloway Broch before taking the ferry to Ullapool. Travel via Loch Broom and Loch Glascarnoch to Inverness, capital of the Highlands. Overnight at the 3-star Royal Highland hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 Visit the Battlefield of Culloden, site of the defeat of the Jacobite forces. Travel through the Cairngorms National Park, stopping at Glenturret Distillery, home of the Famous Grouse, to enjoy a wee dram or two. Continue to Edinburgh for a traditional farewell dinner and overnight. (B, D)

DAY 8 Breakfast at leisure, check-out. (B)

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room

2022

Apr 27 (Wed)	£1995	Oct 19 (Wed)	£1995
Oct 4 (Tue)	£2095		

2023 – Tuesdays

May 2	£2185	Oct 10	£1995
Sep 19	£2195		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £295
Rail Travel from London to Edinburgh – £115
First Class rail supplement – £175
Flight from London Gatwick – from £125
Arrival or departure transfer – £40

Extra Nights – Edinburgh

Voco Haymarket (per night) – £115
Single supplement – £90

Price Includes

Transportation from Edinburgh, coach travel, travel by ferry, a journey on the Jacobite Steam Train, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 7 dinners, whisky tasting and an afternoon tea, itinerary as described, services of expert driver/guide and representative.

Note

On occasion, alternative hotels of a similar standard may be used.

"An amazing holiday – really loved it!"



Giant's Causeway



Ring of Kerry

10 nights
from
£2395



OVERVIEW

Belfast (2 nights)
Sligo (1 night)
Galway (1 night)
Limerick (1 night)
Killarney (2 nights)
Cork (1 night)
Dublin (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes
UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Exclusive Arrangement
Literary Tour
Lecture at Dublin Writers Museum
Expert Local Guides
Group Size: 8 – 24

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
British Airways to Belfast/from Dublin

2022 – Thursday

Sep 8 £2395

2023 – Sunday

May 14 £2495

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £395
British Airways Club Europe – from £205

Extra Nights – Belfast / Dublin

Holiday Inn Hotel, Belfast

(per night) – £135
Single supplement – £65

The Address Connolly Hotel, Dublin

(per night) – £135
Single supplement – £65

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 10 night's accommodation in specially selected hotels, breakfast daily, 3 lunches, 5 dinners, itinerary and excursions as described, local representatives and expert driver/guide, lectures and private visits. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £150
Arrival transfer £25
Departure transfer £40

Note

On occasion, alternative hotels of a similar standard may be used.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GIANTS

INTRODUCTION

The Irish as a nation have an eloquence and gift when it comes to communicating. An incredibly creative people, producing four Nobel Laureates of Literature and four winners of the Booker Prize, impressive by any standards, more so for such a small nation. Trace the footsteps of some of the literary giants of Ireland and explore the island's beautiful landscape which has evoked this creativity and inspired their wonderful writing. Discover the beauty of Ireland's stunning coastal and mountain scenery. From the geological wonder of the Giant's Causeway, to the dramatic and rugged Cliffs of Moher. Visit the isolated Aran Islands, travel the spectacular Ring of Kerry, and explore the beautiful lakeland scenery of Killarney National Park. Discover the captivating cities of Belfast, birthplace of the Titanic, bohemian Galway, Limerick, a city of literary focus, Cork, home of the revolutionary leader Michael Collins and finally Dublin, the lively capital of the Republic with a long and colourful history.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Belfast, enjoy a panoramic city tour, visit Titanic Belfast and Shankill and Falls area. Two nights at the Holiday Inn. (D)

DAY 2 Explore Giant's Causeway, the UNESCO World Heritage site, consisting of 40,000 basalt polygonal columns formed 60 million years ago. Discover the regions mythology and geology. Visit Seamus Heaney's homeplace, winner of Nobel Prize in Literature and the most widely published poet in the English language. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Travel to Sligo, via Portora Royal school whose pupils include Oscar Wilde and Samuel Beckett, on to Belleek Pottery, then Drumcliff Churchyard, final resting place of W.B. Yeats, at the foot of Benbulbin. Clayton Hotel (or similar). (B)

DAY 4 Explore Connemara, a vast peninsula bordered by the arid and rocky coastline of Galway. Enjoy a cruise onto Lough Corrib, with a traditional tea and explore the city. Optional dinner and entertainment at Padraicins (£49 pre-bookable). Overnight Salthill hotel. (B)

DAY 5 Visit the Aran Islands to encounter 'old Ireland' and cruise beneath the Cliffs of Moher. Overnight at the Strand Hotel. Enjoy a medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle. (B, D)

DAY 6 Travel through the Dingle Peninsula, visit Muckross House and Gardens before two nights at the Killarney Oaks Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 7 Explore the Ring of Kerry, the most famous and panoramic route in Ireland. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (B, D)

DAY 8 Visit Blarney Castle with its mythical stone, then enjoy a culinary tour of Kinsale. Overnight at the Clayton Cork City Hotel. (B)

DAY 9 Travel to Dublin via the Rock of Cashel. Visit the Irish National Stud and Japanese Garden with a stop for lunch. Two nights at The Address Connolly Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 10 Private tour of Glasnevin Cemetery Museum, visit Trinity College and the Book of Kells, then to the Dublin Writers Museum for a lecture on Irish literature. Enjoy a traditional Irish evening, listening to storytellers mythical tales over dinner. (B, D)

DAY 11 Fly from Dublin to London. (B)



Upper Neuadd Reservoir



Brecon Beacons

5 nights
from
£1595

OVERVIEW

Llangefni (3 nights)
Llangammarch Wells (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Scenic Landscapes & Natural Wonders
2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Steam Train Journey
Island Tour
Artisan Produce Tastings
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 6 – 15



© Visit Wales

THE WONDER OF WALES

INTRODUCTION

Discover the ancient history of Wales hidden in the hillsides, as the country and coast play host to a mix of historic sites and World Heritage fortresses which form links in Edward I's medieval 'Ring of Iron'. Explore slate quarries, Celtic shrines and cultural centres. Centuries ago, pilgrims in their thousands were finding their way to Bardsey Island, that sense of a sacred place continues to draw pilgrims here today. Experience a different aspect of Wales each day as you explore; from the myths and legends to the coast and mountains that inspire them. Journey to the mountain's summit and travel deep into the country's heart. Revel in inspirational landscapes and a living Welsh language. Snowdonia National Park and Llŷn Peninsula are Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Brecon Beacons is a living, working landscape, all to enjoy as you discover the artisan produce created in the region.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Arrive Llangefni, Anglesey. Check-in at Tre-Ysgawen Hall, country house hotel. Enjoy a welcome dinner and relax as you listen to the myths, legends and tales of the Tylwyth Teg (Welsh fairy folk). (D)

DAY 2 Explore Beaumaris, home to the 'greatest castle never built'. Wander the narrow streets of pastel-coloured homes, art galleries and craft shops. Visit Halen Môn and discover how the finest Anglesey Sea Salt is made, and perhaps the most unusual food tasting you'll ever try! Continue to Newborough Forest and walk out to the iconic lighthouse on Llanddwyn

Island. This small tidal island is beautifully wild and romantic, home to St. Dwynwen, Wales' patron saint of lovers. (B)

DAY 3 The Llŷn Peninsula juts out from the mainland's west coast into the Irish Sea, two miles beyond lies Bardsey Island, (Ynys Enlli). Take the island ferry to explore this island of 20,000 saints, the legendary burial site of Merlin, now mostly populated by wildlife, including choughs, Manx shearwaters, seals and rare plants. Later, head to Cwrw Llyn, enjoy a tour of this little Welsh brewery, concluding with a well earned tasting session in the tap room. (B)

DAY 4 Discover a little of North Wales' famous slate. Visit Ffestiniog, a designated UNESCO World Heritage site and home to Llechwedd slate mine. Travel deep below Snowdonia and into the caverns on Europe's steepest cable railway. Later, continue to Elan Valley, famed for its spectacular dams, six in total, that together create a spectacular sight. Enjoy a Ranger guided drive of the Estate, discovering the area's rich history. Continue to the Cammarch Hotel for a two-night stay. (B, D)

DAY 5 Journey through the Brecon Beacons National Park to Pant. Step back in time and enjoy a steam train journey to Torpantau, the summit of the original Brecon & Merthyr Railway. On the return journey, stretch your legs with a walk along Pontsticill Reservoir. Home to Wales' most famous spirit; Penderyn Whisky, take a tour of the distillery and taste their award-winning whisky and gin. (B, D)

DAY 6 Enjoy a leisurely breakfast, then begin your return journey. (B)

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room

2022 – Sundays

Apr 24	£1595	Aug 7	£1650
May 22	£1625	Sep 11	£1625
Jun 12	£1595	Oct 2	£1595
Jul 10	£1650		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £445
Rail Travel from London Euston (Via Crewe) to Bangor, returning from Llandrindod Wells – £165

Price Includes

5 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 3 dinners, scenic steam train journey, Bardsey Island cruise, beer tasting, sea salt tasting, whiskey/gin tasting, itinerary as described, car parking at Llangefni with return transfer for vehicle collection, services of expert local driver/guides and representative.

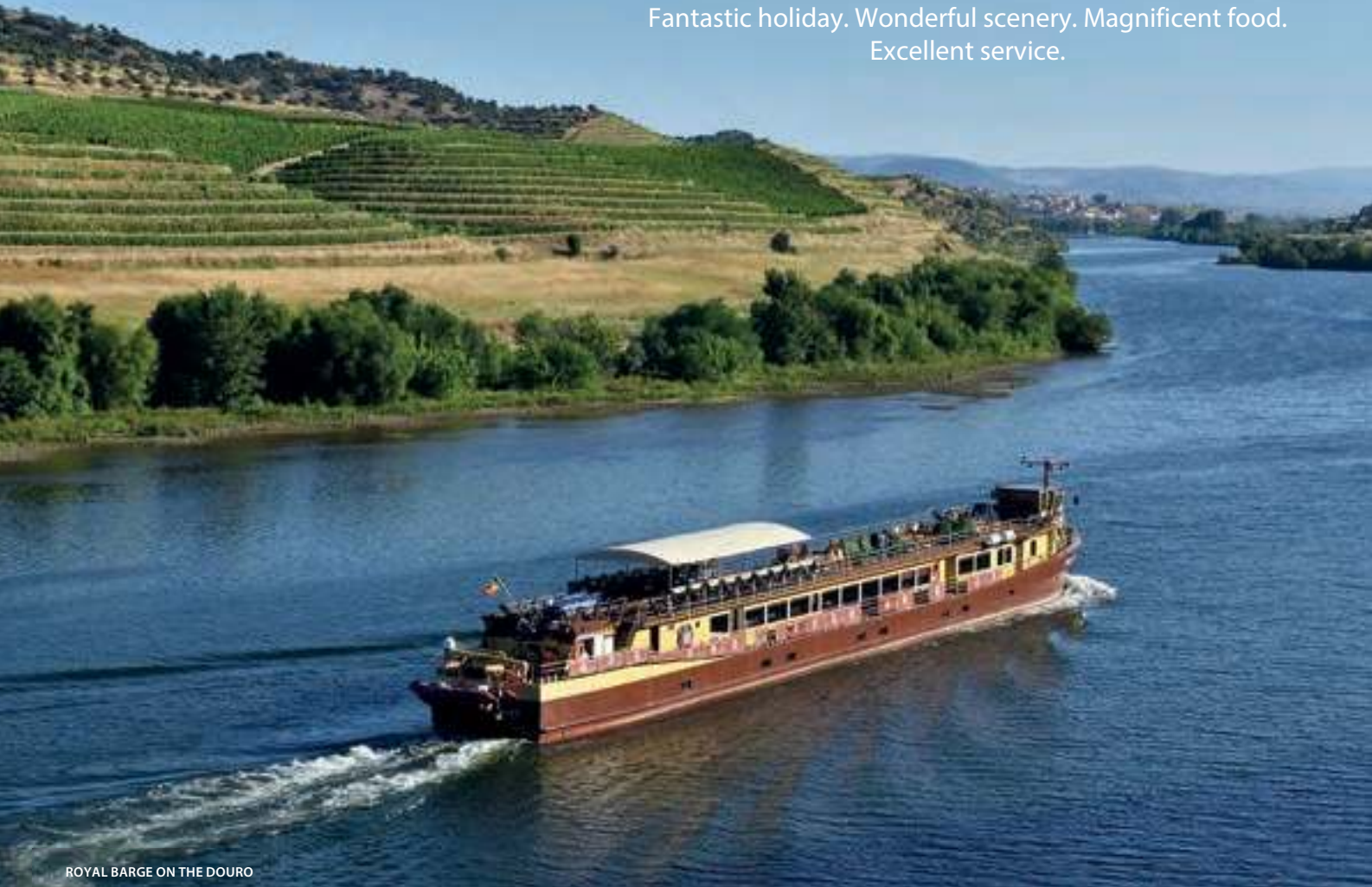
Notes

This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot including several sites with inclines or steps, comfortable walking shoes or boots are recommended.

Parking for those who wish to arrive independently by car is included for the duration of your stay at Llangefni, with return transfer for vehicle collection.

Royal Barge on the Douro

Fantastic holiday. Wonderful scenery. Magnificent food.
Excellent service.



ROYAL BARGE ON THE DOURO

INTRODUCTION

Europe is just one continent but reveals 'the history of the world'. The influence of ancient civilisations such as Greek, Roman and Byzantine contrast with the more recent heritage of Empires ruled by the Ottomans, Russians, Spanish, Portuguese, French and Austrians, to name but a few. Europe is indeed vast with great contrasts of landscape, heritage and national character.

Spain reveals its fine Royal, religious and Moorish heritage; Italy's treasures include the Roman, Renaissance and Baroque; islands such as Sicily, Sardinia, Cyprus and the Azores all reveal their unique identity with influences from the great civilisations and empires; natural splendours range from winter scenes in Iceland and Tirol to Mediterranean seascapes and Balkan highlands; the lands emerging beyond the 'iron curtain' are at a fascinating stage of development, for example Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Albania; further north the Baltics and Russia reveal great treasures and landscapes.

For our full range of tours visit vjv.com/europe-tours



GRAND TOUR OF TURKEY



THE CROSSROADS OF EUROPE & ASIA



SECRET WONDERS OF CROATIA

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Treasures of Sicily

A truly excellent tour. We saw so much and experienced a very good taste of all Sicily has to offer. The guide was absolutely brilliant.

Peter Lawrence, Wednesday, October 7, 2020



TREASURES OF SICILY

A JOURNEY THROUGH ANDALUCÍA

Exploring the architectural beauty of Seville, Córdoba and Granada from the coast to the Sierra Nevada mountains

7 nights
from
£1445



OVERVIEW

Seville (3 nights)
Granada (3 nights)
Málaga (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Group Size: 10 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Tapas at a Cortijo

Enjoy a typical Andalusian tapas lunch at a private home (cortijo), located in the hills of Nerja overlooking the Mediterranean and Frigiliana village.

INTRODUCTION

Spain's southern region is distinguished by its centuries-old traditions and fervent cultural celebrations, including flamenco and bullfighting, encapsulating the essence of Spain as a vibrant, passionate nation. Travel through Andalucía's main cities, affording the best views of this fascinating region.

Seville lies on the banks of the Guadalquivir and is one of the best known historical centres in Europe, combining Moorish and European tradition.

Nearby Córdoba, once the Moorish capital of the Iberian Peninsula and founded during Roman times and became a port city of great importance, used for shipping olive oil, wine and wheat.

Granada, home to the great Alhambra, a series of palaces and gardens built in the 14th century, stands at the foot of Spain's highest mountain range, the Sierra Nevada, overlooking the city and fertile plain of Granada.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from Heathrow to Málaga. Tour of Ronda and continue to Seville for three nights at the 4-star Melia Sevilla Hotel.

DAY 2 Morning walking tour including the Jewish Quarters, Gothic cathedral (La Giralda) and passing the 18th-century bullring on the Guadalquivir River. (B, D)

DAY 3 Walking tour of old Seville passing the Plaza de la Encarnación and the Fine Arts Museum. (B)

DAY 4 Visit the Plaza de España and travel to Córdoba. City tour exploring the old Jewish quarter and Mezquita (Córdoba's Great Mosque). Continue to Granada for three nights at the 4-star Hotel Maciá Condór (4-star Hotel Catalonia Granada on May 9). (B)

DAY 5 Walking tour including the Royal Chapel. Later, visit the Alhambra and Generalife Gardens. Optional flamenco show (bookable locally). (B)

DAY 6 Drive to the south side of the Sierra Nevada to Las Alpujarras, known for its spectacular scenery and former silk production. 'Jamón Serrano' tasting. Tapas lunch in Capileira. (B, L)



DAY 7 Visit an olive mill in the Axarquía area. Special Event lunch. Continue to Málaga. Overnight at the 4-star Sallés Hotel Málaga Centro. (B, L)

DAY 8 Return flight to London from Málaga. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

Melia Sevilla Hotel, Seville: A 4-star hotel located by the Plaza de España with bars, restaurants, pool and WiFi (free). 365 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.

Hotel Maciá Condór, Granada: A 4-star hotel located on the edge of the city with lounge-bar, restaurant, solarium and WiFi (free). 103 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer and mini-bar.

Sallés Hotel Málaga Centro, Málaga: A centrally located 4-star hotel in the old town, a few minutes' walk from Málaga's art museums. Restaurant, bar, gym, pool (Jun-Oct), WiFi (free). 147 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, mini-bar, safe and satellite TV.



Puente Nuevo Bridge, Ronda



Plaza de España, Seville



Alhambra Palace



Cordoba

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

May 9	£1545	Oct 3	£1545
Jun 13	£1545	Oct 31	£1445
Sep 19	£1545		

2023 – Wednesdays

Apr 17	£1545	Sep 18	£1595
May 8	£1595	Oct 2	£1595
Jun 12	£1595	Oct 30	£1495

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £425 (Oct 31 £375;
2023 £445, Oct 30 £395)

British Airways Club Europe – from £150

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 2 lunches and 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £195

Arrival transfer included with group

Departure transfer £20

Notes

On occasion, the Alhambra may be visited on an alternative day.

Granada sightseeing involves some inclines and steps.

EXTRA NIGHTS – MALAGA

Spend some more time to discover the delights of Andalucía by adding extra nights post-tour in Malaga at the lovely 4-star Soho Bahia Malaga Hotel

Soho Bahia Málaga Hotel

(per night) – £55

(Oct 3 £70; 2023 £60; Apr/Oct 2 2023 £75)

Single supplement – £50

(Oct 3 £65; Apr/Oct 2 2023 £70)

Departure transfer – £20



Malaga

SPANISH WAYS

Explore Northern Spain with selected walks on the famous pilgrim route 'Camino de Santiago'

8 nights
from
£1375



OVERVIEW

Bilbao (2 nights)

Burgos (2 nights)

León (1 night)

Ponferrada (1 night)

Santiago de Compostela (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Local Expert Guide Throughout

Group Size: 10 – 22

INTRODUCTION

Introducing 2022 departures, follow off-the-beaten-track 'caminos' (ways) through four distinct autonomous regions of northern Spain; the Basque Country, the prestigious wine area of La Rioja, Castilla y León and verdant Galicia, all previously independent kingdoms, with distinct cultural backgrounds still evident in their various languages, traditions and gastronomy.

The Camino de Santiago was one of the most important religious and cultural routes in Europe during the Middle Ages and now the only route in the world designated as UNESCO.

The Pilgrim Road should not only be associated with religious origins of pilgrimage, it covers spectacular and varied landscapes contrasted with bustling towns and cities. Along the 'way' churches, monasteries and accommodation were built in distinctive Romanesque and Gothic style as support for the thousands of pilgrims who made their way from around Europe to the tomb of St. James the Apostle in Santiago de Compostela, where this tour culminates.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from Gatwick to Bilbao. Two nights at the 3-star Hotel Conde Duque or similar in Bilbao.

DAY 2 Visit the Guggenheim Museum. Bilbao walking tour passing the University of Deusto and Zubizuri Bridge. (B, D)

DAY 3 Travel to La Rioja for a wine tour and tasting. Continue to Santo Domingo de la Calzada with time at leisure. Walk on a section of the Pilgrim Road (approx. 6km). Continue to Burgos for two nights at the 4-star Corona de Castilla Hotel or similar. (B)

DAY 4 Burgos city tour including the cathedral. Afternoon at leisure or take a walk (approx. 3km) along the river front, ending with a Carthusian Monastery. (B)

DAY 5 Scenic walk (approx. 3km) along the Pilgrim route. Continue to León for a walking tour. Overnight at the 4-star Hotel Tryp León or similar. (B)

DAY 6 Visit Astorga and Monte Irago. Continue to Ponferrada for overnight at the 4-star Temple Ponferrada Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 Travel to Galicia and visit O Cebreiro. Walk the final stretch of the Pilgrim route



Burgos Cathedral

(approx. 4km). Continue to Santiago de Compostela for two nights at the 3-star Hotel Gelmirez or similar. (B)

DAY 8 City tour including the Plaza del Obradoiro where the pilgrim route ends. Afternoon at leisure. (B, D)

DAY 9 Return flight from Santiago. (B)



León



Ancient Roman Mines, León



Pilgrim Way

**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £70
New prices shown in white



Rioja



Cathedral, Santiago de Compostela

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Vueling from Gatwick
easyJet from Santiago de Compostela

2022 – Tuesdays

Apr 26	£1375	Sep 22	£1495
May 17	£1545	Oct 4	£1395
Jun 22	£1495		

2023 – Tuesdays

Apr 25	£1445	Sep 12	£1495
May 16	£1545	Oct 3	£1375
Jun 6	£1545		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £325 (Apr/Oct 2022 £275;
Apr/Oct 2023 £295)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 8 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £175
Arrival transfer £30
Departure transfer £15

Note

Walks on Days 3, 4, 5 & 7 involve some uneven surfaces and walking of up to 90 minutes.

SPAIN'S GOLDEN AGE

7 nights from £1245

Alternatively, re-live the rich splendor of Spain's 'Golden Age', stay in UNESCO Alcalá de Henares and Toledo, visit Madrid and some of the surrounding area's historic cities and splendid palaces and visit El Prado, one of the World's largest art galleries.

6 UNESCO Sites • Centrally Located Hotels



Royal Palace, Madrid

ROYAL BARGE ON THE DOURO

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

7 nights
from
£2295



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)

KEY FEATURES

Culture & Riverscapes
Jules Verne Sightseeing
Exclusive Historic Small Ship
Complimentary Cabin Selection
UK Tour Manager
Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)
Group Size: 2 – 28

SPECIAL EVENTS

Quinta Dinner & Tastings

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

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.

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



Quinta da Avesada

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.



Porto



MS Spirit of Chartwell



MS Spirit of Chartwell

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin Main Deck cabin
TAP Air Portugal from Gatwick

2022 – Fridays

Apr 29	£2295	Jun 24	£2645
May 13	£2745	Sep 2	£2745
May 27	£2695		

2023

May 5	£2895	Jun 23	£3195
May 19	£3095	Sep 15	£3095
Jun 16	£3195	Sep 22	£2995

Supplements per person

REDUCED SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

(limited availability) 29 Apr & 13 May 2022 & 2023 – £795

Single supplement – £1550 (2023 £1895)

Royal Suite – £495

Drinks Package – £80

TAP Air Portugal Business Class – from £195
easyJet Gatwick/Ryanair Stansted – nil

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, UK Tour Manager, local expert guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

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.

The drinks package includes selected house white, red, rosé or sparkling wine by the glass, selected beer, house spirits and soft drinks all day.

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 – £355 (2023 £385)

Single supplement – £105 (2023 £115)



Braga

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 – £795; Single supplement – £275



Pena Palace

POUSADAS OF PORTUGAL

Stay in and discover Portugal's monasteries and palaces, visiting Porto, Coimbra, Lisbon, Sintra, Guimarães, Braga, Setúbal and Sesimbra

7 nights
from
£1245



OVERVIEW

Guimarães (2 nights)
Condeixa-a-Nova (2 nights)
Palmela (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supplement
Historic Accommodations
Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENT

Manor House, Gardens & Tea

Visit a Baroque-style garden filled with Camellia trees forming artistic archways and alleyways, built around the 18th century, includes a tour of the splendid 17th century Manor house. Enjoy a Portuguese afternoon tea.

INTRODUCTION

Often located in dramatic countryside settings, Pousadas offer a welcome retreat after a day of touring and each have a restaurant serving regional cuisine and Portuguese wines. For this special programme we have therefore selected historic Pousadas in a former monastery and palaces, all in magnificent settings.

The popular Portuguese refrain "Porto works, Coimbra studies, Lisbon plays" describes not only the defining characteristic of each city in the Portuguese psyche but also the fact that these are the three cities closest to the Portuguese soul. Lisbon, Porto and Coimbra enjoy spectacular hilltop locations, serving as sentinels to the beautiful Tagus, Douro and Mondego rivers respectively and all three are also affectionately remembered for their roles in establishing Portugal as a nation.

This itinerary also reveals medieval Guimarães, coastal Estoril, the holy heritage of Braga and the royal splendour of Sintra, summer residence of the kings of Portugal.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from Gatwick to Porto and transfer to the Pousada Mosteiro de Guimarães for two nights. (D)

DAY 2 Morning tour of Guimarães with the opportunity to visit Ducal Palace independently. Continue to Braga and Bom Jesus do Monte. Special event. (B)

DAY 3 Travel to Porto for a tour, including one of the Port wine cellars and time at leisure. Continue to Condeixa-a-Nova for a two-night stay at the Conimbriga Hotel do Paço. (B)

DAY 4 Visit Coimbra in the morning, including a tour of the university. Continue to Tomar, with time to explore independently the Convent of the Christ and medieval areas. Optional Fado show with dinner (£50). (B)

DAY 5 Visit the historic monastery of Santa Maria in Alcobaça. Visit the ancient walled town of Óbidos and continue to Sintra and its National Palace. Three nights at the Pousada Castelo Palmela in Palmela. (B)

DAY 6 Morning tour of Lisbon including Terreiro do Paço, Belém and Alfama district. Afternoon at leisure to explore Lisbon further. (B)



DAY 7 Visit Setúbal including the Livramento local market, continue via the Arrábida Natural Park to Sesimbra for time at leisure. Continue to visit a winery with an included tasting and later visit a tile producer to see how the famous Portuguese tiles are decorated. (B)

DAY 8 Return flight from Lisbon. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

Pousada Mosteiro de Guimarães: A former 7th-century Augustin monastery, set on a hill overlooking the historical centre of Guimarães. Restaurant, outdoor pool, WiFi (free) and 51 air-conditioned rooms with safe, mini-bar and TV.

Conimbriga Hotel do Paço: A former noble manor house from the 16th century with large gardens and located near Coimbra. Restaurant, outdoor pool, WiFi (free) and 43 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, mini-bar and TV.

Pousada Castelo Palmela: A former convent with amazing views overlooking Serra da Arrábida. Restaurant, bar, garden and WiFi (free) and 28 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.



Guimarães



Torre de Belém



Porto



Pousada de Queluz



Pousada Mosteiro de Guimarães

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
TAP Portugal from Gatwick

2022 – Saturdays

May 7	£1395	Sep 24	£1395
Jun 4	£1445	Oct 29*	£1245
Sep 10	£1445		

2023 – Saturdays

Mar 18*	£1295	Sep 9	£1445
May 6	£1395	Sep 23	£1395
Jun 3	£1445	Oct 28*	£1245

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Single supplement – £395 (Mar & Oct £295)
Half board (6 nights) – £185
TAP Portugal Business Class – from £245
Privately Guided – £795 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Estoril

Palácio Estoril (per night) – £120 (Sep £145)
Single supplement – £95 (Sep £115)
Arrival transfer from Queluz – £35
Departure transfer to Lisbon airport – £40

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival transfer £55
Departure transfer £80

Note

An accommodation tax is payable locally for any extra nights added in Estoril, currently €2 per person per night.

GRAND TOUR OF PORTUGAL

10 nights from £1195

Alternatively, explore by rail whilst taking in the delightful scenery of the countryside, visiting the most important cultural cities from the South to the North with Faro, Évora, Lisbon, Coimbra and Porto where Gothic, Baroque and Romanesque architecture prevail.

3 UNESCO Sites • Centrally Located Hotels



Praça do Comércio Square, Lisbon

ASPECTS OF THE AZORES

Exploring the volcanic landscapes, hot springs and luxuriant flora of the enchanting islands of São Miguel, Terceira, Faial & Pico

7 nights
from
£1595



OVERVIEW

São Miguel (1 night)

Terceira (2 nights)

Faial (2 nights)

São Miguel (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Natural Wonders

Jules Verne Sightseeing

2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Local Expert Guides

Group Size: 6 – 22

INTRODUCTION

Nine striking volcanic islands scattered in the North Atlantic Ocean, which combine wild landscapes with variations in language, cuisine and traditions.

Each island has its own natural landscape with one aspect in common, luxuriant and exuberant vegetation that radiates all the colours of the spectrum, speckled here and there by bright wild flowers. Wonderful placid lakes that were once volcanic craters, soaring cliffs, undulating countryside, a confection of flora and fauna, geysers, spouting mineral springs, and secluded coves are in abundance.

São Miguel offers bubbling ground 'ovens' and thermal waters, including hot springs in Furnas, whilst Faial boasts the impressive and grand 'Caldeira' a protected nature reserve made from a volcanic crater.

Known for its whaling industry until 1984, the main focus now is on watching rather than hunting these species, which in season (Apr-Oct) range from sperm whales and mighty blues, to bottlenose dolphins.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to São Miguel via Lisbon. Overnight at the 4-star Hotel Marina Atlantico.

DAY 2 Visit Vista do Rei, the Sete Cidades and Lagoa de Fogo lakes. Continue to Ribeira Grande. Fly to Terceira Island for two nights at the 4-star Terceira Mar Hotel. (B)

DAY 3 Travel through small, quaint villages to Praia. Tour Biscoitos and its natural pools with volcanic origins. (B, L)

DAY 4 Walking tour of UNESCO Angra do Heroísmo, the archipelago's oldest city. Fly to Faial. Visit Caldeira, Capelinhos volcano and Espalamaca belvedere. Two nights at the 4-star Hotel do Canal. (B, D)

DAY 5 Boat trip to Pico Island from Horta Harbour. Drive through UNESCO vineyards and visit the Whalers' Museum with free time in Lajes. Visit the rock formation of 'Arcos do Cachorro' with a tasting in Madalena. (B, L)

DAY 6 Tour of Horta including the harbor and the emblematic Peter Café Sport. Fly to São Miguel for two nights. (B)

DAY 7 Visit a tea plantation and the Furnas



Terra Nostra, São Miguel

Valley. Opportunity to swim at the thermal water pool of the Terra Nostra Park hot springs. Lunch at the Terra Nostra Garden Hotel. Continue to Povoação, Ponta de Madrugada, Ponta do Sossego, Nordeste and Ribeira dos Caldeirões. (B, L)

DAY 8 Return flight. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Marina Atlantico, São Miguel:

A central 4-star hotel overlooking the marina with restaurant, bar, indoor pool and WiFi (free). 159 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.

Terceira Mar Hotel, Terceira: A 4-star hotel in Angra do Heroísmo overlooking Fanal Bay and Mount Brazil. Restaurant, bar, outdoor sea water pool, WiFi (free) and 139 air-conditioned rooms with balcony, satellite TV, hairdryer and mini-bar.

Hotel do Canal, Faial: A 4-star hotel on the ocean front of Horta with a view towards Pico Island and the bay. Restaurant, bar, jacuzzi, sauna, WiFi (free) and 103 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, mini-bar and satellite TV.



Pico Mountain



Angra do Heroísmo



Sete Cidades Lake



São Miguel

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
TAP Air Portugal from Heathrow*

2022 – Fridays

May 13	£1595	Jul 15	£1745
May 27	£1645	Aug 19	£1845
Jun 17	£1695	Sep 9	£1745
Jul 1	£1695	Sep 23	£1695

2023 – Fridays

May 12	£1595	Jul 14	£1745
May 26	£1645	Aug 18	£1845
Jun 16	£1695	Sep 8	£1745
Jun 30	£1695	Sep 22	£1695

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £425

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 1 dinner, 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.

THE GARDEN ISLE OF MADEIRA

4 nights from £765

Alternatively, enjoy a sub-tropical sojourn based in Funchal at the 4-star Four Views Baía Hotel or upgrade to the 5-star Quintinha São João Hotel. Includes island tours and a Funchal city tour. Enjoy 'A Taste of Madeira' special event and discover Madeira's traditional beverages and sweet breads.



Monte Tropical Gardens, Funchal

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

7 nights
from
£1245



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 7)
Group Size: 8 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Palazzo Private Visit

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

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 Hotel Dioscuri on the waterfront near a choice of restaurants. (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 Best Western Ai Cavalieri, centrally located in Palermo to allow you to sample Sicily's cuisine. (B)



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 private visit. (B)

DAY 6 Visit Monreale and its Gothic cathedral with Byzantine mosaics. Travel to Cefalù, a medieval town with a Norman cathedral and its cloister. Continue to Taormina. Enjoy a performance of traditional Italian songs and arias in Taormina (subject to the ease of current regulations). Two nights at the 4-star Hotel Villa Sonia in Castelmola. (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 €2-€3 per person per night.



Palatine Chapel



Taormina Theatre



Cathedral, Palermo



Mount Etna

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
British Airways from Heathrow
(Mar-May 17 & Sep 20-Nov – easyJet from Gatwick)

2022 – Tuesdays

Mar 15	£1245	Jun 7	£1545
Apr 5	£1395	Jun 21	£1545
Apr 26	£1395	Sep 6, 20	£1595
May 10	£1495	Oct 4	£1545
May 17	£1545	Oct 18	£1495
May 31	£1595	Nov 1	£1395

2022 – Tuesday (Solo Group)

Nov 8*	£1395	
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2023 – Tuesdays

Mar 21	£1295	Jun 6	£1645
Apr 11	£1495	Sep 5	£1595
Apr 25	£1595	Sep 19	£1595
May 9, 16	£1595	Oct 3	£1545

2023 – Tuesday (Solo Group)

Nov 7*	£1445	
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Single supplement – £295 (Mar/Nov 2022 £245;
Mar 2023 £275; 2023 £325)
easyJet from Gatwick – nil

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £250; Arrival transfer £32
Departure transfer £55

EXTRA NIGHTS

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

Hotel Principe, Catania (per night) – £65
Single supp. – £42; Arrival transfer – £32

Villa Sonia, Castelmola (per night) – £75
Single supp. – £30; Upgrade balcony
– £15; Departure transfer – £55

RG Naxos, Giardini Naxos (per night)
– £90 (Jul-Sep £110); Single supp. – £65
(Jul-Sep £85)

Sea view – £20; Departure transfer – £55



Cathedral of Santa Agatha, Catania

TREASURES & SECRETS OF SICILY

A 'Grand Tour of Sicily' from the capital to the ancient sites of Syracuse, Agrigento, Segesta and Selinunte, the Aeolian Isles, Marsala – and 'in the footsteps of Inspector Montalbano'

14 nights
from
£2545



OVERVIEW

Palermo (2 nights)
Marsala (2 nights)
Agrigento (1 night)
Noto (3 nights)
Castelmola (2 nights)
Vulcano Island (2 nights)
Palermo (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders
Jules Verne Sightseeing
9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Group Size: 8 – 22

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sicily from the Inside

In Palermo a private visit to a Palazzo. An unique insight into a historic building and beautifully decorated home. Visit Fiorini and Arezzo-Bertini garden and 'Circolo di Condensazione' club and the Donnafugata theatre at Ragusa.

INTRODUCTION

Following requests to combine our popular 'Treasures of Sicily' and 'Secret Sicily' tours, we decided to create a 'Grand Tour' covering the best of Sicily. This includes the features of both tours plus western Sicily, visiting all of Sicily's UNESCO sites from the natural wonders of Mount Etna and the Aeolian Isles to the ancient wonders of Agrigento, Syracuse and Villa Romana and the religious heritage of Palermo, Monreale and Cefalù. The Baroque towns of the South-East are not forgotten, including sites and scenes featured in the atmospheric TV series, 'Inspector Montalbano'.

Indeed Sicily is a large and richly rewarding island that repays detailed exploration, including the west which was exposed to contrasting influences through the ages from Punic and Byzantine to Moorish, Norman and Spanish.

Ancient Segesta and Mozia contrast with hilltop towns, traditional ports and Baroque and Liberty style villas, not forgetting Sicily's most famous wine, Marsala.



Noto

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Palermo. Two nights at the central 4-star Hotel Plaza Opera. Enjoy a welcome drink at the hotel.

DAY 2 A city tour includes the cathedral, Palatine Chapel inside the Norman Palace and churches of La Martorana and San Cataldo. Visit Monreale's Gothic cathedral and Byzantine mosaics. (B)

DAY 3 Travel to Trapani in the western province. Visit Segesta's Greek temple and theatre, then the medieval mountain village of Erice. Two nights at the central 4-star Hotel Stella d'Italia in Marsala. (B)

DAY 4 Visit Marsala town, known for its wine production. Marsala wine testing. By boat to the island of Mozia to see the excavations by Joseph Whitaker. (B)

DAY 5 Follow the coast to the Greek temples of Selinunte. Continue to Agrigento's famed 'Valley of Temples'. Overnight at the 4-star Hotel Dioscuri. (B)

DAY 6 Visit Villa del Casale at Piazza Armerina, one of the richest collections of Roman mosaics in the world. A private tour of Ragusa 'from the inside', then visit the cathedral. Continue to Noto for three nights at the historic Villa Favorita. (B, D)

DAY 7 Visit Scicli, including the mayor's office, then the 'home of Montalbano' at Punta Secca. Walking tour of Noto, known for its baroque architecture. Free time for dinner in Noto. (B)

DAY 8 Visit ancient Syracuse with its castle and Greek and Roman theatres. Visit the historic centre on Ortigia peninsula and the Baroque cathedral. (B)

DAY 9 Travel to Catania for walking tour of Catania. Travel to 'royal' Acireale to visit Palazzo Fiorini. Visit by coach Mount Etna (extra charge for cable car and 4-wheel drive mini-bus ride towards the summit). Two



Ragusa

nights at the historic Hotel Villa Sonia in Castelmola above Taormina. (B)

DAY 10 Visit the small town of Savoca in Messina province, setting for 'The Godfather' film, perhaps call at 'Café Vitelli'. Visit Taormina and its Greek theatre. (B)

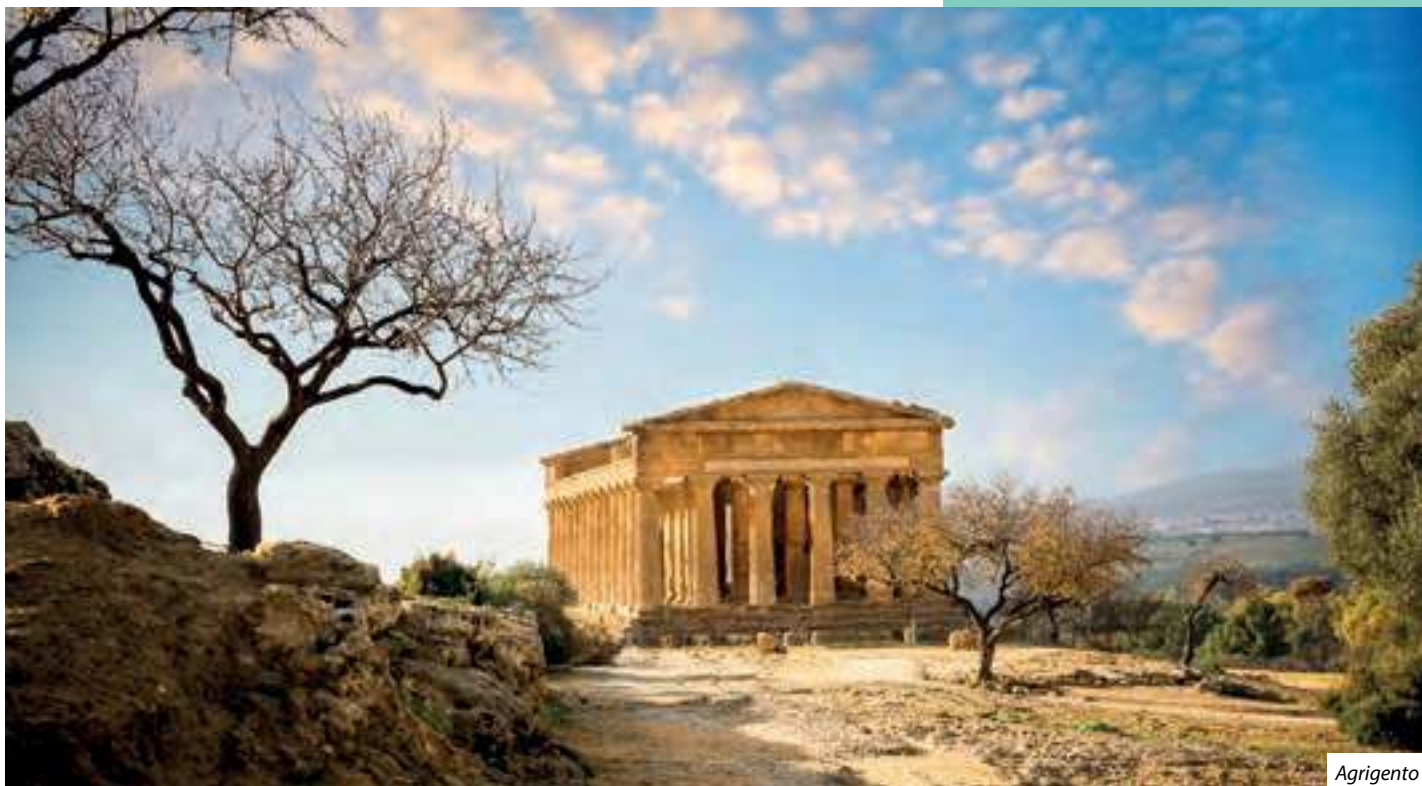
DAY 11 Travel to Milazzo and sail to the Aeolian Islands. Visit Lipari and sail around it to Vulcano island for two nights at the 4-star Hotel Les Sables Noirs (5-star Hotel Therasia Apr 19/May/Sep 20 & Oct 2022) on the coast with wonderful views. (B, D)

DAY 12 Free day to enjoy the island. Alternatively join an optional cruise (weather permitting) to visit the islands of Panarea and Stromboli, with free time then cruise back past Stromboli at sunset to see the lava flow (£55, pre-bookable). (B)

DAY 13 Sail to the mainland. Travel to Cefalù, a medieval town whose Norman cathedral has fine Byzantine mosaics. Free time, then return to Palermo for two nights at the central 4-star Hotel Plaza Opera. (B)

DAY 14 Visit the Baroque part of Palermo including the Villa Malfitano and Teatro Massimo. Private palazzo visit. (B)

DAY 15 Return flight to London. (B)



Agrigento



Aeolian Islands



Cefalù

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
easyJet from Gatwick*

2022 – Tuesdays

Apr 19	£2545	Sep 6	£2645
May 3, 17	£2645	Sep 20	£2645
Jun 14	£2595	Oct 4	£2595

2023 – Tuesdays

Apr 18	£2695	Sep 12	£2795
May 2	£2745	Sep 26	£2745
May 16	£2845	Oct 10	£2695
Jun 13	£2795		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £595 (Jun – Sep 6 2022 £545; 2023 £545)

Hotel Therasia

Sea View (twin/double) – £105

Sea View (single) – £210

Les Sables Noir

Sea View Suite (twin/double) – £225

Sea View Suite (single) – £225

easyJet from Luton – nil

British Airways from Heathrow – £45 (Jun – Sep)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, entrance fees, transfers, 14 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 2 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £150; Arrival or departure transfer £35

Notes

This is a full itinerary with some visits on foot and some uneven surfaces/inclines. An accommodation tax is payable locally at most hotels.

SEA & SARDINIA

7 nights from £1695

Alternatively, discover Sardinia's wild mountains, dramatic coast and fascinating cultural heritage including Cagliari with elegant boulevards and medieval Castello, Coastal Alghero with a mix of Catalan and Sardinian culture and a visit of the Nuraghic fort. Shepherd's lunch and taste of local specialities and wine.

Central/Historic Hotels • UNESCO



Bosa

AMALFI, POMPEII & SORRENTO

A week in Sorrento on the beautiful Neapolitan coastline with included excursions by train, mini-bus and on foot with a choice of hotels

7 nights
from
£945



OVERVIEW

Sorrento (7 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Classic Resort
Jules Verne Sightseeing
2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Tour Manager
Central / Historic Hotels
Group Size: 5 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Discover Sorrento

Enjoy a short walking tour of Sorrento, accompanied by a local resident and a wine and cheese tasting; taste an authentic Italian speciality dinner; enjoy an early evening aperitivo overlooking the bay at the historic 'Foreigners Club', founded by the first mayor of Sorrento.

INTRODUCTION

The Romans were great travellers but their favourite places lay naturally close to home. They chose Sorrento as a bathing resort, influenced by its idyllic location on the Bay of Naples, overlooking the island of Capri, itself the main residence of Emperor Tiberius. Vesuvio's eruption in 79AD preserved both Pompeii and Herculaneum in contrasting ways, offering a unique insight into the Roman way of life. The Amalfi Drive along the 'Divine Coast', one of the most spectacular drives in the world is by special mini-buses which access the centres of elegant Amalfi, Positano and Ravello and do not have to return 'the long way round' for larger buses.

Stay in bustling Sorrento with its elegant shops, characterful bars and excellent restaurants. Alternatively choose a historic villa at a quiet location in the Sant'Agnello district of Sorrento, not a conventional hotel but a well-priced 'guest house', formerly owned by the author, Francis Marion Crawford and changed by his grandson to a religious guest house of charm with fine views.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Naples and transfer to Sorrento for seven nights at your chosen hotel.

DAY 2 Morning walking tour of Sorrento by a local resident. Wine and cheese tasting. Free time in Sorrento town, returning in your own time. (B)

DAY 3 Full-day tour along the 'Divine Coast' to Amalfi, one of the most spectacular routes in the world. Travel by special minibus and explore Positano, Ravello and Amalfi. (B)

DAY 4 By train to Pompeii for a morning guided visit: view the Roman Forum, wall decorations, baths, bakery, theatre and Roman villas. Aperitivo at the 'Foreigners Club'. (B)

DAYS 5-7 Explore independently or join special optional excursions by minibus (bookable locally): Herculaneum & the Roman Villas; Naples & the Archaeological Museum; the Greek temples of Paestum, Allied landing beaches and war cemetery. An Italian speciality dinner on Day 7. (B)

DAY 8 Return flight from Naples. (B)

Note: Pompeii visit involves three hours walking on uneven surfaces.



ACCOMMODATION

All hotels have air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, satellite TV and WiFi (free). Pools are normally open from May-Sep.

Villa Crawford: Overlooking the Bay of Naples in the Sant'Agnello district of Sorrento with restaurants nearby. Restaurant, terrace and gardens. 30 minute walk to Piazza Tasso, 10 minutes' to Sant'Agnello station. Transfers to Sorrento included on Days 2/4.

Hotel La Pergola: A 3-star hotel in the Sant'Agnello district, close to the station. Bar, pool, restaurant in Sorrento town with free shuttle service. Balcony rooms.

Eliseo Park: A 4-star Mediterranean style hotel in Sant'Agnello district. Restaurant, pool, half board and rooms with balcony.

Hotel Isabella: A modern 4-star hotel in the Sant'Agnello district with a breakfast room, pool and rooms with small balcony.

Hotel Antiche Mura: An elegant, central 'Belle Epoque' 4-star hotel close to Piazza Tasso. Terrace, garden, pool, bar, snack bar, breakfast room.

Note: An accommodation tax is payable locally.



Sorrento



Amalfi



Villa Crawford



Pompeii



Positano

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room Garden View – Villa Crawford. British Airways from Heathrow

2022 – Wednesdays

Apr 20	£995	Aug 24	£1095
May 4, 18	£1095	Sep 7, 21	£1145
Jun 1	£1295	Oct 5	£995
Jun 15	£1145	Oct 19	£945

2023 – Wednesdays

Apr 19	£995	Aug 23	£1195
May 3	£1145	Sep 6	£1245
May 17	£1195	Sep 20	£1195
Jun 7	£1195	Oct 4	£995

Supplements per person

Single supplement (double for sole use – Garden View) – £345 (2023 £375; Apr/Oct £245)
Sea View (twin/double) – £65 (2023 £75)
Sea View (single) – £345 (Apr/Oct 2022 £245; 2023 £395; Apr/Oct 2023 £275)

Hotel La Pergola – nil

Single supplement (double for sole use) – £345 (Jun/Jul £395; Aug/Sep £445)

Eliseo Park (half board) – £145

Single supplement (double for sole use) – £495 (May/Aug/Sep £545)

Hotel Isabella – £175

Single supplement (double for sole use) – £595

Antiche Mura – £695 (Apr £495)

Single supplement (double for sole use) – £995
Balcony – £225 (Apr/Oct £195)

British Airways Club Europe – from £195

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, entrance fees, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 dinner, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200; Arrival or departure transfer £39

SECRET NAPLES & RAVELLO

7 nights from £1695

Alternatively, explore the palaces, castles, churches and gardens of 'the Kingdom of Naples', enjoy dinner with Neapolitan music, and an optional opera at the Teatro San Carlo. Visit the volcanic island of Ischia and its enchanting La Mortella gardens, and stay in Ravello on the Amalfi Coast.

3 UNESCO • Central Hotels



Naples

TRULLI & SASSI

Exploring Italy's unique Puglia and Basilicata regions from historic ports to Norman castles and the Baroque splendour of Lecce

7 nights
from
£1495



OVERVIEW

Bari (2 nights)

Lecce (2 nights)

Matera (1 night)

Alberobello (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Local Expert Guide

Historic / Central Hotels

Group Size: 8 – 22

SPECIAL EVENT

Private Visit to a Palazzo

Private visit to a Lecce Palazzo with a family member to explain the history of the palazzo and the family.

Enjoy a tour of the gardens and an aperitif with appetizers.

INTRODUCTION

The geographical shape of Italy opened it to influences from across the seas and overland, creating a rich European cultural heritage. The south-east corner or 'heel' was part of 'Magna Graecia' before Roman and later Norman domination.

In addition to historic ports, Norman castles and Baroque splendour, two unique variants are added – the Trulli and the Sassi. The Trulli of Puglia are small dwellings with uncemented white stone walls and conical tapered roofs of mysterious origin. At Matera in Basilicata the unusual geography resulted in cave settlements – the Sassi: houses, refuges, grottoes and chapels.

The Holy Roman Emperor built many Norman castles, his masterpiece the octagonal Castel del Monte. Bari, once Roman Barium was regional capital for the Saracens and Byzantines, then a busy port for the Normans who built the castle, Basilica of St. Nicholas and cathedral, whose sacristy is appropriately known as the 'Trulla'!

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Bari, Puglia's elegant capital. Two nights at the 4-star Oriente Hotel.

DAY 2 Explore the historic Trani port and the cathedral. Visit Castel del Monte. (B)

DAY 3 Visit Brindisi viewing Porta d'Oriente, Castello Svevo and the beautifully decorated church of S. Giovanni al Sepolcro. Continue to Lecce for two nights at the 5-star Risorgimento Hotel. (B)

DAY 4 Visit Lecce, the 'Florence of the South', famous for its Baroque churches and buildings carved from local stone. Private palazzo visit for an aperitif. (B)

DAY 5 Travel to the heart of old Taranto. View its cathedral and castle; then visit the Archaeological Museum. Continue to Matera. Overnight at the 4-star MH Matera Hotel. (B)

DAY 6 Visit Matera, famous for its 'Sassi'. Explore the unique landscape of Sassi Barisano and Sassi Caveoso with the Cathedral dominating the valley. Continue to Alberobello via Altamura. Two nights at the 4-star Grand Hotel Olimpo near Alberobello. (B)



Lecce Palazzo

DAY 7 Travel to the Baroque town of Martina Franca and visit the Ducal Palace. Discover the Trulli area with these unique dwellings including Trulli Sovrano. Visit a wine cellar and museum. Wine tasting with appetizers. (B)

DAY 8 Travel to Bari for the return flight. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

All hotels have restaurant, bar and air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, satellite TV and Wifi (free).

Oriente Hotel: A 4-star liberty-style hotel located in the heart of Bari overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and close to the old town and many restaurants.

Risorgimento Hotel: A 5-star hotel centrally located in the historic centre of Lecce with many restaurants close by.

MH Matera Hotel: 4-star hotel located 5 minutes' drive from the Sassi area. Surrounded by green hills and landscaped gardens.

Grand Hotel Olimpo: A 4-star hotel located near the historic centre of Alberobello.



Castel de Monte



Matera

**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £100
New prices shown in white



Alberobello



Lecce



Trani

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
easyJet from Gatwick

2022 – Wednesday

May 11	£1545	Sep 7	£1595
Jun 8	£1595	Sep 21	£1595
Aug 24	£1595	Oct 5	£1495

2023 – Wednesdays

May 10	£1595	Sep 6	£1695
Jun 7	£1645	Sep 20	£1695
Aug 23	£1695	Oct 4	£1645

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £375 (2023 £395)
easyJet from Manchester – nil
British Airways (from 2023) – nil
British Airways Club Europe – from £195

Extra Nights – Bari

Oriente Hotel (per night) – £105
Single supplement – £75
Arrival transfer – £45

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Transfer to/from airport with group included.

Notes

*This is a full itinerary with some visits on foot with
some uneven surfaces and inclines.*

*An accommodation tax is payable locally directly at
the hotels.*

IN THE COMPANY OF ANGELS

4 nights from £825

Alternatively, spend a few days in
Rome at the Casa per Ferie convent
overlooking the Vatican or at the 4-star
Starhotels Michelangelo. Includes Jules
Verne tours to the Vatican and Ancient,
Renaissance and Baroque Rome by bus or
on foot ending in town for independent
exploration.

No Single Supp. • Solo Group Departure



Colosseum

TALES OF TUSCANY

A week at a historic hotel in the classic resort of Montecatini, a beautiful spa town in scenic surroundings including visits by train to Florence, Lucca and Pistoia

7 nights
from
£975



OVERVIEW

Montecatini (7 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Classic Resort
Rail Journeys
Jules Verne Sightseeing
Local Expert Guide
No Single Supplement
Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tettuccio Spa & Concert

Special guided visit to the most famous spa, the neo-Classical Tettuccio Terme for refreshments and the chance to taste the waters. Puccini concert at Lucca.

INTRODUCTION

Montecatini Terme is an elegant and historical spa town set amidst green Tuscan hills. Famed for its 'Liberty' style buildings, this flamboyant architecture defined the town's heyday when visitors included Puccini, Rossini, Mascagni, Strauss and Caruso. The cultural life and musical activities ensured an air of exclusivity prevailed.

From 1898, Giuseppe Verdi spent 19 consecutive summers drawing inspiration from the beautiful formal gardens, wide avenues and thermal spas. But Tuscany is intrinsically linked with the Middle Ages and high above stands the medieval Borgo of Montecatini Alto reached by funicular railway.

In less than an hour frequent trains connect Montecatini with historic city states and Renaissance towns from Florence and Pisa to the lesser known but equally rewarding Lucca, Pistoia, Prato and even to coastal Viareggio. Montecatini has a wide selection of bars, restaurants and shops. There are eleven spas offering thermal treatments and a programme of open air concerts.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Pisa. Free time to view the leaning tower and Campo dei Miracoli in Pisa, then transfer to the 4-star Grand Hotel Tamerici & Principe in Montecatini for seven nights.

DAY 2 Morning walking tour of Montecatini. Visit Tettuccio Spa including refreshments and take the funicular to Montecatini Alto. (B)

DAY 3 Return train ticket to nearby Pistoia to meet a guide for a walking tour. (B)

DAY 4 Return train ticket to Florence to meet a guide for an introductory walking tour. Free time to explore and return later independently by train. (B)

DAY 5 A day to relax or explore independently. (B)

DAY 6 Train ticket to Lucca, the home town of Puccini for a walking tour. Puccini concert at Lucca's San Giovanni Church. Return to Montecatini by minibus. (B)

DAY 7 Day at leisure. Optional cooking lesson at the hotel (£80, pre-bookable). (B)

DAY 8 Transfer to Pisa for the return flight. (B)



Montecatini

GRAND HOTEL TAMERICI & PRINCIPE – MONTECATINI

A historic palace, built in Liberty style, now a 4-star central hotel in Montecatini close to the centre, funicular and spa park and station. Elegantly decorated with a restaurant, bar, large garden terrace with outdoor pool, gym and a wellness centre. 140 air-conditioned rooms with private facilities, hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.



Pisa



San Giovanni in Corte Baptistery, Pistoia



Florence



Montecatini



Lucca

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

May 11*	£975	Sep 14	£995
Jun 8	£995	Oct 5	£975

2023 – Wednesdays

May 10*	£975	Sep 13	£1045
Jun 7	£995	Oct 4*	£995

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Prestige room with balcony – £45

Single supplement – £145

British Airways Club Europe – from £195

Extra Nights – Montecatini

Grand Hotel Tamerici & Principe

Standard room (per night) – £45 (2023 £50)

Single supplement – £20

Prestige room with balcony

(per night) – £50 (2023 £55)

Single supplement – £20

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £150

Arrival or departure transfer £60

TREASURES OF FLORENCE

5 nights from £845

Alternatively, book this cultural short break and discover great Florentine collections and palaces. Enjoy a drink with a view and priority entrance to the Uffizi, Accademia with free public transport. Stay in a centrally located hotel walking distance from the main historical monuments.

No Single Supp. • Historic/Central Hotel



Arno River, Florence

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

7 nights from
£895



OVERVIEW

Lake Como (7 nights)

KEY FEATURES

- Classic Resort**
- Historic Hotel**
- No Single Supplement**
- Solo Group Departure (see page 7)**
- Local Expert Guides**
- Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)**
- Group Size: 5 – 28**

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.

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. Today, George Clooney and Donatella Versace are amongst the celebrities who own secluded villas, whilst the lakeside towns with their houses of pastel pinks and yellows make the area a highly sought after film location.

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 (£59). (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 Emanuele (£54 bookable from May-Sep). (B)
- DAY 5** Afternoon private lake cruise.



Villa Carlotta

Visit Villa Carlotta and its gardens. Enjoy a drink on the Grand Hotel Cadenabbia terrace with views across the lake to Bellagio and Varenna. (B)

DAY 6 At leisure or take an optional full-day excursion to Bergamo. Walking tour of the historic upper town. Ferry to Varenna (payable locally), then by road to Bergamo (£57 bookable from May-Sep). (B)

DAY 7 Optional full-day tour to Lake Orta, the town of Stresa and a boat to Isola Bella on Lake Maggiore (£59). (B)

DAY 8 Return flight from Milan. (B)

Notes: Excursions on Days 2, 6 & 7 include walking on some uneven surfaces. Optional tours are subject to minimum numbers and may take more than 28 people. 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. À la carte and half board restaurants, pool, bar, boutique and WiFi (free). 94 air-conditioned rooms with private facilities, hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.



Grand Hotel, Lake Como



Lake Como



Villa Balbianello

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

Apr 9 [^]	£895	Jul 2, 16	£1195
Apr 23	£975	Aug 20	£1195
May 7	£1075	Sep 3, 10, 17	£1145
May 21	£1095	Sep 24	£1095
Jun 4, 11	£1095	Oct 8* [^]	£995
Jun 18, 25	£1145	Oct 15* [^]	£895

2022 – Saturdays (Solo Groups)

Apr 2*	£895	Oct 22*	£895
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2023 – Saturdays

Apr 22	£975	Jul 15	£1195
May 6	£1075	Aug 19	£1195
May 20	£1095	Sep 2, 9, 16	£1145
Jun 3, 10	£1095	Sep 23	£1095
Jun 17, 24	£1145	Oct 7*	£995
Jul 1	£1195	Oct 14*	£895

2023 – Saturdays (Solo Groups)

Apr 8*	£895	Oct 21*	£895
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT**

^NO LAKE VIEW SUPPLEMENT

Single supplement – £215

Lake View – £195; Lake View and balcony – £395

Half board (4 nights) – £55; (7 nights) – £95

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.

EXTENSION – LAKE COMO

Continue your stay at the Grand Hotel Menaggio.

7 nights £595 (Apr £525; Oct £445)

Single supplement £215

3 nights £295 (Apr/Oct £195)

Single supplement £95

Lake View supplement 3 nights £75;

7 nights £195

Lake View and balcony 3 nights £115;

7 nights £395

Half-board 3 nights £40; 7 nights £95



Grand Hotel Menaggio

VILLAS AND GARDENS OF THE ITALIAN LAKES

7 nights from £1395

Alternatively, discover the heritage and flora of the Italian Lakes including Como, Maggiore and Lugano with a specialist guide by boat, road and on foot. Stay for a week in the favoured months of May, June or September at Grand Hotel Menaggio on Lake Como.



Villa Taranto

PEAKS, PORTS & PALAZZI

Discovering north-west Italy from Piedmont to the Ligurian coast including the treasures of former royal capital of Turin and Genoa plus elegant Portofino and dramatic 'Cinque Terre'

8 nights
from
£1595



OVERVIEW

Turin (3 nights)

Romano Canavese (2 nights)

Genoa (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Local Expert Guides

Group Size: 8 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Drinks, Boats & Palaces

Prosecco and appetisers at Villa Matilde. Boat to Portofino and along the Cinque Terre. The spectacular interiors and gardens of Palazzo Reale (Turin), Venaria Reale, Villa Principe & Palazzo Rosso.

INTRODUCTION

In relatively recent times Piedmont was instrumental in Italy's unification, having been part of French-speaking Savoy with influence on both sides of the great Alpine peaks such as Mont Blanc and the Matterhorn. Under Duke Emanuele Filiberto in the 16th-century Piedmont became 'Italian' – indeed the 'Risorgimento' later united the country under a Piedmontese king in Turin. So Piedmont is rich in culture with opulent palaces, medieval castles and magnificent churches, as befits a former Royal capital. In 1824, having been refused by the French, the Piedmontese French Consul of Egypt, Drovetti brought the basis of the greatest Egyptian collection outside Egypt to King Charles Felix who founded an Egyptian museum.

Liguria is a coastal strip nestling at the foot of vine covered mountains. Its capital, the seafaring city of Genoa was once Venice's great rival on the west coast and home to Christopher Columbus. It reveals a fascinating medieval core and many Palazzi. The Riviera Levante reveals elegant Portofino and the 'Cinque Terre', a quintet of villages clinging to the edge of vertiginous cliffs.



Palazzo Rosso

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Travel from London to Turin. Transfer to the central 4-star Grand Hotel Sitea for three nights.

DAY 2 A walking tour of Turin including the Palazzo Reale. Afternoon free to explore. (B)

DAY 3 Visit the Egyptian Museum and the Palazzo Carignano. Enjoy a Bicerin tasting, Turin's traditional hot drink. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

DAY 4 Travel to Mount Superga, overlooking Turin to visit its impressive baroque Basilica and royal tombs. At Venaria Reale visit the Reggia royal palace, gardens and stables. Continue to Romano Canavese for two nights at the 4-star historic Villa Matilde. Welcome drink and appetisers. (B)

DAY 5 Travel past medieval castles and through magnificent mountain scenery to Courmayeur at the foot of Mont Blanc with fine views of the Alps. Enjoy the wonderful alpine setting and walk around the town. Continue to Roman and medieval Aosta which is surrounded by mountains and has a Roman amphitheatre and forum. (B)

DAY 6 Depart for Monferrato, one of Piedmont's famous wine regions for a wine tasting. Continue to Genoa for a walking tour of the Palazzi dei Rolli area, then visit Palazzo Rosso. Three nights at the central 5-star Grand Hotel Savoia. Welcome drink. (B)

DAY 7 A short drive to nearby Rapallo and Santa Margherita Ligure, pearl of the Ligurian coast. By boat to the famous village of Portofino for a walking tour. Return to Genoa for a short walking tour through Via Garibaldi and to visit Villa del Principe. (B)

DAY 8 Morning train to Cinque Terre. A short walking tour around Monterosso. Continue by boat along the coast to Vernazza and Riomaggiore. Return train to Genoa. (B)

DAY 9 Return flight to London. (B)



Villa Matilde

ACCOMMODATION

Grand Hotel Sitea, Turin: A traditional 4-star hotel centrally located near the main Via Roma and Piazza San Carlo, a few minutes walk to Piazza Castello. Restaurant, bar, gym and WiFi (free). 120 air-conditioned rooms with private facilities, hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and TV.

Villa Matilde, Romano Canavese: A historic villa in the Piedmont countryside dating back over 300 years. A unique restaurant converted from stables, outdoor pool, gym, spa and WiFi (chargeable). 43 rooms with pieces of original period furniture, private facilities and hairdryer.

Grand Hotel Savoia, Genoa: A 5-star classic hotel in central Genoa. Restaurants, bar, gym, spa and WiFi (free). 117 air-conditioned rooms with private facilities, hairdryer, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV.



Portofino



Courmayeur



Mole Antonelliana, Turin



Cinque Terre

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Thursdays

May 12	£1695	Sep 8	£1695
Jun 9	£1695	Oct 6	£1595

2023 – Thursdays

May 11	£1695	Sep 21	£1795
Jun 8	£1745	Oct 5	£1695

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £495
British Airways Club Europe – from £195

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, entrance fees, transfers, 8 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival transfer £45
Departure transfer £35

EXTRA NIGHTS – GENOA

Why not make the most of your time? Discover more of Genoa and add extra nights post-tour to draw breath, reflect, relax or explore independently.

Grand Hotel Savoia

(per night) – £95 (Sep £120)
Single supplement – £70 (Sep £90)
Departure transfer – £35



Genoa

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
£2295



OVERVIEW

Basel / Strasbourg (Day 1)
Strasbourg / Waltenheim (Day 2)
Waltenheim / Saverne (Day 3)
Saverne / Lutzelbourg (Day 4)
Lutzelbourg / Arzviller Plane (Day 5)
Sarrebourg / Lagarde (Day 6)
Basel (Day 7)

KEY FEATURES

Exclusive Small Ship Cruise
Complimentary Cabin Selection
UNESCO Site: Strasbourg
Excursions & Drinks Included
UK Tour Manager
Group Size: 2 – 20



Lutzelbourg

INTRODUCTION

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 Lagarde to Strasbourg. 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 Ill 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

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. Dinner at a local restaurant with the opportunity to enjoy "tarte flambée", a local specialty. (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 plains. Free time to explore Saverne. (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 through 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 & PÉNICHE RAYMONDE

Surprisingly spacious barges 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.





Strasbourg



Arzviller



Strasbourg Cathedral



Lutzelbourg Castle © Office Du Tourisme de Saverne Et Sa Region

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Fridays

May 27	£2295	Sep 16	£2295
Aug 19	£2295		

2023 – Tuesdays

May 30	£2395	Sep 19	£2395
Jul 11	£2395		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £995

Price Includes

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

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

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.

PÉNICHE CHAMPAGNE

6 nights from £2195

Alternatively, embark on this exclusive new barge cruise from Paris to Epernay on the majestic Marne canal through charming towns, the Champagne region and historic cities with Champagne tasting every day! Enjoy the peace and quiet of the French countryside and visit small villages plus the great cities of Paris and Reims.

Excursions & Drinks Included



Champagne Cave

PÉNICHE PROVENÇALE

A leisurely barge cruise along the Canal du Rhône in the south of France from Arles to Sète visiting Avignon, Pont du Gard, Nîmes, Aigues-Mortes, Montpellier and Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert

6 nights
from
£2195



OVERVIEW

Avignon / Arles (Day 1)

Gallician (2)

Saintes-Maries-De-la-Mer /

Aigues-Mortes (3)

Palavas Les Flots (4), Sète (5)

Etang de Thau (6)

Avignon / Return Journey (7)

KEY FEATURES

Exclusive Small Ship

Complimentary Cabin Selection

3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Excursions & Drinks Included

UK Tour Manager

'No Flying'

Group Size: 2 – 20



Camargue Nature Reserve

INTRODUCTION

A unique and exclusive barge (péniche) cruise along the Canal du Rhône.

The small vessel enables the exploration of some of the lesser known waterways of the Camargue area. Rewarding excursions and fine French food and wine are balanced by afternoons of gentle cruising in a sociable atmosphere with refreshments to hand. Take a leisurely walk, explore by bike or try your hand at a game of Pétanque!

This area of Provence conjures up images of herb scented hills, vivid landscapes of lavender fields, Camargue salt flats and historic towns such as Arles admired by the Romans and Van Gogh.

Aigues-Mortes is a historic, fortified crusader town with a rich heritage, located in the middle of the salt marshes and one of the most beautiful sites in Provence.

Avignon is a charming town with a famous bridge, once the home of popes.

Pont du Gard Roman bridge and aqueduct is designated a UNESCO World Heritage site and Roman Nîmes reveals a well-preserved amphitheatre and temple.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Travel from London to Avignon by Eurostar. Transfer to Arles and embark on the barge. Arles was once a provincial capital of ancient Rome with many remains from that era including the impressive amphitheatre still intact, the attractive town also inspired Van Gogh and his paintings. Jules Verne welcome drinks party and crew introduction. (D)

DAY 2 Enjoy a walking tour of the Provencal town of Arles viewing its Roman sites, Espace Van Gogh and market. Cruise on the Rhône à Sète and Rhône canals to Gallician. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Morning excursion to Pont du Gard and the town of Nîmes. Afternoon sailing to Aigues-Mortes to moor by the medieval walls. Tour of Aigues-Mortes with time for a walk in this medieval city in the marshes, surrounded by well-preserved city walls. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Tour of the Camargue visiting the small fishing village of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, the capital of the Camargue. Afternoon sailing to Palavas les Flots on the Rhône à Sète Canal and enjoy free time at this seaside and spa resort. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit Montpellier, elegant capital of Languedoc Roussillon. Sail to the historic port of Sète, where the canal meets the Atlantic. Arrive in the early evening. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Visit Etang de Thau, famous for oyster farms and local fishermen, visit the museum and enjoy a tasting. Afternoon drive up into the hills to visit the delightful village of Saint-Guilhem-le-Désert. Jules Verne farewell drinks party and Gala dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Disembark in Sète. Transfer to Avignon for a sightseeing tour including the Palace of the Popes and bridge before the return train journey to London. (B)

PÉNICHE ANNE MARIE

Owned by the French cruise company, CroisiEurope, established 40 years ago, now boasting the largest European river and barge fleet, yet still operated by the same family. All drinks, except premium brands are included throughout the cruise. Enjoy International and French cuisine in an elegant one-sitting dining room. Reception, lounge bar, sun terrace with Jacuzzi and Sun Deck, WiFi (free/limited). Bicycles are available for use. The vessel does not sail at night. 10 air-conditioned Lower Deck cabins with picture window, private facilities, hairdryer, safe and satellite TV.

CANAL DU RHÔNE

Stretching sixty miles from Beaucaire to France's second largest lake, Étang de Thau, the Canal du Rhône à Sète takes an unhurried route through unique landscapes and intriguing history, to medieval towns and Mediterranean beaches. Mostly straight, almost totally at or near sea level, in parts running parallel with the shore, this fascinating waterway traverses the wild wetlands, salt flats and lagoons of the Camargue Natural Park.



Avignon



Arles



Pont du Gard



Saint Peter Cathedral, Montpellier



Roman Amphitheater, Nîmes

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin Lower Deck cabin
Eurostar from London St. Pancras

2022 – Saturdays

May 28	£2295	Aug 20	£2195
Jun 11	£2295		

2023 – Fridays

May 12	£2395	Aug 18*	£2295
Jun 23*	£2395	Sep 1	£2395

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £995

Eurostar Standard Premier Class – £225

Price Includes

Rail travel, all port charges, transfers, 6-night cruise, full board and drinks on cruise vessel, excursions, UK Tour Manager, local expert guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated rail fares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

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 Avignon sightseeing may be organised on the arrival day (Day 1) instead of Day 7.

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

PÉNICHE SUR LOIRE

6 nights from £2195

Alternatively, embark on this exclusive new barge cruise from Nevers to Briare along the Loire Canal through French countryside, remote settlements and abundant vineyards, tasting regional specialities and revealing an authentic and traditional way of life. Delicious French food and excursions included.

Drinks Included • No Single Supplement



La Charité-sur-Loire

COASTS, LAKES & CAPITALS

From lively capitals to picturesque landscapes, explore the vibrant city of Zagreb and the elegant Ljubljana, the emerald blue Istrian coast and the blissfully beautiful Lake Bled

7 nights
from
£1395



OVERVIEW

Zagreb (2 nights)

Opatija (3 nights)

Bled (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

UNESCO Heritage Site: Plitvice Lakes

Local Expert Guide Throughout

Central Hotels

Group Size: 10 – 22

SPECIAL EVENT

Local Food Tasting

Enjoy a tour of olive groves followed by olive oil tasting accompanied with locally produced prosciutto, cheese and wine.

INTRODUCTION

The Habsburg influences in Northern Croatia and Slovenia contrast with the Venetian effect around the Istrian coast. Zagreb's history stretches back to the 11th century when it developed from the villages of Kaptol and Gradec. Today it is a city with fine examples of Austro-Hungarian façades. The Plitvice Lakes were shaped by limestone sediments and minerals spread by water flow and absorbed by vegetation which over time turned to stone, a unique phenomena of this karst region. Opatija is a fashionable resort, which since 1874 has seen many famous personalities, including Austro-aristocracy, Puccini, Chekhov and James Joyce. Istria is the Adriatic's largest peninsula, where Italy's influence extends to language and archaeology such as Pula's Roman amphitheatre.

Slovenia declared independence from Yugoslavia in 1991 after a short 10-day war, making Ljubljana, its picturesque pint-sized capital. Renowned for its stunning natural beauty, hot springs and superb climate, Bled is located on a glacier lake in the shadow of the medieval castle providing unparalleled mountain views.



Zagreb, Croatia

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly Heathrow to Zagreb for two nights at the 4-star DoubleTree by Hilton.

DAY 2 Walking tour includes the Upper town, cathedral of Sveti Stjepana and Mirogoj cemetery. Dinner and wine tasting at a family farm. (B, D)

DAY 3 Travel to Plitvice Lakes National Park featuring sixteen spellbinding blue-green lakes arranged in cascades. Visit includes a walk through the limestone canyon of the Lower Lakes, an electric boat across the largest lake – Lake Kozjak, and a walk along the canyon's east side. Continue to Opatija for three nights at the 4-star Amadria Park Hotel Royal or 4-star Villa Royal. (B)

DAY 4 Opatija walking tour includes Lungomare, the famous coastal promenade, the Maiden with Seagull statue, the 15th-century St. James church, Angiolina Park and enjoy coffee and cake. (B)

DAY 5 Drive to Pula, which has been occupied, destroyed and rebuilt numerous times. Visit one of the best preserved Roman Amphitheatres. Local food tasting. Continue to Rovinj for a walking tour including the hilltop church of St. Euphemia. (B)

DAY 6 Cross into Slovenia and visit Postojna Caves, one of the world's largest karst monuments. Admire the view towards Renaissance Predjama Castle, perched on a steep cliff and overlooking the Lokva River. Continue to Bled for two nights at the 4-star Park Hotel. (B)

DAY 7 Morning tour of Bled includes a Pletna boat ride on the lake with a visit to St. Mary's Church on the island, a panoramic view from Bled Castle and a slice of Bled cream cake and coffee. Afternoon drive to the Baroque capital Ljubljana for a walking tour. (B, D)



DAY 8 Transfer to Zagreb for the return flight. (B)

Note: This is a busy itinerary with many visits on foot including some uneven surfaces and inclines.

ACCOMMODATION

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

DoubleTree by Hilton, Zagreb: A modern 4-star hotel with 152 rooms close to Zagreb's old town.

Amadria Park Hotel Royal, Opatija: A comfortable 4-star design hotel with 54 rooms in Opatija with fine views to the bay and harbour. Private beach front.

Villa Royal, Opatija: A small 4-star hotel with 32 rooms and private beach.

Hotel Park, Bled: A modern 4-star hotel in the centre of Bled and next to Lake Bled with 217 rooms.



Plitvice Lakes National Park, Croatia



Bled, Slovenia



Ljubljana

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Fridays

Apr 22	£1395	Sep 2	£1445
May 20	£1395	Sep 23	£1395
Jun 3	£1445	Oct 7	£1395

2023 – Fridays

Apr 21	£1395	Sep 1	£1475
May 19	£1425	Sep 22	£1445
Jun 2	£1445	Oct 6	£1425

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £355 (Apr 22 £275; Sep 2 £375; Oct 7 £295; Apr 21 £315; Oct 6 £335)
Sea View (Opatija – 3 nights) – £35
Single supplement – £420 (Apr 22 £340; Sep 2 £440; Oct 7 £360; Apr 21 £380; Oct 6 £400)
Lake View (Bled – 2 nights) – £35
Single supplement – £420 (Apr 22 £340; Sep 2 £440; Oct 7 £360; Apr 21 £380; Oct 6 £400)
Croatia Airlines Business Class – from £425
Privately Guided – £1495 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival transfer £20
Departure transfer £115

EXTRA NIGHTS – ZAGREB/BLED

Extend your stay in Croatia's capital Zagreb at the 4-star DoubleTree by Hilton or in blissfully beautiful Bled at the 4-star Hotel Park.

DoubleTree by Hilton (per night) – £55
Single supplement – £45
Hotel Park (per night) – £85
Single supplement – £65
Lake View (per night) – £105
Single supplement – £65



Hotel Park, Bled

THE COAST OF EXPLORERS & EMPERORS

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

7 nights
from
£1675



OVERVIEW

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

KEY FEATURES

Culture & Natural Wonders
Exclusive Small Ship Sailing
Complimentary Cabin Selection
3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
UK Tour Manager
Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)
Group Size: 2 – 20#

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.

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 walking street "Stradun or, for the more energetic there is time to walk the famous 1,940m long walls.

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 valleys, idyllic 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)



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 Sail to Split and 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.



MV Admiral



Dubrovnik



Zlatni Rat, Bol



Hvar

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

May 14	£1725	Sep 10	£2045
Jun 18	£1995	Oct 1	£1675

2023 – Saturdays

May 13	£1745	Sep 9	£2075
Jun 17	£2025	Oct 7	£1725

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £100
Twin/Double for sole use – £795 (Jun 2023 £835;
Sep £945; Oct £725)
Main Deck Cat. A – £195
Main Deck Cat. B – £295
Upper Deck – £345
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, UK Tour Manager, local
expert guides and representatives. If our specially
negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of
booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival or departure transfer £30

Notes

Groups are divided for sightseeing. The cruise
vessel takes 39 guests.

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.

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 – £265 (Sep 2022 £345;
May/Jun 2023 £285; Sep 2023 £375)
Single supplement – £145 (Sep 2022 £225;
May/Jun 2023 £165; Oct 2023 £125)



Split

SECRET WONDERS OF CROATIA

Combine the cultural heritage and natural beauty of the islands and coast of less-visited central Croatia on a new cruise, ideal for nature lovers and for the second time visitor

7 nights
from
£1795



OVERVIEW	KEY FEATURES	SPECIAL EVENT
Split (Day 1) Trogir / Rogoznica (Day 2) Krka NP / Šibenik (Day 3) Kornati NP / Sali (Day 4) Zadar (Day 5) Plitvice Lakes NP (Day 6) Split (Day 7), Return Flight (Day 8)	Culture & Natural Wonders Exclusive Small Ship Sailing Complimentary Cabin Selection 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites UK Tour Manager Guaranteed Departure (see page 5) Group Size: 2 – 20#	Klapa – Group of Friends Enjoy a Klapa performance in a 16th-Century Palace in Zadar. Klapa music is a form of traditional acappella singing. The word klapa translates as “a group of friends” and traces its roots to littoral church singing with general themes to celebrate love, wine and sea.

INTRODUCTION

Combine four UNESCO heritage sites with three national parks on a private Jules Verne cruise. Visit Split with its abundance of Roman architecture, the medieval coastal gem of Zadar the ancient Dalmatian capital, Šibenik and the coastal towns of Primošten Skradin and Sali. Founded by the Greeks (Trau to the Venetians), the delightful old town of Trogir has a profuse collection of Romanesque and Renaissance buildings. Stunning Krka National Park runs from the Adriatic to the mountains of the Croatian interior, a magical place of magnificent waterfalls and gorges, dotted with monasteries. Kornati National Park is composed of uninhabited islands, islets and reefs, the largest and most dense archipelago in the Adriatic, whose caves, grottoes and rugged cliffs create an ethereal stark whiteness against the deep blue Adriatic. Plitvice Lakes are Croatia’s oldest National Park, established in 1949, a wonderland of karst rock formations with a chain of 16 terraced lakes, joined by waterfalls that extend into a limestone canyons creating vibrant colours.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport to Split and transfer to MV Admiral. (D)
DAY 2 Depart to the old Dalmatian town of Trogir for a walking tour of this tiny island. Cruise to Rogoznica for overnight. (B, L, D)
DAY 3 Cruise to Šibenik and travel to Lozovac the starting point to explore Krka National Park where there are 17 cascading waterfalls, guided tour to ‘Skradinski Buk’ in the park. Continue by boat to Skradin. Drive to Etno Selo, a journey to the heart of Dalmatian culture for a wine tasting and lunch. Return to Šibenik with its glorious old town. Overnight in Šibenik. (B, L, D)
DAY 4 Cruise around Kornati National Park, made up of 100 islands and reefs. An incredible site where dramatic inlets descend steeply into the sea, rich in marine life and historical remains. Overnight is in Sali (Dugi Otok). Enjoy olive oil tasting at ‘Zlata Kap’ mill. View the churches of St. Mary, St. Rocco and St. Nicholas. (B, L, D)
DAY 5 Depart for Zadar and a walking tour. It is a real treasury of archaeology and monuments including the Roman forum, the church of St. Donatus, the Church of the



Holy Ghost and the Romanesque Cathedral of St. Stošije. Special Event – ‘Klapa’. (B, L)
DAY 6 Full day excursion to Plitvice Lakes to explore the National Park. Re-join the cruise at the delightful fortified town of Primošten. (B, D)
DAY 7 Cruise towards Split, enjoying fabulous views of the Riviera’s coastline and islands. Walking tour of Split including Diocletian’s palace. Captain’s dinner. (B, L, D)
DAY 8 Morning free to explore Split independently before transferring to the airport for the return flight. (B)



MV Admiral

MV ADMIRAL

The elegant 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.



Plitvice Lakes



Zadar



Kornati National Park

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double Lower Deck cabin
Croatia Airlines from Heathrow (May 28 easyJet
from Gatwick)

2022 – Saturdays

May 28	£2145	Sep 24	£1795
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2023 – Saturdays

Jun 3	£2025	Sep 30	£1895
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £100
Twin/Double for sole use – £745 (May £825;
Jun £865)
Main Deck Cat. A – £195
Main Deck Cat. B – £295
Upper Deck – £345
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, UK Tour Manager, local
expert guides and representatives. If our specially
negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of
booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival or departure transfer £30

Notes

Groups are divided for sightseeing. The cruise
vessel takes 39 guests.

At some mooring points you may need to walk
through vessels anchored alongside to go ashore.

Most excursions are on foot including some with
uneven surfaces and inclines.

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, near the Temple of
Jupiter. Breakfast daily.

2 nights – £285 (Sep £255)
Single supplement – £145 (Sep 2022 £115,
Jun 2023 £165; Sep 2023 £125)



Split

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

8 nights
from
£925



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 Departures (see page 7)
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Group Size: 6 – 25

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.

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 Durres 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 or similar. (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 via the Blue Eye spring to the hillside 'Museum City' of Gjirokastra. Visit to 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 Teatro. (B)

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)



DAY 9 Walking tour of Bllok area, followed by visits to National History Museum and National Gallery of Arts. Farewell dinner at an organic farm. Return flight. (B, D)

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



Berat



Kruja



Butrint

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Mondays

Mar 21*	£925	Jun 13	£975
Apr 18	£945	Sep 12	£1025
May 9	£975	Sep 26	£975
May 16	£975	Oct 17	£975
May 30	£1295	Oct 31	£925

2022/23 – Mondays (Solo Groups)

Nov 7*	£925	Nov 6*	£925
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2023 – Mondays

Mar 20*	£925	Sep 11	£975
Apr 17	£945	Sep 25	£975
May 8	£975	Oct 16	£975
May 22	£975	Oct 30*	£945
Jun 12	£975		

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £165

British Airways Club Europe – from £395

Privately Guided – £795 (see page 9)

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £225

Arrival transfer £20

Departure transfer with group included

EXTENSION – DURRES

Spend three nights at the seaside town of Durres 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 – £195 (May/Oct 2022 £165; May/Oct 2023 £175; Jun/Sep 2023 £205)

Single supplement – £85 (2023 £90)

Extension available (May – Oct)



Durres

BALKAN EXPLORER

Discover the ancient relics, monasteries, churches and mosques, historical sites and beautiful landscapes of the 'Cradle of the Balkans': Kosovo, Albania and North Macedonia

7 nights
from
£1325



OVERVIEW

Prizren (1 night)
Tirana (2 nights)
Ohrid (1 night)
Skopje (1 night)
Pristina (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing Programme
3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Group Size: 6 – 18

INTRODUCTION

Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia are known as the 'Cradle of the Balkans' and home to a wealth of ancient relics, historical sites and beautiful landscapes.

Landlocked Kosovo, surrounded by mountains and Europe's youngest nation, has managed to preserve a wealth of mosques and monasteries despite many years of conflict. It was the heart of the Orthodox Christian Serbian empire, until the Turkish triumph at the 1389 Battle of Kosovo ushered in 500 years of Ottoman rule and Islam. Neighbouring Macedonia was once a dominant force and its Alexander the Great spread the empire east to India. It has an eclectic mix of Greek, Roman and Ottoman heritage. Albania has always been at the crossroads of empires and civilizations, and three decades after its isolation under communism, today offers four UNESCO sites in a Mediterranean setting.



Gračanica Monastery, Pristina

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Luton to Pristina and transfer to Prizren for overnight at the 4-star Hotel Kacinari. Travel to the monastery complex of Decan, the largest medieval church in the Balkans followed by the Patriarchate of Peja, constructed in the 13th century. Return to Prizren for a walking tour including the Ottoman Stone Bridge and the museum dedicated to the League of Prizren. (D)

DAY 2 Drive to Gjakova to visit the old town, continue to Fierza in Albania on Koman Lake where the ferry awaits. Travel to Tirana for two nights at the 4-star Austria Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 3 Visit the National History Museum. Proceed to Berat, home to some of the best examples of Ottoman architecture outside Turkey. Explore Berat Castle, the Onufri Museum in a former church and the Ethnographic Museum. (B)

DAY 4 Drive to Ohrid in neighbouring North Macedonia for overnight at the 4-star Sky Corner Hotel. Walking tour including the churches of Saint Sophia, Saint Panteleimon, the Holy Virgin of Peribleptos, Plashonik and Sveti Jovan on the cliffs at Kaneo. (B, D)

DAY 5 Travel to Stobi to visit the archaeological site followed by the Popova Kula Winery for a tasting. Continue to Skopje for overnight at the 4-star Grand Plaza Hotel. Walking tour including the Stone Bridge, old Mahmut Pasha Hammam and Turkish bazaar. (B, L)

DAY 6 Drive to Pristina in Kosovo with visits to Matka Canyon, one of the oldest artificial lakes in North Macedonia and Gadime Cave, a karst limestone cave. Proceed to the ancient remains of Ulpiana and Gračanica Monastery. Spend two nights at the 3-star Hotel Parliament. (B)



Alexander the Great Monument, Skopje

DAY 7 Walking tour of Pristina including the National Library, Mother Teresa Cathedral, Fatih Mosque, the Carshia Mosque and the Skanderbeg monument. Visit to Battle of Kosovo monument, dedicated to the battle of 1389. (B)

DAY 8 Return flight. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

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

Kacinari, Prizren: A modern 4-star hotel with 30 rooms close to Sinan Pasha Mosque.

Hotel Austria, Tirana: A comfortable 4-star hotel with 23 rooms close to Skanderbeg Square.

Sky Corner Hotel, Ohrid: A modern 4-star hotel with 17 rooms close to Lake Ohrid and the ancient city.

Grand Plaza Hotel, Skopje: A modern 4-star hotel in a peaceful part of Skopje with 56 rooms. Facilities include pool, gym and sauna.

Parlament, Pristina: A traditional 3-star hotel in the centre of Pristina with 33 rooms and a gym.



Palace of Culture, Tirana



Koman Lake, Albania



St. Jovan Kaneo, Lake Ohrid, North Macedonia

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
WizzAir from Luton

2022 – Wednesdays

May 11	£1345	Sep 21	£1395
Sep 7	£1325	Oct 12	£1375

2023 – Wednesdays

May 10	£1325	Sep 20	£1345
Sep 6	£1325	Oct 11	£1345

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £195

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £150

Arrival transfer with group included

Departure transfer £25

Notes

This is a full itinerary with many visits on foot including some uneven surfaces and inclines.

Most travel is along a well-established road network but some minor roads may be in poor repair.

On occasion hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

EXTRA NIGHTS – PRIZREN/PRISTINA

Extend your stay in Kosovo in Prizren at the modern 4-star Hotel Kacinari with 30 air-conditioned rooms, close to Sinan Pasha Mosque or in Pristina at classic 3-star Hotel Parlament with 33 air-conditioned rooms in the centre.

Hotel Kacinari (per night) – £45

Single supplement – £30

Hotel Parlament (per night) –£45

Single supplement – £30



Stone Bridge, Prizren

MYTHS & MINOANS

Discover Crete and the sites and treasures of the ancient Minoan civilisation as well as the Venetian, Ottoman, Greek and Byzantine heritage of its towns, villages and ports

7 nights
from
£1345



OVERVIEW

Heraklion (4 nights)

Rethymnon (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

Improved Itinerary / Hotels

Local Expert Guides

Central Hotel

Group Size: 8 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Cretan Food & Wine

A cooking demonstration with tasting of local food and wine specialities.

INTRODUCTION

Crete, the largest of the Greek islands and steeped in history, is almost a separate country. The present capital, Heraklion served as the port for Minoan Knossos. Roman, Byzantine and Arab occupation was followed by Venetian and then Ottoman rule until the Greek War of Independence united the island with Greece.

Exploration naturally begins at the Minoan Palace at Knossos whose restored ruins mark the site of the palace 1700 BC. Vast, absorbing and puzzling, its ruins are deeply associated with mythology such as the legend of Theseus and the Minotaur.

Heraklion's Archaeological Museum houses the greatest collection of Minoan art including the hall of frescoes, statues and artefacts such as the Phaestos Disc, Bull's Head, Gold Bee Pendant, Double Axe and Octopus Vase and other discoveries.

Heraklion also reveals a wealth of Venetian architecture as befitting its one-time position as Venetian capital of the Aegean.

A journey south across the fertile vine-covered central plain reaches the ancient sites of Gortys, by whose famous

plane tree according to legend Europe and Zeus made love. Continue to Agia Triada and Phaestos, the latter destroyed by its rival, Gortys and thus with palace remains more purely Minoan.

Western Crete reveals the 5th century Arkadi monastery, famous for the heroic resistance to the Turkish siege in 1866 and the Venetian harbour of Chania, once the Turkish capital and known for its big cruciform covered market. Rethymnon is the intellectual capital of Crete with Venetian, Renaissance, Ottoman and Byzantine features.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Gatwick to Heraklion. Transfer to the central, 5-star Aquila Atlantis Hotel for four nights.

DAY 2 Visit Heraklion's old harbour, site of the Venetian Fortress. A walking tour includes the churches of Agios Minas, Titos and Markos, the Loggia city hall and the renowned Archaeological Museum. (B)

DAY 3 Visit the Palace of Knossos, excavated in 1878 by British archaeologist, Arthur Evans who uncovered and reconstructed part of the Palace. A scenic drive into the hills to the traditional farming village of Archanes. Enjoy a cooking demonstration with tasting of the local food and wine specialities. (B)

DAY 4 Visit Gortys, once the capital of Crete after the Roman conquest, the Law Code of Gortys, Byzantine Agios Titos and the Roman Odeon. Continue to Phaestos, the second largest Minoan palace with views of Messara Valley and Ida Mountains. Visit Agia Triada, an ancient Minoan villa. (B)

DAY 5 Travel to the village of Margarites. Visit the museum of ancient Eleftherna, Arkadi Monastery and the cave-built chapel of St. Anthony at Patsos Gorge. Continue to Rethymnon for three nights at the 4-star Theartemis Palace. (B, D)



DAY 6 A walking tour of Rethymnon visiting the Renaissance Old Town and churches.

Visit the Historical and Folklore Museum in a restored Venetian town house. Cocktail at the hotel's Gin bar. (B)

DAY 7 Travel to Chania, built over the ruins of the Minoan city of Kydonia. View Aptera and Venizelos Tombs at Profitis Illias and visit the Commonwealth War Cemetery and Tzagarolon Monastery. Free time to explore the Venetian port and covered market. (B)

DAY 8 Return flight from Heraklion to London Gatwick. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

Aquila Atlantis, Heraklion: A modern 5-star hotel in central Heraklion, close to the Archaeological museum. Restaurants, bar, pools, spa and WiFi (free). 164 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-fridge, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV.

Theartemis Palace, Rethymnon: A stylish 4-star hotel, 20 minutes walk to the old town and 5 minutes to a sandy beach. Restaurants, bars, pools, spa and WiFi (free). 245 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, mini-fridge and satellite TV.



Phaestos



Knossos Palace



Rethymnon



Venetian Fortress, Heraklion

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
easyJet from Gatwick*

2022 – Thursdays

May 5	£1345	Sep 15	£1545
May 12	£1425	Sep 29	£1475
Jun 2	£1595	Oct 13	£1425

2023 – Thursdays

Apr 20	£1375	Sep 14	£1595
May 11	£1475	Sep 28	£1495
Jun 1	£1625	Oct 12	£1465

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £215 (Jun 2022/Sep 15 £255;
Jun 2023/Sep 14 £265)

British Airways from Heathrow (Sep 2022 only) – nil

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £350

Arrival transfer £18

Departure transfer £59

Note

An accommodation tax is payable locally, currently €4 per room per day (Heraklion) and €3 per room per day (Rethymnon).

EXTRA NIGHTS – HERAKLION/RETHYMNON

Extend your stay in Crete at the 5-star Aquila Atlantic Hotel, a modern hotel in Heraklion or in quaint Rethymnon at the 4-star Theartemis Palace.

Aquila Atlantis (per night) – £50
(Jun £60)

Single supplement – £38

Theartemis Palace (per night) – £40
(Jun/Sep £60)

Single supplement – £25 (Jun/Sep £35)



Aquila Atlantis, Heraklion

CLASSICAL TOUR OF GREECE

Discover the cities, temples, museums, theatres and 'marbles' of classical Greece from Athens to Delphi & Olympia, the rock monasteries of Meteora and the dramatic Peloponnese scenery

8 nights from
£1925



OVERVIEW	KEY FEATURES
Athens (3 nights)	Cultural Tour
Kalambaka (1 night)	Jules Verne Sightseeing
Delphi (1 night)	4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Olympia (1 night)	Local Expert Guides
Nafplion (2 nights)	Group Size: 8 – 25

INTRODUCTION

Created in the 5th century BC to celebrate the zenith of its power the Acropolis symbolizes the glory of Ancient Athens.

The narrow Isthmus of Corinth connects the mainland and the Peloponnese, the heart of classical Greece, from temples, tombs and amphitheatres to warriors, kings, sporting heroes and playwrights.

Examine the birthplace of the Olympics, consult the oracle of Delphi and explore ancient Mycenae.

Will we lose our Marbles? The 'Elgin Marbles' were taken from the Parthenon by Lord Elgin and have pride of place in the British Museum. The Ottomans authorised the removal and they have been well-preserved and on view since 1816, contributing to the study of Ancient Greece. However, they are part of Greece's iconic monument, taken during Turkish rule and now have a home at the Acropolis museum whose top floor is the same size as the Parthenon, displaying the whole frieze with gaps/replicas for missing 'marbles' (with a discrete 'BM' caption!).



Archaeological Museum of Olympia

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from Heathrow to Athens. Three nights at the central 5-star Hotel Divani Acropolis.

DAY 2 View the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, National Library, Syntagma Square and the site of the first modern Olympics. Visit the Acropolis and museum. Welcome cocktail. (B)

DAY 3 Free day to explore the nearby Plaka and other sites, perhaps the National Archaeological or Benaki museums. (B)

DAY 4 Travel to Kalambaka (4 hrs) to explore the monasteries of Meteora. Overnight at the 4-star Divani Meteora Hotel. (B)

DAY 5 Travel to Delphi (3 hrs) on the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Ascend the Sacred Way to the temple of Apollo, site of the Delphic Oracle. Overnight at 4-star Hotel Amalia. (B)

DAY 6 Visit the Archaeological Museum of Delphi. Continue to Olympia (3 hrs) to visit the Archaeological and Olympic Games museums. Overnight at the 4-star Hotel Olympion Asty or Hotel Europa. Dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 Visit ancient Olympia and the Olympic stadium. Travel to Nafplion. Two nights at the 4-star Hotel Grande Bretagne or Hotel Ippoliti. (B)

DAY 8 Enter Agamemnon's capital, Mycenae, through the Lion Gate to the royal tomb shafts and beehive tombs. Visit Epidaurus' great theatre. Explore Nafplion at the foot of a cliff crowned by Palamidi Fortress. (B)

DAY 9 Pass the Corinth Canal en route to Athens for return flight to Heathrow. (B)



Olympia

ACCOMMODATION

All hotels have restaurant(s), bar, WiFi and air-conditioned rooms with private facilities, hairdryer, safe, mini-fridge and satellite TV.

Hotel Divani Acropolis: Ideally situated just a short walk from the Acropolis area and the Plaka. 250 rooms.

Divani Meteora Hotel: On the highest point of Kastraki area with views of Meteora. 63 rooms.

Hotel Amalia: Lying in 14 acres of greenery and built with traditional materials. 172 rooms.

Hotel Olympion Asty: In a historic location on the hillside of the forest of Olympia with panoramic views of the Alfios River. 40 rooms.

Hotel Europa: At the top of Drouvas Hill in Ancient Olympia. 80 rooms.

Hotel Grande Bretagne: A classic hotel in central Nafplio. 20 rooms.

Hotel Ippoliti: A central boutique hotel converted from a neo-classical 19th-century mansion. 19 rooms.

Note: An accommodation tax is payable locally, currently per room per day €3 (Athens €4).



Acropolis, Athens



Meteora



Delphi

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Tuesdays

May 10	£1945	Sep 6	£2045
May 31	£2045	Oct 4	£1925

2023 – Tuesdays

May 9	£1995	Sep 5	£2095
May 30	£2175	Oct 3	£1995

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £595 (2023 £625)
British Airways Club Europe – from £255

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 8 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £250
Arrival transfer £45
Departure transfer with group included

ANCIENT GREECE OF THE OLYMPICS

7 nights from £2595

Alternatively, explore Athens, the cradle of Western civilisation, then experience a 7-night small ship sailing around Peloponnese peninsula accompanied by a guest lecturer. Visit ancient Olympia, Delphi, Epidaurus, Nafplion, Mycenae and the Mani. The home of legends, where Gods walked the earth. Includes excursions, 6 lunches and 7 dinners.



The Acropolis, Athens

ISLAND OF RHODES

Follow the moves of the Grand Masters to discover the Greek, Crusader and Ottoman treasures in Rhodes Old Town and Lindos, also visiting the island of Symi

7 nights
from

£1125



OVERVIEW	KEY FEATURES
Rhodes (7 nights)	Cultural Tour
	Jules Verne Sightseeing
	Improved Hotel & Itinerary
	UNESCO: Medieval City of Rhodes
	Local Expert Guides
	New Central Hotel Option
	Group Size: 8 – 25

INTRODUCTION

For a combination of exploration and relaxation, the town of Rhodes offers the best of both worlds, being a UNESCO World Heritage site with a fascinating history, within walking distance of the port and beaches, offering a wide range of restaurants and bars. This arrangement minimises the need for local road transportation and explores mainly by boat or on foot.

An important economic centre in ancient times the port of Rhodes was the site of one of the ‘Seven Wonders of the Ancient World’, the Colossus of Rhodes. Once part of the Roman and Byzantine empires its invaders included Alexander and the Persians.

Most famous were the Knights of St. John, who arrived from the Holy Land in 1310, staying until the Ottoman siege, when they moved to Malta. Their medieval citadel, one of the finest in existence, forms the Old Town of Rhodes. The Street of the Knights, lined with Inns of the Tongues, leads to the imposing Palace of the Grand Masters. The Knights were evicted in 1519 by Suleiman the Magnificent, who introduced Ottoman architecture. The library of Ahmet Havuz chronicles the siege of Rhodes with a rare

collection of 15th century manuscripts. Byzantine influence is revealed in the Byzantine museum, Rhodian folk art at the Decorative Arts Museum and ancient history at the Archaeological museum.

Lindos, an attractive port on the southern side of the island is now a national landmark. The dramatically sited Acropolis contains the ancient Temple of Lindian Athena and fortifications of the Knights of St. John.

Another of the Dodecanese islands, Symi has changed little since it was one of the richest of the Dodecanese in the 17th century.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Rhodes and transfer to your chosen hotel for seven nights.

DAY 2 An afternoon walking tour of Rhodes old town including the Street of the Knights, Palace of the Grand Masters and its exhibitions on Rhodes in Ancient times and during the era of the Knights of St. John and the Ottomans. (B)

DAY 3 Discover the varied heritage of Rhodes town and surroundings with visits to the Rhodes Acropolis on Monte Smith (named after the British Admiral Sydney Smith), the Commonwealth War Cemetery and Kallithea Springs. A second walking tour of Rhodes Old Town visits the 18th century library of Ahmet Havuz and the Decorative Arts museum with costumes, Lindian tiles and plates, as well as the frescoes and icons of the fascinating Byzantine museum, originally a 12th century church, then a mosque and now a museum. (B)

DAY 4 An afternoon visit to the village of Lindos to visit its village and the clifftop Acropolis from the 4th century BC, one of the most sacred sites of the ancient world, reputedly visited by Alexander the Great, Helen of Troy and Hercules. (B)



Panormitis Monastery, Symi Island

DAY 5 Free day to relax on the beach, stroll along the waterfront or explore historic Rhodes. Perhaps take a local bus into the countryside or enjoy a boat ride. (B)

DAY 6 A full-day tour by boat to the nearby island of Symi, visiting the beautiful harbour of Symi town and Panormitis Monastery, dedicated to Archangel Michael with many treasures and icons. (B)

DAY 7 Drive through the hills of Rhodes to the church of Moni Filerimos. Visit ancient Kameiros, one of Rhodes’ three original Doric cities and view the nearby crusader castle of Kritinia. At a traditional village enjoy a Mezze lunch with local wine. (B, L)

DAY 8 Return flight to London Gatwick. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

Rhodes Bay Hotel: A 5-star luxury hotel with views of the bay of Ixia and the hillside forest, with 356 air-conditioned rooms and a short drive to the old town by bus or taxi.

Rodos Park Suites & Spa: A stylish 5-star hotel with 75 air-conditioned rooms, member of ‘Small Luxury Hotels of the World’, centrally located in Rhodes Town.



Filerimos



Lindos, Rhodes



Palace of the Grand Masters



Old Town, Rhodes

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
Rhodes Bay Hotel
easyJet from Gatwick*

2022 – Wednesdays

Apr 27	£1125	Sep 7	£1525
May 11	£1275	Sep 21	£1445
May 25	£1525	Oct 5	£1395
Jun 8	£1495		

2023 – Wednesdays

May 10	£1375	Sep 6	£1565
May 24	£1495	Sep 20	£1495
Jun 7	£1525	Oct 4	£1425

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £195 (Apr 2022 £135;
Jun/Oct 2022 £220; Sep 2022 £250; Jun/Oct 2023
£225; Sep 2023 £265)

Sea View supplement – £85 (Apr £65)

Single supplement – £335 (Apr £245; Jun £365;
Sep £385; Oct £335)

Half board – £175

Rodos Park Suites & Spa – £120

Single supplement –£545 (Apr/May/Oct 2022
£425; May/Oct 2023 £445; Jun/Sep 2023 £565)

Half board –£245 (2023 £265)

easyJet from Luton, Bristol and Liverpool – nil

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 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.

Note

*An accommodation tax is payable locally, currently
€4 per room per night.*

EXTRA NIGHTS – RHODES

Extend your stay in Rhodes at the luxury 5-star Rhodes Bay Hotel or the stylish 5-star Rodos Park Suites & Spa.

Rhodes Bay Hotel (per night) – £60
(Jun £75)

Single supplement – £25 (Jun £35)

Sea View supplement – £15

Single supplement – £55

Rodos Park Suites & Spa (per night)

– £80 (May/Oct £60)

Single supplement – £150 (May/Oct £120)



Rhodes Bay Hotel

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

14 nights
from
£1995



OVERVIEW

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

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supp. & Solo Group Departures
Group Size: 6 – 25
Early Booking Offer: For all 2023 bookings made by 28th February 2022, deduct £100 per person

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.

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

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport to Istanbul. Two nights at 4-star The Peak Hotel. (D)

DAY 2 Visit St. Saviour in Chora and the Dolmabahçe Palace. 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 4-star Charisma Hotel, Kusanasi. (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 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.



Blue Mosque



Ephesus

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

Apr 2	£2045	Sep 3	£2045
Apr 30	£2045	Sep 17	£2095
May 14	£2045	Oct 1	£2095
Jun 4	£2045	Oct 15	£1995

2022 – Saturdays (Solo Groups)

Mar 12*	£1995	Oct 29*	£1995
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2023 – Saturdays

Apr 1*	£2045	Sep 9	£2145
Apr 29	£2145	Sep 23	£2195
May 13	£2145	Oct 7	£2195
Jun 3	£2145	Oct 21*	£2095

2023 – Saturdays (Solo Groups)

Mar 18*	£2045	Nov 4*	£2095
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £445

Turkish Airlines Business Class – from £325

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200

Arrival or departure transfer £35

EXTRA NIGHTS – ISTANBUL

Why not make the most of your time? Discover more of the fascinating city of Istanbul and add extra nights pre or post-tour to relax, reflect or explore independently.

The Peak Hotel (per night) – £50

Single supplement – £42

Hotel Crowne Plaza Old City

(per night) – £65

Single supplement – £50

Arrival or departure transfer – £25



Galata Tower

TURKISH MEANDER

7 nights from £995

Alternatively, explore the ancient world of Asia Minor including Ephesus, Aphrodisias, Kusadasi, Hierapolis and Pergamon, plus the natural beauty of Pamukkale, the Aegean coast and the bustling regional capital of Izmir. Stay in central hotels with half board included and visit one of the first organic farms in the area of Kusadasi.

No Single Supp. • Early Booking Offer



Pamukkale

CYPRUS, NORTH TO SOUTH

A full itinerary exploring the ancient island of Aphrodite's scenic splendour and cultural heritage

7 nights
from
£1195



OVERVIEW

Kyrenia (4 nights)
Limassol (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supplement
Local Expert Guides Throughout
Group Size: 6 – 25

SPECIAL EVENTS

Local Restaurants

Enjoy Cypriot cuisine in local restaurants: a lunch at Kyrenia Harbour; lunch by the beach at Salamis; a traditional mezze lunch in Paphos and a dinner at Bellapais Abbey.

INTRODUCTION

Relaxation of the border between North and South Cyprus allows a tour of all Cyprus – guides from North and South present both sides of the history and heritage of this divided island including both parts of Nicosia, Europe's only divided capital. Whilst previous visits involved choosing between North and South, the interested traveller may view both sides of the story and enjoy the best of both.

Throughout the millennia the island has been of great political importance. It was invaded many times and the Romans, Persians, Crusaders and Venetians all left their legacy on the island.

The sites of ancient Cyprus include the Roman port of Salamis and Roman Curium. Medieval Cyprus is represented by Crusader castles, Venetian castles and abbeys. Many invaders and perhaps an aspiration to get closer to heaven led Orthodox monks to build small Byzantine churches in the remote Troodos Mountains. In a privileged position in the southern Mediterranean, this isle of Aphrodite has a fine year-round climate and rich, cultural heritage.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport. Transfer to Kyrenia for four nights at the 3-star Onar Village Hotel. (D)

DAY 2 Visit St. Hilarion Castle (steep climb), Bellapais Abbey and Kyrenia Castle. Kyrenia Harbour lunch. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Travel to ancient Salamis and Famagusta to visit St. Nicholas' Cathedral, Othello's Tower and the city walls. Lunch by the beach and return via the monastery of St. Barnabas. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Visit North Nicosia, St. Sophia Cathedral, the covered bazaar, a caravanserai and the Whirling Dervishes Museum. Dinner at Bellapais Abbey. (B, D)

DAY 5 Cross the border to South Nicosia to visit the Archaeological Museum, St. John's Cathedral, Archbishop's Palace and Byzantine Museum. Continue to Limassol for three nights at the 4-star Mediterranean Beach Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 6 Travel to the Troodos Mountains. Visit picturesque villages, UNESCO-protected Byzantine churches, Kykkos Monastery and the Tomb of Archbishop Makarios. (B)



Kyrenia Harbour

DAY 7 Visit ancient Curium with its Greek theatre, early Christian basilica and sanctuary. View Aphrodite's Rock and in Paphos, visit the harbour, catacombs, Ayia Kyriaki Church and St. Paul's Pillar, and the mosaics of the House of Dionysus. (B, L)

DAY 8 Return flight. (B)

Note: St. Hilarion Castle on Day 2 involves many steps with steep climbs.

ACCOMMODATION

Onar Village Hotel: Situated in the foothills of the Kyrenia mountain range above Kyrenia town. The hotel has an unique, panoramic view overlooking the Mediterranean coastline and the ancient town of Kyrenia. A 3-star hotel with restaurant, bar, pools, WiFi (free) and 64 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, satellite TV and balcony or terrace.

Mediterranean Beach Hotel: A 4-star hotel 8km from Limassol centre, 500m from the ruins of Amathus and a short walk from local restaurants. Restaurants, bars, indoor and outdoor pools, gym, spa, beach and WiFi (free). 291 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, satellite TV and balcony or terrace. A sea view room is included.



Curium



Troodos Mountains



Salamis



Bellapais Abbey



Kyrenia Castle

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Mondays

Apr 4	£1545	Sep 19	£1525
May 16	£1445	Oct 3	£1495
Jun 6*	£1495	Oct 17	£1545
Sep 5*	£1525	Nov 7*	£1245

2023 – Mondays

Feb 6*	£1195	Jun 5*	£1545
Mar 6*	£1245	Sep 4*, 18*	£1545
Apr 3*	£1445	Oct 2*	£1545
Apr 24*	£1445	Oct 16*	£1445
May 15*	£1495	Nov 6*	£1245

2023 – Monday (Solo Group)

Nov 13*	£1245
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Single supplement – £110 (Feb/Mar/Nov £80)
British Airways Club Europe – from £385
easyJet from Gatwick – nil
Privately Guided – £1195 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Limassol

Mediterranean Beach Hotel (per night) – £75
(Sep-Oct £95; Feb/Mar/Nov £60)

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
(limited availability on all departures)
Single supplement thereafter – £20
(Sep-Oct £25; Feb/Mar/Nov £15)
Departure transfer – £40

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 5 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.

CLASSIC KYRENIA

7 nights from £795

Alternatively, visit the "classic" sites and explore Ancient Roman cities, dramatic Crusader castles and Byzantine churches. Special events include lunch at Kyrenia Harbour and Salamis, and a special dinner at Bellapais Abbey. Stay in Kyrenia with a choice of two hotels.

No Single Supplement/Solo Group Departures



St. Nicholas' Cathedral, Famagusta

DISCOVER BULGARIA

Venture into the heart of this ancient land and discover a rewarding array of monuments, monasteries and museums nestled in historic villages and towns

8 nights
from
£1265



OVERVIEW

Sofia (1 night)
Bansko (1 night)
Plovdiv (2 nights)
Burgas (2 nights)
Veliko Tarnovo (1 night)
Sofia (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guide Throughout
No Single Supplement
Group Size: 6 – 22

SPECIAL EVENT

Church Psalms in Arbanassi

Enjoy a short private performance at the Church of Archangels Michael and Gabriel in Arbanassi. Singers in cassocks perform church psalms in old Slavonic language.

INTRODUCTION

A world away from the busy Black Sea leisure area we have been pleasantly surprised by a rewarding array of monuments, monasteries, museums and landscapes offering good value outside the 'Euro zone'. Bordering five countries, Bulgaria has a diverse landscape ranging from the snow-covered Rila Mountains in the southwest to the river valleys and hills of the Danubian plain in the north. Many ancient civilisations have left their mark in history, most notably the Thracians, Greeks, Romans, Slavs and Bulgars.

The town of Plovdiv, European Capital of Culture in 2019, has remains preserved from antiquity, a fine example being Bulgaria's largest surviving Roman construction, the Roman theatre in the old town, built in the 2nd century AD but only discovered 40 years ago due to a landslide. Bachkovo Monastery was founded in 1083 by a Georgian Byzantine military commander, and until the 14th century, Georgian traditions were preserved. To the northwest of the Rila Mountains, lies Rila Monastery with a remarkable interior displaying painted murals and woodcarvings.



Nessebar

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Sofia. Transfer to 4-star Crystal Palace Hotel for overnight.

DAY 2 Morning tour of Sofia including St. George's Rotunda, Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, St. Sophia, one of the oldest churches in Europe still in use, the covered market and the mosque. Travel south to visit Rila Monastery, a symbol of the 19th-century Bulgarian Renaissance and spiritual centre of the country. Continue to Bansko at the feet of the Pirin Mountain for overnight at the 5-star Kempinski Hotel Grand Arena (Hotel Bulgaria for May & Oct 2022 departures). (B)

DAY 3 Visit the church in the ancient village of Dobarsko, continue to the neighbouring village Gorno Draglishte for lunch at a local family home. Travel on the narrow gauge 'Rhodope Railway', known as the Alpine railway in the Balkans. Continue to Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria, for two nights at the 4-star Landmark Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 4 Walking tour of the old town including a visit to the Roman theatre and Ethnographic Museum. Afternoon visit to Bachkovo Monastery, known for the beauty of its construction and wall paintings. (B, D)

DAY 5 Depart for Stara Zagora, for a visit to the Roman Villa mosaics, Neolithic dwellings and the local museum. Continue to Burgas for two nights at the 5-star Grand Hotel Primoretz. (B)

DAY 6 Travel to Nessebar for a walking tour of its old town on a peninsula, a UNESCO World Heritage site, visit to the archaeological museum. (B)



DAY 7 Drive through the Rose Valley for a visit to a rose oil distillery followed by Kazanlak and a visit to the UNESCO listed Thracian Tomb, proceed over the Shipka mountain pass. Visit to the open-air museum at Etara before driving to the old Bulgarian capital Veliko Tarnovo for overnight at the Gurko Hotel. (B)

DAY 8 Walk the Tsarevets Hill for a breathtaking view and visit to the fortress. At Arbanassi village, visit the Nativity Church. Church psalms. Proceed to Sofia for one night at the 4-star Crystal Palace Hotel. (B)

DAY 9 Visit to National History Museum and Boyana Church. Return flight. (B)

Note: This is a busy itinerary with many visits on foot including some uneven surfaces and inclines.

ACCOMMODATION

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



Rila Monastery



Pirin Mountains



Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria



Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Sofia

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

May 21	£1275	Sep 17	£1275
Jun 11	£1265	Oct 8*	£1265
Aug 13	£1295		

2023 – Saturdays

May 13	£1325	Sep 16	£1325
Jun 10	£1325	Oct 7	£1325
Aug 12	£1345		

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Single supplement – £295 (2023 £315)
British Airways Club Europe – from £245

Extra Nights – Sofia

Arena di Serdica Hotel (per night) – £70
Single supplement – £50

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 8 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival or departure transfer £25

EXTRA NIGHTS – SOFIA

Extend your stay in Bulgaria's capital, explore the onion-domed churches with medieval frescoes, the Red Army monuments, the broad boulevards and manicured parks. Stay at the 4-star Crystal Palace Hotel, a contemporary and stylish boutique hotel, ten minutes' walk from Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

(per night) – £70
Single supplement – £50



Crystal Palace Sofia

THE BALKANS REVEALED

Discovering the historic lands, fascinating capital cities and breathtaking landscapes of the Balkans on a journey through Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania

10 nights
from
£1555



OVERVIEW

Sofia (3 nights)

Belgrade (3 nights)

Băile Herculane (1 night)

Râmnicu Vâlcea (1 night)

Bucharest (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Local Expert Guides

No Single Supplement

Central Hotels

Group Size: 10 – 22

SPECIAL EVENTS

Capital Drinks

To round off your capital visits indulge in a range of rakias in a stylish communist-era retro bar in Sofia, a cup of coffee and cake at the oldest Kafana in Belgrade and a glass of prosecco with savoury tartlets at a historic restaurant in a quiet, leafy area of Bucharest.

INTRODUCTION

The term Balkan, meaning mountain, has been used since the early 19th century and describes the region of South Eastern Europe. The Ottomans left their legacy when they invaded these lands at the end of the 14th century and ruled for some 500 years before Austro-Hungarian invasion weakened their dominance. With the Ottoman Empire crumbling, many states saw this as an opportunity to build national identity, which led to war breaking out when Montenegro sent in troops who were later joined by Serbian, Bulgarian and Greek forces.

If we go further back in time, the Romans also left their mark in history and at their height were in control of the entire peninsula – the cities of Sofia and Plovdiv in Bulgaria today showcase some impressive Roman remains. The extensive history of the Balkans has today left us with a wealth to explore and this innovative arrangement combines our experience in Bulgaria and Romania with the lesser known neighbour of Serbia.



Băile Herculane

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Sofia and transfer to the 4-star Hotel Anel for three nights.

DAY 2 Travel south to visit Rila Monastery, a symbol of the 19th-century Bulgarian Renaissance and spiritual centre of the country. Tour of Sofia visiting Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, St. George's Rotunda and Boyana Church, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Rakia tasting. (B)

DAY 3 Travel to Plovdiv and tour the old town including a visit to the Roman theatre and Dzhumaya Mosque. (B)

DAY 4 Cross the border to Nis in Serbia (3 hrs), one of the oldest cities in the Balkans and take a tour of its fortress. Continue to Belgrade (3 hrs) for three nights at the 4-star Belgrade Art Hotel. (B)

DAY 5 Morning tour visits the medieval Kalemegdan Fortress, Republic Square, Church of Saint Sava and Tito's memorial. Coffee and cake at a kafana. (B)

DAY 6 Drive to Sremski Karlovci, the spiritual and cultural centre of Serbia for a tour of the Baroque centre and a wine tasting. Continue to Novi Sad to visit Petrovaradin Fortress and its Gothic and Baroque architecture. (B)

DAY 7 Travel to Viminacium, one of the most important Roman cities alongside the Danube and visit the archaeological site. Travel along the Danube to view King Decabal's face (3 hrs), carved into the rock on the banks of the river, and the Romanian spa town Băile Herculane for overnight at the 3-star Afrodita Hotel. (B)

DAY 8 Drive to Târgu Jiu to view sculptures by Constantin Brâncuşi, a pioneer of modernism. Continue to Horezu and visit the monastery, part of UNESCO World Heritage. Later, travel to Râmnicu Vâlcea for overnight at the 4-star Ramada Hotel. (B)



DAY 9 Travel to Curtea de Arges to visit the monastery. Drive to Bucharest for two nights at the 4-star Hotel Cismigiu. (B)

DAY 10 Tour of Bucharest includes the Palace of Parliament, Metropolitan Church, Romanian Athenaeum and Arch of Triumph. Later, visit the open-air Village Museum in Herăstrău Park. Drink at a historic restaurant. (B)

DAY 11 Return flight. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

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

Hotel Anel: A contemporary 4-star hotel with 56 rooms at a prime location in Sofia.

Belgrade Art Hotel: A modern 4-star boutique hotel with 55 rooms in the heart of Belgrade.

Afrodita Hotel: A simple 3-star hotel with 220 rooms in the centre of Băile Herculane.

Ramada Hotel: A comfortable 4-star hotel with 112 rooms, close to the city park.

Hotel Cismigiu: A 4-star hotel in a historical building with 60 rooms, close to Bucharest's old town.



Belgrade Fortress



Plovdiv, Bulgaria



Petrovaradin Fortress, Novi Sad



King's Decebal Face, Orșova

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Mondays

May 16	£1595	Sep 5	£1575
Jun 6	£1675	Oct 3*	£1565

2023 – Mondays

May 15*	£1555	Sep 4	£1575
Jun 19	£1575	Sep 25*	£1565
Aug 7	£1595		

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £445

British Airways Club Europe – from £245

Extra Nights – Sofia / Bucharest

Hotel Anel, Sofia (per night) – £60

Single supplement – £50

Hotel Cismigiu, Bucharest (per night) – £70

Single supplement – £55

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 10 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200

Arrival or departure transfer £20

EXTENSION – BRASOV & BUCHAREST

Stay one night in Brasov, a 12th-century Transylvanian Saxon town and enjoy visits to celebrated Black Church, Bran Castle (known as Dracula's castle), the Neo-Renaissance Peleş Castle and Sinaia Monastery. Final night in Bucharest. Breakfast daily.

2 nights – £335

Single supplement – £80



Peleş Castle, Sinaia

TREASURES OF TRANSYLVANIA

Revealing Romania's lively capital, lovely medieval towns, legendary castles and its iconic painted churches

9 nights
from
£1225



OVERVIEW

Bucharest (2 nights)
Sibiu (1 night)
Sighisoara (1 night)
Cluj-Napoca (1 night)
Gura Humorului (2 nights)
Brasov (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supplement
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Central Hotels
Group Size: 8 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Malancrav Village Lunch

Enjoy a traditional lunch home cooked on open fire at a private home in Malancrav village, where time has almost stood still. Today it has the largest Saxon population in the area and one of the most important fortified churches in Transylvania.

INTRODUCTION

Explore an independent Romania, in an itinerary that contrasts the landscapes of the Carpathian Mountains and the historic province of Transylvania with its legend of the 15th-century ruler of Wallachia, Vlad the Impaler (Count Dracula) and the renowned painted churches in Moldavia. The tranquil nunneries and unique painted churches of Bucovina, with their flowery exterior frescoes protected by soaring shingle roofs, were painted in the 16th and 17th centuries but retain their freshness and colour.

Brasov is a 12th-century town renowned for its Gothic-style Black Church. In Sinaia, the 'Pearl of the Carpathians', Peles Castle is the summer residence of the first king of Romania, Carol I.

Nearby lies the village of Bran whose Medieval castle, also known as Dracula's Castle, was built by local merchants to protect the old border between Wallachia and Transylvania. Bucharest, the capital, sometimes known as 'Little Paris', has wide boulevards and French architecture, whilst the Palace of the Parliament is the second largest building in the world after the Pentagon.



Voronet Monastery

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Bucharest. Stay two nights at the 4-star Mercure City Center Hotel.

DAY 2 Tour of Bucharest includes the Palace of the Parliament, Metropolitan Church, Romanian Athenaeum, Arch of Triumph and the open-air Village Museum in Herăstrău Park. (B)

DAY 3 Travel through the Olt Valley and to Cozia Monastery for a visit. Continue to Sibiu with three main squares around which the Old Town is built. Walking tour of Sibiu includes the Large Square, Huet Square, the Liar's Bridge and a visit to Bruckenthal Museum. Overnight stay at the 4-star Hotel Ramada in Sibiu. (B)

DAY 4 Morning at leisure. Village lunch at Malancrav. Travel to Sighisoara, visiting Biertan fortified church en route. Overnight at the 4-star Mercure Binderbubi Hotel (2022) or the 4-star DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Cavalier (2023). (B, L)

DAY 5 Walking tour of Sighisoara, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of the best preserved fortified Medieval towns in south-eastern Europe. Visit to Clock Tower, built in the 14th century with a magnificent panoramic view from the top. Travel to Târgu Mures to visit the Palace of Culture, continue to Cluj-Napoca. Walking tour of Cluj including the Union Square with the Orthodox Cathedral and National Theatre. Overnight at the 4-star DoubleTree by Hilton – City Plaza. (B)

DAY 6 Drive towards Bucovina and stop at the town of Bistrita en route to Gura Humorului before crossing Tihuta Pass. Spend two nights at 4-star Best Western Bucovina. (B)



Malancrav Village

DAY 7 Tour of the painted churches includes Sucevita, which is the best preserved of all with imposing walls and defensive towers and Voronet, known as the 'Sistine Chapel of the East', famous for the blue colour used by the artists as background for its frescoes. (B, L)

DAY 8 Drive to Brasov through Bicz Canyon and a stop at Red Lake. Spend two nights at the 4-star Aro Palace Hotel. (B)

DAY 9 Travel to Sinaia, the pearl of the Carpathian to visit Peles Castle, continue Bran to visit Dracula's castle. Walking tour of the cobbled streets and visit to St. Nicholas Church and First Romanian School Museum. (B)

DAY 10 Return to Bucharest for the flight to London Heathrow. (B)

Note: This is a busy itinerary with many visits on foot including some uneven surfaces and inclines.

ACCOMMODATION

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



Dracula's Castle, Bran



Sighisoara



Gura Humorului

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room

Tarom Romanian Air Transport from Heathrow

2022 – Fridays

May 13	£1245	Sep 2	£1275
Jun 3	£1275	Sep 16	£1245
Jul 8	£1275	Oct 7*	£1225
Aug 5	£1295		

2023 – Fridays

May 12*	£1295	Sep 1	£1325
Jun 2	£1325	Sep 15	£1295
Jul 7	£1325	Oct 6*	£1295
Aug 4	£1345		

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £285 (2023 £295)

Tarom Business Class – from £425

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 9 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200

Arrival transfer £20

Departure transfer £95

EXTRA NIGHTS – BUCHAREST

Extend in dynamic Bucharest at the modern 4-star Mercure City Center, a few steps from the Romanian Athenaeum and Victoriei Avenue. Restaurant, bar, gym, WiFi (free) and 114 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV.

(per night) – £70

Single supplement – £60



Bucharest, Romania

THE TATRAS & BEYOND

Rolling hills, rushing rivers and High Tatra Mountains, discover the striking landscapes of Slovakia, punctuated with imposing castles, and the perfectly restored city of Krakow

6 nights
from
£1165



OVERVIEW

Bratislava (2 nights)
Štrbské Pleso (3 nights)
Krakow (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guides
Historic Hotels
Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENT

Zizak Distillery

Enjoy a guided tour of the family owned distillery in Poprad. Founded in the 1930's the carefully crafted Zizak spirits exhibit distinctive tastes crafted from regional ingredients. The tour concludes with a tasting of some of these spirits.

INTRODUCTION

Czechoslovakia, a country created only in 1918, made a peaceful transition from Soviet control in the 'Velvet Revolution' of 1989. In 1992, the Slovak parliament voted to create an independent republic and this was achieved amicably in what became known as the 'Velvet Divorce'. Slovakia was in fact in the Hungarian part of the Habsburg Empire with Bratislava as the capital and coronation town for more than three centuries whilst the Ottomans occupied Budapest.

Ten kings, seven wives and one queen were crowned in Bratislava's St. Martin's Cathedral during this time. Baroque Bratislava boasts an authentic Old Town, a grandiose castle and an abundance of palaces, churches and museums, all wonderfully perched beside the magnificent Danube River. North of the country lie the majestic Tatra Mountains providing a stunning backdrop to rolling lowlands, fairytale castles, folkloric villages, ancient ruins and spa towns.

Krakow lost its medieval position of Polish capital in 1609 and this loss of importance restricted development and allowed its ancient centre to remain unspoilt.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport to Vienna. Transfer to the 4-star Radisson Blu Carlton in Bratislava for two nights.

DAY 2 Morning tour of Bratislava including the castle for a breathtaking view over the Danube and the city, St. Martin's Cathedral, and the Neoclassical Primatial Palace and coffee and cake. (B)

DAY 3 Visit to ruins of Devin castle at the confluence of the Danube and Morava rivers. Travel by train to Poprad (4 hrs). Transfer to 5-star Grand Hotel Kempinski High Tatras in Štrbské Pleso for three nights. (B)

DAY 4 Take the train to Starý Smokovec and travel by funicular to Hrebienok (1,285 metres) for a short walk to a mountain hut. Visit the Sherpa Museum inside the Swiss house, one of the oldest villas in the High Tatras. (B, L)

DAY 5 Visit Basilica of St. James in Levoča, on the list of UNESCO, with the world's tallest wooden altar at 18.62 metres. Afternoon Zizak tasting in Poprad. (B)



DAY 6 Drive to Krakow (3 hrs). Overnight at the 4-star Grand Ascot Hotel. Afternoon walking tour of the Old Town including the church of St. Mary, Cloth Hall and the main Market Square followed by a tour of Wawel Hill including the castle and cathedral. (B)

DAY 7 Return flight. (B)

Note: This is a busy itinerary with most visits on foot including some uneven surfaces and inclines. The tour involves carrying luggage on and off a train.

ACCOMMODATION

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

Hotel Radisson Blu Carlton: The 4-star Carlton with 168 air-conditioned rooms, a traditional 'Grand Hotel', is located in the Old Town opposite the National Opera.

Grand Hotel Kempinski High Tatras: Historic 5-star 'Grand Hotel' with 98 rooms dating back to 1893, recently restored with many original features preserved.

Grand Ascot Hotel: A modern 4-star boutique hotel with 63 air-conditioned rooms on a quiet street in the heart of Krakow, a short walk from the Market Square.



Krakow



The Tatra Mountains



Bratislava Castle



Devin Castle Ruins

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

May 21	£1165	Sep 10	£1175
Jun 18	£1165	Oct 1	£1175
Aug 13	£1195		

2023 – Saturdays

May 20	£1215	Sep 9	£1225
Jun 17	£1215	Oct 7	£1225
Aug 12	£1245		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £385 (Aug 2022 £425;
May/Jun/Oct 2023 £395; Aug 2023 £435)
Lake View (High Tatras – 3 nights) – £75
Single supplement – £535 (Aug 2022 £575;)
Austrian/Lufthansa from Manchester – from £150
British Airways Club Europe – from £195

Extra Nights – Krakow

Grand Ascot Hotel (per night) – £75
Single supplement – £65

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 6 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £150
Arrival transfer £55
Departure transfer £60

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION – VIENNA

Stay two nights in Austria's capital at the modern 4-star Lindner Hotel am Belvedere, next to Belvedere Palace and close to Schwarzenbergplatz. Restaurant, bar, WiFi (free) and 219 air-conditioned rooms. Breakfast daily. Transfer to Bratislava is by catamaran.

2 nights – £265
Single supplement – £125



Belvedere Palace, Vienna

KRAKOW PRESERVED

A cultural short break of Poland's old capital, its medieval Old Town, the royal castle, the Salt Mine, Auschwitz, Kalwaria Zebrzydowska and Schindler's factory

4 nights
from
£775



OVERVIEW

Krakow (4 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Short Break
Jules Verne Sightseeing
4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guide
Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)
Group Size: 2 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Stained Glass Museum & Vodka/Liqueur Tasting

Visit the stained Glass Workshop and Museum, a gem of Polish Art Nouveau. Watch the production here and taste four different vodkas/liqueurs.

INTRODUCTION

Krakow lost its medieval position of Polish capital in 1609 and this consequent loss of importance restricted later development and allowed its ancient centre to remain unspoilt and largely spared the ravages of the Second World War. Much of the wealth of Krakow flowed from the nearly 1,000 years of operation of the Wieliczka Salt Mine, whose salt sculptures are a unique feature of the underground caverns.

In the 20th Century Poland suffered from both German and Communist occupation and a small area not far from Krakow juxtaposes two sites which could be said to represent the good and evil of this period. One is the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp. The other is Wadowice, birthplace of the late Pope John Paul II, who was for many a symbol against Communist rule. His birthplace is a museum. He also lived and studied in Krakow during the Nazi occupation and later became Bishop, and is now a Saint.

Oskar Schindler's wartime factory is now an excellent museum which tells the tale of Krakow's five years under Nazi occupation.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Krakow and transfer to your chosen hotel for a stay of four nights.

DAY 2 Morning walking tour of Wawel Hill including the 16th-century castle, its royal chambers and the cathedral followed by the Old Town including the church of St. Mary, St. Florian's Gate, Cloth Hall and the main Market Square. Afternoon visit to the stained glass museum and vodka/liqueur tasting. (B)

DAY 3 Drive to Auschwitz-Birkenau. The tour of the museum, comprises both parts of the former concentration camp – Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. Continue to Kalwaria Zebrzydowska Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site, founded by Mikołaj Zebrzydowski. (B)

DAY 4 Morning orientation tour of the old Jewish district followed by Schindler's Enamel Factory. The administrative buildings of this former metal item factory house the Nazi occupation exhibition. Afternoon excursion to Wieliczka Salt Mine, one of the oldest mines in Europe placed on the list of UNESCO in 1978. (B)

DAY 5 Return flight. (B)



Note: This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot including 800 steps at the salt mine.

ACCOMMODATION

Hotel Wyspianski: A central, friendly 3-star hotel five minutes' walk from Market Square. Restaurant, bar, WiFi (free) and 231 rooms with hairdryer and satellite TV.

Vienna House Andel's : A contemporary 4-star hotel ten minute's walk from Market Square. Restaurant, bar, gym, sauna and WiFi (free). 159 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV.



Auschwitz II-Birkenau



Krakow



Krakow



Wawel Castle, Krakow



Wieliczka Salt Mine

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Hotel Wyspianski
easyJet from Gatwick

2022 – Mondays

Apr 18	£845	Sep 5	£845
May 2	£895	Sep 19	£845
May 16	£875	Oct 3	£845
Jun 13	£845	Nov 7	£775
Jul 11	£875	Dec 5	£775
Aug 8	£825		

2023 – Mondays

Apr 17	£865	Sep 4, 18	£865
May 1, 15	£875	Oct 2	£865
Jun 12	£825	Nov 6	£795
Jul 10	£825	Dec 4	£795
Aug 7	£825		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £225 (Jul/Aug/
Nov/Dec £195)

Vienna House Andel's – £95

Single supplement – £245 (Jul/Aug/
Nov/Dec £210)

British Airways from Heathrow – nil

British Airways Club Europe – from £225

easyJet from Bristol – nil

Ryanair from Manchester – nil

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 4 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £150

Arrival or departure transfer £60

EXTENSION – WARSAW

Add a stay in Warsaw, Poland's capital since the 16th century. Largely destroyed during the Second World War but thanks to the boundless determination of its people the city was restored to its former glory. Stay at the 4-star Polonia Palace. Breakfast daily. Flights are from Heathrow only with British Airways.

3 nights – £425 (Jul/Aug/Nov £395)

Single supplement – £185

(Jul/Aug/Nov £155)



Lazienki Palace, Warsaw

BALTIC CAPITALS

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

8 nights
from
£1245



OVERVIEW

Vilnius (2 nights)

Riga (3 nights)

Tallinn (2 nights)

Helsinki (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Local Expert Guides

Historic Hotel

Group Size: 6 – 25

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

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 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 town 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

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 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 5 Morning tour of Riga visiting the Museum of the Occupation of Latvia and the Dome Cathedral, followed by a short organ concert at the cathedral (May-Sep) or a visit to the Art Nouveau Museum (Apr/Oct). Visit the Riga Black Magic Bar for a cocktail. (B)

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 visit to Hotel Viru and KGB Museum. (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 Spa Hotel: A modern 4-star hotel with 222 rooms, close to the House of the Blackheads in Riga's Old Town.

Hotel Palace: 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.



Trakai Castle, Lithuania



Riga, Latvia



Helsinki Cathedral, Finland



Tallinn, Estonia

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Finnair from Heathrow

2022 – Fridays

Apr 22	£1345	Aug 5	£1345
May 6	£1295	Aug 19	£1345
May 20	£1295	Sep 9	£1275
Jun 3	£1275	Sep 23	£1265
Jun 24	£1345	Oct 7	£1245
Jul 8	£1345		

2023 – Fridays

May 5	£1345	Aug 4	£1395
May 19	£1345	Aug 18	£1395
Jun 2	£1325	Sep 8	£1325
Jun 23	£1395	Sep 22	£1325
Jul 7	£1395	Oct 6	£1295

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £445
(Apr/May/Oct 2022 £405; May/Oct 2023 £425;
Jun 2023 £455; Jul 2023/Sep 22 2023 £475)

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival transfer £20
Departure transfer £90

EXTRA NIGHTS – VILNIUS/HELSINKI

Extend your stay in Baroque Vilnius at the charming 4-star Vilnia Hotel in a 19th-century building, opposite the Bernardine Garden or in vibrant Helsinki at the 4-star Hotel Lilla Roberts in Helsinki's old police station.

Hotel Vilnia (per night) – £60

Single supplement – £45

Hotel Lilla Roberts (per night) – £95

Single supplement – £85



Hotel Vilnia

WINTER IN TIROL

Stay at a family-run hotel in the Tirolean village of Obsteig with included horse-drawn sleigh ride, winter walks, visits to Stams, Innsbruck and scenic Seefeld

7 nights
from
£875



OVERVIEW

Obsteig (7 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Winter Wonders
No Single Supplement
Local Guides
Historic Hotel
Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)
Group Size: 2 – 18

SPECIAL EVENT

Apple Strudel Baking

Enjoy an afternoon getting involved with the production of the legendary Austrian apple strudel in the hotel kitchen. Tasting included!

INTRODUCTION

The Tirol is one of the world's premier areas for winter holidays in terms of facilities, hotels and stupendous mountain scenery. Stay in the traditional Tirolean village of Obsteig during the Christmas season or in January when the snow is at its most profuse, or alternatively, in February and March when the weather is sunnier. The village lies on a high Alpine plateau, surrounded by mountains, above the Inn Valley and less than one hour's drive from Innsbruck.

The affluence of Tirol from its silver and copper mines led Habsburg Emperor Maximilian I (c.1490) to designate Innsbruck as imperial capital. The Hofkirche (Court Church) contains his cenotaph, which is surrounded by the finest works of German Renaissance sculpture. Bergisel hill, site of the Olympic ski-jump, is where the Tiroleans defeated Napoleon.

We offer the opportunity to stay at this family-run hotel for Christmas, including an Advent Evening with music and story telling on December 23 (German language), roasted chestnut and mulled wine, followed by a Gala Dinner on December 24.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Gatwick to Innsbruck. Transfer to the 3-star Landhotel Stern for seven nights. (D)

DAY 2 Take a horse-drawn sleigh ride. Drive to Stams for a guided tour of the abbey. The Cistercian Abbey was founded in 1273 by Count Meinhard II of Gorizia-Tyrol. Aperitif with the owner. (B, D)

DAY 3 Travel by Postbus to Innsbruck, the capital of Tirol. Guided walking town tour of the old town. Later, a guided lantern walk with mulled wine. (B, D)

DAY 4 Travel by skibus to the picturesque alpine village of Seefeld (Gschwandtkopf chair lift pass included). (B, D)

DAY 5 A visit to the local crib museum, to admire a collection of cribs. (B, D)

DAY 6 A guided winter walk. Apple strudel baking. (B, D)

DAY 7 Day at leisure or a guided Snowshoe walk (snowshoes and Nordic walking sticks included). (B, D)

DAY 8 Return flight. (B)



LANDHOTEL STERN

In the village of Obsteig on the sunny Mieminger Plateau, this friendly, family-run 3-star hotel offers traditional Tirolean hospitality and modern sustainable ideas. Small bar, dining room, games room, panorama sauna, a new eco-swimming pool, rooftop terrace, WiFi (free) and an original Tirolean 'Wirtshaus' (inn) dating back to 1509. 45 rooms with hairdryer, safe, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV. Once a week there is a culinary dinner with live music and a Tirolean Farmer's Buffet. An afternoon snack or tea is provided. Snowshoes and Nordic walking sticks available for the energetic!



Snowshoe Walk



Landhotel Stern



Mieminger Plateau



Innsbruck

CHRISTMAS MARKETS & MUSIC ON THE DANUBE

5 nights from £1895

Alternatively, take a short cruise from Vienna to Budapest & Bratislava over Christmas, aboard the premium vessel MS Vivaldi. Enjoy a private concert in the Vienna Woods, 'Nutcracker' ballet, gypsy music in Bratislava and concerts at Mozarthaus and Palais Auersperg.

Drinks on Cruise Vessel Included



DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
easyJet (Jan-Mar 2022)/British Airways (Dec 22-Mar 23) from Gatwick

2022 – Wednesdays

Feb 2	£1045	Mar 16	£895
Mar 9	£975		

2022 – Monday

Dec 19	£1125		
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2023 – Wednesdays

Jan 11	£895	Mar 1	£995
Jan 18	£925	Mar 8	£895
Jan 25	£995	Mar 15	£875
Feb 1	£995		

Supplements per person

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (limited availability)
Single supplement – £85 (Dec 2022-Mar 2023 £95)
British Airways Club Europe – from £155

Price Includes

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

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £150
Arrival or departure transfer £40

Notes

Some walking on snow-covered terrain is involved and visits are subject to local conditions and weather. Except where specified, this is an unguided tour using public transport.

LAND OF THE POLAR BEARS

Enjoy the immense beauty of Svalbard on this high Arctic adventure, an expedition cruise among whales, walrus, polar bears and a million sea birds

9 nights
from
£4295



OVERVIEW

Oslo (Day 1), Longyearbyen (2)
Kongsfjorden (3)
Smeerenburg (4)
Cruising Pack Ice at 80° (5)
Monacobreen Glacier (6)
Ny Ålesund (7), Vårsolbukta (8)
Gardermoen (9), Return Flight (10)

KEY FEATURES

Wildlife Watching & Natural Wonders
On Board Lectures
Access to Remote Bays
Excursions by Zodiac
Group Size: 8 – 28#

INTRODUCTION

Experience high summer in the Arctic as we cruise around the Svalbard Archipelago, one of the world's last untouched wildernesses with epic landscapes and hardy wildlife.

Unlike other polar regions, there is no indigenous settler, neither Inuit nor Siberian being established there. The discovery of Svalbard is attributed to the Dutch navigator Willem Barents. A land he calls Spitsbergen ('Pointed Mountains'), but in a land as old as time, the term 'Svalbard' ('cold coasts') is mentioned in the most famous Icelandic sagas, the 'Landmanabok' or 'Book of Colonization', dating from the 13th century.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Oslo. Transfer to the 4-star Thon Hotel Europa for overnight.

DAY 2 Fly to Longyearbyen, the world's most northern passenger airport on Spitsbergen archipelago, only 1,300 km from the North Pole, lying within the Arctic Circle. Transfer to the MV Ocean Atlantic (2022) or MV Ocean Albatros (2023) to embark. (B, D)

DAY 3 Cruise out through Isfjorden and north to Fuglehuken, and Lilienhook Glacier. Travel to the south side of Kongsfjorden and experience the unique cultural heritage of Ny-London, the remains of the mining facility established in 1911. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Continue to the former whaling stations at Fuglesongen Island and Smeerenburg. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Enjoy the Arctic's diversity, deserted beaches, green tundra and snow-capped mountains. Cruise through the pack ice – polar bear country at 80°. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Cruise to Andøyen at 79° on Liefdefjord to a small group of islands also known as Duck Islands and cruise close to the impressive Monacobreen glacier. Go ashore in Liefdefjord and enjoy a walk through the tundra of Reindyrflya. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Sail in to Ny-Ålesund past Stuphallet cliff with colonies of northern fulmars, black-legged kittiwakes and Atlantic puffins. At the Ossian Sars bird cliff, black and Brünnich's guillemots nest. Enjoy a walking tour. Continue to Blomstrandhalvøya. (B, L, D)



DAY 8 At Vårsolbukta see the auk cliff and the lush moss tundra on which the Svalbard reindeer love to graze. On the southern shore of Bellsund, explore Calypsobyen in Recherche Fjord, a heritage site from the Northern Exploration Company. The beach and cluster of buildings were named after the HMS Calypso. Cruise back to Longyearbyen. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Fly to Oslo and overnight at 4-star Quality Airport Hotel Gardermoen. (B)

DAY 10 Return flight to Heathrow. (B)

MV OCEAN ATLANTIC

Operated by Albatros Expeditions, the 459 ft. Vessel is perfect for expedition cruising, with an international Ice Class Rating of 1B. The strength and shallow draft allows extended voyages into isolated fjords, creating exciting adventures for any Arctic traveller. Renovated in 2016 with a crew of 140 and accommodation for just 214 passengers over five decks. Facilities include a restaurant, panoramic lounge, library, observation deck, lecture theatre, lifts, sauna, pool and gym. Cabins have twin/double beds, hairdryer, safe and TV. See yvjv.com for full vessel description and deck plan and details about MV Ocean Albatros.



Longyearbyen



MV Ocean Atlantic



DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room – Cat. D cabin
(2022)/Cat. E cabin (2023)
SAS from Heathrow

2022 – Tuesdays

Jun 14	£4295	Jun 21	£4495
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2023 – Wednesdays

May 31	£4895	Jun 14	£5195
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £2845 (31 May £3295;
14 Jun 2023 £3495)
Cat C. cabin – £445 (31 May £425;
14 Jun 2023 £365)
Single supplement – £3695 (31 May £3995;
14 Jun 2023 £4195)
Single cabin Cat G. (2023 only) – £795
SAS Plus – from £515

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, all port charges, AECO fees, transfers, 2 nights' hotel, 7-night cruise, breakfast daily, full board on cruise including complimentary tea and coffee, on board lectures, excursions, services of expedition leaders, local expert guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £300
Arrival transfer by Fly Bus £30
Departure transfer included with the group

Notes

Whilst the vessel carries more, the group size specified refers to transfers and excursions.

Excursions are by Zodiac or on foot, sometimes over uneven ground and with some incline, so a reasonable level of mobility is required.

Animal sightings are not guaranteed.

ARCTIC ADVENTURES

**7 nights from £3645/9 nights
from £4975**

Alternatively, enjoy a journey on the MV Ocean Atlantic (2022) or MV Ocean Albatros (2023) to Greenland's glacial landscape. Witness Mother Nature in her purest form in unspoiled wilderness. Explore the most northern UNESCO site Ilulissat and experience a Greenlandic coffee, cake & storytelling, 'Kaffemik'.

Whale & Wildlife Watching



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

6 nights
from
£1525



OVERVIEW	KEY FEATURES
Reykjavik (1 night)	Natural Wonders
Hnappavellir (2 nights)	Jules Verne Sightseeing
Selfoss Area (2 nights)	UNESCO Heritage Site: Thingvellir
Reykjavik (1 night)	Local Expert Guide
	Group Size: 8 – 22

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, although a natural phenomenon cannot, of course, be guaranteed.

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; Nov 2022-Mar 2023 £115). (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.



Reykjavik

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 church.

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 with 46 rooms, with views of Mount Hekla, in a remote location close to Selfoss.



Northern Lights



Reynisfjara Black Volcanic Beach



Thingvellir National Park

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
Icelandair from Heathrow*

2022 – Thursdays

Mar 10	£1525	Nov 17	£1575
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2023 – Thursdays

Jan 26	£1545	Mar 9	£1575
Feb 16	£1575		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £295 (Nov 2022-Mar 2023 £285)

easyJet from Gatwick – nil

easyJet from Manchester – nil

Icelandair Saga Class – from £695

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200

Arrival transfer or departure transfer by Fly Bus £35

EXTRA NIGHTS – REYKJAVIK

Extend your stay in Iceland's capital Reykjavik at the 3-star Hotel Klettur. A modern hotel close to Laugavegur street and Hallgrímskirkja church. Breakfast room, bar and WiFi (free). 166 rooms with safe, mini-fridge, tea/coffee making facilities, and satellite TV.

(per night) – £70 (Nov 2022-Mar 2023 £65)

Single supplement – £45

(Nov 2022-Mar 2023 £40)



Hotel Klettur

JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH

A journey to Snæfellsnes Peninsula and the northern capital, Akureyri, exploring the cultural heritage and spectacular landscape full of waterfalls, mountains and lava fields

7 nights
from
£1645



OVERVIEW

Reykjavik (1 night)

Hellnar (1 night)

Akureyri (3 nights)

Reykjavik (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour

New Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

Local Expert Guide

Group Size: 8 – 22

SPECIAL EVENT

Herring Museum

Enjoy a tasting of herrings and a glass of schnapps at the Siglufjörður Herring Museum.

INTRODUCTION

In our civilised society we rarely give thought to the mysteries of the forces within our planet but in Iceland these forces invade the imagination as they struggle to break through to the surface by means of volcanoes and geysers. Nature's exertions have not ceased since the time land was pushed up from the North Atlantic seabed by volcanic forces.

Journeying to the centre of the earth is of course impossible but sceptics should note that a book in Jules Verne's 'Voyages Extraordinaires' series was published in 1865 with the title 'From the Earth to the Moon'!

The land is so newly formed in geological terms that 70% of the country is not yet ready for human habitation, being still covered by glaciers, lava fields and harsh terrain – and the local people heat their houses from geothermal resources beneath them. The true fascination of Iceland lies in its dramatic and thought-provoking natural splendours outside Reykjavik so the arrangement first moves northwards along the west coast to the Snæfellsnes peninsula and Akureyri, capital of the north.



Lake Mývatn

ITINERARY

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

DAY 2 Journey to Snæfellsnes Peninsula, where according to Jules Verne in his classic novel, the centre of the Earth can be found. Visit the small town of Grundarfjörður to admire the Kirkjufell mountain and falls. Continue to the fishing village of Arnarstapi at the foot of Mt. Stapafell. Overnight at the 3-star Fosshotel Hellnar on the westernmost part of the peninsula. (B, D)

DAY 3 Drive over a mountain pass and fjord to the Vatnsnes area and to the northern part of Iceland. Visit a turf farm and folk museum at Glaumbær. It gives detailed insight into farm life in Iceland's not so distant past. Stay three nights at Icelandair Hotel Akureyri. (B)

DAY 4 Tour of Akureyri, the capital of the north, situated by Eyjafjörður. Travel to Goðafoss waterfall, the waterfall of the Gods and Lake Mývatn, which is known for its geological wonders and active bird life during summer. Visit the craters of Skútustaðargígjar and walk in the lava fields Dimmuborgir. View the Námaskarð hot springs and bubbling mud pool area. (B)

DAY 5 Whale watching cruise from the small town of Hauganes. Visit to Kaldi micro-brewery, includes a tasting. Visit the small, colourful fishing village of Siglufjörður and its Herring museum. (B)

DAY 6 Travel to Víðimýri to visit the turf church. Continue to Reykjavik via Gauksmýri to get to know the famous Icelandic horse. Tour of the capital to view the main landmarks: The Pearl, Hallgrímskirkja, the National Museum of Iceland and the famous 101 Reykjavik neighbourhood. Optional visit to the Blue Lagoon (£115). Spend two nights at the 3-star Hotel Klettur. (B)



DAY 7 Day at leisure or optional Golden Circle tour to Gullfoss, Iceland's mightiest waterfall, the hot spring area dominated by Geysir and Thingvellir National Park (£60). (B)

DAY 8 Return flight. (B)

Note: This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot and sites with steps/inclines and uneven surfaces.

ACCOMMODATION

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

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

Fosshotel, Hellnar: A small 3-star hotel with 35 rooms in a small fishing village, close to Snæfellsjökull glacier and volcano.

Icelandairhotel Akureyri, Akureyri: A simple 3-star hotel with 99 rooms in the centre of Akureyri.



Kirkjufellsfoss Waterfall



Ethnographic Museum, Glaumbær



Dimmuborgir Field of Lava

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
Icelandair from Heathrow*

2022 – Tuesdays

May 17	£1645	Sep 13	£1895
Jun 7	£1925	Oct 4	£1645

2023 – Tuesdays

May 16	£1675	Sep 12	£1945
Jun 6	£1975	Oct 3	£1695

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £615 (May 2022 £425; Oct 2023 £385; May 2023 £415; Jun/Sep 2023 £595; Oct 2023 £395)

Icelandair from Glasgow – nil

Icelandair Saga Class – from £695

Extra Nights – Reykjavik

Hotel Klettur (per night) – £105 (Oct 2022 £75; May/Oct 2023 £80; Jun/Sep 2023 £105)

Single supplement – £85 (Oct £50)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, Fly Bus transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200

Arrival or departure transfer by Fly Bus £35

EXTRA NIGHTS – REYKJAVIK

Extend your stay in Iceland's capital Reykjavik at the 3-star Hotel Klettur. A modern hotel close to Laugavegur street and Hallgrímskirkja church. Breakfast room, bar and WiFi (free). 166 rooms with safe, mini-fridge, tea/coffee making facilities, and satellite TV.

(per night) – £105 (Oct 2022 £75; May/Oct 2023 £80; Jun/Sep 2023 £105)

Single supplement – £85 (Oct £50)



Reykjavik

FINNISH LAKELAND

Discover the delightful lakeside town Savonlinna, explore its northernmost medieval fortress and stay at a charming, small hotel by breathtaking Lake Saimaa

4 nights
from
£1445



OVERVIEW

Savonlinna (1 night)

Puumala (2 nights)

Porvoo (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

Central Hotels

Local Expert Guide Throughout

Group Size: 8 – 18

SPECIAL EVENT

Karelian Pie Baking

Like the Hairy Bikers before you, discover the old art of making tasty Karelian pies at Paula's country farmhouse.

INTRODUCTION

Listed in the top 5 most beautiful lakes in the world, Lake Saimaa's breathtaking scenery and the strong spirit of its people make it a special destination. Saimaa's sparkling, pure waters are dotted with 14,000 islands, making it a winding labyrinth filled with the purest nature.

The delightful Finnish lakeside town of Savonlinna is built on three islands and joined together by bridges. Medieval Olavinlinna Castle, one of the best-preserved in Scandinavia, has kept guard over the swiftly-flowing straits of Kyrönsalmi for over 500 years.

Porvoo is the second oldest city in Finland and evidence of its long history can still be seen and felt as you walk its charming streets. It is not a coastal town but still connected to the Gulf of Finland via the Porvoo River. The river flows through the city, passing Porvoo's most well-known landmarks: its red shore houses. Originally, the shore houses were painted red in honour of the arrival of Gustav III, the king of Sweden.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Helsinki. Transfer via Mikkeli, the former border town between Sweden and Russia and a bustling trading point during that period, to Savonlinna (4 hrs) for overnight at 4-star Original Sokos Hotel Seurahuone.

DAY 2 Tour of the 15th-century three-tower Olavinlinna Castle, the northernmost medieval stone fortress still standing followed by a steam boat cruise around Lake Saimaa. Visit Kerimäki Church, the largest wooden church in the world. Travel via Veijö Rönkkönen Sculpture Park to Sahanlahti Resort for a two night stay. (B, D)

DAY 3 Scenic drive over many bridges and ferry crossings to Niinisaari. Enjoy a lesson baking Karelian Pastries at a local house followed by home-cooked buffet lunch. Visit to Rakokivi, a geological formation from the ice age and Puumala lakeside town to view a Salpa Line steel and concrete bunker. Optional evening sauna (bookable locally). (B, L)

DAY 4 Travel via Imatra and Lappeenranta to Porvoo. Walking tour of the idyllic old town with its well-preserved wooden houses



and cobble-stoned streets. Overnight at the 4-star Hotel Haikko Manor & Spa. (B)

DAY 5 Transfer to Helsinki airport. Return flight. (B)

Notes: This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot and sites with steps/inclines and uneven surfaces.

ACCOMMODATION

Original Sokos Hotel Seurahuone: A modern 4-star hotel on Savonlinna's main square and by Lake Saimaa. Restaurant, bar, sauna and WiFi (free). 84 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, mini-bar and satellite TV.

Sahanlahti Resort: A simple, charming hotel built on a former sawmill by Lake Saimaa. Restaurants, saunas and WiFi (free). 10 rooms with hairdryer, mini-bar and TV.

Hotel Haikko Manor & Spa: This 4-star hotel enjoys a seafront location and is in the middle of a park. Restaurant, café, pools, saunas and WiFi (free). 208 rooms with hairdryer, mini-bar and satellite TV.



Hotel Sahanlahti Resort



Lake Saimaa



Helsinki

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
Finnair from Heathrow*

2022 – Mondays

Jun 20	£1445	Aug 8	£1445
Jul 11	£1675		

2023 – Mondays

Jun 19	£1495	Aug 7	£1495
Jul 10	£1695		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £365 (Jul 2022 £515;
Jun/Aug 2023 £385; Jul 2023 £545)
Finnair Business Class – from £500

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 4 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival transfer with group included
Departure transfer £145

FESTIVAL DEPARTURES

Savonlinna Opera Festival

These departure dates (11 Jul 2022 & 10 Jul 2023) coincide with the annual international festival. Add an optional evening opera performance of Tosca by Giacomo Puccini in the covered courtyard of Olavinlinna Castle (2022 £150 – Price group 3). Performance schedule for 2023 will be released at a later date.



Olavinlinna Castle

EXTRA NIGHTS – HELSINKI

Extend your visit to Finland with a stay in Helsinki at the modern, central 4-star Hotel Glo Kluuvi, close to Helsinki Central Station. Restaurant, bar, WiFi (free) and 184 air-conditioned rooms with private facilities, hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV.

(per night) – £85 (Aug 105)
Single supplement – £75 (Aug £90)
Departure transfer – £50

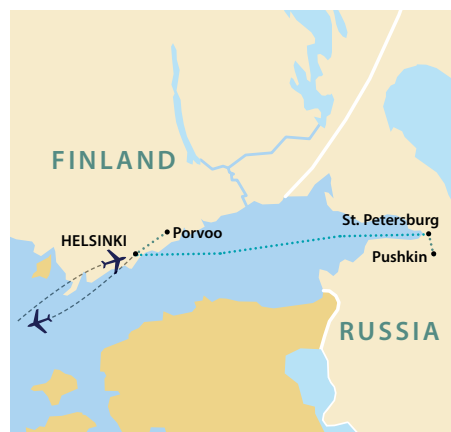


Hotel Glo Kluuvi

PASSAGE TO ST. PETERSBURG

Sail from Helsinki to the former imperial capital to discover Romanov palaces and inspiring churches – no Russian visa required

5 nights
from
£1265



OVERVIEW

Helsinki (1 night)
Ferry Crossing (1 night)
St. Petersburg (2 nights)
Ferry Crossing (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
UNESCO Heritage Site: St. Petersburg
Local Expert Guides
Central Hotels
Group Size: 6 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Fabergé Museum Visit

A guided tour of the private Fabergé Museum. The museum houses a fabulous collection of items by Fabergé, including the largest collection of Fabergé eggs.

INTRODUCTION

Travel conveniently across the Gulf of Finland from Helsinki to arrive at magnificent and exquisite St. Petersburg. The city's origins lie in the youthful years of Peter the Great, born in Moscow and who, as a young man, studied shipbuilding in England. This led him, on becoming Tsar, to aspire to move away from Moscow to create a new city and capital. The Empresses who followed Peter – Catherine, Anna and Elizabeth – beautified the city, constructing elegant palaces and town houses, amassing great art collections, many of which can be seen today in the Hermitage. The richly-decorated Yusupov Palace with its Rasputin exhibition, lavish interiors and exquisite private theatre, was once home to Russia's second richest family. Since the fall of Communism, St. Petersburg has been restored to its former glory. In the Russian countryside at Tsarskoye Selo (Pushkin), lies the great blue and gold rococo Catherine Palace reflecting the contrasting styles of the Italian, Rastrelli, and the Scot, Cameron.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Helsinki. Spend the night at the 4-star Glo Art Hotel.

DAY 2 Walking tour of Helsinki viewing Senate Square, railway station, Esplanade and the South Harbour area with City Hall and Presidential Palace. Visit to the new city library Oodi. Board the MS Princess Anastasia for an overnight sailing. (B)

DAY 3 Disembarkation procedures (no visa required). Tour of St. Petersburg viewing St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Admiralty and the Church on the Spilled Blood followed by a visit to Catherine Palace. Two nights at the 4-star Novotel Centre. (B)

DAY 4 Visit to the Hermitage and to the private Fabergé Museum. (B)

DAY 5 Visit Yusupov Palace and Peter and Paul Fortress. Sail overnight to Helsinki. (B)

DAY 6 Visit the Sibelius Monument. Stop for coffee and traditional Finnish cake before heading to the old wooden painted town of Porvoo for a walking tour. Return flight. (B)

Note: This itinerary involves carrying luggage on and off the ferry, including steep steps at St. Petersburg port.



ACCOMMODATION

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

Hotel Glo Art, Helsinki: A central 4-star hotel with 170 rooms, a 10-minute walk to Esplanade Park. The hotel is in Helsinki's design district.

Hotel Novotel Centre, St. Petersburg: A contemporary 4-star hotel with 233 rooms, a short walk from Nevsky Prospekt.

MS PRINCESS ANASTASIA

A modern Finnish ferry built in 1985 and refurbished in 2010 operated by St. Peter Line. The route to Helsinki has operated since 2011. Restaurants and bars. Pool, sauna, cinema and WiFi (limited/all chargeable). 834 simple air-conditioned cabins with private facilities.



Catherine Palace, Russia



Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia



MS Princess Anastasia



Porvoo, Finland

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin room/inside Category B cabin
Finnair from Heathrow

2022 – Wednesdays

Jul 13	£1395	Sep 7	£1295
Aug 10	£1345	Sep 21	£1265

2023 – Wednesdays

Jun 14	£1395	Sep 6	£1325
Jul 12	£1445	Sep 20	£1325
Aug 9	£1395		

Supplements per person

Single supplement £395 (Aug 2022 £365; Sep 7 £335; Sep 21 £325; Jun/Jul 2023 £425; Aug 2023 £375; Sep 6 £345; Sep 20 £335)
Outside Category A cabin – £70 (Jul/Aug £95)
Single supplement – £65 (Jul/Aug £90)
Finnair from Manchester – from £50

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 5 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival transfer £50
Departure transfer with group included

EXTRA NIGHTS – HELSINKI

Extend your stay in Finland's capital Helsinki at the central 4-star Glo Art Hotel. The hotel is in Helsinki's design district, and a 10-minute walk to Esplanade Park. Restaurant and bar in a century old Art Nouveau castle. 170 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, satellite TV and WiFi (free) in a modern building.

(per night) – £85 (Aug/Sep £105)
Single supplement – £70 (Aug/Sep £85)



Hotel Glo Art

RUSSIAN CAPITALS

Discover the imperial capitals of the world's biggest country: Moscow and St. Petersburg, linked by the high-speed 'Sapsan' train

7 nights
from
£1095



OVERVIEW

Moscow (3 nights)

St. Petersburg (4 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Local Expert Guides

Central Hotels

Group Size: 6 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Fabergé Museum Visit

A guided tour of the private Fabergé Museum. The museum houses a fabulous collection of items by Fabergé, including the largest collection of Fabergé eggs.

INTRODUCTION

Moscow was the capital of Russia from the early 15th century until 1712 when Tsar Peter the Great moved his capital to St. Petersburg. It regained its status as capital in 1918. In the 18th century, the influence of Italian and French architects, which so inspired St. Petersburg, spread to Moscow and the surrounding countryside and it was thus that the great families of the period erected splendid houses and palaces. Red Square in Moscow is one of the largest of its kind and is flanked by St. Basil's Cathedral, the GUM department store and at its very heart, the Kremlin. Originally a fortress, this 60-acre architectural icon houses some of Russia's finest churches, palaces and monasteries.

St. Petersburg, the most beautiful of Russian cities, was the vision of Peter the Great who, in 1703, ordered its construction beginning with the Fortress of Peter & Paul, a stronghold guarding the mouth of the Neva River; later bringing the finest European architects to create an elegant ensemble of palatial buildings. Built on a hundred islands and criss-crossed by canals and innumerable bridges, it is a city of palaces, churches and cathedrals.



St. Petersburg

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport to Moscow. Transfer to your chosen hotel for three nights.

DAY 2 Tour of Moscow includes the famous Red Square, St. Basil's Cathedral, GUM department store, Moscow State University and its viewing platform on Sparrow Hills. Visit VDNKH, the Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy, including pavilions of the former Soviet republics and a relaxing park. Enjoy a tour of Moscow's impressive Metro. (B)

DAY 3 A morning visit to the Kremlin including the Assumption and Archangel Michael Cathedrals and the collections of the Armoury which include Fabergé Imperial eggs, state carriages, thrones and coronation dresses. (B)

DAY 4 Afternoon journey on the Sapsan high-speed train to St. Petersburg (4 hrs 15 mins). Transfer to your chosen hotel for four nights. (B)

DAY 5 A tour of St. Petersburg viewing St. Isaac's Cathedral, the Admiralty and the Church on the Spilled Blood. Visit to Peter & Paul Fortress and to the private Fabergé Museum. Enjoy a typical Russian pie and a cup of tea. (B)

DAY 6 Free day. Optional excursion (£85) to Peterhof Grand Palace, Peter the Great's 'Russian Versailles', the park, gardens and the fountains (summer only). (B)

DAY 7 Visit to the Hermitage, one of the largest and oldest museums in the world. (B)

DAY 8 Return flight. (B)

Notes: This itinerary involves carrying luggage on and off a train. We would be delighted to assist with booking ballet tickets at Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow or Aleksandrinsky, Mariinsky or Mikhailovsky Theatres in St. Petersburg. All prices will include a local ticket agency handling fee and so will not reflect the face value of your ticket.



STANDARD ACCOMMODATION

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

Brosko Hotel, Moscow: A modern, sleek 4-star hotel with 130 rooms, close to Arbat Street. Gym, pool and sauna.

Hotel Ambassador, St. Petersburg: Modern 4-star hotel with 251 rooms, close to the Mariinsky Theatre and St. Isaac's Cathedral. Gym, pool and sauna.

DELUXE ACCOMMODATION

Golden Ring Hotel, Moscow: A classic 5-star hotel with 293 elegant rooms, a five minute walk to the pedestrian Arbat Street. Gym and sauna.

Taleon Imperial Hotel, St. Petersburg: Situated on Nevsky Prospekt in the heart of St. Petersburg, this 5-star hotel with 89 rooms is housed in an 18th-century palace. Gym, pool and sauna (chargeable).



St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow



Moscow



Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Standard Accommodation
Aeroflot from Heathrow/to Gatwick

2022 – Fridays

Apr 22	£1195	Aug 19	£1295
May 20	£1375	Sep 9	£1295
Jun 3	£1395	Sep 23	£1275
Jun 24	£1365	Oct 7	£1195
Jul 8	£1375	Nov 11	£1095
Aug 5	£1275	Dec 2	£1095

2023 – Fridays

Apr 21	£1245	Aug 18	£1295
May 19	£1395	Sep 8, 22	£1325
Jun 2, 23	£1395	Oct 6	£1245
Jul 7	£1395	Nov 10	£1145
Aug 4	£1295	Dec 1	£1145

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £475 (Nov/Dec 2022 £265; Apr/Oct 2022 £375; May/Jun/Jul 2022 £555; Aug 2022 £445; Apr/Oct 2023 £385; May/Jun/Jul 2023 £585; Aug/Sep 2023 £485; Nov/Dec 2023 £285)

Deluxe Accommodation – £435 (Jul 2022/Aug 2022/Sep 9 £395)

Single supplement – £535 (Apr/Oct/Nov/Dec 2022 £465; Aug/Sep 2022 £625; Apr/Oct/Nov/Dec 2023 £485; May/Jun/Jul 2023 £565; Aug/Sep 2023 £665)
KLM from Birmingham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heathrow, Manchester or Newcastle – £100

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

PRE – TOUR EXTENSION – VLADIMIR/SUZDAL

A rare opportunity to explore two cities which form part of the Golden Ring. Travel by high-speed train to Vladimir, the former capital of Russia. Continue to Suzdal, known for its wooden buildings. Stay two nights at the 3-star Suzdal Inn and one night in Moscow (May – Oct). Breakfast daily, 2 lunches & 2 dinners.

3 nights – £795 (2023 £845)
Single supplement – £145



Suzdal

DISCOVER UKRAINE

Explore the mysterious and quaint cultural capital Lviv and fast-evolving, green country capital Kiev, linked by express train, option to visit the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone

5 nights
from
£895



OVERVIEW

Lviv (2 nights)

Kiev (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour

New Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Local Expert Guides

Central Hotels

Group Size: 6 – 25

INTRODUCTION

Ukraine is a diverse destination thanks to its long history and colourful traditions and it is one of Europe's least discovered countries but home to warm-hearted and fiercely proud people.

The Ukrainian capital Kiev is an attractive city of tree-lined boulevards and wooded city parks, through which the mighty Dnieper River flows on its way to the Black Sea. It was here where the Russian nation was founded in the form of the Eastern Slavic state of Kyivan Rus.

The strikingly pretty UNESCO-listed city of Lviv in Western Ukraine, formerly known as Lemberg, Lvov or Lwów, escaped bombing during WWII and is filled with original towers, churches, spires and cobbled streets with a distinctly European feel.

Following the interest evoked by HBO's miniseries, the tragic history of Chernobyl's nuclear disaster has been in the spotlight. Following a recent visit, we can offer a compelling option to visit the Exclusion Zone, the Nuclear Power Plant and the town of Pripjat, the site of one of the most notorious man-made disasters.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport to Lviv. Transfer to 4-star Astoria Hotel for two nights.

DAY 2 Morning walking tour of the old town including Ploshcha Rynok and the Armenian and Latin cathedrals. Enjoy a coffee at the coffee mine. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

DAY 3 Visit to Potocki Palace, the Lviv Art Gallery, with an impressive collection of European art from the 14th to 18th centuries and enjoy a tram ride. Late afternoon 1st class train journey to Kiev (5 hrs). Transfer to 4-star Alfavito Hotel for three nights. (B, L)

DAY 4 Tour of Kiev including the Old Town, Andrew's descent, St. Sophia Cathedral, Lavra Monastery and WWII memorial. Enjoy a visit on Kiev's metro including Arsenalna station, the deepest in the world. (B, L)

DAY 5 Day at leisure or optional excursion to Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant and Pripjat including lunch (£145 – pre-bookable only). (B)

DAY 6 Return flight. (B)

Note: This itinerary involves carrying luggage on and off a train.



Pripjat

ACCOMMODATION

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

Astoria Hotel, Lviv: A central, modern 4-star hotel with 41 rooms, in an old historical building near the Opera Theatre.

Alfavito Hotel, Kiev: A modern 4-star hotel with 229 rooms, close to the Olympic Stadium and a short walk from an underground station.



Lviv Theatre of Opera and Ballet



Lviv



Kyivo Pecherskaya Lavra Monastery



Kiev



Lviv

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

May 25	£895	Sep 14	£925
Jun 29	£925	Oct 19	£895
Aug 31	£925		

2023 – Wednesdays

May 24	£925	Sep 13	£945
Jun 28	£945	Oct 18	£925
Aug 30	£945		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £195
Ryanair from Stansted – £200

Extra Nights – Lviv / Kiev

Astoria Hotel, Lviv (per night) – £60
Single supplement – £40
Alfavit Hotel, Kiev (per night) – £65
Single supplement – £45

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 5 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200
Arrival or departure transfer £30

EXTENSION – ODESSA

Travel by train (7 hrs) to elegant Odessa, the gem of the Black Sea. Stay at the modern 4-star Continental Hotel. Breakfast daily and tour of Odessa with its turn-of-the-century architecture including the Potemkin Steps and a guided tour of Odessa Opera Theatre, designed by the same architects as the Vienna Opera House. Only possible with LOT.

2 nights – £435 (2023 £445)
Single supplement – £95



Opera House, Odessa

THE CROSSROADS OF EUROPE & ASIA

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

10 nights
from
£1725



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

No Single Supplement

Central Hotels

Group Size: 6 – 25

SPECIAL EVENTS

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 Signaghi.

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.



Khor-Virap, Armenia

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Tbilisi via Kiev. Stay two nights at the 4-star Mercure Tbilisi Old Town.

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 Signaghi for a walking tour and wine tasting. (B, L)

DAY 6 Cross the border to Armenia and visit the monastery of Haghpate. Visit to a local house of the Molokan community, enjoy a cup of tea and some homemade sweets. Continue to Dilijan 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 then Khor-Virap, one of the holiest sites in Armenia. Spend three nights at the 4-star Tufenkian Historic Hotel in Yerevan. (B)



Geghard Monastery

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 Kiev. (B)

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

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 with 102 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 Tsaghkunayats Mountains.

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



Gergeti Trinity Church, Kazbegi



Tbilisi

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Ukraine International Airlines from Gatwick

2022 – Thursdays

May 5, 12	£1725	Sep 1	£1725
May 19	£1745	Sep 8	£1795
Jun 2	£1775	Sep 15, 22	£1725
Jun 9	£1725	Sep 29	£1725
Jul 14	£1775	Oct 6	£1725
Aug 11	£1775	Oct 13*, 20*	£1725

2023 – Fridays

May 4, 11	£1725	Sep 7	£1775
May 18	£1745	Sep 14, 21	£1725
Jun 1, 8	£1775	Sep 28	£1725
Jul 13*	£1775	Oct 5, 12	£1725
Aug 10*, 31	£1775	Oct 19*	£1725

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £495

Privately Guided – £1145 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Tbilisi / Yerevan

Mercure Old Town, Tbilisi (per night) – £75

Single supplement – £55

Tufenkian Historic Hotel, Yerevan

(per night) – £70

Single supplement – £50

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £400

Arrival transfer £30

Departure transfer £15

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION – AZERBAIJAN

Complete your Caucasus tour with a visit to the Land of Fire. Spend four 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 – £795; Single supplement – £315



Baku

POST-TOUR EXTENSION – KIEV

For the opportunity to explore the fascinating capital of the Ukraine, one of the oldest cities in Eastern Europe. Stay two nights in Kiev at the 4-star Alfavito Hotel, a modern hotel close to the Olympic Stadium. Breakfast daily and a city tour including the breathtaking frescoes in St. Sophia Cathedral.

2 nights – £385 (2023 £405)

Single supplement – £115



Kyivo Pecherskaya Lavra Monastery

AFRICA

feefo^{co}



Trusted Customer, Tuesday, March 10, 2020

A Kenyan Safari

All arrangements handled well, great mix of places to visit and excellent service throughout.

A KENYAN SAFARI

INTRODUCTION

Explore Africa's treasure trove of cultural gems, ancient history and natural wonders on one of our specially crafted small group tours. The birthplace of the human race lies in Sub-Saharan Africa and iconic landmarks stretch from the Pyramids to the Cape.

The north reveals the first great civilisation in Egypt, the fascinating medinas of Morocco's imperial cities, the great Roman sites of Tunisia and the rock churches and castles of Ethiopia. South Africa and Namibia combine a fascinating heritage with amazing wildlife whilst in Tanzania, Botswana and Zimbabwe the focus is fully on nature and safari.

Natural wonders range from the dramatic Atlas mountains, stunning Victoria Falls and the majestic Nile to the dunes of the Sahara and Namib. The great range of national parks, game reserves and wildlife habitats support elephants, hippos, rhino, lions, cheetahs, leopards and many more, possibly the greatest show on earth!

For our full range of tours visit vjv.com/africa-tours



ABYSSINIA & THE BLUE NILE



THE 600-MILE NILE



CARTHAGE TO KAIROUAN

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GRAND TOUR OF MOROCCO



Victoria Falls to Okavango

This was a well organised tour with good hotels and excellent guides throughout. To be that close to wildlife is an amazing experience and the Victoria Falls were very impressive.

Trusted Customer, Tuesday, March 3, 2020

feefo

VICTORIA FALLS TO THE OKAVANGO

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

14 nights from
£2195



OVERVIEW

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

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
Historic Hotels / Riads
Most Meals Included
8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Group Size: 5 – 22

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.

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

ITINERARY

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



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: 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.



Marrakech



Essaouira



Ouarzazate



DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Sundays

May 22	£2595	Oct 2	£2245
Jun 12	£2295	Oct 16	£2245
Sep 11, 18	£2195	Nov 20	£2195

2023 – Sundays

Jan 15	£2295	Aug 20	£2445
Feb 5	£2295	Sep 3	£2445
Mar 5	£2345	Sep 10	£2445
Apr 23	£2345	Oct 1, 15, 29	£2495
May 7, 21	£2395	Nov 19	£2395
Jun 11	£2395	Dec 3	£2395

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £695 (May-Sep 2022;
Jan-Apr; Sep10-Dec £795; May-Sep 3 2023 £745)
British Airways Club Europe – from £395

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £200

Arrival transfer £15

Departure transfer £60

VJV RIAD

4 nights from £695

Alternatively, if you are short of time why not explore fascinating Marrakech whilst staying at a traditional Riad. Angsana Riad Blanc is perfectly located inside the medina, close to Djemma el-Fna Square. Visit palaces, museums, Majorelle Gardens & Yves Saint Laurent Museum. Optional High Atlas Mountains tour.

Guaranteed Departure



Angsana Riad Blanc, Marrakech

GRAND TOUR OF TUNISIA

Visit 'Roman Africa' on a comprehensive journey around the scenic North, medinas, the Sahara and the coast of Tunisia

10 nights from
£1245



OVERVIEW

Tunis (2 nights)
Tabarka (1 night)
Hammamet (2 nights)
Tozeur (2 nights)
Douz (1 night)
Sousse (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supplement
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Group Size: 4 – 22

SPECIAL EVENT

The Ribat of Sousse

A lecture on Tunisia's history from a university professor in Sousse's Ribat, one of Tunisia's most famous and best preserved monastic fortresses.

INTRODUCTION

Following the Roman's victory in the Third Punic Wars, which ended with the destruction of Carthage, they established the province of 'Africa', their first outside Italy, which became the 'bread basket' of the Empire and an ideal location for retired soldiers.

This comprehensive tour encompasses many aspects, taking into account the Phoenician, Carthaginian, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Berber and French influences. Whilst the main towns on the coast reveal the influence of invading forces, the interior rewards exploration at the 'Holy City' of Kairouan, Roman settlements and, of course, the dramatic landscapes of the Sahara.

The seven UNESCO World Heritage sites visited are the medinas of Tunis and Sousse, the archaeological site of Carthage, the amphitheatre of El Djem, Kerkouane for its Punic architecture, Kairouan and the impressive site of Dougga that was once a Roman town on the fringes of the empire.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly Heathrow to Tunis for two nights at the Tunisian 5-star El Mouradi Gammarth.

DAY 2 Visit the remains of Carthage, the picture postcard village of Sidi Bou Said, the Bardo Museum and Tunis Medina. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Travel to the Medina of Beja and then to the port of Tabarka. Overnight in the Tunisian 4-star Hotel El Mouradi Hammam Bourguiba. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Visit Bulla Regia with its underground Roman villas. Travel to Dougga with its fine temples and baths. Continue to Hammamet for two nights at the 5-star Radisson Blu Hammamet. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit Cap Bon, Hammamet medina and Carthaginian Kerkouane. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Visit Roman Thuborbo Majus. Continue to Tozeur (6 hrs) for two nights at the Tunisian 4-star El Mouradi Tozeur. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Visit Tozeur medina and Dar Cherait museum. Optional excursion (bookable locally approx. £25) by 4x4 to the Sahara sand dunes, Nefta and the rock formation of Onk Jemal where Star Wars was filmed. (B, L, D)



DAY 8 Travel through the largest salt lake in Tunisia, Chott El Djerid to Douz and visit the Sahara museum. Overnight at the Tunisian 4-star Melia Mouradi Douz. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Travel to Matmata to the Berber troglodyte houses. Continue to El Djem's Roman amphitheatre (4 hrs). Two nights at the international 5-star Mövenpick in Sousse. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Visit the 'Holy City' of Kairouan including the Great Mosque of Sidi Oqba, Mausoleum of Sidi Sahbi and medina. In Sousse explore the old town and enjoy an afternoon lecture at the Ribat of Sousse. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Return flight to Heathrow or extend your stay in Sousse. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

The hotels chosen are a mix of international and Tunisian standards, whereby Tunisian hotel ratings normally equate to one category lower by British standards. On occasion alternative hotels of a similar standard may be substituted. All hotels have a restaurant, bar and pool and air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer and satellite TV.



Chott El Djerid



PRICE REDUCED
Save up to £50
New price shown in white

El Djem



Nefta



Dougga

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Tunisair from Heathrow

2022 – Saturdays

Apr 16	£1395	Sep 17	£1395
May 14	£1395	Oct 8	£1395
Sep 3	£1445	Nov 5	£1245

2023 – Saturdays

Feb 4	£1245	Sep 2	£1445
Mar 4	£1295	Sep 16	£1445
Apr 15	£1395	Oct 7	£1395
May 13	£1395	Nov 4	£1245

Supplements per person

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (limited availability)
Single supplement – £185 (Feb-Mar/Nov £155)
Privately Guided – £745 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 10 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 9 lunches and 9 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £250
Arrival transfer £15
Departure transfer £35

EXTRA NIGHTS – SOUSSE

Extend your stay in Sousse, a city that has more than enough to keep the history buff and culture vulture entertained while catering equally well for a sea and sand interlude with modern comforts. Stay at a 5-star resort on the beachfront with access to a private beach in the heart of city.

Mövenpick Sousse (per night) – £35
(Apr/May £45; Sep/Oct £60)
Single supplement – £20 (Feb-Mar/Nov £15)
Half board – £15



Ribat Castle, Sousse

CARTHAGE TO KAIROUAN

Visit the splendid Roman sites of Tunisia, including Dougga, Uthina and El Djem, plus the holy city of Kairouan and ancient Carthage

7 nights
from
£795



OVERVIEW

Tunis (4 nights)

Sousse (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

No Single Supplement

Solo Group Departure (see page 7)

Local Expert Guide Throughout

Group Size: 4 – 22

SPECIAL EVENT

The Ribat of Sousse

A lecture on Tunisia's history from a university professor in Sousse's Ribat, one of Tunisia's most famous and best preserved monastic fortresses.

INTRODUCTION

Now a suburb of Tunis, Carthage was one of the great cities of antiquity, which thrived from the 8th century BC until the Romans finally razed it in 146 BC. Julius Caesar founded a provincial capital here and during the 3rd and 4th centuries its university was the centre for the founders of early Christian thought.

Venture behind the glorious beaches and hotel complexes to discover a land rich in the remains of Roman cities such as the vast and elegant Dougga, the 'Holy City' of Kairouan.

Marvel at Islamic architecture throughout the tour which also reveals Phoenician, Carthaginian, Roman, Byzantine, Arab, Berber and French influences.

Sousse, one of Tunisia's most popular resorts is the perfect destination to use as a base for sightseeing and for relaxation as the tour culminates. Located on the coast with endless stretches of beach, the town's museum is a close second to the Bardo in Tunis, both boasting an impressive collection of mosaics.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from Heathrow to Tunis. Four nights at the Tunisian 5-star El Mouradi Gammarth.

DAY 2 Visit the Roman site of Uthina in southern Tunis and Sidi Bou Said. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Visit the well preserved, ancient Roman city of Dougga. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Visit the remains of ancient Carthage. In the afternoon enjoy the Bardo Museum with its unique collection of Roman mosaics and Tunis medina. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Travel to Kairouan (3 hrs). Visit the Great Mosque, Mausoleum of Sidi Sahbi and the medina. Travel to Sousse for three nights at the 5-star Mövenpick in Sousse. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Visit the Roman amphitheatre of El Djem and museum. Continue to the Ribat and Mausoleum of Monastir. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Visit Sousse Archaeological Museum, medina and Ribat. Special event. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Return flight to Heathrow. (B)

Note: Tunisian hotel ratings normally equate to one category lower by British standards. On occasion alternative hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.



ACCOMMODATION

El Mouradi Gammarth: A Tunisian 5-star hotel located on the beach, close to Carthage. Restaurant, bar, WiFi (free) and 507 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, mini-bar and satellite TV.

Mövenpick Sousse: A 5-star resort on the beachfront in the heart of city. Restaurants, bars, pools, sauna and WiFi (free). 618 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, satellite TV and terrace or balcony.



Dougga



Bardo Museum, Tunis

**PRICE
REDUCED**
Save up to £100
New price shown in white



Uthina



Sidi Bou Said



Monastir Marina

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Tunisair from Heathrow

2022 – Saturdays

Apr 2	£845	Sep 10	£945
May 7	£895	Oct 1	£875

2022 – Saturday (Solo Group)

Nov 5	£825		
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2023 – Saturdays

Feb 18	£795	May 6	£895
Mar 18	£845	Sep 9	£945
Apr 1	£945	Sep 30	£875

2023 – Saturday (Solo Group)

Nov 4	£825		
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Supplements per person

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (limited availability)
Single supplement – £110

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 6 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £250
Arrival transfer £15
Departure transfer £35

EXTRA NIGHTS – SOUSSE

Extend your stay in Sousse, a city that has more than enough to keep the history buff and culture vulture entertained while catering equally well for a sea and sand interlude with modern comforts. Stay at a 5-star resort on the beachfront with access to a private beach in the heart of city.

Mövenpick Sousse (per night) – £35
(Apr/May £45; Sep/Oct £60)
Single supplement – £20 (Feb-Mar/Nov £15)
Half board – £15



Ribat, Sousse

THE 600-MILE NILE

The 'full Nile cruise' from Aswan and Nubia to Thebes, Amarna, Cairo and the Pyramids ideal for the first-time or returning visitor encompassing Egypt's main pharaonic sites

12 nights
from
£3595



OVERVIEW

Aswan (Days 1 & 2)

Kom Ombo / Edfu (3)

Luxor (4 & 5), Qena / Denderah (6)

El Balyana / Abydos / Sohag (7)

Asyut / Amarna (8), Amarna / Minya (9)

Beni Hassan / Beni Suef (10)

Cairo (11 & 12), Return Flight (13)

KEY FEATURES

Culture & Riverscapes

Jules Verne Sightseeing

4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

No Single Supplement

Egyptian Tour Manager / Egyptologist

On Board Lectures

Group Size: 6 – 25#

SPECIAL EVENTS

Luxor Temple by Night, Old Winter Palace & Old Cataract Cocktail

A private cocktail reception at the Victorian Lounge in the Old Winter Palace, where Howard Carter announced the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun. A memorable visit to the illuminated Luxor Temple.

INTRODUCTION

In ancient times travellers from the south following the Nile into Egypt were met by Ramses' mighty temples at Abu Simbel, designed to awe them and make them think "what kind of people live here?".

Luxor (Ancient Thebes) boasts two great temples, Karnak and Luxor. The West Bank reveals many temples and tombs, most famously at the Valley of the Kings. Cairo's credentials link it to Giza's Great Pyramid – perhaps the country's most photographed monument.

The re-opening of the Nile in recent years between ancient Thebes and Cairo after more than 20 years allows this extended 'long cruise' of discovery of Egypt's ancient history with less-visited sites such as Amarna, the home of 'heretic pharaoh' Akhenaten and Nefertiti following the main sites of Thebes and, Nubia and culminating at the Pyramids and the pharaonic treasures in Cairo's Egyptian Museum.

You will be greeted with much waving and cheering from the riverbank by the Egyptians north of Luxor less accustomed to cruise ships and international travellers!

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Aswan via Cairo. Transfer to the 5-star Mövenpick MS Darakum for twelve nights.

DAY 2 Visit the High Dam with views of Lake Nasser and by boat to Philae Temple. Birdwatching cruise and visit the botanical gardens of Kitchener Island. Visit the Nubian Museum and enjoy a sunset drink at the Old Cataract Hotel. Manager's cocktail party. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Optional tour to Abu Simbel (4 hrs each way by road, pre-bookable £89). Sail to Kom Ombo to visit the riverside

temple. Talk on hieroglyphics. Sail to Edfu. Nubian show on board. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 A film about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb while sailing to Luxor. Special Event: 'Luxor Temple by Night and Cocktail at the Old Winter Palace'. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit to the Colossi of Memnon, Valley of the Kings (possibility of visiting the tomb of Tutankhamun or Seti I at extra charge), and Howard Carter's house. Afternoon visit of Karnak Temple. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Sail to Qena. Visit Denderah's Temple of Hathor, viewing the image of Cleopatra and son. Birdwatching presentation. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Talk on the Nile. Sail to El Balyana to visit Abydos temple and the temple of Seti I. Sail to Sohag passing two locks and the railway bridge at Naga Hammadi. Talk on modern Egypt. Visit Sohag museum. Galabeya party. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Sail to the town of Asyut. Sail to Tel el Amarna, viewing en route Prince Tawadros' monastery from the Nile. A talk on Akhenaten and Nefertiti. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Visit the northern tombs and royal tomb of Akhenaten at Amarna. Visit the tombs and catacombs of Tuna el-Gebel. Sail to Minya. Folklore show on board. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Visit the Middle Kingdom tombs at Beni Hassan. Sail to the riverside town of Beni Suef. Quiz night. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Sail to Cairo. A talk on the Pyramids. Visit Coptic Cairo including the Hanging Church, museum and Jewish synagogue. Oriental Takht music performance. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Full-day visit to the Pyramids and Egyptian Museum (or Grand Egyptian Museum subject to opening). (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Disembark. Return flight. (B, L)



Luxor Temple

MÖVENPICK MS DARAKUM

This luxurious 5-star vessel was specially designed for the 'long cruise' and offers a high standard of service with attentive Egyptian staff and Moroccan inspired interior. A spacious restaurant offers Egyptian and international cuisine. The elegant lounge with bar adjoins a comfortable outdoor lounge for observing the continually changing riverside scenes. The large Sun Deck has a plunge pool, loungers and seats with sunny and shaded areas. Small gym, jewellery and gift shop and WiFi (free/limited).

52 tastefully designed air-conditioned, outside cabins spread over three decks with private facilities, hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV. All cabins have large picture windows except Lower Deck cabins which have sealed marine windows.

Notes: # Whilst the vessel carries more, sightseeing will be limited to 25 guests.

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

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



Pyramid and Sphinx, Giza



MS Darakum



Philae Temple



Kom Ombo

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022

Feb 11 (Fri)	£3795	Sep 1* (Thu)	£3895
Mar 9 (Wed)	£3795	Sep 27* (Tue)	£3895
Apr 4* (Mon)	£3795	Oct 23 (Sun)	£3995
Apr 30* (Sat)	£3595		

2023

Feb 10* (Fri)	£4295	Sep 27* (Wed)	£4095
Mar 8* (Wed)	£4195	Oct 23* (Mon)	£4295

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** – Lower Deck double cabin for sole use (limited availability)
Lower Deck (double for sole use) – £1095 (Sep/Oct 2022 £1195; 2023 £1295)
Main Deck (twin/double) – £245 (2023 £295)
Main Deck (twin/double for sole use) – £1295 (Sep/Oct 2022 & Feb/Mar 2023 £1395; Sep/Oct 2023 £1495)
Upper Deck (twin/double) – £395 (2023 £475)
Upper Deck (twin/double for sole use) – £1495 (Sep/Oct 2023 £1595)
Junior Suite (Main Deck) – £595 (2023 £695)
Senior Suite – £1095 (2023 £1295)
Panorama Suite – £1495 (2023 £1695)
EgyptAir Business Class – from £695

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 12 night-cruise, full board 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £450

Arrival transfer or departure transfer £15

THE ORIGINAL NILE CRUISE

10 nights from £2895

Alternatively, sail into the desert from Cairo to ancient Thebes (Luxor) visiting the Pyramids and rarely explored temples and tombs. Ideal for return visitors with a rare opportunity to observe an old way of life and ancient sites largely unvisited, with the benefit of spending longer cruising than on the classic Nile cruise.

4 UNESCO Sites • Excursions Included



Prince Tawadros' Monastery

A WEEK ON THE NILE

A new and unique luxury cruise from Cairo and the impressive Pyramids to the little known Amarna, especially created to give you a taste of Egypt and its exceptional history and culture

8 nights
from
£2195



OVERVIEW

Cairo (Days 1 & 2)

Beni Suef (3)

Minya (4)

Amarna (5)

Minya (6)

Beni Suef (7)

Cairo (8 & 9)

KEY FEATURES

New Cruise

2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

No Single Supplement

Egyptian Tour Manager / Egyptologist

Early Booking Offer: For all bookings made by 28 February 2022, deduct £100 per person

Group Size: 8 – 25#

INTRODUCTION

A fantastic opportunity to combine hectic but epic Cairo, from the Pyramids and the Egyptian Museum and National Museum of Egypt, to the historic and Coptic Cairo. Enjoy relaxing sailing stopping at rarely explored ancient sites and tombs in the desert at Tuna el-Gebel, the cliffs at Beni Hassan and the ancient city of Tel el-Amarna, all from the comfort of a 5-star vessel with extended hours of sailing to relax and enjoy the peaceful and majestic Nile.

The ancient capital moved between Upper (Thebes) and Lower Egypt (Memphis), sometimes split and sometimes united, except when the 'heretic' Pharaoh Akhenaten and Nefertiti moved the capital to Amarna between the two kingdoms.

This cruise offers a rare occasion to observe an old way of life and ancient sites largely unvisited, with the benefit of spending longer cruising than on the classic Nile cruise. For the returning visitor it will 'fill in' part of the gap between the Pyramids and ancient Thebes without the need of a domestic flight.



Tuna el-Gebel

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Cairo. Transfer to the 5-star Mövenpick MS Hamees for an eight-night cruise. (D)

DAY 2 Visit the Egyptian Museum, the oldest archaeological museum in the Middle East with one of the largest collections of Pharaonic antiquities in the world. The museum displays an extensive collection from the Predynastic Period to the Greco-Roman Era. Visit the Pyramids and Sphinx. Enjoy a walk through one of the magnificent streets of Cairo "The Muiz", displaying the greatest density of significant Islamic monuments in the world to this day. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Enjoy a relaxing day sailing to Beni Suef and observe timeless Nile scenes. Managers cocktail party. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Early morning visit to Meidum pyramid dedicated to the King Snefru. Afternoon sailing to Minya. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit the beautifully decorated Middle Kingdom tombs of Beni Hassan, an ancient Egyptian cemetery site, located south of Minya. The necropolis of Beni Hassan reflects the political differences between the province's rulers and the Pharaohs kings, showing the transition stage in the style of the tombs from the Old Kingdom to the New Kingdom. Sail to Amarna. Galabeya party. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Visit Tuna el-Gebel, best known for its animal necropolis housing thousands of mummified baboons and Ibis sacred to Thoth. Visit the ancient city of Tel el-Amarna, built by the "heretic" Pharaoh Akhenaten and abandoned shortly after his death. Visit the tombs of Ahmose, Pentu, Panehesy and the Royal tomb of Akhenaten and the Amarna visiting centre. Sail back to Minya. Folkloric show. (B, L, D)



Nile River from Beni Hassan

DAY 7 Enjoy a relaxing day sailing to Beni Suef. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Sail to Cairo. Afternoon visit of Coptic Cairo, largely built around the remains of the fort of Babylon. Visit the Church of St. Sergius and Ben Ezra Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in Cairo. Explore the newly opened National Museum of Egyptian Civilization where the Royal mummies now lay. Oriental takht and farewell dinner on board. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Return flight. (B)

MÖVENPICK MS HAMEES

Recently refurbished, this deluxe 5-star vessel has spacious public rooms and a restaurant. Evening entertainment, lounge, bar, gift shop, laundry, a large panoramic Sun Deck with plunge pool and WiFi (free/limited). 72 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.



Great Sphinx and Pyramids



Mövenpick MS Hamees



Tel el-Amarna



Muiz, Cairo

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a Lower Deck twin cabin
Egyptair from Heathrow

2022

Sep 1 (Thu)	£2195	Sep 17 (Sat)	£2395
Sep 9 (Fri)	£2295		

Supplements per person

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – Lower Deck twin cabin for sole use or Main Deck single cabin (limited availability)

Lower Deck (twin for sole use) – £695

Main Deck (twin) – £165

Main Deck (twin for sole use) – £915

Upper decks (twin/double) – £285

Upper decks (twin/double for sole use) – £1095

EgyptAir Business Class – from £695

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 8 night-cruise, full board 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £400

Arrival or departure transfer £15

Notes

#Whilst the vessel carries more, sightseeing will be limited to 25 guests.

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

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

EXTRA NIGHTS – CAIRO

Add extra nights pre- or post-tour to reflect, relax or explore independently. Recently renovated, the 4-star Steigenberger Pyramids is located close to the Pyramids with restaurant and pool.

Steigenberger Pyramids (per night)

Standard (twin/double) – £65

Standard (single) – £100

Pyramids View (twin/double) – £85

Pyramids View (single) – £120

Arrival or departure transfer £15



Sultan Hassan Mosque, Cairo

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

13 nights
from
£5495



OVERVIEW

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

KEY FEATURES

Culture & Riverscapes
New Exclusive Small Ship Sailing
Jules Verne Sightseeing
4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Egyptian Tour Manager / Egyptologist
On Board Lectures
Group Size: 6 – 24#

SPECIAL EVENTS

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

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

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.

SS Misr is a propeller steam vessel was originally built in Preston by the Royal Navy, then converted for King Farouk and used for his birthday party. The restoration was initiated by Jules Verne and our Egyptian partners a few years ago.

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 13-night cruise. (D)

DAY 2 Visit the Great Pyramids and Sphinx. Lunch at the Mena House with views of the Pyramids. Visit the new Grand Museum (subject to government approval) or Egyptian Museum. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Visit the Sultan Hassan Mosque, close to the majestic Citadel, an impressive Islamic structure. Visit Ibn Tulun, Gayer Anderson Museum and Coptic Cairo. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Enjoy a relaxing day on the river as we sail from Cairo towards Beni Suef. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit Maydom Pyramid and the brick built mastabas nearby. Sail to Minya. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 View the Beni Hassan tombs and catacombs at Tuna el-Gebel. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 At Amarna, visit the Royal Tomb, the Northern Tombs, and the Great Temple of Akhenaten. Sail to the town of Asyut, viewing en route the monastery of Prince Tawadros from the Nile. (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 en-route to Qena. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Visit the Temple of Hathor at Denderah. Sail to Luxor. Special Event: 'Luxor Temple by Night and Cocktail at the Old Winter Palace'. (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), Colossi of Memnon and Carter's House. Afternoon visit Karnak Temple. Cruise to Edfu. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Sail to Kom Ombo to visit the



riverside temple. Continue to Aswan for afternoon tea at the Old Cataract Hotel with fine Nile views. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 View the High Dam and visit Kalabsha Temple, Philae Temple and by boat to Kitchener Island and Soheil Island for sunset and tea in a Nubian village. (B, L, D)

DAY 14 Return flight to London via Cairo. (B)

SS MISR

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: #Whilst the vessel carries more, sightseeing will be limited to 24 guests.

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.



Kom Ombo



SS MISR



Temple of Hatshepsut



Sultan Hassan Mosque, Cairo

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a Main Deck cabin
EgyptAir from Heathrow*

2022 – Tuesday

Sep 13	£5495
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Supplements per person

Main Deck single cabin – £795
Main Deck (double for sole use) – £1695
Upper decks – £395
Upper decks (double for sole use) – £1995
Suite (Upper decks) – £895
Panorama (front) Suite – £1295
EgyptAir Business Class – from £695

Extra Nights – Cairo / Aswan

Steigenberger Pyramids Cairo (per night)

Standard (twin/double) – £65
Standard (single) – £100
Pyramids View (twin/double) – £85
Pyramids View (single) – £120
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, 13 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £550
Arrival transfer or departure transfer £15

PRE-TOUR EXTENSION – CAIRO

Why not travel out a little earlier. Fly to Cairo and spend two nights at the Luxury 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



Nile Ritz Carlton

ABYSSINIA & THE BLUE NILE

Explore Ethiopia's fascinating historical and religious sites combined with spectacular scenic contrasts

12 nights
from
£3245



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Addis Ababa (2 nights)
Axum (2 nights)
Lalibela (2 nights)
Gondar (2 nights)
Bahar Dar (2 nights)
Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Solo Group Departures (see page 7)
No Single Supplement
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Group Size: 3 – 18

INTRODUCTION

Nothing quite prepares the traveller to Ethiopia for the breathtaking beauty of the country, its remarkable ancient history and its sheer diversity of people. A fiercely independent and highly idiosyncratic country, Ethiopia has never been successfully conquered or colonised and it boasted for a while the most powerful empire in Africa. Indeed, Ethiopia viewed itself as an empire until the second half of the 20th century when Emperor Haile Selassie claimed unbroken lineal descent from the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon. Christianity, introduced as early as the 4th century, took strong root and still functions as a socially cohesive force in the Christian areas.

Scenically, dramatic mountains and desert-like wilderness give way to Ethiopia's largest lake, Tana, which feeds the Blue Nile. The Simien Mountains National Park is one of Africa's most beautiful ranges, the landscape has been created by much erosion over the years and offers rugged terrain, deep valleys, a massive plateau, tall jagged mountain peaks and rare animals.



Addis Ababa

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from Heathrow direct to Addis Ababa.

DAY 2 Two nights at the Hilton Addis Ababa Hotel. City tour with Trinity Cathedral and Ethnological Museum.

DAY 3 Full-day tour to the UNESCO Tiya Stelae archaeological site and Melka Kunture Palaeolithic site. (B)

DAY 4 Fly to Axum, famous for its mysterious monolithic stelae. A tour of Axum's major sites includes the Church of St. Mary of Zion (men only), the holiest sanctuary in Ethiopia, said to contain the Ark of the Covenant and Sheba's Palace. Two nights at the Consolar Hotel or Hotel Sabeen. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit the 8th-century Yeha Temple and continue the tour of Axum. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Fly to Lalibela (2,400 metres) for two nights at the Roha Hotel. The churches are divided into two groups with the first group visited today. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Visit the second group of churches. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Fly to Gondar and stay two nights at the Hotel Goha. Afternoon visit to the painted church of Debre Birhan Selassie. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Enjoy a scenic walk (up to 2 hours) with views of the Simien Mountains National Park, in search of the gelada baboon, colobus monkey and highland birds. Afternoon visit to Gondar's castles, Bath of Fasiledes and Qusquam abbey. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Drive to the viewpoint near Haile Selassie's palace for commanding views of Lake Tana, the Blue Nile and Bahar Dar city. Two nights at the Blue Nile Resort Hotel. (B, L, D)



Stelae, Axum

DAY 11 Morning visit to the Blue Nile Falls at Tissisat. Afternoon boat trip to Azwa Mariam monastery with frescoes. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Return to Addis Ababa by air (day use room available) before the overnight flight. (B)

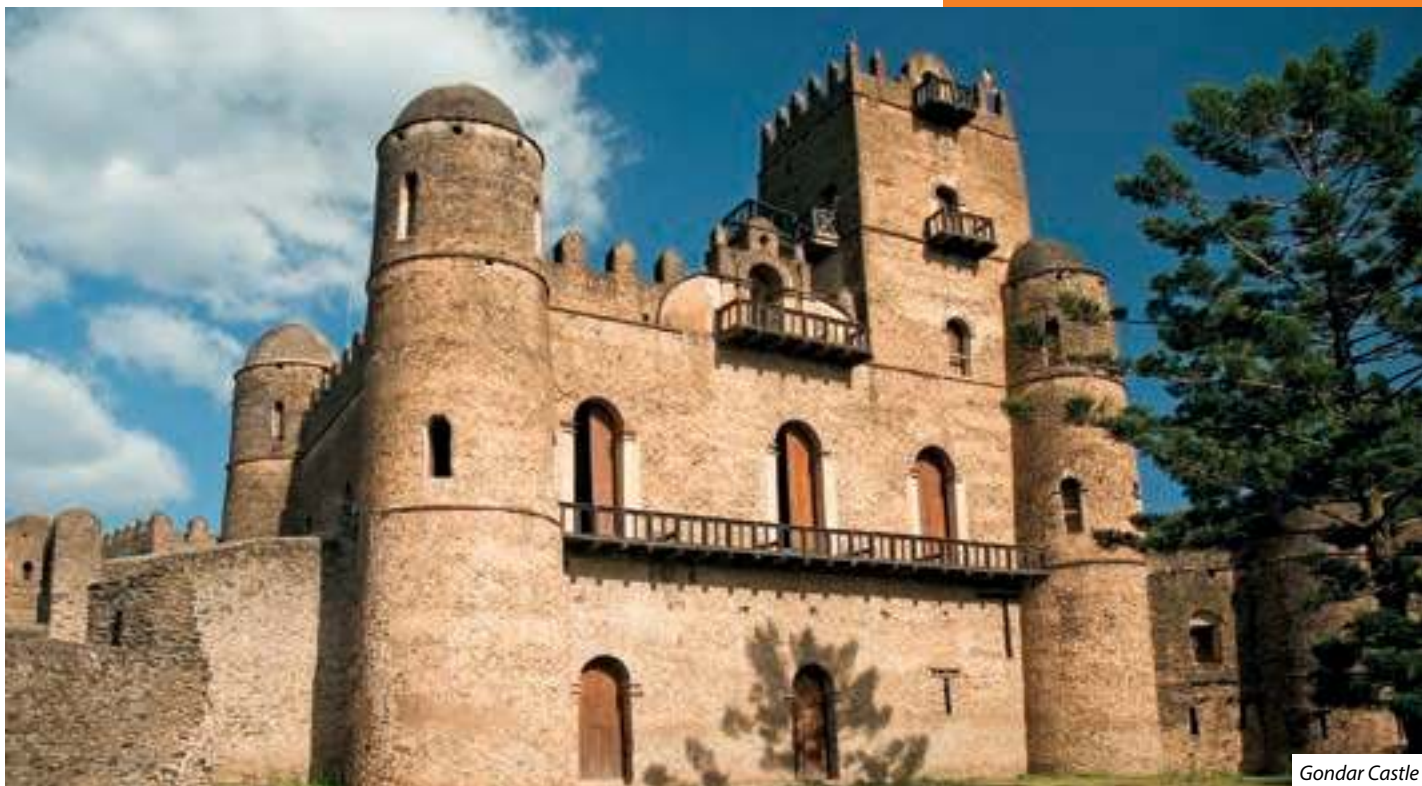
DAY 13 Early morning departure to London Heathrow, arriving later the same day.

Notes: This is a full itinerary with visits on foot which include some uneven surfaces and inclines.

See page 238 for notes on altitude.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

Hotels in Ethiopia are often scenically located with a standard of rooms, public areas and food that while adequate and clean, is low by international standards with intermittent water supplies and some worn furnishings. Roads and internal air travel are good, although airport security is tight and can be time consuming. Internal flight schedules may be subject to change. Terrain for walking can be very rough, care should be taken and appropriate footwear worn. On occasion, alternative hotels may be substituted.



Gondar Castle



Blue Nile Falls

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Fridays

Sep 30 [^]	£3345	Oct 28 [^]	£3345
Oct 28 [^]	£3345	Dec 2	£3245

2022 – Friday (Solo Group)

May 6*	£3295		
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2023 – Fridays

Jan 13 [^]	£3295	Sep 29 [^]	£3345
Feb 17 [^]	£3345	Oct 27 [^]	£3345
Mar 10 [^]	£3345	Nov 17 [^]	£3245

2023 – Friday (Solo Group)

May 12*	£3295		
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £395

Ethiopian Airlines from Manchester – nil

London/Addis Ababa/London

Ethiopian Airlines Business Class – from £1675

Extra Nights – Addis Ababa

Hilton Hotel (per night) – £95

Single supplement – £85

Price Includes

Air travel, UK departure taxes, transfers, 10 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £350

Arrival or departure transfer £15

EXTENSION – RIFT VALLEY LAKES

Enjoy different scenery to the Christian Highlands of the north, extra bird life and additional ethnic groups such as the Oromo and Gurage. Experience a close encounter to the Sidama during a village visit, hippos on Lake Hawassa and the world heritage site of Tiya. Stay at the 4-star Haile Resort with meals.

4 nights – £745

Single supplement – £125



EXTENSION – SUDAN

Combine Ethiopia (on selected dates marked [^]) with our Sudan tour 'Kingdom of the Black Pharaohs'.

Simply add an extra night in Addis Ababa before flying to Khartoum for a pre-tour night at the Grand Holiday Villa Hotel in Khartoum.



Meroe

KINGDOM OF THE BLACK PHARAOHS

A journey in Sudan, north from Khartoum, through the fringes of the Sahara desert, to the ancient lands of Nubia and the Kingdom of the Kush

8 nights
from
£2995



OVERVIEW

Khartoum (2 nights)

Karima (3 nights)

Meroe (2 nights)

Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing Programme

UNESCO Sites: Jebel Barkal / Meroe

No Single Supplement

Group Size: 3 – 15

Early Booking Offer: For all air bookings made 5 months or more before departure, deduct £130 pp

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sudanese Evenings

Enjoy a whirling dervish ceremony in Ahmed al Nil and a traditional Sudanese evening with local music and dancing.

INTRODUCTION

Long hidden from the world, Sudan is best known for the story of Gordon of Khartoum who was overwhelmed by the hordes of the Mahdi. Less often told is the story of Sudan's ancient past. The Kingdom of the Kush dealt with Pharaohs of Egypt and the Emperors of Rome and the Nubian rulers, known as the Black Pharaohs, left behind an array of ancient sites along the Nile. Ruined temples can be visited without a tourist bus for miles and the country has more pyramids than Egypt. This exciting arrangement makes an arid region of extraordinary archaeological interest and beauty accessible even to those reluctant to sacrifice their comforts.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport via Istanbul to Khartoum and transfer to the 4-star Grand Holiday Villa for two nights.

DAY 2 Visit the Archaeological Museum housing two entire temples rescued by UNESCO from Lake Nasser. Visit the Khalifa's House Museum and view Mahdi's Tomb from the outside. Later, visit the colourful Omdurman souk. Whirling Dervish ceremony in Ahmed al Nil. (B, L)



The Temple of Naga

DAY 3 Head northwards across the Western Desert (5 hrs). Visit the archaeological site of Old Dongola and a Nubian village. Continue to the 3-star Nubian Rest House in Karima for a three-night stay at the foot of Jebel Barkal. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Visit Jebel Barkal and the temple built by the Pharaohs of the New Reign and dedicated to their patron Amon. Visit Karima market and El Kurru, where the Royal Necropolis of the ancient city of Napata had a large number of pyramids. Visit an excavated tomb carved from the rock below the pyramid and the Pyramids of Nuri. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Drive across the Nubian Desert (3 hrs) to the village of Tombos and visit the stelae on the shore of the Nile. Continue to the town of Kerma and visit the 'Western Deffufa' monument of this ancient civilisation and the Kerma Museum. Evening of local music and traditional dancing. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Enter the Bayuda Desert, an area bounded by the 4th and 6th Cataract of the Nile. Isolated camel and donkey caravans roam the area. Cross the Nile at Atbara, visit the Railway Museum and then travel south to Meroe. The 40 pyramids of the Royal Necropolis can be seen from the 3-star tented camp of Meroe. Stay two nights. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Visit the impressive Royal Necropolis of Meroe before continuing to the ruins of the royal city, most of which has still to be excavated. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Visit the 1st-century Apedemak temple at Naga with its bas-relief images, the "kiosk" containing Egyptian, Roman and Greek styles of art and a temple to Amon. Picnic in the Musawwarat area and return to Khartoum (3 hrs) where day rooms will be available until the late evening transfer to the airport. (B, L)



DAY 9 Early morning flight via Istanbul arriving later the same day.

Notes: This tour involves off-road driving for long distances and walking on uneven ground requiring a good level of fitness in the heat.

On occasion the itinerary may operate in reverse.

Please note alcohol is not available in Sudan and it is not permitted to bring any wines or spirits

ACCOMMODATION

Grand Holiday Villa: A modest, centrally located 4-star hotel, built in the 1800s. Restaurant, outdoor pool, WiFi (free) and 160 air-conditioned rooms.

Nubian Rest House: A small, charming property built in typical Nubian style. 22 air-conditioned rooms with a fan, a veranda and WiFi (free/limited). The domed restaurant is atmospheric and the property surrounds a small garden.

Meroe Camp: 22 twin-bedded tents, tastefully furnished, each with private facilities situated close by and WiFi (free/limited). Each tent has a veranda and two comfortable chairs. Sudanese and Italian home-made food is served to guests in both properties and a pre-dinner drink is served every day at sunset.



Meroe Pyramids



Nubian Desert, Sahara



Jebel Barkal

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin room
Turkish Airlines from Heathrow*

2022 – Thursdays

Mar 31*	£3145	Nov 10	£2995
Oct 13*	£2995	Dec 8	£3095

2023 – Thursdays

Feb 2	£3195	Oct 12*	£3045
Mar 2	£3195	Nov 9	£3095
Mar 23*	£3145	Dec 7	£3095

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Single supplement – £575 (31 Mar & 13 Oct 2022
£290; 2 Mar 2023 £275)
Turkish Airlines from Birmingham or
Manchester – Nil
Turkish Airlines Business Class – from £795

Extra Nights – Khartoum

Grand Holiday Villa (per night) – £90
Single supplement – £65

Price Includes

Air travel, UK departure taxes, photo and travel permits, entrance fees, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, full board (breakfast and lunch only in Khartoum), itinerary as described, services of guides and local representatives.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £600
Arrival or departure transfer £40

KHARTOUM TO CAIRO

21 nights from £6695

Alternatively, journey through the Nubian lands of Sudan to Egypt and cruise the Nile to Cairo on a 'Pyramids to Pyramids' adventure. Combine the ancient kingdoms of Kush and Egypt with six nights in Sudan, a night at Abu Simbel and 12 nights on the 600-Mile Nile cruise from Aswan to Cairo, discovering both Egypt's main sites and the less explored central regions.

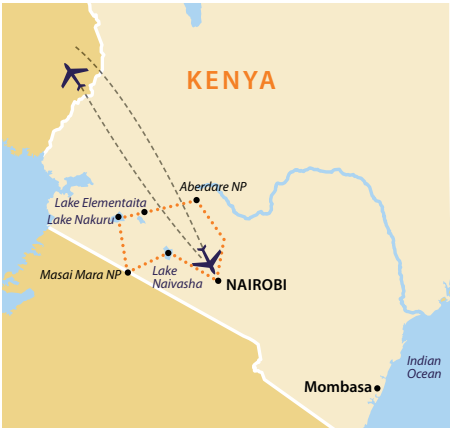


The Pyramids

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, now featuring an extra night at the Masai Mara

9 nights
from
£2795



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
- Improved Itinerary
- UNESCO Site: Great Rift Valley
- Local Expert Guides
- Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)
- Small Group Size: 2 – 6

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.

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 Loyk Mara Tented 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.



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 breath-taking views over Lake Elementaita. Bar and pool. 16 rooms with hairdryer and safe.

Loyk Mara Tented Camp: Modern tented style accommodation on the borders of the Masai Mara National Reserve. Bar and 10 tented rooms with 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.



**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £100
New prices shown in white



DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

Jun 25	£2795	Sep 3	£3195
Jul 23	£3295	Sep 17	£3195
Aug 6	£3395	Oct 1	£3095
Aug 20	£3295	Nov 19	£2995

2022 – Saturdays (Solo Groups)

May 14*	£2795	Nov 5*	£3095
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2023 – Saturdays

Jan 21	£2895	Aug 5	£3295
Feb 4	£2945	Aug 19	£3195
Feb 18	£2895	Sep 2	£3195
Mar 4	£2895	Sep 16	£3145
May 20	£2895	Nov 4	£2995
Jun 24	£3295	Nov 18	£2895
Jul 22	£3395		

2023 – Saturdays (Solo Groups)

May 13*	£2895	Sep 30*	£3095
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Supplements per person

*** NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £425

British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £495

British Airways Club World – from £1895

Privately Guided – £595 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Nairobi

Tamarind Tree Hotel (per night) – £95

Single supplement – £60

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, park entry fees, transfers, 8 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 8 lunches & 7 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.

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

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

5 nights
from
£2295



OVERVIEW

Nairobi (1 night)

Masai Mara (4 nights)

Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Wildlife Experience

Luxury Lodge

No Single Supplement

Solo Group Departure (see page 7)

Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)

Group Size: 2 – 6

INTRODUCTION

The Governors' Camp Collection of seven award winning safari camps and lodges lie at the heart of some of the best wildlife viewing areas. Therefore it comes as no surprise that landmark TV series such as BBC Earth's 'Dynasties' and Animal Planet's 'Big Cat Tales' were filmed right at Governors' Camp doorstep. For nearly 50 years Governors' has been pioneering safaris, setting the standard for the classic African safari experience. Governors' Camp, the first permanent tented camp in the Masai Mara occupies the best year round wildlife viewing area in the National Park. The location was considered so good that it was reserved for the colonial Governors of Kenya, hence the name Governors' Camp. It nestles in the forest along the winding banks of the Mara River, its waters teeming with bird-life, hippo and crocodile. Kenya reveals a massive concentration of large mammals, home to thousands of animals, best viewed on Masai Mara game drives. Along with the incredible array of game animals is a virtually unrivalled variety of birdlife.

The savannah grasslands of East Africa offer the world's most famous wildlife spectacle,

as part of the greater Serengeti ecosystem when around 1.5 million wildebeest, zebra and gazelle arrive at the Mara between July and September. This great migration is awaited eagerly by the many predators lying in wait. Discover the ancestral land of the Masai tribes, the habitats of abundant wildlife, the home of endangered black rhinos, 'the Mara' as a Big Five reserve and a Big Cat haunt. Africa is the last great wilderness of our generation and Kenya is the perfect place to answer Africa's call of the wild.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly direct from Heathrow to Nairobi. Overnight at the 4-star Eka Hotel.

DAY 2 Transfer for your flight to the Masai Mara Game Reserve for four nights at Governors' Camp. Afternoon game drive. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Rise early each morning to make the most of your spectacular location. Each day will offer you the option of three game drives within the Mara, immersing yourself in this rich wildlife destination. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Optional early morning balloon ride



(£370, pre-bookable). Game drives in the Masai Mara. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Game drives in the Masai Mara. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Early morning game drive before your flight to Nairobi or extend your stay at Lake Naivasha. Enjoy dinner at the iconic Carnivore restaurant before your flight home. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Arrive London Heathrow.

Note: A luggage allowance of 15kg per person is applicable for internal flights.

ACCOMMODATION

Governors' Camp: The original and pioneering camp, created in 1972 is under canvas with all of the comforts of a luxury hotel. Some of the 37 tents line the riverbank, tucked into the forest enjoying uninterrupted views over the Mara River, others have views across the sweeping plains of the Mara. The tents are big and bright in classic safari style with private facilities and a private veranda. There is a bar tent with deck overlooking the river, dining tent with views over the plains, a spa tent offering a range of treatments and Wi-Fi (free).





**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £300
New prices shown in white



DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Thursdays

May 12*	£2295	Sep 8	£3595
Jun 16*	£2495	Sep 22	£3595
Jul 14	£3195	Oct 13	£3295
Aug 18	£3695	Nov 3*	£2995

2022 – Thursdays (Solo Groups)

Mar 17*	£2995	Nov 10*	£2995
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2023 – Thursdays

Feb 9*	£2895	Aug 17	£3695
Mar 23*	£2595	Sep 7	£3595
May 11*	£2795	Sep 21	£3295
Jun 15*	£3195	Oct 12	£3095
Jul 13	£3695	Nov 2*	£2995

2023 – Thursdays (Solo Groups)

Mar 16*	£2995	Nov 9*	£2995
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £615

British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £495

British Airways Club World – from £1895

Price Includes

Air travel, UK departure taxes, overseas airport taxes, park entry fees, transfers, 5 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 5 lunches and 5 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.

Notes

Some travel is on unmade, bumpy roads and it may be necessary to 'climb' into the safari vehicle. On occasion, an alternative hotel of the same standard may be used in Nairobi.

EXTENSION – LAKE NAIVASHA

Relax at Loldia House, overlooking Lake Naivasha and its spectacular variety of birds. Animals can be found grazing on the lake shores. Includes full board, transfers and Lake Nakuru excursion.

2 nights – £995 (Jul-Oct 2022;

Jun-Sep 2023 £1195)

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT – Feb-Jun & Oct-Nov (limited availability)

Single supplement – £195 (Aug-Sep 2022;

Jul-12 Sep 2023 £225)

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
£4995



OVERVIEW

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

KEY FEATURES

Wildlife & Natural Wonders
Cruising the Nile at Murchison Falls
Chimpanzee Trekking in Kibale
Gorilla Trekking in Bwindi
UNESCO Site: Bwindi Forest
Group Size: 3 – 18

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 Rain Forest, 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. Two nights at Paraa Safari Lodge (6 hrs). (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, learn how tea is grown and harvested. Two nights at Crater Safari Lodge or similar. (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)



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 Kihikihi 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.





Bwindi Impenetrable National Park



DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

Jun 18	£4995	Sep 17	£5095
Aug 13	£5095		

2023 – Saturdays

Feb 11	£4995	Aug 12	£5095
Jun 17	£4995	Sep 16	£5095

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £625
Ethiopian Airlines Business Class – from £1650
Qatar Airways from Heathrow – nil
Privately Guided – £1055 (see page 9)

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, portage, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £750
Arrival or departure transfer £20

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



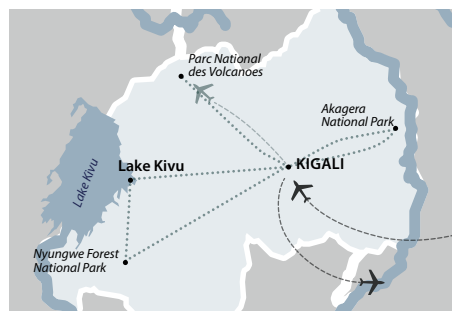
Walking Among Giants

———— 9 nights from £7795 ————



Visiting: Kigali – Nyungwe Forest National Park
Akagera National Park – Parc National des Volcanoes

Join us on a 10-day journey of discovery to remarkable Rwanda, on the safari of a lifetime, staying in hand-picked luxury lodges. Venture into the towering peaks of the magnificent Virunga Mountains. Hidden among the bamboo forests are some of the world's last remaining mountain gorillas. Experience a scene that few others have witnessed. This close-up encounter with these gentle giants is arguably the most sensational wildlife experience to be had. Gazing into the eyes of a mountain gorilla is an experience that will remain with you forever. Their silent power and grace reinforces their majesty in the mighty forest.



Unspoilt and enchanting, Rwanda has so much that is remarkable. This "Land of a Thousand Hills", a tiny country in the heart of the continent, is visually spectacular, resplendent with verdant greens, rich browns and a kaleidoscope of local colour, notwithstanding a wealth of extraordinary wildlife. Discover lush mountains and steaming rainforest. Trek the virgin forests, take game drives in lush meadows and relax by picture-perfect lakes as you discover the incredible wildlife of Rwanda's National Parks. Explore the lowland swamps of Akagera, the canopy walkways of Nyungwe and the magnificent Parc National des Volcanoes.

For full details of our itinerary see
vjv.com/themes/great-journeys



What's Included

- 7 nights' accommodation • Game Drives • Forest Walks • Boat Safaris • Panoramic Helicopter flight into Parc National des Volcanoes
- Chimpanzee, Golden Monkey and Gorilla Trekking • Conservation and Park Fees • Price Guarantee • VIP Chauffeur Driven Transfer* • Group Size 4 – 6



Departures & Prices

per person in a twin room
Rwanda Airlines from London Heathrow

2022 – Thursdays

May 19	£7795	Aug 4	£10095
Dec 8	£9795		

2023 – Thursdays / Tuesday

Feb 2	£9795	Sep 14	£9995
Jun 15	£9795	Dec 7	£9795
Aug 8	£10195		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £1695 (May £995)

Business Class – from £1595

Privately Guided – from £995 (see page 9)

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £750

Note

* On all of our Great Journeys, we provide a VIP chauffeur driven transfer for passengers living within a 70-mile radius of the point of departure. For those passengers that live outside of this 70-mile radius, we will provide the most competitive quotation for the additional mileage.

SERENGETI & THE SECRET MIGRATION

Explore Ngorongoro Crater and with an extra night in the Serengeti, witness the Great Migration on game drives and from the elevated balconies of unique bush rovers

10 nights from
£4395



OVERVIEW	KEY FEATURES	SPECIAL EVENT
Arusha (1 night) Tarangire NP (1 night) Ngorongoro Area (2 nights) Serengeti (3 nights) Lake Victoria (2 nights) Flight (1 night)	Wildlife Experience Exclusive Arrangement No Single Supplement Guaranteed Window Seat Local Expert Guides Guaranteed Departure (see page 5) Group Size: 2 – 6	Private Bush Rover Two nights in a unique & private mobile camp sited in the migration area, a Land Rover conversion with tented accommodation on a working Land Rover, hardwood bathroom, elevated bedroom with balcony, mosquito nets, downstairs bathroom and front seat WC.

INTRODUCTION

Few countries in the world are as exciting as Tanzania. Firstly, its breathtaking scenery from the savannah to the sands of Zanzibar. Secondly, its abundant wildlife with the greatest viewing potential of any country. Discover two of the world's best wildlife highlights, Ngorongoro crater, the world's largest volcanic caldera enclosing 100 square miles of prolific wildlife, and the Serengeti, now featuring an extra night to witness one of the most spectacular events on earth!

The Great Migration comprises massive groups of wildebeest, zebra and antelope continually moving in search of the best grass, stalked by the great cats and at risk of ambush by crocodile at river crossings. It is in fact a circular movement around the Serengeti throughout the year from the Grumeti River up to the Mara River and down to the Ngorongoro Highlands.

Our innovative safari features Bush Rovers sited according to the season and expected location of the migration, so this event may be observed away from the busiest sites across the entire eco-system throughout the year. The movement of the migration is not fully predictable, viewing success may vary.



ITINERARY

- DAY 1** Fly from your chosen airport via Amsterdam to Kilimanjaro. Overnight at Planet Lodge in central Arusha.
- DAY 2** Drive to Tarangire National Park. Afternoon game drive and overnight at Kirurumu Tarangire Camp overlooking a flood plain favoured by elephants. (B, L, D)
- DAY 3** Travel to Lake Manyara, a shallow soda lake attracting birdlife and animals for a game drive. Stay two nights at Endoro Lodge, Karatu. (B, L, D)
- DAY 4** Descend into Ngorongoro crater for an extended game drive including lunch. (B, L, D)
- DAY 5** Drive to the Serengeti and visit Olduvai Gorge and museum en route. Overnight at Heritage Camp. (B, L, D)
- DAY 6** Continue for two nights in the Bush Rovers, sited according to the expected migration movement at prime locations such as Grumeti, Mara river or Kusini areas. Game viewing. (B, L, D)
- DAY 7** A fabulous day's game viewing in the migration area on game drives and from your exclusive Bush Rover. (B, L, D)
- DAY 8** Game drive through the Serengeti western corridor, emerging at Lake Victoria for a canoe ride through the "Little Okavango" channels and along the lake amongst stunning birdlife. Two nights at Little Okavango Camp. (B, L, D)
- DAY 9** Take an intimate look at life on the lake including a fish market. Afternoon birding walk. (B, L, D)
- DAY 10** Fly from Mwanza to Dar es Salaam with use of a day room before flight home via Amsterdam, or fly via Dar es Salaam to Zanzibar for an extension. (B)
- DAY 11** Arrive in the morning.



Notes: Some travel is on unmade, bumpy roads and it may be necessary to 'climb' into the safari vehicle. On occasion, alternative hotels of the same standard may be used.

VEHICLES

4x4 land cruisers with opening roof carry a maximum of 6 guests with a guaranteed window seat. Driving is often on rough roads which can be affected by weather conditions. On occasion, accommodation and safari routing may change.

ACCOMMODATION

- All lodges have a restaurant, bar and rooms with private facilities and mosquito nets.
- Planet Lodge:** Bar, pool and WiFi (free). 28 air-conditioned rooms with TV.
- Kirurumu Tarangire Camp:** A remote camp with 10 tented cottages.
- Endoro Lodge:** A beautifully appointed lodge with 25 chalets overlooking the Ngorongoro forest.
- Heritage Camp:** Unique camp in the central Serengeti. 15 tented rooms with balcony.
- Little Okavango Camp:** A small lodge with 4 tented bandas on Lake Victoria, a world class birding site.

**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £100
New prices shown in white



DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
KLM from Heathrow

2022 – Wednesdays

Jun 1*	£4695	Sep 7	£4895
Jun 15*	£4745	Sep 14, 28	£4795
Jul 6	£4795	Oct 5	£4695
Aug 24	£4895	Oct 12	£4595

2023 – Wednesdays

Jan 18	£4395	Jul 5	£4895
Feb 8	£4595	Aug 9	£4995
Feb 15, 22	£4695	Sep 6	£4995
Mar 8	£4395	Sep 13, 27	£4895
May 31	£4795	Oct 4	£4795
Jun 14	£4845	Oct 11	£4695

2022 & 2023 – Wednesdays (13 nights)

Jul 13±	£6195	Jul 12±	£6295
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Single supplement – £875
(13 Jul 2022 & 12 Jul 2023 £965)
Regional flights available – nil (see vjv.com)
Privately Guided – £295 (see page 9)

Price Includes

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

Note

Jan – Mar the Bush Rover camp stay will be on Days 5 & 6 when staying in the Kusini area, and stay at Serengeti Heritage Camp will be on Day 7.

± CONSERVATION DEPARTURE – 13 NIGHTS

13 July 2022 & 12 July 2023

Conservation projects have a huge positive impact so learn about Tanzania's conservation projects on this special departure led by conservationist David Guthrie. Includes 3 nights at off-the-beaten-track Saadani National Park, revealing a white sandy beach location unique to East Africa, also home to David's green turtle project.



EXTENSION – ZANZIBAR

Fly to Zanzibar for a relaxing stay at the famous Spice Island on the shores of the Indian Ocean, at the boutique Zanzibari Hotel, a beach hotel in Nungwi with restaurant, bar, pool, spa and 10 air-conditioned rooms. Includes half board, transfers and a tour of historic UNESCO Stone Town.

4 nights – £895
Single supplement – £205



Zanzibar

ROBIN POPE SAFARIS

A special tour with a prestigious safari company in Zambia's premier national park, South Luangwa with Malawi, a stunning African gem with dramatic scenery, wildlife and welcoming people

15 nights
from
£5995



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Luangwa River (3 nights)
Nsefu / Nkwali (2 nights)
Pumulani (3 nights)
Kuthengo (2 nights)
Mkulumadzi (3 nights)
Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Wildlife & Natural Wonders
Exclusive Arrangement
UNESCO: Lake Malawi National Park
No Single Supplement
Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)
Group Size: 2 – 6

INTRODUCTION

Robin Pope founded his safari company 30 years ago establishing a high reputation for small, luxurious, intimate and remote camps in pristine wilderness areas, with unrivalled game viewing by vehicle, boat and foot. Recently, Kuthengo Camp at Liwonde National Park has been added inspiring us to combine Zambia's famous South Luangwa National Park, with Malawi, the warm heart of Africa.

Malawi is a peaceful central African country renowned for friendly people. Its big draw is Lake Malawi, stretching 500km along the border. Liwonde is home to elephant, crocodile, lion, cheetah and prolific birdlife whilst Majete is a 'Big Five' reserve.

Zambia's premier national park, South Luangwa is best known for its breathtaking scenery and density of animals; herds of elephants, hippos, impalas, waterbucks, giraffes and buffalos wander on the open plains; leopards, hunt in the woodlands.

None of this comes at a low price but our special arrangement is able to offer an excellent tariff including game viewing, food and drinks on safari.

ITINERARY

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

DAY 2 Fly to Mfuwe and transfer to South Luangwa National Park for three nights at the Luangwa River Camp. (D)

DAY 3 Morning game drive. Afternoon/early evening game drive. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Morning game drive. Afternoon/early evening game drive. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Game drive to Nsefu Camp for two nights. Afternoon game drive. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Full-day game drive. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Fly to Lilongwe and transfer to Pumulani (3 hrs) for three nights on Lake Malawi. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Free day. Sunset dhow cruise. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Time to relax. Village walk. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Scenic transfer to Kuthengo Camp (3 hrs) in Liwonde NP. Enjoy lunch looking over Shire River. Evening game drive. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Explore Shire River and the lagoons. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Drive to Mkulumadzi (5 hrs) in Majete Wildlife Reserve. (B, L, D)



Liwonde National Park

DAY 13 Includes 2 activities per day: game drives, boat safaris, bush walks, hiking Majete Hill, black rhino tracking, cultural tours, birding on the Shire River and game viewing from a hide. (B, L, D)

DAY 14 Enjoy your chosen activities. (B, L, D)

DAY 15 Transfer to Blantyre for your return overnight flight via Addis Ababa. (B, L)

DAY 16 Arrive at Heathrow.

ACCOMMODATION

All lodges and safari camps have restaurant, bar, rooms and free laundry service.

Luangwa River Camp: At South Luangwa NP with pool and 5 bush suites by the river.

Nsefu: By Luangwa River where elephants cross. 6 air-conditioned thatch rondavels.

Nkwali (Apr): A safari camp on the Luangwa River. Pool and 6 open front chalets.

Pumulani: A lakeside lodge on Lake Malawi. Pool and 10 villas.

Kuthengo Camp: In Liwonde NP among Baobabs trees. 4 air-conditioned tents.

Mkulumadzi: In Majete Wildlife Reserve with pool and 8 chalets on the Shire River.





**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £200
New prices shown in white



Kuthengo Camp



Luangwa River Camp

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

Apr 16*#	£5795	Nov 5*	£6095
Oct 8	£7045	Nov 12*	£6095
Oct 22*	£7045		

2023 – Saturdays

Apr 15*#	£6095	Nov 4*	£6395
Oct 7*	£7345	Nov 11*	£6395
Oct 21*	£7345		

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Ethiopian Airlines Business Class – from £1995

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 13 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, full board and drinks, itinerary as described, services of guides and local representative. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £800
Arrival and departure transfer with group included

Note

#Nsefu camp is closed due to the water levels and will be substituted with Nkwali Camp.

RPS PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR

19 March 2022 & 18 March 2023
9 nights from £5445

Alternatively, join Edward Selfe for a photographic workshop with this special arrangement with RPS. A unique opportunity to benefit from the knowledge of a wildlife photographer and visit an iconic safari destination: South Luangwa National Park, best known for its breathtaking scenery and density of animals; a true photographer's paradise!



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
£3995



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Victoria Falls (2 nights)
Chobe NP (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 Departures (see page 7)
Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)
Group Size: 2 – 8

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 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 Gaborone and 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



DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Mondays

Apr 11	£4495	Aug 8	£5295
May 2	£4495	Sep 5	£5295
Jun 20	£4795	Sep 19	£5195
Jul 11	£5095	Oct 3	£5195
Jul 25	£5195	Nov 14	£4695

2023 – Mondays

Jan 16	£3995	Jul 10	£5095
Feb 13	£4195	Aug 7	£5195
Mar 13	£4195	Sep 4	£5295
Apr 10	£4495	Sep 18	£5295
May 1	£4495	Oct 2	£5195
Jun 12, 19	£4795	Nov 13	£5195

2023 – Monday (Solo Group)

Feb 13	£4195	
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Supplements per person

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT (limited availability)
Ethiopian Airlines Business Class – from £1995
British Airways from Heathrow – £500
Privately Guided – £1495 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Victoria Falls

Victoria Falls Hotel (per night) – £245
Single supplement – £195
Departure transfer – £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.

INDIAN OCEAN TO VICTORIA FALLS BY SHONGOLOLO

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

16 nights
from
£6495



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)

Pretoria (1 night)

Train (11 nights)

Victoria Falls (2 nights)

Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Rail Journey

Improved Itinerary

Excursions Included

4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)

Group Size: 2 – 24

INTRODUCTION

Introducing an improved itinerary mirroring the service on the iconic Rovos Rail, Shongololo Express now includes full board plus beverages on board and all lunches off board.

Rovos Rail, our long-standing partner, upgraded the Shongololo Express, providing a special touring experience. Accommodating 72 guests in comfortable cabins, the classic wood-panelled carriages takes you back to a simpler, more elegant era encompassing the romance of African exploration.

This impressive panoramic journey is facilitated by 11 nights on the train between Pretoria and Victoria Falls, avoiding long road journeys and offers a balance of cultural visits, spectacular scenery and game viewing in four contrasting countries of Southern Africa.



Blyde River Canyon

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight direct to Johannesburg.

DAY 2 Transfer to Pretoria for overnight at the 4-star Hotel Courtyard Arcadia. (D)

DAY 3 View the Union Buildings, Church Square and Voortrekker Monument in Pretoria. Visit Soweto and the Hector Petersen Memorial. Embark Shongololo Express for 11 nights. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Tour of the Panorama Route, including Pilgrim's Rest, Blyde River Canyon, Three Rondavels and God's Window. Depart for Malelane. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Full-day safari in Kruger National Park. Depart for Mozambique. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 City tour of Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. Continue to Mpaka in the mountain kingdom of Eswatini. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Enjoy views of the Ezulwini Valley and Komati River, and visit Manzini and Mbabane. Depart for the Limpopo. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Morning game drive in Kapama Game Reserve and visit the Wild Dog and Cheetah Project. Overnight at Louis Trichardt. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 A day on board as you travel north to Rutenga in Zimbabwe. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Drive to Great Zimbabwe ruins, the capital of the Bantu and Shona in the 11th-15th century and now a UNESCO World Heritage site. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Full-day at Antelope Park. Optionals bookable locally include game drives and a bird-watching cruise. Depart for Bulawayo. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Visit Matobo National Park including the grave of Cecil John Rhodes and bushmen caves. Depart for Kennedy Siding. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Full-day game viewing at Hwange Game Reserve, formerly the royal hunting ground of Matabele King Mzilikazi. (B, L, D)



DAY 14 Arrive at Victoria Falls. Disembark for two nights at the 5-star Victoria Falls Hotel. Walking tour. Zambezi sunset cruise. (B)

DAY 15 Day at leisure or optional helicopter ride over the Falls (12 mins, £150). (B)

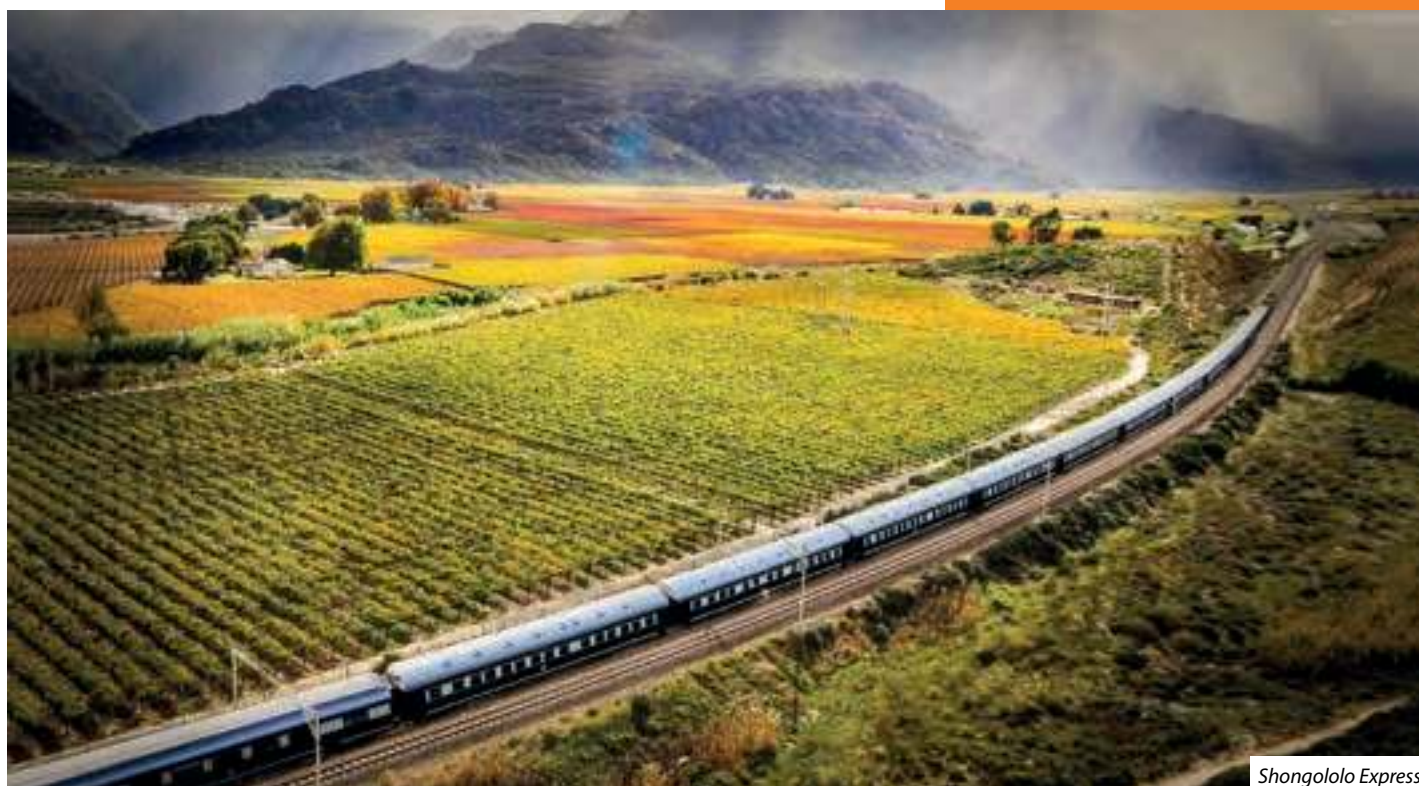
DAY 16 Return flight via Johannesburg or extend in Botswana for three nights. (B)

DAY 17 Arrive Heathrow.

Note: Some walking over rough ground and it is sometimes necessary to 'climb' into the safari vehicle.

SHONGOLOLO EXPRESS

Two well-appointed dining cars with modern and traditional local cuisine. Bar car, small smoking lounge and observation car with an open-air balcony. No dress code and laundry available. The twin/double Gold category (75 sq. ft.) and Emerald category cabins (107 sq. ft.) are refined offering privacy and comfort. Cabins are air-conditioned with private facilities, hairdryer and safe.



Shongololo Express



Victoria Falls



Shongololo Express

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double Gold Cabin
British Airways from Heathrow*

2022 – Wednesdays

Apr 12	£6495	Sep 14	£6495
Aug 3	£6595		

2023 – Tuesdays

Jan 3	£6695	Jun 6	£6995
Feb 28	£6795	Aug 8	£6995
Apr 11	£6895	Sep 5	£7045

2023 – Wednesday

Nov 1	£7095
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £2595 (2023 £2895)
Emerald Cabin – £1295 (2023 £1595)
Single supplement – £3095 (2023 £3895)
London-Johannesburg/Victoria Falls-London
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £695
British Airways Club World – from £2295

Extra Nights – Pretoria / Victoria Falls

Courtyard Arcadia, Pretoria (per night) – £145
Single supplement – £75
Victoria Falls Hotel (per night) – £175
Single supplement – £150

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 11 nights' train and 3 nights' hotel accommodation, breakfast daily, 11 lunches and 12 dinners, all drinks on board the train, itinerary as described, services of train director, guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £900
Arrival transfer £45
Departure transfer £20

EXTENSION – BOTSWANA

Chobe National Park is especially known for its elephants, hippos and lions with wildlife often visible from the Chobe River. Transfer to Chobe for three nights at the Chobe Safari Lodge or the Cresta Mowana Safari Lodge, on the Chobe River. Includes two game drives, two game cruises and half board.

3 nights – £795 (2023 £825)
Single supplement – £235 (2023 £265)



GRAND TOUR OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa is a country of contrasts where you can uncover colonial and African history, discover the rich wildlife & enjoy unspoilt scenery, travelling from the Kruger to the Cape

23 nights
from
£4495



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Pretoria (2), Kruger NP (3)
Eswatini (1), Mkuze (2)
Dundee (2), Drakensberg (1)
Cape Town (3), Oudtshoorn (2)
Knysna (2), Winelands (3)
Flight (1)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour & Natural Wonders
Wildlife Experience
Jules Verne Sightseeing
3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 6 – 25

SPECIAL EVENTS

Welcome Dinner, Tea and Drumming

Dinner at the Court Classique Hotel with a wine tasting. Dinner and drumming lesson at the Gold Restaurant.

Enjoy a selection of finger sandwiches, cakes and scones, a classic afternoon tea at the historic Mount Nelson Hotel.

INTRODUCTION

South Africa is an immense country of incredible scenic, climatic and cultural contrasts, from the dramatic peaks of the Drakensberg to the arid interior, embracing diverse populations from Khoi-San bushmen, Bantu-speaking tribes such as the Zulu, Xhosa and Ndebele to Afrikaner communities descended from Dutch settlers and English speaking communities from Britain's later coast-based colonisation

This programme combines game drives, tribal communities, townships, battlefields, winelands, the Garden Route and 'the fairest Cape'. A cruise, special meals and specialist guides enhance the experience.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight direct from London Heathrow to Johannesburg.

DAY 2 Drive to Pretoria. View Church Square, Union Buildings and Voortrekker Monument. Two nights at the 4-star Court Classique Hotel. Welcome dinner with wine tasting. (D)

DAY 3 Full day tour in Johannesburg, visiting Soweto, the Hector Pietersen Memorial, Nelson Mandela's House and the Military Museum. At Liliesleaf farm learn about the anti-apartheid struggle. (B, L)

DAY 4 Travel to Kruger National Park (8 hrs) via the Panorama Route, Blyde River Canyon, God's Window and the gold-mining village of Pilgrim's Rest. Three nights at the 3-star Nkambeni Tented Lodge at Kruger NP. (B, D)

DAY 5 Full-day open vehicle game drive with 'safari lunch'. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Optional game drive (£70) or bush walk (£80). Afternoon game drive. (B, D)

DAY 7 Travel to mountainous Eswatini (6 hrs) for a singing and dance performance. Visit the National Museum. Overnight at the

3-star Foresters Arms Country Lodge. (B, L)

DAY 8 Visit the Mlilwane Nature Reserve and a traditional village to meet the Lady Chief and enjoy a nature walk. Continue to Zululand (5 hrs) along the scenic Lebombo Mountains. Two nights at 4-star Ghost Mountain Inn. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Morning game drive in Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Reserve, known for its rich wildlife including the white rhino. Visit a Zulu homestead and community. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Lake Jozini cruise, home to crocodile, hippo and birdlife. Continue to Dundee (3 hrs) to visit Talana museum. Two nights at the 3-star Battlefields Country Lodge. Enjoy a 'braai' in the 'Moth Hall' with 'Battlefields' memorabilia and local experts. (B, D)

DAY 11 Meet a specialist guide at Isandlwana, site of the Zulu War's opening encounter, then visit Rorke's Drift. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 With a specialist guide and minibus drive up to Spioenkop battlefield. Overnight in the Drakensberg mountains at the 4-star Cathedral Peak hotel. (B, D)

DAY 13 Morning at leisure. Fly to Cape Town. Three nights at the 4-star Pepper Club Hotel. (B)

DAY 14 Visit Table Mountain, weather permitting (excludes cableway ticket), Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, Bo-Kaap and the Castle of Good Hope. Walk through Company Gardens to South Africa Museum. Afternoon tea at the Mount Nelson. (B)

DAY 15 Tour Cape Peninsula – Hout Bay, Cape Point, Boulders Beach, Good Hope Nature Reserve. Simon's Town & the SA Navy Museum. Harbour cruise. Gold Restaurant dinner with drumming lesson. (B, D)

DAY 16 Travel to Oudtshoorn (6 hrs) to visit the CP Nel Museum and Cango Caves. Two nights at the 3-star Protea Riempiet Hotel. (B)

DAY 17 A dramatic ascent by special vehicle



up Swartberg Pass to 'Ou Tolhuis', base of the H.O.P.E. Foundation. Travel down to Prince Albert for a Karoo lunch. Wine tasting and visit to Meiringspoort waterfall. (B, L)

DAY 18 Cross the Outeniqua Pass to George. Travel to Knysna. Two nights at the 3-star Moorings Hotel. Lagoon sunset cruise. (B)

DAY 19 Explore the forest at Tsitsikamma national park and visit Plettenberg Bay. (B)

DAY 20 At Mossel Bay visit Diaz Museum. Travel to Hermanus, where whales may be sighted (Jun-Nov). Three nights at the 4-star Le Franschhoek Hotel in the Winelands. (B)

DAY 21 Visit Stellenbosch, including the Village Museum and the Huguenot Memorial. Enjoy a wine tasting at Stark Conde and visit Eikendal Wine estate for a light lunch followed by a wine tasting. (B, L)

DAY 22 Morning at leisure. Enjoy a wine tasting at Delaire Graff. Afternoon at leisure to explore Franschhoek or perhaps take the wine tram. Special dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

DAY 23 Overnight flight to London. (B)

DAY 24 Arrive Heathrow in the morning.

Note: Some travel is on unmade roads and it may be necessary to 'climb' into the safari vehicle. Some visits are on foot with uneven surfaces and inclines.



Table Mountain, Cape Town



Cathedral Peaks



Cape Winelands

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

Sep 14	£4495	Nov 16	£4595
Oct 12	£4595		

2023 – Wednesdays

Jan 11	£4695	Sep 13	£4895
Feb 15	£4695	Oct 11	£4895
Mar 15	£4795	Nov 15	£4995

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £695 (Sep – Nov £795)
London-Johannesburg/Cape Town-London
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £695
British Airways Club World – from £3295

Extra Nights – Pretoria / Cape Town

Court Classique Hotel, Pretoria (per night) – £65

Single supplement – £65

Pepper Club Hotel, Cape Town

(per night) – £85

Single supplement – £60

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 21 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 8 lunches and 11 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.

EXTENSION – VICTORIA FALLS

Fly via Johannesburg to Victoria Falls for four nights at the iconic 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', this 5-star hotel is steeped in history and tradition. Includes tour of Victoria Falls and a sunset cruise. Breakfast daily.

4 nights – £1295 (2023 £1395)

Single supplement – £745



Victoria Falls

AIRLINK TO ST. HELENA

Be one of the first to visit by air this fascinating British Overseas Territory of great natural and historic significance, a remote volcanic island, previously only accessible by Royal Mail ship

11 nights
from
£4295



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)

Pretoria (1 night)

St. Helena (7 nights)

Pretoria (1 night)

Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour & Natural Wonders

Jules Verne Sightseeing

Local Expert Guides

Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)

Group Size: 2 – 15

INTRODUCTION

Visitors to the British Overseas Territory of St. Helena will be welcomed to one of the remotest islands in the world: lying in the middle of the South Atlantic Ocean between Brazil and Angola it is a beautiful tropical island of volcanic origin.

The wire bird is an endemic land bird protected from extinction by the St. Helena National Trust who also have a project to re-plant endemic trees in their Millennium Forest. The governor's house is a fascinating British residence and home to the giant tortoise, Jonathan, the island's oldest resident at nearly 200 years old! The few coffee plantations produce premium coffee. Whale sharks, gentle filter-feeding giants gather off the rocky shores (Nov-Mar).

The island welcomed famous people such as Charles Darwin, the Duke of Wellington, Captain Cook and the astronomer, Halley. It was a place of exile for the Zulu chief Dinizulu, 6000 Boer prisoners and notably for Napoleon, whose death at Longwood House in 1821 is marked in 2021. He was buried nearby having been guarded by 1000 soldiers and a strong naval presence (his entry of death is on view in the archive).

Previously the Royal Mail ship was the only way to reach this remote sub-tropical island, 1400 miles from the nearest landfall. It reveals deep verdant valleys, barren desert, volcanic scree, plentiful birdlife and a rich history as the halfway point on the East India trade route (before the Suez Canal opened). Now, with the introduction of an airport the lonely island is easier to get to than ever. Jules Verne possess over 10 years' experience of programmes to St. Helena since a British government commission approached to increase tourism.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from London Heathrow to Johannesburg.

DAY 2 Arrive Johannesburg and transfer to Pretoria. View the Union Buildings, Church Square and imposing Voortrekker Monument. Overnight at the 4-star Maslow Hotel. (D)

DAY 3 Fly from Johannesburg to St. Helena (via Windhoek). Stay seven nights at the 4-star Mantis St. Helena Hotel. (B)

DAY 4 Visit the Western side of the island and explore some of the stunning views the island has to offer. View the island's endemic plants and wirebird, the only surviving endemic land bird and threatened with extinction. (B, L)

DAY 5 Enjoy a boat trip along the coast to view the East India Company's fortifications, offshore islands, birds, dolphins and volcanic cliffs (in January Whale Sharks may be seen). A walking tour of Jamestown and St. James Church conducted by an island historian followed by afternoon tea (or St. Helena coffee!). Enjoy dinner at the hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Full historical & conservation tour – Visit of Deadwood, once occupied by the Boer prisoners as well as the Millennium Forest overlooking the airport. Highlights including The Boer Cemetery in Knollcombes, St. Paul's Cathedral, Tour of Plantation House, Jonathan The Tortoise, Princes Lodge with a photo opportunity at Jacobs ladder. (B, L)

DAY 7 Day at leisure for optional activities bookable locally. (B)

DAY 8 Visit Jamestown Museum, which gives you the opportunity to explore more than 500 years of the island's history in one place. Drive to Sandy Bay in the afternoon and visit Bellstone. (B, L)



DAY 9 Visit Longwood House. Nestled in well-manicured grounds, the house was the residence of Napoleon, during his exile on St. Helena from December 1815 until his death in May 1821. Visit the Briars Pavilion where Napoleon spent the first few months on the island and his tomb where he was buried between 1821 and 1840. Enjoy a visit to the most remote distillery in the world, sampling some of the local products. Farewell dinner of local specialities. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Fly to Johannesburg. Overnight at the 4-star Maslow Hotel. (B)

DAY 11 Return flight to London. (B)

ACCOMMODATION

Mantis St. Helena Hotel: A 4-star boutique hotel set in the original East India Company's residential buildings built in 1774 in the centre of Jamestown with bar and WiFi (free). The excellent restaurant offers local and international cuisine. 30 air-conditioned rooms with safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.

Maslow Hotel: The 4-star Maslow Hotel is located in Sandton City. Restaurant, bar, pool, gym, spa and WiFi (free). Air-conditioned rooms with private facilities, hairdryer, safe and satellite TV.



Jamestown



High Knoll Fort © Des Jacobs Photography



St. Helena © Des Jacobs Photography

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin room
British Airways from Heathrow

2022 – Thursdays

Apr 21	£4395	Nov 3	£4295
Oct 6	£4295		

2023 – Thursdays

Jan 12	£4695	Apr 20	£4495
Feb 9	£4645	Oct 5	£4445
Mar 16	£4595	Nov 2	£4395

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £495
Emirates from London Heathrow/Manchester/Birmingham/Glasgow – nil
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £1695
British Airways Club World – from £3495

Extra Nights – Pretoria / Johannesburg

Maslow Hotel, Johannesburg (per night) – £75
Single supplement – £75
Arrival/Departure transfer – £30

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, 9 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 5 lunches and 3 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.

EXTENSION – VICTORIA FALLS

Fly to Victoria Falls for four nights at the iconic 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', this 5-star hotel is steeped in history and tradition. Includes tour of Victoria Falls and a sunset cruise. Breakfast daily.

4 nights – £1295 (2023 £1395)

Single supplement – £745



Victoria Falls

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

17 nights from
£3545



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)

Windhoek (1), Kalahari Area (1)

Fish River Canyon (2)

Sossusvlei Area (2), Swakopmund (2)

Damaraland (2)

Etosha National Park (3)

Erindi Game Reserve (2), Flight (1)

KEY FEATURES

Wildlife & Natural Wonders

Jules Verne Sightseeing

2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

No Single Supplement

Local Expert Guide Throughout

Group Size: 4 – 18

SPECIAL EVENT

A Castle in Africa

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

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 Johannesburg to Windhoek.

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

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

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 Mokuti Lodge near the east gate. (B)

DAY 14 Full-day open-vehicle game drive in Etosha National Park. (B)



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

DAY 16 Morning game drive at Erindi Private Game Reserve. (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.



**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £200
New prices shown in white



Kalahari Desert



Sossusvlei



DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Thursdays

Apr 14	£3695	Sep 22	£4095
May 12	£3895	Oct 6	£3795
Jun 16	£3995	Oct 20	£3795
Jul 21	£3995	Nov 3	£3795
Aug 11	£3895	Dec 1	£3695
Sep 8	£3895		

2023 – Thursdays

Jan 19	£3545	Aug 10	£3995
Feb 16	£3595	Sep 7	£3895
Mar 9	£3695	Sep 21	£3895
Apr 13	£3645	Oct 5	£3795
May 11	£3745	Oct 19	£3795
Jun 15	£3795	Nov 2	£3745
Jul 20	£3895	Nov 30	£3695

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £495 (Jan-Apr £395)
Lufthansa from Heathrow, Birmingham,
Manchester, Newcastle, Edinburgh and
Glasgow – £250

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

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

A NAMIBIAN JOURNEY

11 nights from £2395

Alternatively, take a shorter journey of this amazing country covering all the highlights that it has to offer. Travel from Windhoek to the world's oldest and possibly the most beautiful desert, The Namib, through Swakopmund to Etosha National Park, one of Africa's finest game reserves. Namibia's appeal lies in its dramatic mix of spectacular landscapes, iconic cultures and African wildlife.



NAMIBIA BY PRIVATE TRAIN

Unmatched for sheer natural beauty Namibia is a true land of contrast and colour, explore the wonders of this African nation that reveals more than just a safari destination

14/15 nights
from
**£6495/
£6895**



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)

Swakopmund (1)

Train (1), Etosha National Park (1)

Train (2)

Sossusvlei (1)

Train (6)

Flight (1)

KEY FEATURES

Wildlife & Natural Wonders

Rail Journey

Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)

Group Size: 2 – 20

INTRODUCTION

The word 'namib' translates as 'vast place'. To experience the best of Namibia vast distances need to be covered, indeed the enormity of this extraordinary country with varied roads and tiny populations make it quite a formidable destination to explore.

A comfortable and convenient way to explore the best of the natural wonders and wildlife is by rail. Whilst local trains are not a suggested option, we can fully recommend the Dune Express routing of the popular Shongololo Express, operated from South Africa by our friends at Rovos Rail.

The stark vistas of the Northern Cape and Karoo contrast with the garden city of Pretoria. This 12 day rail journey, covering some 3447 kms, enables travel from the savannahs of the Highveld to the Atlantic, visiting the oldest desert on the planet. There are few more fascinating desert realms than the Namib with seas of multi-toned wind-sculpted dunes and an exoticism of plants and animals.

Namibia is home to the world's largest population of free roaming cheetah. Big cats, elephants and black rhinos patrol Etosha, Namibia's greatest national park, but tour this beautiful land and you'll discover so much more – surprising German architecture and magnificent sand dunes, raw scrub desert.

Sossusvlei in the Namib-Naukluft National Park is famed for its stunning and ever changing sand dunes of red, pink and orange, the Kalahari for the untamed beauty of its seemingly endless gold-grass plains and Fish River Canyon as the largest canyon in the southern hemisphere.

This may be Africa's youngest independent country but it can more than hold its own in terms of attractions; it is indeed an unforgettable and quite remarkable journey!

ITINERARY (14 NIGHTS)

DAY 1 Fly overnight to Walvis Bay via Johannesburg.

DAY 2 On arrival transfer to the 4-star Strand Hotel Swakopmund. (D)

DAY 3 Embark on the Shongololo Express and travel to Otjiwarongo. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Transfer to Etosha National Park. Enjoy a game drive and overnight at the Mokuti Safari Lodge or similar. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Morning game drive before re-joining the train to travel to Kranzberg. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Arrive in Windhoek, visit the Trans-Namib Transport Museum, Alte Feste and Namibian craft centre. (B, D)

DAY 7 Drive (3.5 hours) to Sossusvlei in the Namib-Naukluft Park, enjoy lunch and a desert drive to Sesriem Canyon then overnight at Le Mirage or Sossusvlei Lodge or similar. Enjoy a true desert experience in the oldest desert on earth and with some of the world's highest dunes. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Enjoy the sunrise on a morning drive in the Namib-Naukluft Park to Dune 45 and Deadvlei. Join the train at Mariental. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Visit Garas Park and the Quiver Tree Forest. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Visit the ghost town of Kolmanskop and port of Lüderitz, known for its colonial architecture. Time at leisure before return to the train. (B, D)

DAY 11 Visit Fish River Canyon. This vast rock landscapes is lunar-like and divides into a series of spectacular cliffs. Depart for Nakop for border formalities and on to Upington. Travel the Karoo semi-desert, offering the visitor vast plains, majestic mountains and picturesque Karoo towns. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Explore the Donkey Memorial, the railway on Orange River and tour the Bezaelel Wine and Brandy Estate with a tasting.



Sossusvlei

Continue to De Aar. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Visit the 'Big Hole' and Diamond Museum in Kimberley dating from the 1870's diamond rush. Afternoon departure to Potchefstroom. (B, D)

DAY 14 Arrive at the Rovos Rail Station in Pretoria and transfer to the airport for the overnight flight to London. (B, L)

DAY 15 Arrive London.

SHONGOLOLO EXPRESS

Under the ownership of Rovos Rail, The Shongololo Express has undergone a complete refurbishment in 2016. The dining cars have been beautifully renovated and an observation car with an open-air balcony has been added. Compartments are air-conditioned with private facilities and room service, Gold Compartments are 75 sq. ft., Emerald Compartments 107 sq. ft. with an additional seating area.



Emerald Compartment, Shongololo Express

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin room/Gold Compartment
British Airways/Airlink from Heathrow*

2022 – Tuesdays

May 24	£6495	Nov 9	£6595
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2023 – Tuesdays

May 23	£6695	Aug 22	£6795
Aug 8*	£6895		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £2495 (2023 £2795)
Emerald Compartment – £1500 (2023 £1700)
Single supplement – £2995 (2023 £3595)
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £775
British Airways Business Class – from £3350

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 12/13 nights' accommodation in hotels/lodges/train, breakfast and dinner daily, 9 lunches, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £800
Arrival or departure transfer £45

Note

* See vjv.com for a 15 night itinerary, operating in the reverse direction from Pretoria to Walvis Bay, with an overnight stay in Pretoria.

EXTRA NIGHTS – SWAKOPMUND

Swakopmund lies between the dramatic Atlantic coastline and desert dunes, with elaborate Germanic architecture. The 4-star Strand Hotel Swakopmund with 125 rooms is located on the promenade with views of the ocean. Restaurants, lounge bar, spa, gym and WiFi (free/limited).

Strand Hotel (per night) – £140
Single supplement – £40



Swakopmund

ASIA PACIFIC

feefo^{co}



The Taj Tour

Excellent tour; well organised and great tour manager/guide. Very high standard hotels.

Trusted Customer, Wednesday, March 4, 2020

THE TAJ TOUR

INTRODUCTION

Asia Pacific ranges from the lands of Arabia and the Indian sub-continent in the west to the lands of the Silk Road, which ended in China and the Antipodes.

Fascinating histories, amazing monuments, great cities and stunning natural beauty are revealed from Jordan, Israel, Oman, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka to Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Burma, Indochina and the islands of the Philippines whilst in India each region has its own story.

Explore beautiful landscapes, soaring mountains, hilltop forts, marbled palaces, fine architecture and an array of temples and pagodas fashioned by the wide diversity of religions. Natural wonders range from the deserts of Oman and China and the majesty of the Himalayas to tigers, Asiatic lions and elephants.

Australia offers incredible experiences of fine cities and amazing flora and fauna from the Great Barrier Reef to Ayers Rock.

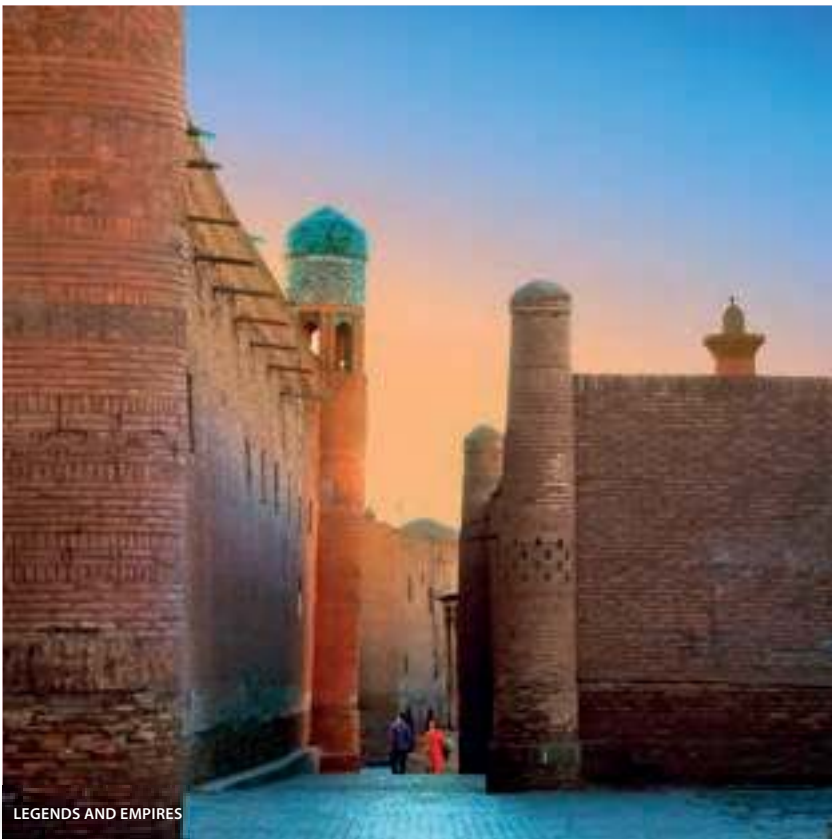
For our full range of tours visit vjv.com/asia-pacific-tours



DISCOVER JAPAN



WILD BORNEO



LEGENDS AND EMPIRES



BHUTAN & THE HIMALAYAS

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TREASURES OF INDOCHINA



Ann McNulty, Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Bhutan & the Himalayas

Visiting Bhutan was a wonderful experience - a very interesting place to visit & the week we spent there covered all the main experiences which I had hoped for.

feefo

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

9 nights
from
£1895



OVERVIEW

Dead Sea (2 nights)

Amman (2 nights)

Petra (3 nights)

Aqaba (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

5-Star & Historic Hotels

No Single Supplement

Solo Group Departure (see page 7)

Group Size: 6 – 25

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.

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'.



Jerash

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London Heathrow to Amman.

Two nights at the 5-star Mövenpick Resort Dead Sea.

DAY 2 Morning free to float on the

Dead Sea. Visit Mount Nebo and Madaba's St. George's Church, archaeological park and Church of the Apostles. Lunch at a traditional restaurant in Madaba. (B, L)

DAY 3 Visit Bethany and ancient Jerash.

Continue to Amman for two nights at the central 5-star Mövenpick Amman Hotel. (B)

DAY 4 Visit the Citadel, Royal Automobile Museum and Desert Castles. Optional dinner at a Jordanian restaurant (bookable locally). (B)

DAY 5 Visit the Jordan Museum and Kerak Castle. Continue to Petra for three nights at the 5-star Mövenpick Petra, located at the entrance to the site. Dinner at a camp. (B, D)

DAY 6 Morning guided visit of Petra (4 hrs of walking) and afternoon free to explore (perhaps climb up to the Monastery, el-Deir). Enjoy a drink at the Nabataean Cave Bar. (B)

DAY 7 Return to Petra for a morning walk up to the High Place of Sacrifice. Afternoon at leisure. Optional Petra by Candlelight at the Siq 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 and dinner at a Bedouin Camp. Continue to Aqaba for two nights at the 5-star Mövenpick Aqaba. (B, D)

DAY 9 Optional excursion on 'Yellow Submarine' (£30), a semi-submersible viewing the Red Sea marine splendours and coral reserve. Farewell drink on a sunset cruise on a traditional yacht. (B)

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

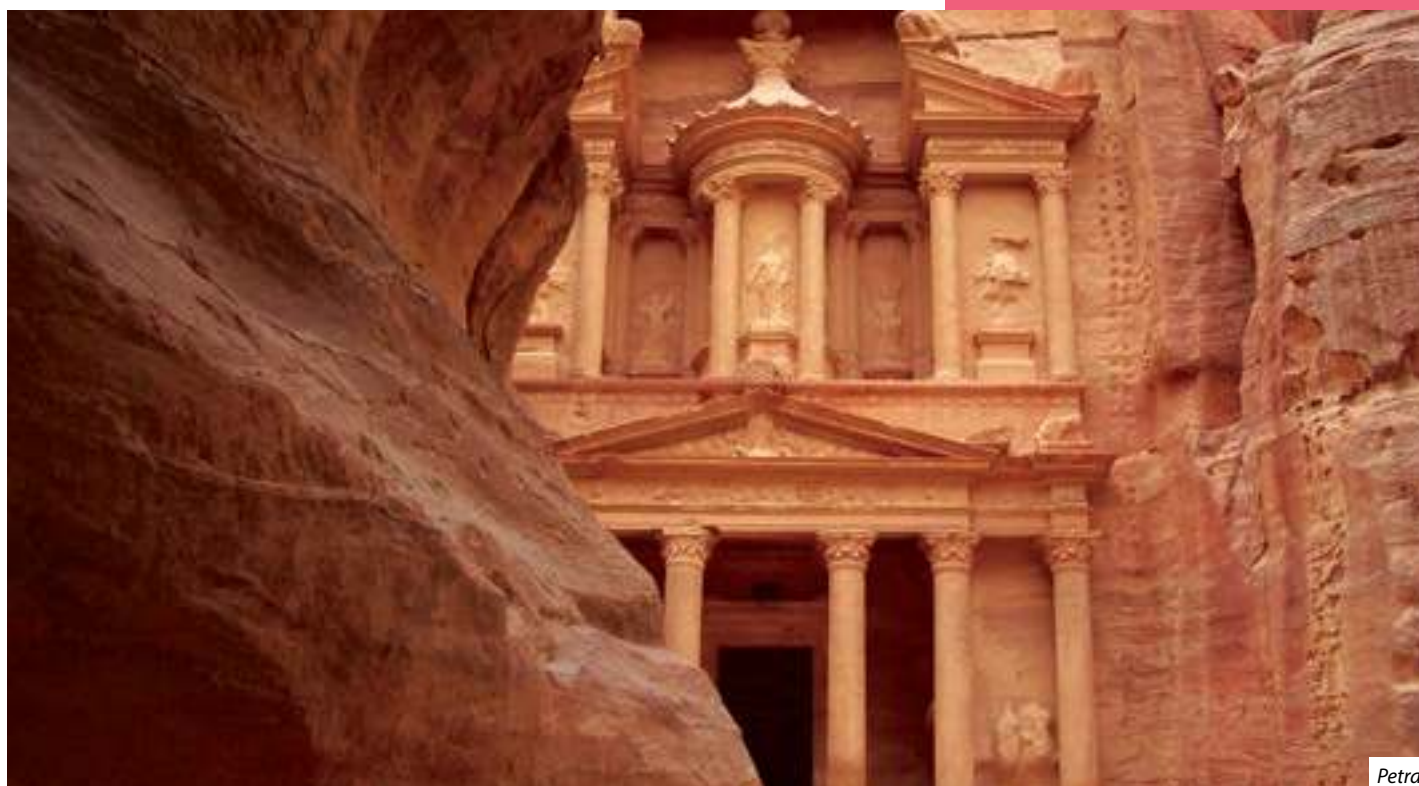
All hotels have a restaurant(s), bar, pool and gym. Air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV.

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).



Petra



Aqaba

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
Royal Jordanian from Heathrow*

2022 – Tuesdays

Mar 22	£2295	Oct 4, 18	£2295
Apr 5, 12, 19#	£2295	Oct 25	£2345
May 3, 17	£2345	Nov 1	£2345
May 24	£2295	Nov 8	£2295
Aug 30	£2195	Nov 15*	£2195
Sep 6, 13	£2195	Dec 6	£1995

2023 – Tuesdays

Jan 17*	£1895	Aug 29	£2195
Feb 14, 21*	£2095	Sep 5, 12	£2195
Mar 7	£2195	Oct 3, 17	£2295
Mar 21	£2295	Oct 24, 31	£2345
Apr 4, 11, 18	£2295	Nov 7	£2295
May 2, 16	£2345	Nov 14*	£2195
May 23	£2295	Dec 5	£1995

2022 & 2023 – Tuesdays (Solo Groups)

Jan 25*	£1895	Jan 24*	£1895
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Supplements per person

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

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, visa procurement+ (British passport holders), 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.

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 – £295

Single supplement – £215

Extra nights – Aqaba

Per night – £65 (Apr/May/Sep/Oct £90)

Single supplement – £40

(Apr/May/Sep/Oct £65)



Mövenpick Aqaba

TREASURES OF PETRA

4 nights from £995

Alternatively, if you are short on time spend a few nights in Jordan's coastal port & resort of Aqaba and in ancient Petra at a special tariff, staying in classic 5-star resorts in prime locations. Guided visits to Petra, Little Petra, Wadi Rum & Shobak castle. Free time to explore independently or relax by the beach.



Wadi Rum

FROM JERUSALEM TO PETRA

A journey through the Holy Land from Israel to Jordan, combining religious history, cultural heritage and natural beauty

12 nights
from
£2975



OVERVIEW

Tel Aviv (1 night)
Haifa (2 nights)
Jerusalem (3 nights)
Aqaba (2 nights)
Petra (2 nights)
Dead Sea (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
New Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 8 – 25

SPECIAL EVENTS

Shabbat Dinner & Perspectives of Petra

Enjoy an authentic Shabbat dinner at a local family home in Jerusalem.

A special dinner at a camp on the outskirts of Petra with traditional baking and cooking and a drink at the Nabataean Cave Bar.

INTRODUCTION

The Middle East is a region rich in history and the physical and cultural landscapes of Israel and Jordan bear witness to this. Over millennia empires and armies have swept through, laying claim to the cities and land and leaving a legacy of palaces, harbours, forts and temples of worship.

Israel is an evocative country, a land of ancient miracles and volatile politics, where past and present are linked. The country is of great importance to three major world faiths – Christianity, Islam and Judaism; the heritage of this is evident in the eclectic mix of people and cultures in the country.

Jordan unearths fascinating cultural and religious heritage and diverse natural wonders. Visit ancient, biblical and historic sites including the holy sites of Mount Nebo, where Moses viewed the 'Promised Land', Madaba for its ancient Holy Land mosaic map and Roman Jerash.

Jordan's natural beauty is all around from the red dusty desert scenes of Wadi Rum, to the indigo waters and marine splendours of the Red Sea and the unique waters of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth.



Caesarea

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from Heathrow to Tel Aviv. Transfer to 4-star Tal by the Beach Hotel for overnight.

DAY 2 Travel via old Jaffa along the coast to the ancient Roman town Caesarea. Visit the excavations of the crusader city. Continue to Haifa for a view from Mount Carmel over the Bay of Haifa and the famous Bahá'í Gardens. Drive north to Rosh Hanikra, take the steepest cable car in the world down to the sea grottoes. Return to Haifa for two nights at the 4-star The Colony Hotel. (B)

DAY 3 Drive to Safed, the centre of Jewish mysticism, to visit the ancient synagogue and the artist's colony, continue to the Golan Heights for a panoramic view of Syria and Israel. Enjoy a wine tasting. (B)

DAY 4 Travel to Nazareth and visit 'Nazareth Village', continue to Lake Galilee and the biblical site of Capernaum. Drive to Megiddo, the site of Armageddon to visit the archaeological excavations and to Beit Alpha to see the remains of the mosaic floor of an ancient synagogue. Stay for three nights at the 4-star Arthur Hotel in Jerusalem. Shabbat Dinner. (B, D)

DAY 5 Drive to Mount Olives for a view over the old city and a walking tour of its four quarters including the Tomb of King David and the room of the Last Supper, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Temple Mount and the Western Wall. (B)

DAY 6 Visit to the Shrine of the Book and Second Temple Model at the Israel Museum, Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial and Mea She'arim one of the oldest Jewish neighbourhoods. Evening Sound and Light show at the Tower of David. (B)

DAY 7 Travel through the Judean wilderness to the Dead Sea and by cable car to King Herod's desert fortress of Masada. Continue to Eilat and cross the Arava border in to



Jordan. Transfer to the 5-star Mövenpick Aqaba Resort for two nights. (B)

DAY 8 A day to relax or take the optional 'Yellow Submarine' (£30), a semi-submersible viewing the Red Sea marine splendours and coral reserve. Sunset drink and cruise. (B)

DAY 9 Travel to Wadi Rum and enjoy a 4x4 drive in the desert to view the 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom'. Continue to Little Petra for a visit. Two nights at the 5-star Petra Marriott Hotel. Enjoy a drink at the Nabataean Cave Bar. Optional Petra by Candlelight (£25, bookable locally). (B)

DAY 10 Morning guided visit of Petra (4 hrs of walking) and afternoon free to explore independently (perhaps climb up to the Monastery, el-Deir). Special dinner at a camp. (B, D)

DAY 11 Travel to Madaba (3 hrs) to visit St. George's Church, the archaeological park and Church of the Apostles. Visit Mount Nebo and continue to the 5-star Marriott Dead Sea & Spa for two nights. (B, L)

DAY 12 Visit ancient Jerash. Free time to float on the Dead Sea. (B)

DAY 13 Early morning return flight to London Heathrow. (B)



Dead Sea



Petra



Jerusalem

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Tuesdays

Mar 8	£3195	Oct 25	£3245
Aug 30	£3195	Nov 8	£3195

2023 – Tuesdays

Feb 21	£2975	Oct 24	£3195
Mar 7	£3195	Nov 7	£3195
Aug 29	£3145		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £1145 (Jan/Feb 2022 £955;
Aug 2022 £1075; Feb 2023 £975; Mar/Aug 2023
£1095; Oct 2023 £1165)

London-Tel Aviv

British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £295

London-Tel Aviv/Amman-London

British Airways Club World – from £895

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, Jordan visa procurement (British passport holders – excluded on independent arrival or returning on a different date), transfers, 12 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £550

Arrival transfer £45

Departure transfer £39

Notes

This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot and sites with steps/inclines and uneven surfaces. For safety reasons 4x4 drives would have to be done whilst sitting inside the vehicle.

EXTRA NIGHTS – TEL AVIV/DEAD SEA

Extend your stay in the 'White City' Tel Aviv at the 4-star Tal by the Beach Hotel, a newly refurbished hotel, a few steps away from the beach or at the 5-star Marriott Hotel & Spa on the shores of the mineral rich Dead Sea.

Tal by the Beach Hotel (per night) – £125

Single supplement – £105

Marriott Dead Sea & Spa (per night) – £80

Single supplement – £70



Tal by the Beach Hotel

TREASURES OF THE HOLY LAND

Explore the contrasts between modern Tel Aviv, the towns of Caesarea, Haifa and Acre along the Mediterranean coast, Lake Galilee, the West Bank and traditional Jerusalem

8 nights
from
£1825



OVERVIEW

Tel Aviv (1 night)
Haifa (2 nights)
Lake Galilee (1 night)
Taybeh (1 night)
Jerusalem (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Group Size: 8 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Shabbat Dinner

Enjoy an authentic Shabbat dinner at a local family home in Jerusalem. Experience Jewish hospitality over a Kosher meal and learn about the Friday night traditions and their daily lives.

INTRODUCTION

Israel lies at the heart of The Holy Land, an intriguing and diverse land of great importance to three of the world's major faiths – Christianity, Judaism and Islam. We are pleased to announce a new programme exploring the wonders of Israel and the Palestinian Territories.

In the north lies Nazareth, the childhood home of Jesus. The spectacular Church of the Annunciation is believed to be where the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her of her forthcoming child. Israel's main source of water comes from the Sea of Galilee or Lake Tiberias, located 212 metres below sea level. Jesus preached at Tabgha and many of his disciples were fishermen. The town of Capernaum was the home of Jesus and the Mount of Beatitudes is the site of the 'Sermon on the Mount'.

In Jerusalem, the Old and New Testaments come to life on the Mount of Olives and Via Dolorosa, in the Garden of Gethsemane and Church of the Holy Sepulchre and at Temple Mount and the Western Wall. King Herod's desert fortress of Masada is where the last Jewish rebels committed suicide rather than fall into the hands of the Romans.



Haifa

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Tel Aviv. Transfer to BY 14 Hotel for overnight.

DAY 2 Drive through modern Tel Aviv and its Bauhaus architecture, continue to old Jaffa. Travel along the coast to the ancient Roman town Caesarea. Continue to Haifa for a view from Mount Carmel over the Bay of Haifa and the famous Bahá'í Gardens. Spend two nights at the 4-star The Colony Hotel. (B)

DAY 3 Travel to Acre to visit the old crusader city and its magnificent underground Knights hall. Walk through the oriental bazaar. At Nazareth visit the Church of the Annunciation and 'Nazareth Village' for an experience of ancient life in the Galilee. (B)

DAY 4 Drive to Lake Galilee for a boat ride and visits to an ancient boat museum, Tabgha and Capernaum. Continue to the Golan Heights and Banias, one of the sources of the Jordan River. Drive to the top of Mount Bental for a panoramic view of the Golan Heights and Syria. Enjoy a wine tasting. Overnight at Ein Gev Kibbutz. (B, D)

DAY 5 Travel to Bet She'an, the best preserved Roman Byzantine town in Israel and through the Jordan Valley to Jericho, the oldest city in the world. Transfer to Taybeh, a Palestinian village for overnight at the 4-star Golden Hotel. Brewery visit. (B, D)

DAY 6 Drive to Jerusalem and Mount Olives for a breath-taking view over the old city and Garden of Gethsemane. A walking tour of the old city with its four quarters including Via Dolorosa, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Temple Mount, 'Western Wall', the City of David, Hezekiah's Tunnel and Pool of Bethesda. Transfer to 4-star Dan Boutique Hotel for three nights. Shabbat Dinner. (B, D)

DAY 7 Travel through the Judean wilderness to the Dead Sea for a float. Cable car to King Herod's desert fortress of Masada. (B)



DAY 8 Visit to Yad Vashem, Israel's Holocaust memorial and the Shrine of the Book and Second Temple model at the Israel Museum. Drive to Bethlehem to visit the Church of Nativity with time to meet locals at the Tent of Nations and hear about the life of Palestinians. (B)

DAY 9 Transfer to Tel Aviv for return flight. (B)

Note: This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot and sites with steps/inclines and uneven surfaces.

ACCOMMODATION

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

BY 14 Hotel: An urban boutique hotel with 108 rooms in a central location.

The Colony Hotel: A 4-star boutique hotel with 40 rooms in the German Colony area.

Ein Gev Kibbutz: A resort with 166 rooms on the eastern shores of Lake Galilee.

Golden Hotel: Modern 4-star hotel with 71 rooms in the village of Taybeh.

Dan Boutique Hotel: A contemporary 4-star hotel with 129 rooms, close to the 'Old Turkish Railway Station'.



Jerusalem



View from Masada



Galilee

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Sundays

Jun 19	£1895	Oct 23	£1925
Aug 14	£1945	Nov 13	£1925
Sep 4	£1845		

2023 – Sundays

Feb 19	£1825	Sep 3	£1945
Mar 19	£1945	Oct 22	£1995
Jun 18	£1965	Nov 12	£1995
Aug 13	£1995		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £625

(Jan/Feb 2022 £495; Aug 2022 £595;

Feb 2023 £545; Mar/Jun/Sep 2023 £655;

Aug/Oct/Nov 2023 £695)

British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £485

British Airways Club World – from £855

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 8 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £450

Arrival transfer £45

Departure transfer £75

EXTRA NIGHTS – TEL AVIV/JERUSALEM

Extend your stay in either the 'White City' Tel Aviv at the 4-star BY 14 Hotel, an urban boutique hotel with a central location or in the holy city of Jerusalem at the 4-star Dan Boutique Hotel, a 20-minute walk from the Old Town.

BY 14 Hotel (per night) – £105

Single supplement – £95

Dan Boutique Hotel (per night) – £105

Single supplement – £95



BY 14 Hotel

Kingdoms of Arabia

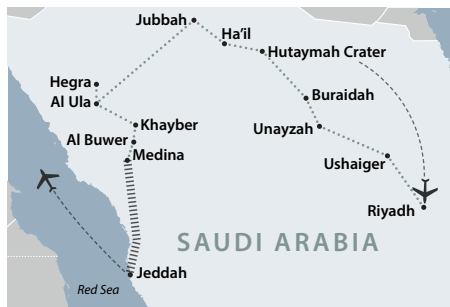
—— 10 nights from £4795 ——



Arabian Desert

Visiting: Riyadh – Diriyah – Ushaiger – Unaizah – Buraidah – Hutaymah Crater – Ha'il – Jubbah
Al Ula – Hegra – Khayber – Al Buwer, Hejaz Railway – Medina – Jeddah

Join us to discover this land of extreme contrast that has long been inaccessible to the western traveller. From the cosmopolitan cities of Jeddah with its Ottoman influences and the riches of Riyadh to the bustling camel markets, mud settlements and traditional stunning oasis. Discover incredible and remote heritage sites on old caravan routes, spectacular pre-historic rock art ranging from the 3rd millennium BC through the post-Classical period and Lawrence's Arabian Deserts. One for the intrepid traveller; a land shrouded in mystery, steeped in ancient traditions, yet one where a cultural shift and reforms are underway.



For full details of our itinerary see vjv.com/themes/great-journeys



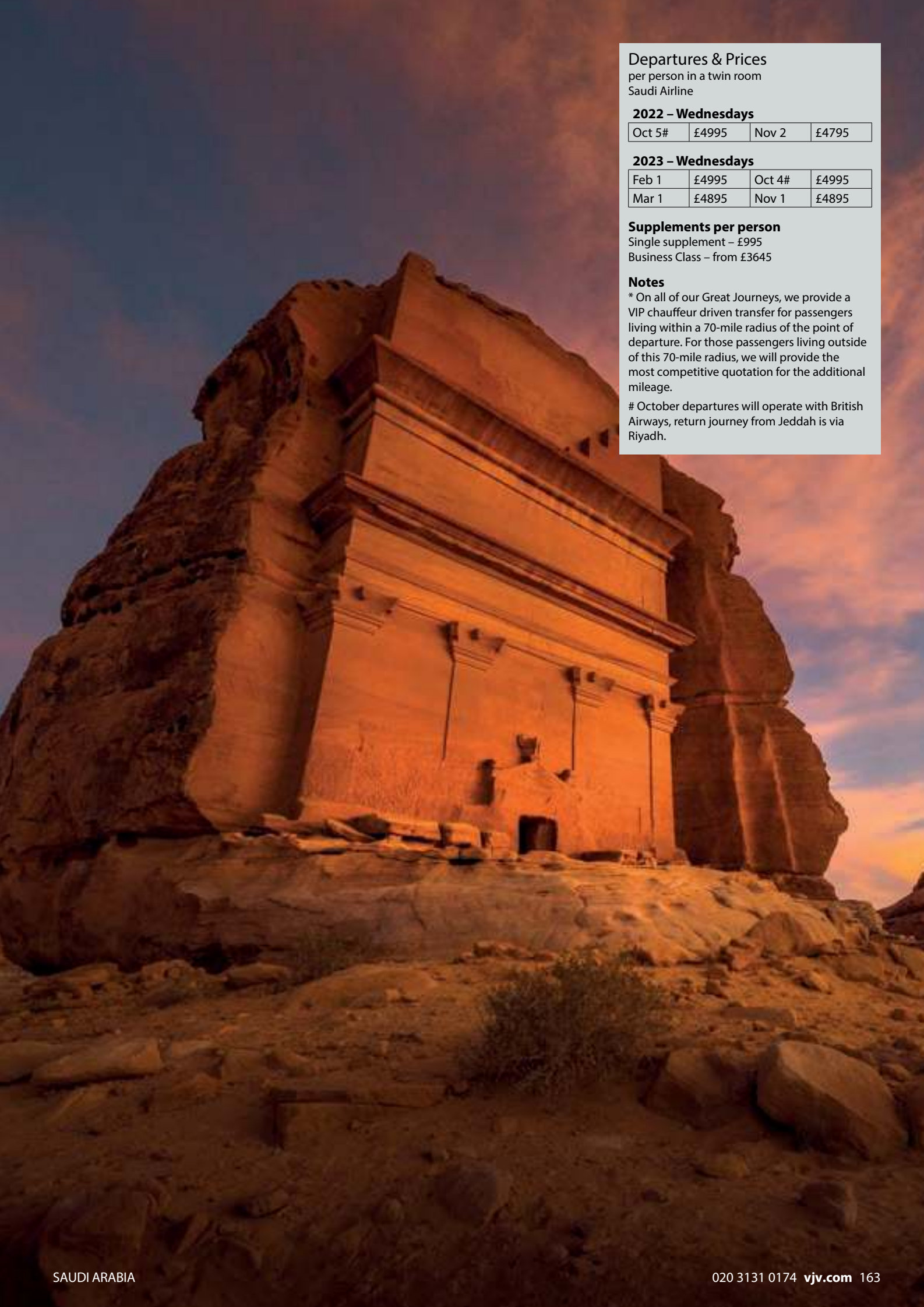
Hejaz Railway

Follow in the footsteps of great explorers, discover pristine deserts, lava fields studded with volcanoes and behold great 'cathedrals' of fabulously weathered rock. Explore labyrinthine streets of ancient cities, where the rhythm of life is unchanged over millennia. Boasting five UNESCO World Heritage sites, the rich history of the land's kingdoms is recorded across the landscape. Discover Al Ula, capital of the ancient kingdoms of Dadan and Liyan, southernmost point of Roman presence in Arabia. Explore incredible Hegra, southern capital of the Nabatean Kingdom, second only to Petra, Ottoman desert castles and Lawrence's Deserts.



What's Included

- 10 nights' accommodation • UNESCO World Heritage Sites • Jeddah Old Town with Expert Conservationist • Camel Markets of Buraidah
- Petroglyphs of Jubba • Desert Safari • Mosque Visit with an Iman • Price Guarantee • VIP Chauffeur Driven Transfer* • Group Size 6 – 18



Departures & Prices

per person in a twin room
Saudi Airline

2022 – Wednesdays

Oct 5#	£4995	Nov 2	£4795
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2023 – Wednesdays

Feb 1	£4995	Oct 4#	£4995
Mar 1	£4895	Nov 1	£4895

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £995

Business Class – from £3645

Notes

* On all of our Great Journeys, we provide a VIP chauffeur driven transfer for passengers living within a 70-mile radius of the point of departure. For those passengers living outside of this 70-mile radius, we will provide the most competitive quotation for the additional mileage.

October departures will operate with British Airways, return journey from Jeddah is via Riyadh.

PEAKS & PETROGLYPHS

Discover the mountains, lakes, nomadic peoples, caravan cities and ancient trading routes of Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan

10 nights
from
£2045



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Almaty (2 nights)
Bishkek (2 nights)
Chon-Kemin (1 night)
Lake Issyk-Kul (1 night)
Karakol (1 night)
Almaty (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
UNESCO World Heritage Site: Tamgaly
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 5 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Kyrgyz Folk Concert

Enjoy a special concert with Kyrgyz musicians and singers dressed in national costume.

INTRODUCTION

Kyrgyzstan, part of the former Soviet Union lies in the heart of the Eurasian continent and once straddled the Great Silk Road. This mountainous country offers spectacular scenery, wildlife, traditional nomadic culture, unique crafts and archaeological sites connected with the silk route.

Bishkek, the greenest city in central Asia was founded on the site of the ancient Silk Road settlement and originally a caravan stop, where peaks and valleys divide the scenery into different landscapes, micro climates and habitats. Lake Issyk-Kul is the second largest alpine lake in the world after Lake Titicaca and is dominated by ruggedly beautiful mountains.

South east Kazakhstan is home to forests and high mountains and was an important trading route during the days of the Silk Road. The former capital, Almaty became a Russian outpost in 1854, and still reflects some typical Soviet style but retains some old fashioned charm and sophisticated ambience.



Burana Tower, Kyrgyzstan

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport via Istanbul to Almaty in Kazakhstan.
DAY 2 Early morning arrival and transfer to the 4-star Hotel Kazzhol Almaty for two nights. Afternoon tour including Panfilov Park, Zenkov Cathedral and the Museum of Kazakh Musical Instruments. (B, L)
DAY 3 A dramatic drive up to the Medeo skating rink, the highest in the world. Afternoon visit to the Historical Museum of Almaty. (B, L)
DAY 4 Visit the Tamgaly Petroglyphs (3 hrs). Cross the border and continue to Bishkek (3 hrs). Special Event. Two nights at the 4-star Ambassador Hotel or similar. (B, L, D)
DAY 5 Visit the picturesque Ala-Archa National Park. Afternoon city tour. (B, L)
DAY 6 Visit the Burana Tower, part of the ancient city of Balasagun and continue to Chon-Kemin. Overnight at the special category Ashu Guesthouse. (B, L, D)
DAY 7 Travel to Cholpon-Ata at Lake Issyk-Kul. Visit the Saka-Usun petroglyphs. Optional cruise on Lake Issyk-Kul (bookable locally). Overnight at the 4-star Caprice Hotel or similar. (B, L, D)
DAY 8 Karakol city tour including the Przhvalsky Museum, Dungan Mosque, Orthodox Church and Djety-Oguz gorge. Overnight at the 4-star Green Yard Hotel or Karagat Hotel. (B, L, D)
DAY 9 Pass through the picturesque Karkara-Kegen valleys. Cross the border to Kazakhstan (10 hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Hotel Kazzhol Almaty. (B, L, D)
DAY 10 Visit Big Almaty Lake in the Tien Shan mountains. (B, L, D)
DAY 11 Return flight. (B)



TRAVEL IN CENTRAL ASIA

Hotels in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan are simple and unpretentious but well-located with a restaurant, bar and air-conditioned rooms with private facilities and satellite TV. There may be water and electricity shortages and, on occasion, alternative hotels may be used. WiFi (free) is available although it can be intermittent. Food is based on fresh local produce but can be repetitive and provision of special dietary requirements may be limited. Travel between the cities by road involves some long journeys with only limited opportunities for comfort breaks. Porters are unavailable at some hotels and during border crossings. The order of sightseeing may vary in accordance with local conditions.

**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £200
New prices shown in white



Issyk-Kul Lake, Kyrgyzstan



Karakol Plateau



Holy Trinity Cathedral, Karakol



Petroglyphs, Tamgaly

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

May 11	£2045	Aug 17	£2145
May 25	£2125	Sep 14	£2245
Jun 15	£2125	Oct 5	£2045

2023 – Wednesdays

May 10	£2045	Aug 16	£2125
May 24	£2075	Sep 13	£2125
Jun 14	£2075	Oct 4	£2045

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £295 (Aug-Sep £335)
Turkish Airlines from Manchester – nil
Turkish Airlines Business Class – from £1645

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 9 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 9 lunches (packed lunch on Day 4 & 9) and 6 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £550
Arrival or departure transfer £15

EXTRA NIGHTS – ALMATY

Extend your visit in the leafy city Almaty, with a backdrop of snowcapped mountains. Stay at the 4-star Hotel Kazzhol, a few minutes walk from the Zhibek Zholy Metro station. Restaurant, bar, pool, spa and WiFi (free). 175 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.

(per night) – £55
Single supplement – £30



Almaty, Kazakhstan

SILK ROAD EXPRESS

Retrace the remarkable trading routes of ancient civilisations along the legendary Silk Road by private train

14 nights
from
£6345



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)

Almaty (1 night)

Train (4 nights)

Samarkand (2 nights)

Train (2 nights), Bukhara (1 night)

Train (1 night)

Ashgabat (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour

Rail Journey by Private Train

7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

All Meals Included

UK Tour Manager

Group Size: 10 – 22

INTRODUCTION

Follow in the footsteps of explorers, traders and tyrants, from Alexander the Great to Genghis Khan and Tamerlane. No other road or trail in history stirs the imagination as much, with its evocative mystery, as the legendary Silk Road, the most important ancient network of trading routes between China and Europe connecting continents, peoples and cultures. Proving relatively inaccessible to the modern visitor until fairly recently, this rail journey provides the opportunity to focus on this historic and bustling route that has so much to interest and entice the intrepid traveller.

Journey through the Central Asian countries of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, from Samarkand to ancient Merv and the legendary high passes of the Tian Shan Mountains. This rail journey is a true voyage of discovery, revealing the many cultures along the Silk Road. Traverse stunning desert and mountain scenery and discover incredible architecture. Combine hotel stays with train nights and discover the hidden treasures of Central Asia.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from London Heathrow via Istanbul to Almaty at the foot of the mighty Tian Shan Mountains.

DAY 2 Early morning transfer to the 4-star Rahat Palace Hotel in Almaty for overnight.

DAY 3 Explore Almaty, visit Zenkov Russian Orthodox Cathedral, the Wedding Palace and Central Mosque. Lunch in a traditional Kazakh yurt. Depart on your private train to Turkestan. Overnight on board. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Arrive in Turkestan, centre of nomad pilgrimage. Visit the Mausoleum of Khawaja Ahmed Yasawi, a most significant example of Timurid architecture. Continue towards Tashkent. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 In Tashkent, Uzbekistan's capital, explore Madrasa Kukeldash, Kavoj and Amir Timur monuments and typical mud brick houses. Attend a local concert. Depart on the Silk Road trail. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Travel through mountainous territory where Greek heritage and the influences of Bactrians and Kushan Empires remain, where fire worship and shamanism is still practiced. Trade caravans once travelled these narrow mountain gorges, the armies of Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan and Timur also passed by. A traditional ceremony offers insight into the region's folklore. At Shakhrisabz, birth place of Timur visit the monumental architecture of the Mongol palace. Depart for the city of Samarkand. Sample Uzbek wines. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Arrive in Samarkand, the world's most beautiful and prestigious city under Timur. Visit Registan, the medieval central square, among Central Asia's most notable architectural ensembles, and the excavation sites at Afrasiyab. Stay two nights at the 4-star Registan Plaza. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 At this cultural crossroads visit the Ulug Beg Observatory and remains of Bibi-Khanym Mosque. View the interior of the palace-like Gur Emir Mausoleum and a silk carpet factory. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Morning at leisure until we depart by train for the oasis town of Khiva. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Explore Khiva on foot, founded some 2,500 years ago, it is a true living museum and beautifully preserved city. Lunch in a former emir's Summer Palace. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 In the Kyzylkum Desert, Bukhara has over a thousand architectural monuments from the golden age of the Silk Route. Visit the Old Town, see Kalyan Minaret and Lyabi-Khauz Square. Enjoy a performance of local dances. Transfer to the 4-star Hotel Asia Bukhara for overnight. (B, L, D)



Minara-i Kalan, Bukhara, Uzbekistan

DAY 12 Visit Mir-e-Arab Madrasah and the Samanid Mausoleum. Explore the massive Ark Citadel, a city within a city, formerly the seat of government for Bukhara. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Arrive at the site of Mary (Merv), 'Ancient Pearl of the East,' once a magnificent city. Gigantic walls and ramparts stand in the desert with ancient ruins and tombs. Lunch with a local family. Overnight at the 4-star Grand Turkmen Hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 14 Visit the site of the ancient Parthian, city of Nisa, the city museum and market, explore the modern capital of Turkmenistan. Hotel rooms are available until departure. (B, L, D)

DAY 15 Return flight in the early hours via Istanbul to London.

Notes: Excursions are on foot and may be over uneven ground and inclines.

Whilst the train carries more, the group size specified refers to transfers and excursion arrangements for the Jules Verne group.

On occasion alternative hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.



Temple in Desert, Merv, Turkmenistan



Almaty, Kazakhstan

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin room/Ali Baba Compartment
Turkish Airlines from Heathrow

2022 – Wednesday

Oct 5	£6595
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2023 – Wednesdays

Mar 29	£6345	Oct 4	£6695
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £1645 (2023 £1575)
 Aladdin Compartment – £595 (2023 £395)
 Single supplement
 (Aladdin Compartment for Sole Use) – £2495
 (2023 £2275)
 Sultan Compartment – £3995 (2023 £3745)
 Single supplement
 (Sultan Compartment for Sole Use) – £7995
 Kalif Compartment – £4495 (2023 £3975)
 Single supplement
 (Kalif Compartment for Sole Use) – £8495
 (2023 £8795)
 Turkish Airlines from Manchester – nil
 Turkish Airlines Business Class – from £1595

Price Includes

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

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £500
 Arrival or departure transfer £30

ORIENT SILK ROAD EXPRESS

Comprised of sleeping and dining cars that convert to bar cars, the set was refurbished in 2013, offering a high standard of safety, service and comfort. The train is air-conditioned during transit and offers four compartment categories:

Ali Baba Compartment: Two lower beds. Nine compartments within each carriage with combined toilet and wash facilities at both ends of each carriage.

Aladdin Compartment: Two lower beds. Eight compartments with a shower facility in each carriage. Combined toilet and wash facilities are located at both ends of each carriage.

Sultan Compartment: Upper/lower berths with a seating area, private facilities and integrated shower. Six compartments in each carriage.

Kalif Compartment: Upper/lower berths with a seating area, private facilities and separate shower. Four compartments in each carriage.



Aladdin Compartment



Orient Silk Road Express

THE GOLDEN ROAD TO SAMARKAND

Travelling the ancient Silk Road, one of the greatest trade routes in history to Tamerlane's capital, ancient Khiva and Bukhara

11 nights
from
£1995



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 7)
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 4 – 25

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.

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 Ramada Tashkent for overnight. Afternoon city tour. (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. \$35). (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)

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 Heathrow, arriving later the same day. (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.



Registan Square, Samarkand



Kukeldash Madrasah, Tashkent

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Fridays

Apr 8	£2045	Sep 2, 9	£2145
Apr 22	£2075	Sep 16, 23	£2145
May 6	£2245	Sep 30	£2145
May 13, 20	£2195	Oct 7	£2145
Jun 3*	£2075	Oct 14*	£2095
Jun 10*	£2095	Oct 21*	£2045
Jul 29*	£2095	Oct 28*	£1995
Aug 12*	£2095		

2022/23 – Fridays (Solo Groups)

Mar 25*	£2045	Mar 24 *	£2075
Jul 1*	£2095	Jun 30*	£2095
Nov 4*	£1995	Nov 3*	£2075

2023 – Fridays

Apr 7*	£2095	Sep 1, 8	£2125
Apr 21	£2095	Sep 15, 22	£2125
May 5, 12	£2125	Sep 29	£2125
May 19	£2125	Oct 6	£2145
Jun 2*, 9*	£2095	Oct 13*	£2095
Jul 28*	£2095	Oct 20*	£2075
Aug 11*	£2095	Oct 27*	£2075

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Single supplement – £345 (2023 £365)

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.

EXTENSION – FERGHANA VALLEY

Travel by road to this scenic valley famous for widespread Central Asian silk production. Two nights at the 3-star Voyage 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 – £525; Single supplement – £90



Khan's Palace, Kokand

HIGHLIGHTS OF UZBEKISTAN

7 nights from £1495

Alternatively, enjoy a shorter great value tour of the Silk Road cities of Uzbekistan. Travel by high speed railway from the bustling capital of Tashkent to the UNESCO listed Bukhara and overland to Samarkand with the magnificent Registan Square at the heart of the ancient city. Spend two nights in each city.

No Single Supplement/Solo Group Departures



Bukhara

Legends and Empires

— 25 nights from £8495 —



Merv, Turkmenistan

Visiting: Almaty – Charyn (Kolsai Lakes) – Bishkek – Issyk-Kul Lake – Karakol – Osh
Fergana Valley (Margilan, Rishtan and Kokand) – Tashkent – Khujand – Iskanderkul – Penjikent
Samarkand (Shakhrisabz) – Bukhara – Mary – Merv – Ashgabat – Dashoguz (Urgench) – Khiva – Nukus

Experience a Central Asian Odyssey on this epic journey as we explore the Legends and Empires of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Discover amazing heritage, fabulous local hospitality and modern cosmopolitan cities. Tucked between India, Russia and China, the mountains, steppe and deserts were once a mix of feudal khanates and for millennia the centre of civilisation. More recently they formed republics under Stalin's rule.

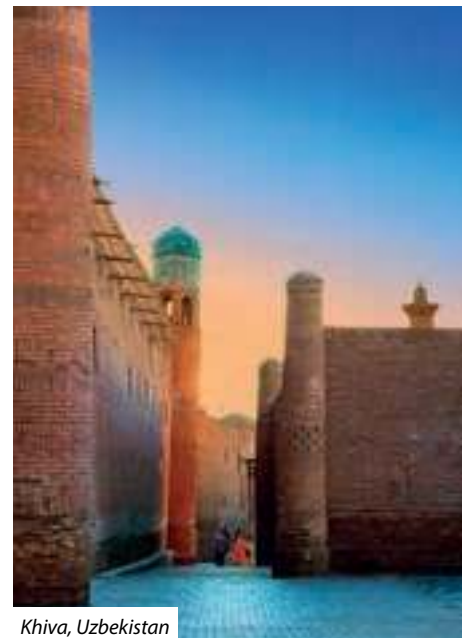


For full details of our itinerary see
vjv.com/themes/great-journeys



Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan

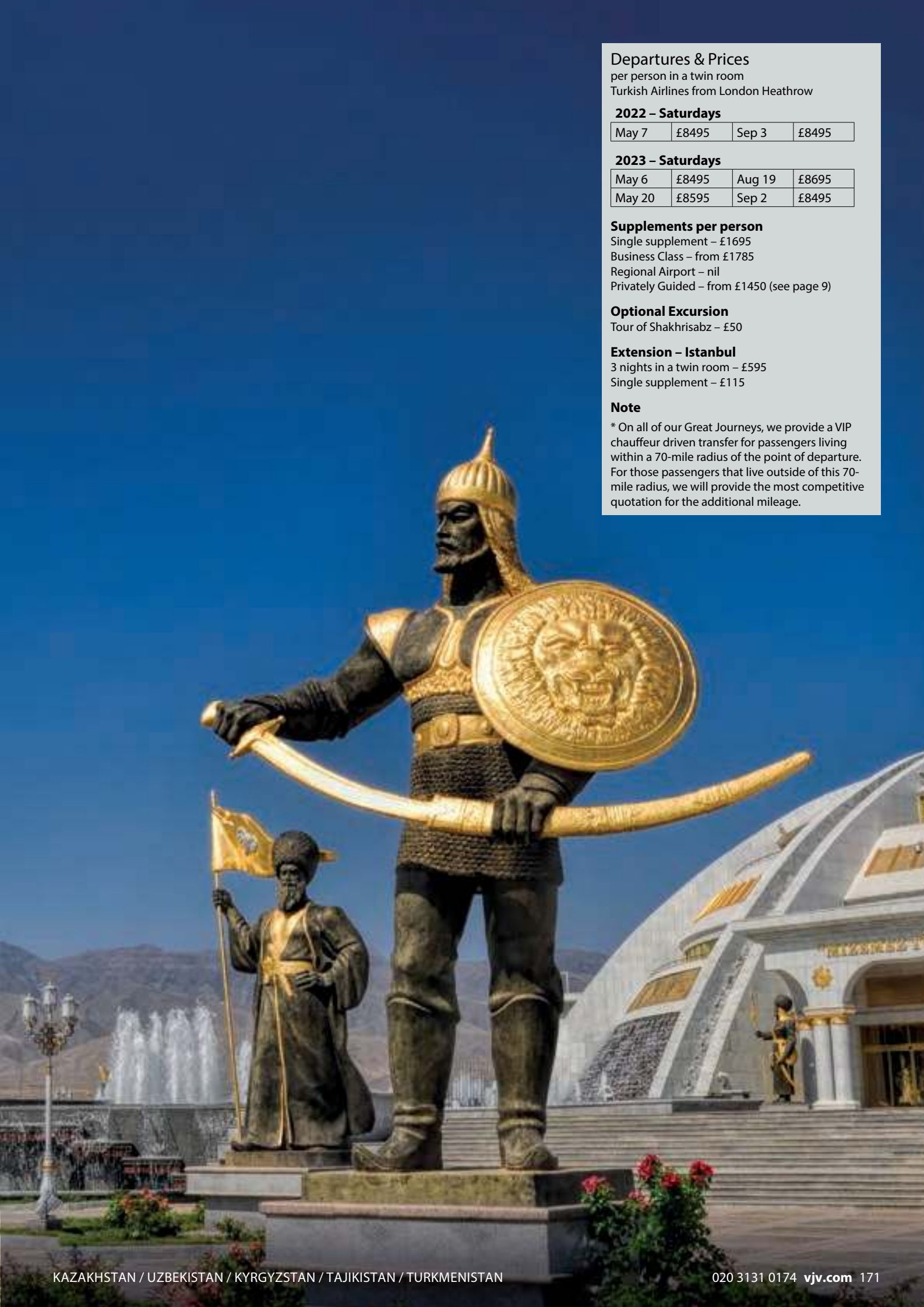
Possibly some of the world's least visited and least known destinations. Take this journey with us and discover ancient lands and medieval cities on old caravan routes. Explore the architectural wonders that form Uzbekistan's Silk Road cities, the incredible Kazakh countryside, Kyrgyzstan's stunning mountains and nomadic horse-riding culture, Tajikistan's wonderfully simple way of life and Turkmenistan's heritage sites including Merv, a desert city sacked by Genghis Khan. Enjoy a Great Journey of discovery exploring the road less recently travelled, in the 5 Stans of Central Asia.



Khiva, Uzbekistan

What's Included

- 24 nights' accommodation • Exploration of the Five Stans of Central Asia • Epic Landscape and Natural Wonders • Architectural Marvels
- UNESCO World Heritage Sites • Expert Local Guides • UK Tour Manager • Price Guarantee • VIP Chauffeur Driven Transfer* • Group Size 6 – 18



Departures & Prices

per person in a twin room
Turkish Airlines from London Heathrow

2022 – Saturdays

May 7	£8495	Sep 3	£8495
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2023 – Saturdays

May 6	£8495	Aug 19	£8695
May 20	£8595	Sep 2	£8495

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £1695
Business Class – from £1785
Regional Airport – nil
Privately Guided – from £1450 (see page 9)

Optional Excursion

Tour of Shakhrisabz – £50

Extension – Istanbul

3 nights in a twin room – £595
Single supplement – £115

Note

* On all of our Great Journeys, we provide a VIP chauffeur driven transfer for passengers living within a 70-mile radius of the point of departure. For those passengers that live outside of this 70-mile radius, we will provide the most competitive quotation for the additional mileage.

GRAND TOUR OF SRI LANKA

Visit a wonderful array of ancient sites, hill stations, national parks, temples and wildlife on an enchanting tear-drop shaped island

11 nights
from
£2095



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Colombo (1), Galle (1)
Yala National Park (1)
Nuwara Eliya (1)
Kandy (2)
Dambulla (3)
Chilaw (1)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural, Countryside & Wildlife Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Rail Journey Included
Local Expert Guide Throughout
No Single Supplement / Solo Group
Group Size: 4 – 28

SPECIAL EVENT

Spices of Sri Lanka

Visit a spice garden to learn about the different spices used in Sri Lankan cooking. Enjoy a traditional lunch followed by a curry cooking demonstration.

INTRODUCTION

The island of Sri Lanka offers tremendous variety in terms of flora, fauna and topography, with a fascinating history and well-preserved ancient sites. Jules Verne are strong advocates of supporting tourism in areas affected by local external factors, as demonstrated with our offer of competitive prices to this magical island.

The 5th-century fortress Citadel of Sigiriya sits vertiginously high above the surrounding jungle on a massive rock and is best known for its views and rock paintings.

The 11th-century city of Polonnaruwa contains a fascinating range of ancient buildings and Anuradhapura was the first capital city of Sri Lanka. Dambulla is home to a beautifully painted cave temple and Kandy houses the island's most sacred Buddhist relic at its lakeside Temple of the Tooth.

Venturing further into the scenic heartlands of the country, the delightful hill station of Nuwara Eliya is visited and there is the opportunity to spot some of Sri Lanka's best known wildlife in Yala National Park.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from London Heathrow to Colombo.

DAY 2 Overnight in Colombo at the 4-star Mövenpick Colombo. (D)

DAY 3 Colombo panoramic city tour including 'Fort' the former British administrative centre, Pettah, the Kayman's Gate and the Dutch Church. Visit a turtle hatchery en route to Galle and visit the Old Dutch Fort. Overnight at the 4-star Le Grand Hotel. (B)

DAY 4 Drive to Yala (4 hrs). Jeep safari at Yala National Park, home to leopards, elephants and crocodiles. Overnight at the 4-star Jetwing Yala Hotel in Yala National Park. (B)

DAY 5 Travel to Nuwara Eliya, visit the ancient Buddhist temple of Buduruwagala and scenic area of Ella en route. Overnight at the 4-star Grand Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 6 By rail from Nanu Oya to Peradeniya, near Kandy (subject to change due to local conditions and schedule amendments). Visit the Temple of the Tooth. Stay two nights at the 4-star Golden Crown Hotel. Evening cultural show. (B)



DAY 7 Morning at leisure. Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens, renowned for its orchid collection and vast range of plants, palm trees, spices and medicinal plants. (B)

DAY 8 Visit a tea plantation and factory. Continue to the Habarana area. Enjoy a 'Spices of Sri Lanka' special event and a visit to Dambulla Cave Temple. Three nights at the 4-star Jetwing Lake, Dambulla. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Optional excursion to the 5th-century iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress† (bookable locally, approx. \$60). Afternoon visit to the ancient Polonnaruwa ruins. (B)

DAY 10 Visit the ruins of Anuradhapura previously one of the ancient capitals of Sri Lanka. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

DAY 11 Travel to the 4-star Anantaya Resort & Spa Hotel (4 hrs) in Chilaw for an afternoon at leisure and overnight stay. (B)

DAY 12 Return flight, arriving London Heathrow later the same day. (B)

Note: † Optional excursion on Day 9 involves many steps and steep inclines.





Galle



Dambulla Cave Temple



Sigiriya Rock Fortress



Polonnaruwa

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

Feb 23	£2395	Oct 19	£2145
Apr 13	£2395	Nov 16	£2195
May 4	£2095		

2023 – Wednesdays

Jan 18	£2245	Apr 12	£2245
Feb 1	£2295	May 3*	£2145
Feb 22	£2295	Oct 18*	£2145
Mar 8	£2295	Nov 15	£2295

2022/23 – Wednesdays (Solo Groups)

Jun 1	£2145	May 31	£2145
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Double for sole use – £395

SriLankan Airlines Business Class – from £1345

Privately Guided – £395 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Chilaw

Anantaya Resort (per night) – £90

Double for sole use – £70

Half board – £20; Full board – £35

Departure transfer – £40

Price Includes

Air travel, UK departure taxes, transfers, 10 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 2 lunches 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £650

Arrival transfer £25

Departure transfer £40

EXTENSION – KALPITIYA

Enjoy three nights at the Seth Dev Lagoon located in Kalpitiya town, surrounded by lush palm trees with the beach a few steps away. Pool, bar, restaurants, WiFi (free) and 22 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer and satellite TV. Includes a jeep safari in Wilpattu National Park, a visit to the Dutch Fort and boat safari on the Kalpitiya Lagoon.

3 nights – £345 (Apr-Jun £275)

Single supplement – £135 (Apr-Jun £90)



Return to Serendipity

—— 12 nights from £3595 ——



Visiting: Minuwangoda – Sigiriya – Dambulla – Polonnaruwa – Minneriya National Park
Dambulla – Kandy – Nurawa Eliya - Yala National Park – Galle

Join us as we explore Sri Lanka in comfort and style. A land of contrasts, sweeping from mountainous jungle terrain to vivid green tea plantations and beautiful beaches. This island paradise boasts a diverse and ancient heritage and quite wonderful cuisine, where British colonialism intersects with colourful and charming Sri Lankan culture. Explore the spectacular ruins in the north at Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa and Dambulla, the colonial highlands and Galle's UNESCO World Heritage sites. Encounter incredible and abundant wildlife and splendid nature in the National Parks at Minneriya and Yala.

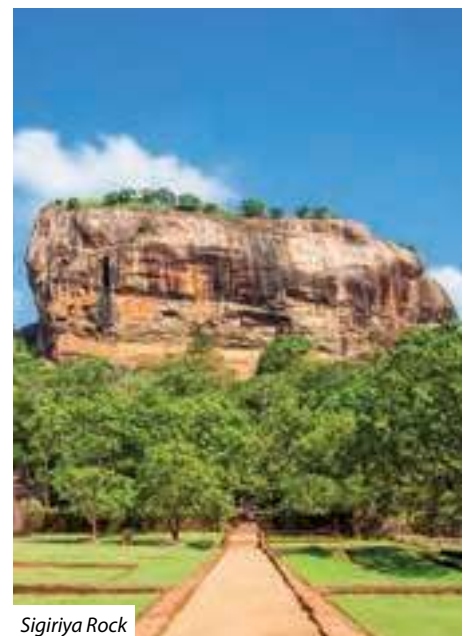


For full details of our itinerary see
vjv.com/themes/great-journeys



Noel Rodrigo's Leopard Safari Camp

Unlock the treasures of this culturally laden land whilst staying in Sri Lanka's most exquisite and exclusive boutique hotels located in picturesque, historic and remote regions of the island. Become immersed in the island in hand-selected accommodation that range from restored colonial manor houses sitting in beautiful landscaped gardens to Luxury Water Villas overlooking the rock fortress of Sigiriya, a colonial residence in the highlands exuding historic grandeur and an exquisite safari camp in the national park, finally stay in a boutique hotel set within Galle's UNESCO 17th-century fort.



Sigiriya Rock

What's Included

- 11 nights in hand-picked accommodation • UNESCO Heritage Sites • Two National Parks • Heritage Train Journey • Game Drives
- Conservation and Park Fees • Expert Local Guides • Price Guarantee • VIP Chauffeur Driven Transfer* • Group Size 2 – 12



Departures & Prices

per person in a twin room/double room
Sri Lankan Airlines from Heathrow

2022 – Sundays

Feb 13	£4495	Jun 12	£3595
Mar 13	£4695	Sep 11	£4295

2023 – Sundays

Feb 12	£4495	Sep 17	£4195
Mar 19	£4695	Nov 12	£3795
Jun 18	£3995		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £1390
Business Class – from £2395
Upgraded Accommodation – £295
Privately Guided – from £135 (see page 9)

Extension – Meeru Island Resort & Spa, Maldives

4 nights in a twin room – £2295
Single supplement – £800

Note

* On all of our Great Journeys, we provide a VIP chauffeur driven transfer for passengers living within a 70-mile radius of the point of departure. For those passengers living outside of this 70-mile radius, we will provide the most competitive quotation for the additional mileage.

GRAND TOUR OF NORTHERN INDIA

Explore the heritage of the Moguls, Maharajas and East India Company from holy Amritsar and Varanasi to colonial Calcutta, Delhi, Lucknow and hill stations by way of the 'Golden Triangle'

23 nights
from
£3995



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night), Amritsar (2)
Shimla (2), Delhi (2)
Darjeeling (2), Kolkata (2)
Varanasi (1), Lucknow (1)
Agra (2), Ranthambore NP (2)
Jaipur (2), Rohet (1)
Udaipur (2), Mumbai (1)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Wildlife Experience
Jules Verne Sightseeing
7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Indian Ceremonies, Tiger Talk & Maharaja's Residence
Aarti, Palki and Border ceremonies.
Cocktail and dinner in Rambagh Palace.
Tiger talk by a naturalist. Breakfast at Brijrama Palace overlooking the Ghats in Varanasi.

INTRODUCTION

This grand tour encompasses India's most iconic cultural, colonial, religious and scenic treasures following the story of the Moguls, the Maharajas and the British East India Company. The Moguls came from central Asia, conquering Delhi and beyond, whilst the Maharajas ruled their kingdoms throughout and the British extended their reach from Kolkata (Calcutta) to Delhi.

Travel from colonial capitals Calcutta, Lucknow and Delhi to the holy sites of Varanasi, Amritsar and Agra, from the hill stations of Shimla and Darjeeling to Rajasthan and the home of tigers.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow to Amritsar via Delhi.

DAY 2 Two nights at Hyatt Hotel. Optional Palki ceremony (£14, bookable locally). (D)

DAY 3 Visit the Golden Temple, volunteers kitchen and Jallianwala Bagh. Wagah Border ceremony. (B)

DAY 4 Train to Ambala (4 hrs), by road to Kandaghat then 'Toy Train' to Shimla (5 hrs). Two nights at the 5-star Oberoi Cecil. (B, D)



Victoria Memorial, Kolkata

DAY 5 Visit the Shimla museum, Vice Regal Lodge, church and stroll along the Mall. (B)

DAY 6 Travel to Kalka (5 hrs). Shatabdi Express train to Delhi (5 hrs) with light dinner on board. Two nights at the heritage Maidens Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 Visit Jama Mosque, Raj Ghat, National Museum, Gandhi Smriti, Qutab Minar, India Gate and drive past the Red Fort, parliament and Viceroy's House. (B, D)

DAY 8 Fly to Bagdogra. Drive to Darjeeling (3 hrs) for two nights at the 4-star Mayfair Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 9 Sunrise at Tiger Hill with views over the Himalayas. Visit Ghoom Monastery and enjoy a 'Toy Train' ride. Visit the Mountaineering Institute, zoological park, local market and a tea estate. (B, D)

DAY 10 Fly from Bagdogra to Kolkata. Two nights at 5-star Oberoi Grand. Sunset cruise on the Hoogly River. (B, D)

DAY 11 Full-day city tour of Kolkata includes Dalhousie Square, the flower market, a short tram ride and Victoria Memorial. (B)

DAY 12 Morning flight to Varanasi. Overnight at the 4-star Taj Ganges Hotel. Visit Sarnath ruins and museum. Evening Aarti ceremony on the ghats. (B)

DAY 13 Early morning boat on the Ganges. Breakfast at Brijrama Palace and a walk through Varanasi. Travel to Lucknow (7 hrs) for overnight at the 5-star Hotel Taj Mahal Lucknow. (B)

DAY 14 Visit Bada and Chota Imambada, La Martiniere and the Residency. Travel to Agra (6 hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Trident Hotel. (B)

DAY 15 Sunrise at the Taj Mahal. Visit Agra Fort, 'Baby Taj' and Mehtab Bagh with views across to the Taj Mahal. Tea with a local family in a colonial bungalow. (B)



Holy Men, Varanasi

DAY 16 Travel to Ranthambore National Park (6 ½ hrs) visiting Fatehpur Sikri en route. Two nights at 4-star family-run Ranthambore Regency. Tiger talk with a naturalist. (B, D)

DAY 17 Early morning and afternoon game drives by jeep. (B, L, D)

DAY 18 Travel to Jaipur (4 hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Trident Hotel. Visit Amber Fort. (B)

DAY 19 Optional morning balloon ride (£180, bookable locally). Visit the City Palace and Observatory and view 'Palace of the Winds'. Cocktail and dinner at Rambagh Palace. (B, D)

DAY 20 Travel to Rohet (7 hrs) via Jodhpur's Mehrangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada. Overnight at the heritage Rohet Garh. (B, D)

DAY 21 Bishnoi village safari. Continue to Udaipur (6 hrs) for two nights at the 4-star Trident Hotel. Boat ride to Amrai Restaurant for dinner with views of the lake. (B, D)

DAY 22 By boat on Lake Pichola to Jagmandir Island. Visit City Palace. (B)

DAY 23 Fly to Mumbai. Visit Marine drive, Gateway of India, Victoria Terminus & Prince of Wales Museum. Overnight at the 4-star Hotel Trident. Farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 24 Return flight. (B)



Golden Temple, Amritsar

PRICE REDUCED
Save up to £200
New price shown in white



Gateway of India, Mumbai



City Palace, Udaipur

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

Oct 29	£4395	Nov 12	£4395
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2023 – Saturdays

Feb 11	£4295	Oct 14	£4195
Mar 18	£3995	Nov 4	£4295

Supplements per person

Single supplement (double for sole use) – £895
London-Amritsar/Mumbai-London
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £395
British Airways Club World – from £1795
Privately Guided – £995 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 22 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 13 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £500
Arrival or departure transfer £24

Note

This is a full itinerary with visits on foot and some uneven surfaces and inclines.

EXTENSION – COCHIN & KERALAN BACKWATERS

5 nights from £975

Why not make the most of your time? Discover more of India, relax on the inland waterways of Kerala and visit historic Cochin.

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.



Kerala Houseboat

HIGHLIGHTS OF NORTHERN INDIA

13 nights from £1795

Alternatively, exceptional value including many of India's most famous monuments from the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort to the Amber Fort and Mehrangarh Fort. Search for tigers on a game drive and explore Rajasthan's most famous cities of Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur.

No Single Supp. & Solo • 5 UNESCO Sites



Chittorgarh Fort, Rajasthan

IMAGES OF INDIA

A wonderful introductory tour to India including the Taj Mahal, Golden Temple, royal Rajasthan, hill stations, tigers, heritage hotels and special events

18 nights
from
£2995



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)

Mumbai (1), Udaipur (2)

Jodhpur (1), Jaipur (2)

Ranthambore NP (2)

Agra (2), Delhi (2)

Amritsar (2)

Shimla (2), Delhi (1)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour & Wildlife Experience

Jules Verne Sightseeing

8 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

No Single Supplement

Tiger Safaris by Jeep

Local Expert Guide

Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Remarkable dinners & Tiger Talk

Rooftop dinner in Jodhpur overlooking Mehrangarh Fort. Dine in the Rajput Room of Rambagh Palace, the former residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur with a cocktail at the famous Polo Bar. Tiger talk by a naturalist at Ranthambore.

INTRODUCTION

Any visit to India is best started at Mumbai's 'Gateway to India' and the 'Golden Triangle' that comprises Jaipur, Agra and Delhi.

The imperial glory of the Mughals is best shown in the mausoleums, mosques and palaces of their capitals at Agra and Delhi, the highlight the incomparable Taj Mahal.

Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur reveal Rajasthan's princely heritage and Ranthambore National Park offers the chance to spot one or more of its increased tiger population.

The era of the British Raj is reflected in the architectural heritage of Lutyens' New Delhi and the summer hill station capital, Shimla, contrasting with Sikhism's most holy shrine, the spectacular Golden Temple at Amritsar and the dramatic Wagah Border ceremony.

Train journeys that are part of the Indian experience include Shimla's unforgettable Narrow gauge 'Toy Train' through countless tunnels and over bridges, a scenically spectacular journey.



Shimla

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight direct from your chosen airport to Mumbai.

DAY 2 Overnight at the 4-star Trident Nariman Point (sea view room). Visit the Prince of Wales Museum and enjoy a heritage walk in the Kala Ghoda area. Welcome drink with your group.

DAY 3 Visit Marine Drive, the Gateway of India, Victoria Terminus, Dhobi Ghat and the Dabbawalla lunch carriers. Fly to Udaipur for two nights at the 4-star Trident Hotel. (B)

DAY 4 By boat to the City Palace and Jagmandir Island. By boat to Amrai restaurant for a drink and dinner with one of the most stunning view of the lake. (B, D)

DAY 5 Travel to Jodhpur (6 hrs). Overnight at the 5-star Taj Hari Mahal. Rooftop dinner at Indique restaurant with superb view of the fort. (B, D)

DAY 6 Visit Mehrangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada. Travel to Jaipur (7 hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Trident Jaipur. Cocktail and dinner at Rambagh Palace. (B, D)

DAY 7 View the Palace of the Winds. Visit the City Palace and Observatory. Cooking demo and dinner with a local family. (B, D)

DAY 8 Optional morning balloon ride (£180, bookable locally). Visit Amber Fort. Travel to Ranthambore (4 hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Sawai Villas. 'Tiger Talk' by a naturalist. (B, D)

DAY 9 Morning and afternoon jeep game drives looking for tigers and wildlife. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Drive to Agra (7 hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Trident Agra. Sunset visit to the iconic Taj Mahal. (B, D)

DAY 11 Visit Itmad-Daula (the 'Baby Taj') and the Mughal garden with views across the river to the Taj Mahal. Visit Agra Fort. Sunset rooftop drink with views of the Taj Mahal. (B)



Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur

DAY 12 Optional sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal (£22, bookable locally). Drive to Delhi (5 hrs). Visit Qutab Minar. Stay two nights at the 5-star Taj Mahal Hotel. (B)

DAY 13 Visit Raj Ghat, Jama Mosque, Humayun's Tomb, India Gate and drive past the Red Fort, parliament and Viceroy's House. (B)

DAY 14 Morning Shatabdi train to Amritsar (7 hrs) for two nights at the 5-star Taj Swarna. Optional Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple (£14, bookable locally). (B)

DAY 15 Visit the Golden Temple, volunteers kitchen and Jallianwala Bagh. Wagah Border 'Change of the Guard' ceremony. (B)

DAY 16 Travel up into the foothills of the Himalayas to Shimla by road (8 hrs). Two nights at the 5-star Oberoi Cecil. (B)

DAY 17 Visit the Vice Regal Lodge, museum and church. Stroll along the Mall. Afternoon free. (B)

DAY 18 Board the 'Toy Train' to Kalka (5 hrs). Shatabdi train to Delhi (4 hrs) with light dinner on board. Overnight at the 5-star Taj Palace Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 19 Return flight. (B)



City Palace, Udaipur



Amber Fort, Jaipur

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Tuesdays

Apr 12*	£2995	Nov 1	£3395
Sep 13*	£2995	Nov 15	£3395
Oct 18	£3295		

2023 – Tuesdays

Jan 24*	£3295	Apr 11*	£2995
Feb 7	£3245	Sep 19*	£3195
Feb 21	£3295	Oct 17*	£3295
Mar 21*	£3295	Nov 7, 21	£3395

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Double for sole use – £595 (Feb/Nov £795; 2023 £695; Apr 11 £545)
London-Mumbai/Delhi-London
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £395
British Airways Club World – from £1795
Emirates from Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester or Birmingham – nil
Privately Guided – £750 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 17 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £500
Arrival or departure transfer £24

Note

This is a full itinerary with some visits on foot with some uneven surfaces and inclines.

EXTENSION – TIGERS & GANGES

5 nights from £995

Why not make the most of your time?
Discover more of India and visit holy Haridwar & Rishikesh, once visited by 'The Beatles'! Jeep safaris in India's first national park and Aarti ceremonies.
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.



Ranthambore National Park

GRAND TOUR OF INDIA

23 nights from £3995

Alternatively, travel from the epic to the intimate, from the Himalayas to the Kerala backwaters, from the sacred Ganges to the tropical coasts of the Arabian Sea. Including Amritsar, Shimla, Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi, Kolkata, Madurai, Cochin and Mumbai. A truly grand tour of India!

10 UNESCO Sites • 4/5-star Hotels



Varanasi

THE TAJ TOUR

India's Golden Triangle, plus holy Amritsar, Himalayan Shimla & old Bombay featuring India's prestigious 'Taj' hotels throughout, both historic and modern, with dinners included

13 nights
from
£2795



OVERVIEW

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

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supplement
12 Dinners Included
Local Expert Guide
Group Size: 6 – 18

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.

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

ITINERARY

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

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 newly opened 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 on board. 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)



Rambagh Palace

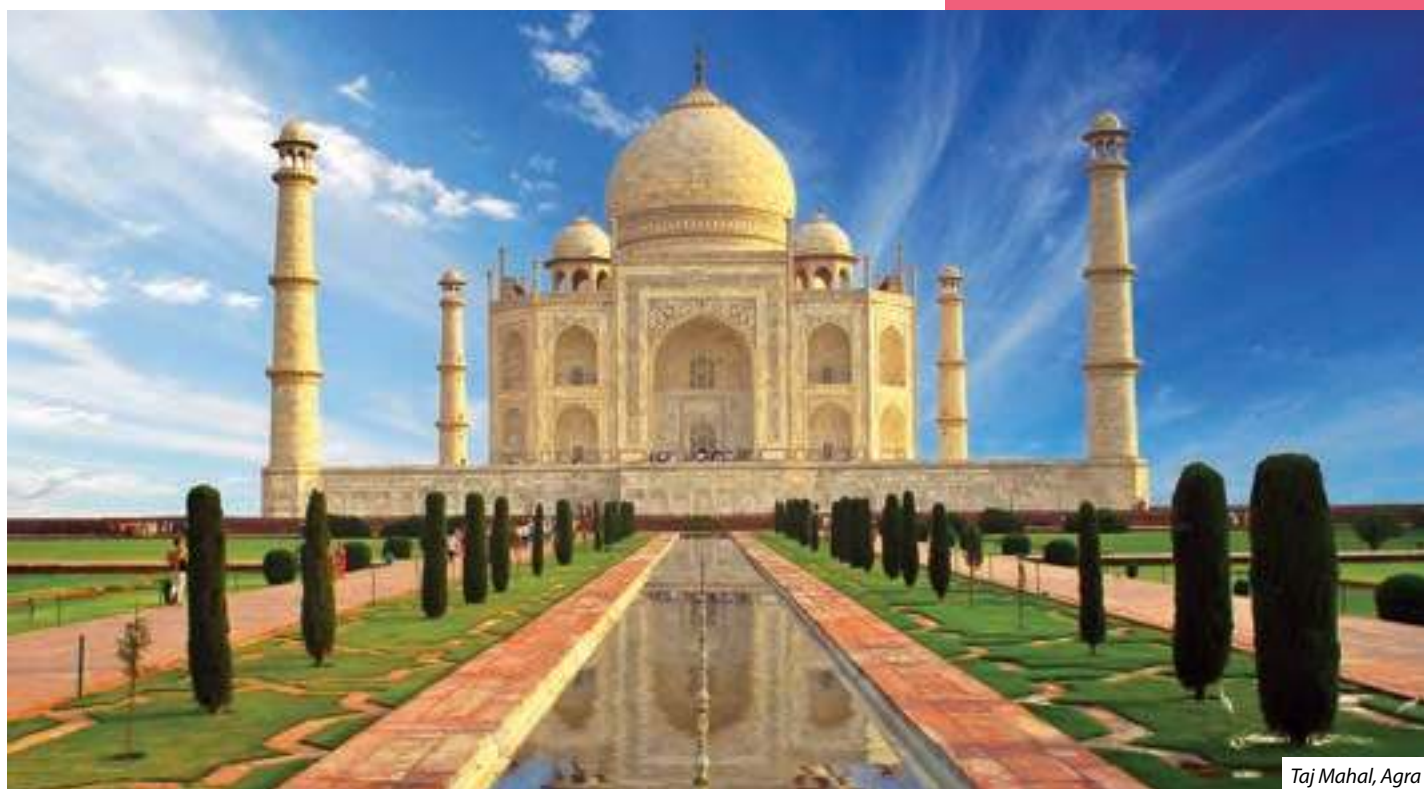
DAY 10 Visit the 'Baby Taj' and Mughal garden with views to the Taj Mahal. Travel to Jaipur, visiting en route Fatehpur Sikri (5 hrs). Three nights at the heritage Jai Mahal Palace, now a Taj heritage hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Visit the City Palace and Jantar Mantar Observatory. Optional Sound & Light 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)



Taj Mahal, Agra



Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Tuesdays

Mar 15*	£3295	Oct 11	£3295
Apr 5*	£2895	Nov 8	£3395
Sep 13	£2995		

2023 – Tuesdays

Jan 24*	£3345	Aug 22*	£2795
Feb 7	£3345	Sep 19*	£2995
Feb 21	£3395	Oct 10*	£3295
Mar 14*	£3295	Nov 7	£3395
Apr 11*	£2895		

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Double for sole use – £995 (Apr-Sep £695)
London-Amritsar/Mumbai-London
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £395
British Airways Club World – from £1795
Privately Guided – £695 (see page 9)

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £500
Arrival or departure transfer £24

SOUTH GOA EXTENSION

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.



Goa

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

17 nights from £3295

Alternatively, discover India 'from the inside' with dramatic forts, majestic palaces, ornate havelis and bejewelled Maharajas including Bombay, Udaipur and the 'Golden Triangle'. This unique itinerary reveals royal residences that have been transformed into small heritage hotels, usually by the original royal family. Includes 5 UNESCO Sites.

No Single Supplement • 13 Dinners



Jai Mahal Palace, Jaipur

INDIA'S GOLDEN TRIANGLE

The most iconic monuments of India from the Taj Mahal, Amber and Agra Fort to palaces and abandoned cities including classic hotels and special Indian experiences

9 nights
from
£1845



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Delhi (2 nights)
Jaipur (3 nights)
Agra (2 nights)
Delhi (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No & Low Single Supplement
Solo Group Departures (see page 7)
Local Expert Guide
Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Meals & Drinks

Cocktail at the Polo Bar and dinner at the Rajput Room of Rambagh Palace, former home of the Maharaja of Jaipur. Enjoy a cooking demonstration and dinner with a local family; tea at a colonial house and sunset rooftop drink with views of the Taj Mahal in Agra.

INTRODUCTION

Most people when travelling to a country for the first time want to take in all the major sights and yet also experience something more authentic. Our tour enriches a classic first-time itinerary with experiences that transport its participants closer to the heart of the country.

The 'Golden Triangle' is formed by Jaipur, Agra and Delhi, including the Amber Fort, Jaipur's amazing astronomical Observatory and the icon of the entire subcontinent, the magical Taj Mahal. The rich heritage revealed derives from the rule of Mughals, Maharajas and indeed the British.

The railway stations, present a tableau as rich as a bazaar, with all classes and castes on its thronging platforms – 'Passage to India' springs to mind as one waits to travel through the Indian countryside.

Discover Emperor Akbar's deserted city at Fatehpur Sikri and explore Delhi's rich history including the Qutab Minar of the Delhi Sultanate and the regalia and artistry of the National Museum.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from your chosen airport to Delhi.
DAY 2 Transfer to the heritage Maidens Hotel for two nights. Afternoon tour of Delhi including the National Museum, Gandhi Smriti and drive past India Gate, the parliament and Viceroy's House. Enjoy a drink at the hotel while meeting your group.
DAY 3 Tour of Delhi includes Raj Ghat, Jama Mosque, Humayun's Tomb with a walk through Sunder Nursery and drive past the Red Fort. Evening cultural dance performance with barbeque dinner. (B, D)
DAY 4 Early morning train to Jaipur (5 hrs). Visit Albert Hall Museum. Three nights at the 4-star Trident Hotel. Cooking demonstration and dinner with a local family. (B, D)
DAY 5 Optional morning balloon ride in the Jaipur area (£180, bookable locally). Visit Amber Fort and view the 'Palace of the Winds'. Free time to explore Jaipur. Cocktail at the Polo Bar and dinner at Rambagh Palace. (B, D)
DAY 6 Visit Birla Temple, the City Palace and the Observatory. Afternoon free or optional walking tour of old Jaipur



Rambagh Palace

city with its temples and havelis (£24, pre-bookable). (B, D)

DAY 7 Drive to Agra, visiting en route Abhaneri stepwell and take a walk around its village. Lunch at Laxmi Vilas Palace in Bharatpur. Visit the abandoned city, Fatehpur Sikri. Continue to Agra for two nights at the 4-star Tajview Agra. (B, L)

DAY 8 Sunrise visit to the iconic Taj Mahal. Later visit Agra Fort, home of the Emperors, Itmad-Daula (the 'Baby Taj') and the Mughal gardens, with views across to the Taj. Enjoy tea with a local family at a colonial house from the British era. Sunset rooftop drink with views of the Taj Mahal. (B, D)

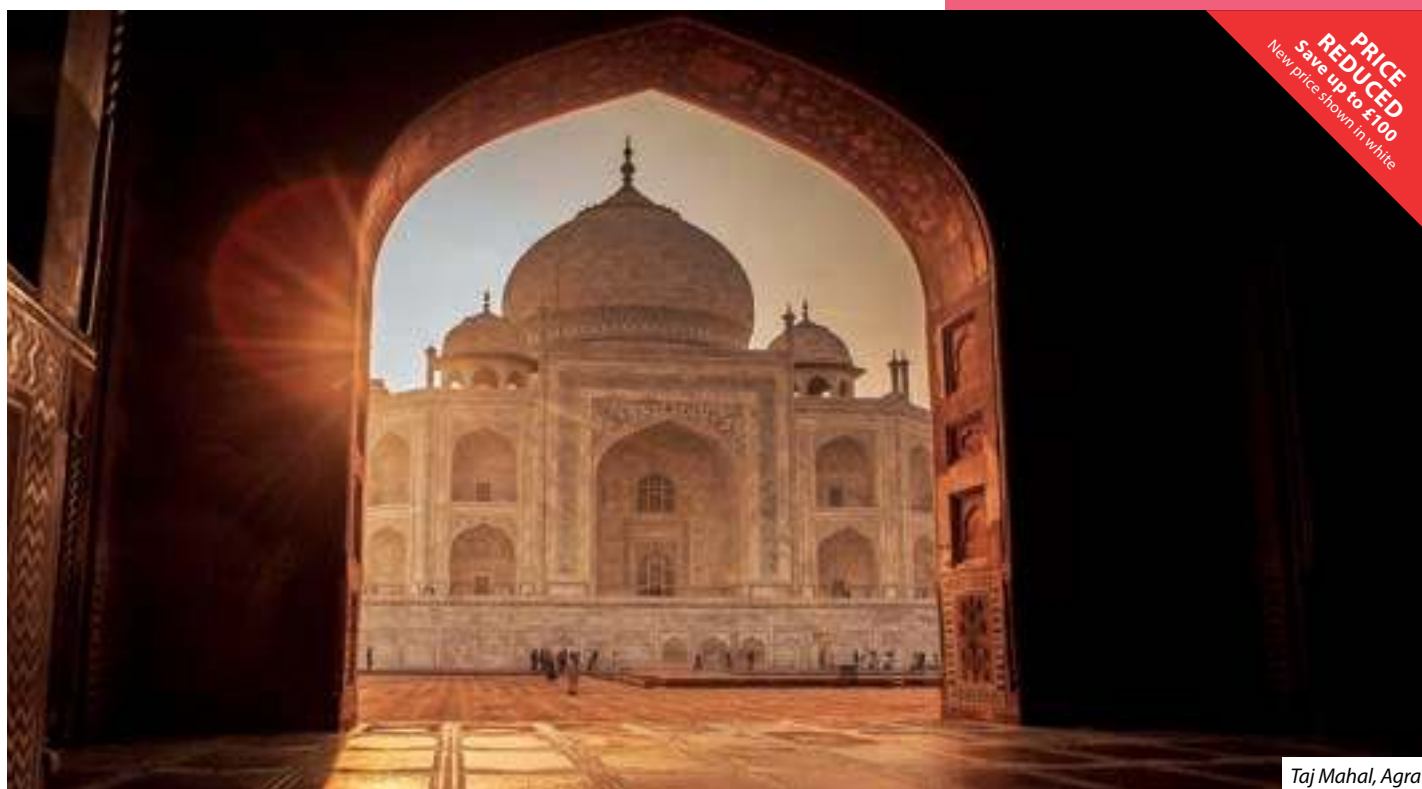
DAY 9 Return to Delhi (5 hrs). Visit Qutab Minar. Farewell dinner nearby. Overnight at 4-star Hotel Pullman. Farewell dinner near Qutab Minar. (B, D)

DAY 10 Return flight. (B)

Note: This is a full itinerary with some visits on foot with uneven surfaces and inclines.



Amber Fort, Jaipur



PRICE REDUCED
Save up to £100
New price shown in white

Taj Mahal, Agra



Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturday

Nov 5	£1895
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2023 – Saturdays

Jan 14*	£1995	Apr 15*	£1845
Feb 11	£1995	Sep 16*	£1895
Feb 25	£1995	Oct 14*	£1945
Mar 18	£1945	Nov 4, 18	£1995

2022/2023 – Saturdays (Solo Groups)

Sep 10*	£1845	Sep 9*	£1895
Apr 22*	£1845		

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Double for sole use – £345 (Apr-Sep £195)
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £395
British Airways Club World – from £1795
Emirates from Gatwick, Heathrow, Manchester, Birmingham or Glasgow – £95
Virgin Atlantic from Heathrow – nil
Privately Guided – £120 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 8 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 6 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £600
Arrival or departure transfer £24

EXTENSION – SHIMLA & AMRITSAR

6 nights from £795

Why not make the most of your time? Discover more of India and visit the former colonial summer capital and the Golden Temple. Enjoy a 'toy Train', Wagah Border and Palki Ceremonies. 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.



Golden Temple Amritsar

THE TALE OF THE TIGER

10 nights from £2095

Alternatively, combine the 'Golden Triangle' with India's natural wonders at Ranthambore, Rajasthan's famous tiger reserve, Keoladeo National Park and Samode Bagh 'Paradise Garden'. Visit Delhi, Agra, Jaipur including tiger safaris by jeep, a tiger talk and Bollywood show.

7 UNESCO Sites • Solo & No Single Supp.



Ranthambore National Park

SIKHS & EXILES

Off-the-beaten-track to the Golden Temple, residence of the Dalai Lama, hill stations and heritage hotels

11 nights
from
£2045



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Amritsar (2 nights)
Dharamsala (2 nights)
Pragpur (1 night)
Shimla (3 nights)
Delhi (2 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour & Natural Wonders
Jules Verne Sightseeing
No & Low Single Supplement
Solo Group Departures (see page 7)
1 Lunch and 6 Dinners
Local Expert Guide
Group Size: 6 – 12

SPECIAL EVENT

Fort & High Tea & Cooking Demo

Visit Kangra Fort on a rock dominating the valley, thought to be the largest and oldest fort in the Himalayas. Enjoy a high tea at one of Shimla's oldest residences. Learn how to cook Indian dishes in Amritsar and Delhi.

INTRODUCTION

India's complex religious history is revealed in this arrangement for the returning traveller, examining the position of Sikhism, Buddhism and Christianity in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Sikhism, in Indian terms, is a relatively new religion. Founded by Guru Nanak in the 15th century as a reaction against the Hindu caste system, its holy shrine is the spectacular Golden Temple. Their holy book still moves daily in and out of the illuminated Temple in the devout Palki ceremony, whilst many thousands of pilgrims are fed daily in the astounding volunteers kitchen.

McLeod Ganj (Upper Dharamsala), named after the Lieutenant Governor of Punjab, is the residence of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, who claimed asylum in 1960 after the Chinese invaded Tibet, and a Tibetan community has developed not far from their Himalayan homeland.

Shimla enjoys stunning scenery and was the summer resort for the government of the British Raj. Once a totally 'white' paradise, with only Indians of rank allowed on its Mall, part of its charm today is that children

munch chapatis in Tudor tea rooms and Hindus visit the Christian Church. All may now enjoy the unforgettable narrow gauge 'Toy Train' built by the British traversing countless bridges, tunnels and bends.

ITINERARY

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

DAY 2 Afternoon arrival. Transfer to the boutique hotel Ranjit Vilas for two nights. Afternoon free. Evening cooking demonstration at the hotel. (D)

DAY 3 Visit the Golden Temple, volunteers kitchen and Jallianwala Bagh, scene of the 1919 massacre. Optional early evening Wagah Border 'Change of the Guard' ceremony at the India/Pakistan border (£18, bookable locally). Later, attend the Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple. (B)

DAY 4 Drive to Dharamsala (5 hrs/1,700m) visiting en route Masrur Rock Cut Temples. Two nights at the unpretentious, but scenically located, Clouds End Villa. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit the Tibetan monastery, museum, library and Norbulingka, which preserves Tibetan arts and crafts. Afternoon village walk with fine views. (B, D)

DAY 6 Visit Kangra Fort and Museum. Travel to Pragpur village. Evening village walk. Overnight at the heritage hotel Judge's Court, a country manor built for Justice Sir Jai Lal. (B, D)

DAY 7 Drive to Shimla (7 hrs/2,000m). En route stop at Garli heritage village. Stay three nights at the heritage Clarkes Hotel, located on the Mall. (B)

DAY 8 Morning tour of Shimla including the Vice Regal Lodge, museum and the Mall. Enjoy a high tea at Chapslee House, one of the oldest surviving residences of Shimla, and meet one of the family member. (B)



Kangra Fort

DAY 9 Day at leisure or optional tour to the surrounding area including high tea at Wildflower Hall and a gentle walk along Mahasu Ridge (£48, bookable locally). (B)

DAY 10 Take the Himalayan Queen 'Toy Train' to Kalka (5 hrs). Join the Shatabdi Express train to Delhi (4 hrs), with light dinner on board. Two nights at the Maidens Hotel, a heritage property. (B, D)

DAY 11 'Return to Delhi' tour including Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, the Red Fort, Agrasen ki Baoli stepwell and the Railway Museum. Cooking demo followed by farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 12 Fly to London Heathrow, arriving later the same day. (B)

Notes: This is a full itinerary with some visits on foot over uneven surfaces and inclines.

Heritage properties are full of charm but rarely have lifts and rooms can vary in size and décor.

Travel beyond the main tourist routes in smaller vehicles (3 guests per car all with window seat). Travel is not 'off-road' but these vehicles allow for greater contact with local people and easier access whilst still travelling with a small Jules Verne group through dramatic mountain scenery.



Toy Train, Shimla



Golden Temple, Amritsar



Dharamsala

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Tuesdays

Apr 5	£2045	Oct 18*	£2245
Oct 4	£2195	Nov 8	£2295

2023 – Tuesdays

Feb 14	£2195	Aug 22*	£2095
Feb 21	£2195	Oct 3*	£2195
Mar 14*	£2195	Oct 17*	£2245
Apr 11*	£2095	Nov 7	£2245

2022/23 – Tuesdays (Solo Groups)

Apr 12*	£2045	Apr 18*	£2095
Sep 13*	£2095	Sep 19*	£2145

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Double for sole use – £345 (Apr-Sep £295)
London-Amritsar/Delhi-London
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £395
British Airways Club World – from £1795
Privately Guided – £125 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 10 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 1 lunch and 6 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £600
Arrival or departure transfer £24

EXTENSION – VARANASI & THE GANGES

3 nights from £545

Discover more of India and explore the iconic sacred Hindu site on the Ganges and Sarnath. Stay at the 4-star Taj Ganges with Aarti ceremony and boat ride. Alternatively, add extra nights pre or post-tour to explore independently. Please see vjv.com for more details about our great range of extensions.



River Ganges, Varanasi

GLORIES OF GUJARAT

16 nights from £2395

Alternatively, explore Gujarat's natural, cultural, religious and princely heritage. Visit Gir National Park, last refuge of the Asiatic Lion in the wild, Blackbuck National Park with a chance to spot the rare Blackbuck (Indian antelope) and Little Rann of Kutch with the wild asses. Visit four princely palaces and the Jain Temple complex at Palitana.

9 Lunches/10 Dinners • Jeep Safaris



Jain Temples, Palitana

SPLENDOURS OF SOUTHERN INDIA

Majestic temples, friendly villages, colonial heritage, verdant hills, the Kerala backwaters plus historic Cochin and Madras

13 nights from
£2395



OVERVIEW

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

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour & Natural Wonders
Jules Verne Sightseeing
3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supplement / Solo Group
4 Lunches and 6 Dinners
Local Expert Guide
Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Canoeing the Backwaters, Indian Dance & Cooking

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

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

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport via Dubai to Chennai (former 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. Kalaripayattu performance, a local martial art. (B, D)

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



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 Kerala 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 Kumbalangi. 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 a walk with shoes off.



Mahabalipuram



Periyar Lake

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Sundays

Mar 20*	£2495	Oct 16*	£2645
Apr 10	£2395	Nov 6, 20	£2695

2023 – Sundays

Jan 15*	£2595	Apr 9*	£2495
Feb 12	£2595	Oct 15*	£2645
Mar 5*, 19*	£2545	Nov 5, 19	£2695

2022/23 – Sundays (Solo Groups)

Apr 17*	£2395	Apr 16	£2495
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Double for sole use – £595 (Apr £545)
Emirates from Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham or Glasgow – nil
Emirates Business Class – from £2095
Privately Guided – £695 (see page 9)

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £600
Arrival or Departure transfer £24

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.



Marari Beach

GRAND TOUR OF SOUTHERN INDIA

20 nights from £2895

Alternatively, discover the full majesty of the south's temple complexes crossing the Western Ghats revealing dramatic landscapes, hill stations, colonial heritage. Visit Mysore Palace, Ooty hill station and Madurai temple. Enjoy a 'Toy Train' and a night on a Kerala's houseboat.

7 Lunches/5 Dinners • Special Events



Mysore Palace

ALONG THE BANKS OF THE HOOGLY

A unique and original cruise through rural India along the River Hoogly between Calcutta and English Bazaar

10/11 nights
from
**£2395/
£2595**



OVERVIEW

Flight (Day 1), Kolkata (2)
Farakka / Cruise Start (3), Gaur (4)
Baranagar / Murshidabad (5)
Khushbagh / Katwa (6)
Matiari / Mayapur (7), Kalna (8)
Chandernagore / Barrackpore (9)
Kolkata (10), Return Flight (11)

KEY FEATURES

Culture & Riverscapes
Exclusive Sailing (Except Feb / Apr 2022)
Complimentary Cabin Selection
No Single Supplement
Excursions Included
Full Board on Cruise
Group Size: 6 – 22



INTRODUCTION

Much has been written about the British love affair with India, with books ranging from M.M. Kaye's 'The Far Pavilions' to William Dalrymple's 'White Mughals'. This love affair manifests itself in many ways; the rhythm of tranquil days in rural communities, ancient temples and cities, medieval towns and palaces. All these and more can be found in this unique cruise of some 250 miles through rural countryside away from the tourist trail, affording the less common opportunity to observe Indian life from the comfort of a charming small river vessel.

The River Hoogly, once an artery for the jute trade and East India Company between Calcutta and the Ganges, had no long distance passenger vessels since 1850 with the advent of the railway but does reveal nowadays interesting local passenger and cargo vessels and ferries.

Discover monuments from the East India Company, the Mughals and one of India's most romantic places – the ancient capital of the Nawabs of Bengal, Murshidabad, now a village, its mansions, mosques and tombs surrounded by rice paddies and mango orchards.

ITINERARY (DOWNSTREAM)

DAY 1 Fly overnight from your chosen airport to Kolkata via Delhi or Dubai.

DAY 2 Visit the Jain temple, college street, book market and take a tram ride. Welcome drink, dinner and overnight at the 5-star heritage Oberoi Grand hotel with a fusion of classical Victorian and traditional Indian style architecture. (D)

DAY 3 By train to Farakka (6 hrs). Embark on the RV Rajmahal for a seven-night cruise. (B, D)

DAY 4 Full-day excursion to Gaur, close to the English Bazaar (now the town of Malda), once one of India's great cities, which has many mosques and palace remains. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Sail down the Hoogly proper to Baranagar. Continue to Murshidabad to visit the Nawab's Hazarduari Palace, Katra Mosque and the 18th-century palaces of Nashipara and Katgola. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Walk to Khushbagh, a Moghul-style garden. Cruise to the battlefield of Plassey, where in 1757 Clive of India defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah. Visit the obelisk and moor near Katwa. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Visit the brass-working village of Matiari and the temples of Mayapur. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Sail to Kalna. Travel to the terracotta temples by rickshaws. Visit Imambara on the outskirts of Kolkata. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Sail to Chandernagore and visit its museum and sail past the Dutch settlement of Chinsura. At Barrackpore, walk through the cantonment past the Semaphore Tower, Government House, the Temple of Fame and Flagstaff House. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Sail under the Howrah Bridge to central Kolkata for overnight. Drive around colonial Calcutta and visit Victoria Memorial, Dalhousie Square and St. John's Church. (B)

DAY 11 Return flight to your chosen airport via Delhi or Dubai. (B)

RV RAJMAHAL

Operated by Assam Bengal Navigation and built with extra-shallow draught and a lower profile than conventional designs to enable it to cruise further upstream than most vessels. On board the crew are mainly Indian, the currency the Indian Rupee, the language English and WiFi (free/limited).

The comfortable saloon, bar and dining room compliment the vast canopied sun deck. A small spa offers a range of treatments. Food is a mixture of Assamese (milder than most Indian cuisine) and continental. Tea, coffee and water are complimentary.

22 Main and Upper Deck cabins with four Main Deck Single cabins, all are air-conditioned with private facilities, hairdryer, safe and French balconies.

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

While the vessel carries more, the group size specified refers to transfers and excursions.



RV Rajmahal



Victoria Memorial, Kolkata



Katra Mosque, Murshidabad

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room – Main Deck cabin
British Airways from Heathrow

2022/2023 – RV Rajmahal Upstream± (11 nights)

Feb 21* (Mon)	£2595	Oct 23* (Mon)	£2895
Feb 27* (Mon)	£2895		

2022/2023 – RV Rajmahal Downstream (10 nights)

Apr 12* (Tue)	£2395	Feb 14* (Tue)	£2845
Oct 15* (Sat)	£2795	Apr 11* (Tue)	£2495

2024 – RV Rajmahal Downstream (10 nights)

Feb 17* (Sat)	£2845	Apr 16* (Tue)	£2595
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Double for sole use – £695

Upper Deck – £295

Upper Deck (double for sole use) – £990

British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £395

British Airways Club World – from £1795

Emirates from Manchester, Birmingham

or Glasgow – nil

Emirates Business Class – from £2095

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, all port charges, transfers, 7-night cruise, 2/3 nights' hotel, breakfast daily, 1 dinner, full board on cruise, excursions, cruise director, local guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £600; Arrival or departure transfer £24

Note

± The upstream itinerary operates in reverse and has an extra night in Kolkata. See details on vjv.com.

EXTENSION – DARJEELING

3 nights from £695

Why not make the most of your time? Extend in Darjeeling and discover more of India including sightseeing with visit to Tiger Hill for sunrise over the Himalayas, Tibetan Refugee Centre, monastery and 'Toy Train'. Breakfast daily.

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

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



Darjeeling

THE HOLY GANGES

11 nights from £2495

Alternatively, embark on a pioneering small ship cruise between Patna and holy Varanasi on India's sacred river, combined with a visit to the colonial capital of Calcutta. The perfect way to enjoy this magical country, far away from the frenetic roads, offering grandeur of scenery and tranquillity.

No Single Supp. • Full Board on Cruise



Varanasi

ASSAM & THE BRAHMAPUTRA

Exclusive cruise along India's iconic Brahmaputra river including Kaziranga National Park, home of the one-horned Rhino, Majuli island of monasteries and old Calcutta

11 nights
from
£2595



OVERVIEW

Flight (Day 1), Kolkata (2 & 3)
Guwahati / Steamer Ghat (4)
Kaziranga NP / Vishnath (5)
Cruising (6), Kaziranga NP (7)
Cruising (8), Majuli Island (9)
Sibsagar (10), Dibrugarh /
Delhi (11), Return Flight (12)

KEY FEATURES

Wildlife & Riverscapes
Exclusive Sailing (Except 23 Mar 2022)
Complimentary Cabin Selection
Jules Verne Sightseeing
UNESCO Site: Kaziranga National Park
Group Size: 6 – 19



INTRODUCTION

From its origins in south-western Tibet, the Brahmaputra breaks through the Himalayas in great gorges before flowing for some 1,800 miles through Assam and Bangladesh.

The river was a vital artery for the East India Company and daily passenger services continued until the 1950s with paddle steamers playing a vital role in bringing troops and evacuating casualties during the battles of Imphal and Kohima in 1944.

Venture deep into rural Assam, where here the river is broad and mighty. Sail past temples, tea plantations, alongside wildlife sanctuaries and historical monuments and meeting gentle, tribal peoples whose exposure to tourism has been minimal.

Also discover the vibrant former colonial capital of Calcutta (Kolkata), still known for its colonial-era avenues, grand Victoria Memorial and cricket ground.

You may be inspired by the 2017 visit by the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge to the national park of Kaziranga – this cruise allows visits to this unique home for the one-horned rhinos, as well as elephants, deer, buffalo and outstanding birdlife.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from your chosen airport to Kolkata via Dubai or Delhi.

DAY 2 Transfer to the 5-star Oberoi Grand for two nights. Welcome dinner. (D)

DAY 3 Visit the flower market and take a cruise on the Hoogly. Visit Victoria Memorial, Dalhousie Square, St. John's Church and a panoramic drive around colonial Calcutta. Visit the book market and Jain temple. (B)

DAY 4 Fly to Guwahati. Transfer to Steamer Ghat (4 hrs) close to Kaziranga National Park to board the RV Charaideo II for a seven-night cruise. Traditional Assamese dance performance on board. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Early morning jeep safari in Kaziranga's Central Range, home to the world's largest population of the Indian One-horned Rhinoceros. Cruise upstream along the park border, looking out for wildlife. Arrive at Vishnath for a walking tour and visit its Shiva temple. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Full-day sailing up the Brahmaputra, opportunity to sight Gangetic dolphins while passing remote villages. Evening arrival at Dhansiri Mukh. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Jeep safari in the Kaziranga Eastern Range, a grassland favoured by rhinoceros. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Sail upstream calling at a small village for an insight into rural India. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Arrive at Majuli Island, known for its Hindu monasteries and dance-drama performance. Visit a monastery at Auniati with an eclectic museum. Dance performance at Kamalbari Monastery. Sail to Neamati Ghat on the opposite bank. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Visit a tea estate. Drive to Sibsagar, capital of the kings of Assam until the 1820's. Their culture and architecture is a delightful amalgam of Indian and Asian influence. Visit the temples with stupa-like profiles and palaces. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Disembark. Transfer to Dibrugarh airport (5 hrs) passing through the colonial town and major base for American flights to China in WWII. Fly via Guwahati to Delhi for overnight at the 5-star ITC Maurya. (B)

DAY 12 Return flight direct or via Dubai. (B)

RV CHARAIDEW II

Operated by Assam Bengal Navigation the RV Charaideo II launched in early 2019. 18 air-conditioned cabins with private facilities, hairdryer, safe, mini-bar, tea/coffee making facilities and French balconies. 12 standard twin/double cabins (240 sq. ft.) and two Luxury front cabins (350 sq. ft.) on the Upper Deck. Two double cabins and two single cabins (all 170 sq. ft.) on the Main Deck. The crew are mainly Indian, the currency the Indian Rupee (Pounds, Euro and U.S. Dollar, Visa/Master cards accepted), the language English and WiFi (free/limited). The vessel has a comfortable saloon and bar, dining room, open sun deck, spa and gym. Tea, coffee and water are complimentary.



RV Charaideo II



DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room – Main Deck cabin
Emirates from Heathrow or Gatwick*

2022

Mar 23 (Wed)	£2695	Nov 2 (Wed)	£2995
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2023

Mar 22 (Wed)	£2795	Apr 19 (Wed)	£2595
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Supplements per person

Single supplement (double for sole use)
– £995 (Apr £795)
Upper Deck (twin/double) – £295
Upper Deck (double for sole use)
– £1295 (Apr £1095)
Upper Deck Luxury cabin – £795
Emirates from Manchester or Birmingham – nil
London-Kolkata/Delhi-London
Emirates Business Class – from £2095
British Airways from Heathrow – nil

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, all port charges, transfers,
7-night cruise, 3 nights' at 5-star hotels, breakfast
daily, 1 dinner, full board on cruise, excursions,
cruise director, local guides and representatives. If
our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at
the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £650
Arrival or departure transfer £24

Notes

*Embarkation is sometimes at simple landing stages.
The programme may be altered due to navigational
factors with locks, water levels or congestion at
certain sites.*

*While the vessel carries more, the group size
specified refers to transfers and excursions.*

EXTENSION – INDIAN WILDLIFE

5 nights from £995

No one can cover all of India on one tour,
so why not make the most of your time?
Discover more of India's wildlife within
Kanha National Park and Bandhavgarh
National Park, including four game drives
and a chance to see tigers, Indian bison,
dholes, swamp deer, leopards, bears and
birdlife.

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



BHUTAN & THE HIMALAYAS

In royal footsteps to the happy Himalayan mountain kingdom of Bhutan, plus Nepal's cultural heritage and old Calcutta

12 nights
from
£3695



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Kolkata (2 nights)
Thimphu (3 nights)
Punakha (1 night)
Paro (2 nights)
Kathmandu Area (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
6 Lunches and 9 Dinners
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 6 – 18

INTRODUCTION

Bhutan is a country whose heritage is closely guarded by its rulers and where by their own admission happiness comes before profit. In the words of one government minister "we have deliberately safeguarded the ancient way of life in all its aspects... a policy of restricted tourism and socio-economic development is followed". Nestling in the Eastern Himalayas, the Kingdom of Bhutan has changed little and spirituality permeates every aspect of daily life. The Buddhist philosophy that all life is sacred is deeply engrained, evidence being its estimated 770 bird species and astonishing variety of rhododendrons, orchids, wildlife and forests.

The architectural heritage of Nepal retains its old world charm, notwithstanding 2015's earthquake which damaged some temples and palaces, and, whilst synthesising Chinese and Indian influence, undoubtedly embodies a spirit of its own. The friendliness, cheerfulness and welcoming nature of the Nepalese is legendary. The Kathmandu Valley is recognised as UNESCO World Heritage site, comprising of three contrasting towns, each with its own temples and individual character.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from your chosen airport to Kolkata via Dubai.
DAY 2 Transfer to the 5-star Oberoi Grand for two nights. Afternoon visit to Victoria Memorial, Dalhousie Square, St. John's Church, Howrah Bridge, Jain temple, markets and colonial Calcutta.
DAY 3 Heritage walk from Bow Barracks to the Burra Bazaar. Visit Kalighat Temple and take a tram ride. (B)
DAY 4 Fly to Paro in the kingdom of Bhutan. Transfer to the 3-star Hotel Riverview in Thimphu for three nights. View Buddha Dordenma. (B, L, D)
DAY 5 Visit the Institute of Traditional Medicine, Institute of Zorig Chusum (painting) and National Library. (B, L, D)
DAY 6 Visit the Cheri Gumpa Monastery (uneven footpaths, 60 minutes steep walk). Visit the National Memorial Chorten and craft emporium and Tashichho Dzong (royal citadel). (B, L, D)
DAY 7 Cross Dochula Pass (over 3,000m) viewing Buddhist chortens, Mani walls, prayer flags and Bhutan's highest Himalayan peaks to Punakha for a night at the 3-star YT Hotel. Walk to the Chimi Lhakhang temple. Visit Punakha Dzong, the former capital and coronation site. Evening walk. (B, L, D)
DAY 8 Travel to Paro (4 hrs). Visit Ta Dzong (National Museum), Rinpung Dzong and the 7th-century Kyichu Lhakhang temple. Two nights at the 3-star Hotel Olathang. (B, L, D)
DAY 9 By road and on foot to Taktsang Gumpa known as Tiger's Nest Monastery (uneven footpaths, 60-90 minutes' walk to the tea house for a good view, then 60 minutes more difficult walk to the monastery). Visit a local family and traditional farmhouse. Walk around Paro. (B, L, D)
DAY 10 Fly along the Himalayas to Kathmandu for three nights at the 4-star Vivanta By Taj in Patan area. (B, D)
DAY 11 Optional morning flight over the Himalayas and Mount Everest (weather permitting), approx. US\$250 – bookable locally. Sightseeing of Patan with a singing bowl performance. Later explore Kathmandu including a rickshaw ride. (B, D)
DAY 12 Visit Boudhanath and Pashupatinath. Afternoon sightseeing of Bhaktapur. (B, D)
DAY 13 Return flight from Kathmandu via Dubai. (B)

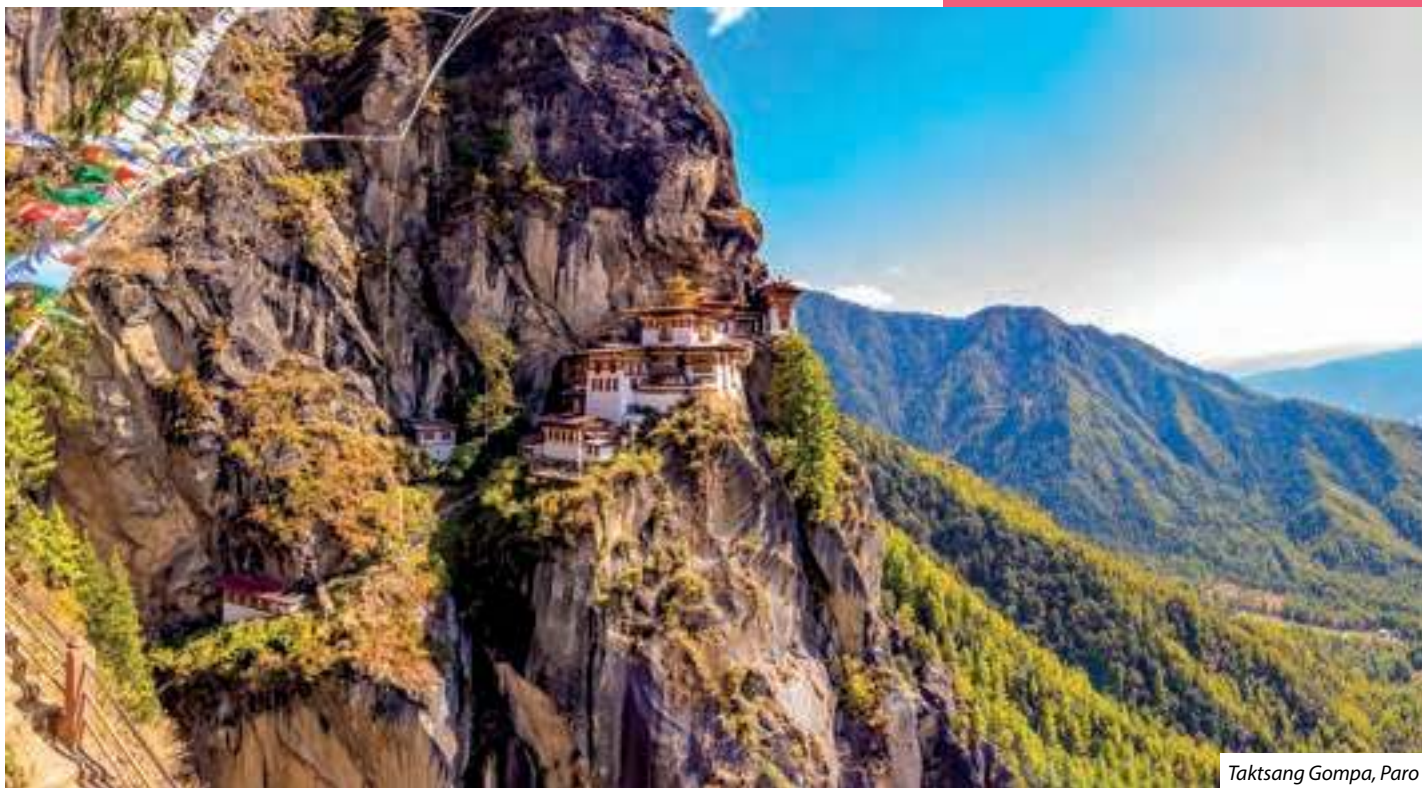


Boudhanath Temple, Kathmandu

Notes: This is a full itinerary with visits on foot with some uneven surfaces and inclines. Tiger's Nest walk is a trek of up to 2 ½ hours to the cafe/viewpoint (uphill can be by pony at additional cost, downhill is on foot).
The itinerary reaches 3,100 metres (10,000 feet) and is not suited to those predisposed to conditions aggravated by high altitude.

TRAVEL IN BHUTAN

The Bhutan hotels provide adequate lodging in rooms with private facilities but do not fully match international standards in terms of food, service and standard. On occasion, other hotels of similar standard may be used.



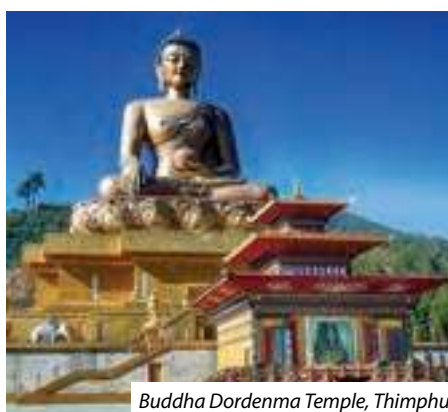
Taktsang Gumpa, Paro



Punakha Dzong, Bhutan



Rinpung Dzong, Bhutan



Buddha Dordenma Temple, Thimphu

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Emirates/Fly Dubai from Heathrow

2022 – Saturdays

Oct 22	£3995	Nov 12	£3895
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2023 – Saturdays

Feb 18	£3595	Oct 14	£3895
Mar 11	£3895	Nov 11	£3795

Supplements per person

Single supplement (double for sole use) – £595
Emirates from Manchester – nil
Emirates Business Class – from £2095
Privately Guided – £145 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 11 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 9 dinners, itinerary as described, services of local guides and representatives. If our specially negotiated fares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £600
Arrival or departure transfer £24

EXTENSION – DARJEELING HILL STATION

5 nights from £1195

Why not make the most of your time?
Explore Darjeeling including sunrise at Tiger Hill, 'Toy Train' to India's highest station and visit of the Tibetan Refugee Centre and Mountaineering Institute. Visit Kolkata and stay in Delhi. Breakfast daily.
Please see vjv.com for more details about our great range of extensions.



Tiger Hill, Darjeeling

DISCOVER NEPAL

Nepal's natural splendour and cultural heritage from the Himalayas and the birthplace of Buddha to the jungle, the homeland of the Gurkhas and legendary Kathmandu

12 nights
from
£2895



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)

Kathmandu Area (2)

Chitwan (2), Lumbini (1)

Pokhara Lakeside (1)

Pokhara Kandani Danda (2)

Gorkha (1)

Kathmandu Area (2)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

Improved Itinerary

2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

5 Lunches and 8 Dinners

Local Expert Guide

Group Size: 4 – 8

INTRODUCTION

Nepal remains an essentially agrarian society, where most live in relatively inaccessible rural areas on subsistence farming little altered in hundreds of years.

The architectural heritage of Nepal retains its old world charm and, whilst synthesising Chinese and Indian influence, undoubtedly embodies a spirit of its own. The friendliness, cheerfulness and welcoming nature of the Nepalese is legendary. Discover the stupas of Kathmandu, experience the wildlife of Chitwan National Park, enjoy the panorama of the Himalayan peaks from Pokhara in the Annapurna area and view the immensity of Everest from a special 'mountain' flight.

Both the Kathmandu Valley and Lumbini are recognised as UNESCO World Heritage sites, the latter known as the birthplace of Buddha and the former comprising three contrasting towns, each with its own temples, Durbar Square and individual character.

The heritage of the Gurkhas from central Nepal is explored at their museum in Pokhara and in their homeland of Gorkha from where King Prithvinarayan Shah once ruled all of Nepal.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from your chosen airport to Kathmandu via Doha/Dubai.

DAY 2 Arrive Kathmandu (altitude 1,400 metres) for two nights at the 4-star Aloft Hotel located in the centre.

DAY 3 Optional morning flight over the Himalayas and Mount Everest (weather permitting) approx. US\$250 – bookable locally. Visit Narayanhiti Palace Museum (former Royal Palace). Visit Boudhanath stupa. Visit Kathmandu Durbar Square, take a rickshaw ride to Thamel and the courtyards of 'Babarmahal revisited'. Dinner with cultural dance performance. (B, D)

DAY 4 Drive to Chitwan (6 hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Kasara resort on the National Park border. Ox cart ride to Tharu village. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Canoe ride and jungle walk. Jeep safari inside the National Park. Tharu cultural show and dinner. Talk by a jungle naturalist on elephants and rhinos. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Travel to Lumbini (4 hrs) for overnight at the 4-star Hokke Hotel. Visit Lumbini Garden, Maya Devi temple and monasteries, and take a rickshaw ride. (B, D)



Chitwan National Park

DAY 7 Drive to Pokhara, Lakeside (7 hrs). Overnight at the 3-star Atithi Resort & Spa. Visit Barahi Temple. Enjoy a lake cruise. (B)

DAY 8 Visit the Gurkha and Mountain museums, Seti gorge, Devi's Falls and the Old Bazaar. Drive up to Kandani Danda for two nights of the famed hospitality of the 4-star Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge, stunningly located above the Pokhara Valley at over 2,000 metres. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Sunrise view of the Annapurna range (weather permitting). A bird watching walk and village walk. Afternoon free. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Drive to Gorkha (5 hrs). Overnight at Gorkha Gaun Resort. Visit Gorkha Museum (Tallo Durbar). (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Drive to Kathmandu (5 hrs) visiting the Manakamana Temple by cable car. Two nights at the 4-star Hotel Vivanta by Taj at Patan in the Kathmandu area. (B)

DAY 12 Sightseeing of Patan including the Bahal Courtyards. Visit Swayambhunath, Bhaktapur and Thangka Painting School. Singing bowl experience. Farewell dinner with a local family and Everest summiter or Sherpa. (B, D)

DAY 13 Return flight via Doha/Dubai. (B)



Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge



Boudhanath Temple, Kathmandu



Pokhara



Maya Devi Temple, Lumbini



Patan

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Qatar Airways from Heathrow or Manchester

2022 – Saturdays

Apr 16*	£2995	Nov 5*	£2995
Oct 8*	£2995	Nov 19*	£2895

2023 – Saturdays

Feb 25	£2895	Oct 14	£2995
Mar 18	£2995	Nov 4	£2995
Apr 15	£2995	Nov 18	£2895

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Double for sole use – £495
Qatar Airways or Emirates from Heathrow,
Gatwick, Manchester – nil
London/Manchester – Dubai/Doha –
London/Manchester
Qatar Airways/Emirates Business Class –
from £2095
Privately Guided – £345 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Kathmandu

Vivanta by Taj/Aloft Hotel (per night) – £85
Single supplement – £59
Arrival and departure transfers included

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 11 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 5 lunches and 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £700; Arrival or departure transfer £24

Note

To facilitate road travel and access, vehicles carry a maximum of 8 people, each with their own guide.

EXTENSION – NAGARKOT

2 nights from £245

Travel to Nagarkot (2,175m) for two nights at the 4-star Club Himalaya on Windy Hill with views of the Himalayas. Enjoy a walk around the villages and hillsides. Return flight from Kathmandu. Breakfast daily. Alternatively add extra nights in Kathmandu pre-tour or post-tour or join an extension in India.

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



Nagarkot, Nepal

THREE KINGDOMS

Meet the Mountain People of the Himalayas with visits to Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan, Land of the Thunder Dragon

21 nights
from
£7145



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Beijing (2), Lhasa (3)
Shigatse (2), Lhasa (1)
Nagarkot (2), Kathmandu (3)
Thimphu (2)
Punakha (2)
Paro (2), Delhi (1)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
UK Tour Manager
Local Expert Guides
Bhutan & Tibet Travel Permits Included
Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENT

Tibetan Open-air Performance

Enjoy an evening outdoor performance on the background of Lhasa's splendid landscape. Hear the story of Princess Wencheng of Tang Dynasty marrying Tubo King Songtsen Gambo 1,300 years ago.

INTRODUCTION

Journey across the 'Roof of the World' and delve into the fascinating world of mountain lore in the Kingdoms of Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. Explore the cultural heritage of the fabled cities of Lhasa, Shigatse, Kathmandu, Paro and Thimphu. Enjoy the natural splendour in the most magnificent mountain vista on Earth as we travel from the highest plateau, in the shadow of the greatest mountain.

Tibet has always exerted a fascination on visitors from the West – partly by its isolation and partly by there being no divide between the religious and secular in its unique past. In Lhasa, the 1,000-room 7th-century Potala Palace is one of the architectural wonders of the world, with 13 levels of red, white and gold, while the Jokhang temple is Tibet's most holy place and the spiritual centre with golden canopies, gilded Banners of Victory and the large gold Wheel of Law.

This journey sets Bhutan firmly in the context of its Himalayan neighbours. This small and remote Kingdom, The Land of the Thunder Dragon only opened itself to the outside world in the 1960s, with spirituality permeating every aspect of daily life in a determined, methodical pursuit of that most elusive of concepts – national happiness.

Across the Three Kingdoms, explore stunning alpine valleys, turquoise lakes and snow-capped peaks that rise above shadowy gorges and terraced pastures, interspersed with fluttering prayer flags and fortress-like Dzongs, seemingly unchanged by time.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight Heathrow to Beijing.
DAY 2 Transfer to 4-star Park Plaza Wangfujing Hotel for two nights. Enjoy a Peking duck dinner. (D)

DAY 3 Visit the iconic Great Wall at Mutianyu, one of the best preserved sections. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Fly to Lhasa. Three nights at the 4-star St. Regis Hotel. Time at leisure to acclimatise. (B, D)

DAY 5 Visit Potala Palace, a symbol of Tibetan Buddhism and once winter palace of the Dalai Lama, the 7th-century Jokhang Temple and a local bazaar on Barkhor Street. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Explore the monasteries of Drepung and Sera, then Norbulingka, once summer residence of the Dalai Lama, a masterpiece of Tibetan art built in the 18th century. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Enjoy the countryside and clear blue waters of Yamdrok Lake and Karola Glacier en-route to Gyantse. Visit Pelkor Temple and continue to Shigatse for two nights at the 3-star Shandong Mansion. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Visit Tashilhunpo Monastery and the Summer Palace of the Panchen Lamas. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Travel to Lhasa following the mighty Brahmaputra River. Return to the 4-star St. Regis Hotel for overnight. Princess Wencheng performance. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Fly to Kathmandu. Transfer to Nagarkot for two nights at the 4-star Club Himalaya. (B)

DAY 11 Morning hike to Nagarkot Buddha Peace Garden. (B)

DAY 12 Travel to ancient Newa City of Bhaktapur, the 'place of devotees'. Continue to Kathmandu for three nights at the 5-star Hyatt Regency. (B, D)

DAY 13 Visit Patan's and Kathmandu's Durbar squares, explore Swayambhunath stupa and enjoy a rickshaw ride in Thamel. (B, D)

DAY 14 Visit the stupa of Boudhanath, the Thangka Painting School and the Hindu cremation site of Pashupatinath. Dinner with an Everest Summiteer Sherpa. (B, D)



Princess Wencheng

DAY 15 Fly to Paro. Transfer to Thimphu for two nights at the 3-star Hotel River View. Visit the National Memorial Chorten. (B, L, D)

DAY 16 Visit Zorig Chusum Institute, National Library and Gagyel Lhundrup Centre. (B, L, D)

DAY 17 Drive over Dochu La Pass to Nalanda Buddhist Institute, enjoy lunch with the monks and learn of their education and lifestyle. Continue to Punakha for a two night stay at the 3-star YT Hotel. Visit Punakha Dzong, the coronation venue for Bhutan's kings. (B, L, D)

DAY 18 Morning hike to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten. Drive to Talo village and visit Wolkaha Nunnery. (B, L, D)

DAY 19 Travel to Paro for two nights at the 3-star Olathang Hotel. Drive to the north end of the valley to visit the National Museum at Ta Dzong, continue to Rinpung Dzong and the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang temple. (B, L, D)

DAY 20 By road and on foot to Taktsang Monastery, known as Tiger's Nest. Evening family home visit. (B, L, D)

DAY 21 Fly to Delhi, overnight at the 5-star Taj Palace Hotel. Farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 22 Return flight to London. (B)



The Potala Palace, Lhasa



Durbar Square, Kathmandu



Yamdrok Lake

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

Apr 20	£7145	Aug 31	£7195
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2023 – Wednesdays

Apr 19	£7145	Aug 30	£7145
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £1495
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £395
British Airways Club World – from £1795

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 20 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 12 lunches and 18 dinners, itinerary as described, Bhutan and Tibet travel permits, UK Tour Manager, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £600
Arrival transfer £50
Departure transfer £24

Notes

Excursions are generally on foot with some uneven surfaces and inclines. Tiger's Nest walk is trek of up to 2 ½ hours to the cafe/viewpoint, this journey can be taken on foot, or by pony at an additional charge, the downward journey is on foot. There is an optional, challenging but extremely rewarding final section to the trek that takes you to the monastery.

The itinerary reaches altitudes of up to 5,400m. (17,717 ft.) and is not suited to travellers predisposed to conditions which may be aggravated by high altitude.

EXTENSIONS & EXTRA NIGHTS

Why not make the most of your time?
Discover more of India or relax in a resort on one of our great range of extensions.
Add extra nights post-tour to reflect, relax or explore independently.
For details please see vjv.com.



Golden Temple, Amritsar

DISCOVER CHINA

A comprehensive tour including China's cultural and scenic highlights from the Great Wall to the Yangtze Gorges

16 nights
from
£3095



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Beijing (3 nights)
Xian (2 nights)
Guilin (2 nights)
Chengdu (2 nights)
Cruise (3 nights)
Shanghai (3 nights)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
3-night Yangtze Gorges Cruise
High-Speed Train Included
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 6 – 25

SPECIAL EVENTS

Chinese Entertainment

Enjoy a Peking Duck dinner in Beijing; dumpling dinner in Xian; acrobatic show in Shanghai and a Si-chuan Opera in Chengdu.

INTRODUCTION

The improvement and integration of air and rail services in China has enabled this arrangement, combining in just two weeks the great cities (Beijing, Xian and Shanghai) with cruises through the dramatic Yangtze Gorges and the stunning scenery of the Li River. Home to the 'Last Emperor' and the nation's capital, Beijing's greatest treasures are revealed at the Imperial Palace in the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace. The Great Wall was initiated by the first Emperor and revived during the Ming Dynasty against the invading Mongols.

In Xian, the life-size Terracotta Warriors stand in formation, with no two faces alike. Sheer cliffs and steep rugged mountains rise on either side of the turbulent, misty Yangtze, creating one of nature's most marvellous sights. The river scenes are enlivened by stories and legends and encapsulated by poets and painters, immortalised in particular by the Tang Dynasty poet Li Bai who wrote "...day dawns and we leave White Emperor City towering in the mist, one whole day to reach Yichang, as my frail craft scuds past soaring mountains...".



Chengdu

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from Heathrow to Beijing.

DAY 2 Transfer to the 4-star Park Plaza Wangfujing Hotel for a three-night stay. (D)

DAY 3 Visit the Forbidden City and Tian An Men Square followed by the Summer Palace with a short lake cruise. (B, L)

DAY 4 Visit the Temple of Heaven and the iconic Great Wall at Mutianyu. Travel by cable car up and down to the level of the wall is included. Peking Duck dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Travel by high-speed train to Xian (5 hrs), the oldest of the Four Great Ancient Capitals for two nights at the 4-star Holiday Inn Big Wild Goose Pagoda Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 6 Visit the Terracotta Warriors, the ancient city wall and Small Wild Goose Pagoda. Dumpling dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Visit the Shaanxi Provincial History Museum and the Great Mosque. Fly to Guilin. Two nights at the 4-star Bravo Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 8 A half-day cruise on the Li River. Visit Yangshuo. (B, L)

DAY 9 Visit Reed Flute Cave and fly to Chengdu for two nights at the 5-star Tibet Hotel. (B)

DAY 10 Visit the Panda Breeding Research Centre and walk along ancient Jinli Street. Sichuan Opera. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Travel by high-speed train to Chongqing (2 ½ hrs). Tour of the city at the confluence of the Yang-tze and Jialing rivers. Embark on the MV Century Legend for a three-night cruise. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 An excursion to Shibaozhai. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Sail through Qutang and Wu gorges. An excursion to the Shennv Stream or Lesser Gorges. (B, L, D)



DAY 14 Disembark in Maoping and visit the Three Gorges Dam site. Transfer to Wuhan or Yichang and fly to Shanghai. Stay three nights at the 4-star Regal International East Asia Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 15 Visit Yu Yuan Garden, the old town area, the Jade Buddha Temple and Shanghai Museum. Acrobatic show. (B, L, D)

DAY 16 Free day. Optional day excursion by rail to Suzhou (£85; 2023 £90). (B)

DAY 17 Return flight via Beijing. (B)

Note: Tour involves carrying luggage on and off trains and some uneven surfaces and inclines.

TRAVEL IN CHINA

Hotel facilities include restaurant/s, bar, English speaking reception staff, WiFi (mostly free) and air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, mini-bar, complimentary water, tea/coffee making facilities and satellite TV. Included meals, often around large tables of 8, are at either the hotel or in local restaurants and generally offer a selection of Chinese dishes with a drink. Transportation is in private air-conditioned vehicles with local guides accompanying all tours (except on flights and rail journeys).



Great Wall of China



Shanghai



Yangtze River

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin room/cabin
Air China from Heathrow*

2022 – Wednesdays

Apr 13	£3095	Sep 7	£3295
May 4	£3195	Oct 5	£3145
Aug 3	£3395		

2023 – Wednesdays

Apr 12	£3095	Sep 6	£3295
May 3	£3195	Oct 11	£3145
Aug 2	£3395		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £795 (Apr £185; Aug 2022 £725; May/Sep/Oct 2023 £825; Aug 2023 £755)
British Airways – from £75
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £495
British Airways Club World – from £1695
Air China Business Class – from £1695
Privately Guided – £695 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Beijing / Shanghai

Park Plaza Wangfujing Hotel, Beijing

(per night) – £75

Single supplement – £70

Regal International East Asia Hotel, Shanghai

(per night) – £65

Single supplement – £60

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 15 nights' hotel and cruise accommodation, breakfast daily, 11 lunches and 9 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £400

Arrival transfer (Capital Airport) £25

Arrival transfer (Daxing Airport) £50

Departure transfer £40

GRAND TOUR OF CHINA

22 nights from £3845

Alternatively, discover China's four corners on this journey by high-speed train from the grandeur of the Forbidden City via ancient Pingyao, Xian, the pandas at Chengdu, a cruise on the Yangtze, modern Shanghai, the karst mountains around Guilin to colourful Hong Kong. Watch spectacular acrobats and enjoy special Chinese meals.

Local Expert Guides • 8 UNESCO Sites



Guilin

GANSU - THE HEXI CORRIDOR

A once in a lifetime journey travelling through historical towns and the lesser explored desert regions of China's ancient Silk Road

15 nights
from
£3395



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night), Xian (2)
Tianshui (1), Lanzhou (2)
Zhangye (2)
Jiayuguan (1)
Dunhuang (2)
Turpan (2)
Chengdu (2)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
High-Speed Train Included
5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
13 Lunches and 12 Dinners
UK Tour Manager
Group Size: 10 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Evening with Uyghurs
Enjoy dinner and a special show of traditional Uyghur music and dances in Turpan.

INTRODUCTION

Gansu, the 1200 kilometres Hexi Corridor, was the artery of the ancient silk road, connecting trade and cultural exchange of three continents; Asia, Africa and Europe. Routes shifted as empires rose and fell and traffic declined with the rise of maritime trade but regional powers are looking to revive these historic commercial lifelines to reconnect Asia with Europe, and beyond. With the foothills of the Tibetan plateau, in the form of the Qilian Shan range, and a merciless combination of desert and mountain, the Hexi Corridor offered the only feasible route. Today, the Hexi Corridor is a must for travellers to explore the Mogao Grottoes with fabulous frescos, Jiayuguan Pass – best-preserved pass of the Great Wall, Crescent Lake and the singing sands, the majestic geology of Binggou and Gaochang, the ruins of a former ancient trading post. Xian and Dunhuang are the most important cities along the ancient Silk Road. Xian, marked the eastern end of the Silk Road and Dunhuang, on the edge of the Gobi Desert served as a gateway where western and eastern nations merged and created a vibrant and creative culture.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from Heathrow to Xian via Beijing.

DAY 2 Transfer to the 5-star Grand Noble Hotel for two nights.

DAY 3 Visit the Terracotta Warriors, Small Wild Goose Pagoda and walk the ramparts of the ancient City Wall. Dumpling dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Visit the Grand Mosque and the Muslim Quarter. High speed train to Tianshui (2 hrs). Overnight at the 4-star Tianshui Emperor International Hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Visit the Maijishan Grottoes, a series of caves cut in the side of the hill. High speed train to Lanzhou (1½ hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Lanzhou Legend Hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Visit Bingling Temple, a series of grottoes with Buddhist sculptures carved into caves and Zhongshan Bridge, the first permanent bridge on Yellow River. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 High speed train to Zhangye (4 hrs), two nights at the 4-star Zhangye Lvzhou Holiday Hotel. Visit the Giant Buddha Temple, the largest architectural relic in Gansu and Matisi Grottoes, a combination of cave art and the Qilian Mountain scenery. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Visit Danxia Scenic area, Qicai Park and Binggou, a landscape of red cliffs with isolated peaks formed by erosion of red sandstone. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 High speed train to Jiayuguan (1 hr). Visit Jiayuguan Pass, the western starting point of the Ming Great Wall. Overnight at the 4-star Jiayuguan Holiday Plaza Hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Transfer to Dunhuang, en route visiting the Yulin Grottoes, delicate and colorful murals painted from various dynasties. Two nights at the 4-star Dunhuang Hotel. (B, L, D)



DAY 11 Visit the Mogao Grottoes, for their exquisite mural paintings and statues. Yumen Pass once a military defensive pass and Yangguan Pass an important border for trading along the ancient Silk Road. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Visit Crescent lake and Mingsha Shan Sand Dunes, famous for its flute-like sounds when the wind picks up! Transfer to Liuyuan for the high speed train to Turpan (3½ hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Mercure Huozhou Hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Visit Gaochang and Jiaohe Ruins and Karez in the stark Gobi desert, the ruins of ancient Gaochang shining like a precious jewel. Karez and its maze of underground tunnels is one of China's ancient engineering feats. Dinner and traditional Uyghur music and dances. (B, L, D)

DAY 14 Travel to Urumqi, visit Xinjiang museum. Fly to Chengdu for two nights at the 5-star Tibet Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 15 Visit the Giant Panda Breeding and Research Base, home to 50 pandas. Walk along Jinli Street. (B, L, D)

DAY 16 Fly to Heathrow arrive same day. (B)

Note: Tour involves carrying luggage on and off trains and some uneven surfaces and inclines.



Dunhuang Crescent Lake



Danxia Scenic Area, Qicai Park



Mogao Grottoes

EXTRA NIGHTS – XIAN/CHENGDU

Extend your stay in Xian at the Chinese 5-star Grand Noble Hotel, centrally located, a five-minute walk from Bell and Drum Tower, or in Chengdu at the 5-star Tibet Hotel, a five-minute walk to Wanda Plaza and a short drive to Jinli Street.

Grand Noble Hotel (per night) – £40

Single supplement – £40

Tibet Hotel (per night) – £45

Single supplement – £45



Xian

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
Air China from Heathrow*

2022 – Wednesdays

May 11	£3395	Sep 7	£3525
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2023 – Wednesdays

May 10	£3425	Sep 6	£3575
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £675

London/Beijing/London

Air China Business Class – from £1595

Privately Guided – £1595 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 14 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 13 lunches and 12 dinners, itinerary as described, UK Tour Manager, services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £550

Arrival transfer £30

Departure transfer £35

THE LANDS OF GENGHIS KHAN

An exploration of Mongolia from Ulan Bator to the Gobi Desert and the UNESCO listed Orkhon Valley, experiencing nomadic lifestyle and with the chance to witness a Mongolian festival

11 nights
from
£3595



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)

Ulan Bator (1), South Gobi (1)

Khongoryn Els (1), South Gobi (1)

Gun Galuut (2)

Ulan Bator (1)

Elsen Tasarkhai (2)

Ulan Bator (1)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

UNESCO Heritage Site: Orkhon Valley

Local Expert Guide Throughout

Group Size: 4 – 18

SPECIAL EVENT

Dashchoilin Monastery

A lecture about philosophy and Buddhism in Mongolia by a local monk.

INTRODUCTION

The Mongolia of today, slowly opening up to the outside world, is an independent state, half the size of India and sandwiched between the superpowers of China and Russia. The country is home to a mere three million people, making this the sovereign state with the lowest population density in the world. 30 % of the population are nomadic and 8 % of Mongolian men can claim direct descent from Genghis Khan.

Once a stronghold of Buddhism, its religion was severely repressed with the arrival of the Communists in the 1920s. Mongolia nonetheless embarked on democratic reform in 1990 and the subsequent liberalisation has allowed its peaceful revival with more than 140 monasteries being set up anew. First recorded by the Chinese during the Tang Dynasty (618-907AD), the Mongols remained a loose confederation of rival clans until the late 12th century when a 20-year old named Temujin emerged and united most of the tribes against Russia and China. In 1189 he was given the honorary name Genghis Khan (Universal King).



Giant Genghis Khan Statue

ITINERARY (AUGUST)

DAY 1 Fly overnight via Moscow to Ulan Bator.

DAY 2 Transfer to 4-star Holiday Inn Ulan Bator for overnight. Tour of Ulan Bator including the Genghis Khan Monument, the National Museum of Mongolia for an understanding of Mongolia's past and present and Gandan Monastery, Mongolia's largest Buddhist monastery. Lecture by a monk at Dashchoilin Monastery. (L, D)

DAY 3 Fly to the Gobi Desert for overnight at Gobi Nomad Lodge in South Gobi. View the Khavtsgait Petroglyphs, dating back to 3000–8000 BC, at Boginiin Khyar ridge. Drive to the ancient rock formation of the red Bayanzag Flaming Cliffs. Learn how gers are assembled. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Drive to the Khongor Sand Dunes (4–5 hrs). Enjoy a walk and be amazed by the sound of the wind whipping through the sand. Visit to a nomadic camel breeder family's ger and a short camel ride. Overnight at Gobi Erdene camp. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Return to Gobi Nomad Lodge for overnight (4–5 hrs). Drive to the Gobi Gurvan Saikhan National Park for a hike. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Morning flight to Ulan Bator and travel to Gun-Galuut Nature Reserve. Visit the Giant Genghis Monument complex. Spend two nights at the Steppe Nomads camp. Enjoy a Mongolian archery session and a traditional 'Khorkhog' dinner. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Visit a nomadic family and learn about their daily life. Enjoy the reserve with opportunities for horse riding, fishing, hiking or kayaking (bookable locally). (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Travel to Tereiji National Park and visit Turtle rock, a granite rock formation and the Aryaval centre of meditation. Continue to Ulan Bator for overnight. (B, L, D)



DAY 9 Drive west to the Elsen Tasarkhai and Khogno Khaan Nature reserve (4 hrs). Visit Mongol Nomadic camp. Spend two nights at Hoyor Zagal camp. Hike in Khogno Khaan Mountain with a visit to the Erdene Khamba Monastery ruins. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Drive to Karakorum in the Orkhon Valley. Visit Erdene Zuu and Karakorum Museum. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Return to Ulan Bator (4 hrs) for overnight. Visit the Bogd Khan Museum and Buddha Park. Traditional folklore concert. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 Return flight via Moscow. (B)

Note: This is an active itinerary. A reasonable level of fitness is required.

TRAVEL IN MONGOLIA

Accommodation outside of Ulan Bator is in simple but charming tourist camps. Facilities include single beds, heating, private western-style shower/toilet facilities and a restaurant/bar. This is an adventurous tour using 4-wheel drive mini-vans in the Gobi Desert. There are no roads in the desert area and the terrain can best be described as demanding. Luggage on internal flights is limited to 15kgs.



Flaming Cliffs



Turtle Rock, Terelj National Park

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin room/ger
Aeroflot from Heathrow*

2022 – Friday

Aug 5	£3595
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2022 – Festival Departure (12 nights)

Jul 1 (Fri)	£4095
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2023 – Sunday

Aug 6	£3595
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2023 – Festival Departure (13 nights)

Jun 30 (Fri)	£4175
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £435 (Jun £595; Jul £625;
Aug 2023 £415)
Aeroflot Business Class – from £1345

Extra Nights – Ulan Bator

Holiday Inn Ulan Bator

(per night) – £70 (Jun £80)
Single supplement – £45

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 10/11/12 nights' accommodation, 10 lunches (Aug) or 11 lunches (Jun/Jul) and 10 dinners (Aug) or 11 dinners (Jul) or 12 dinners (Jun), services of guides and local representatives. If our specially negotiated airfares are unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £700
Arrival or departure transfer £45

FESTIVAL DEPARTURE –

1 July 2022 (12 nights)/30 June 2023 (13 nights)

Naadam Festival

This special tour follows a similar itinerary and includes an extended stay in Ulan Bator during the Naadam Festival. The festival celebrates the 'three games of men' which are wrestling, archery and horse racing. Witness the grand opening ceremony, the competitions and award ceremonies.



Naadam Festival Opening Ceremony

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

10 nights
from
£4195



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

Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENT

Sushi Making

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

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 to Osaka (Kansai).

DAY 2 Transfer to the 4-star Sheraton Miyako 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)



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, visits 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.



Tokyo



Kyoto



Bamboo Forest, Kyoto



Hiroshima

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin room
British Airways/Finnair from Heathrow*

2022 – Fridays

Mar 18	£4545	Oct 28	£4245
Mar 25	£4565	Nov 4	£4195
Apr 1	£4595		

2023 – Fridays

Mar 24	£4495	Oct 27	£4245
Mar 31	£4525	Nov 3	£4195

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £825 (Oct/Nov 2022 £745;
Mar 2023 £785; Oct/Nov 2023 £715)
Twin for single use – £1045 (Oct/Nov 2022 £945;
Mar 2023 £995; Oct/Nov 2023 £925)
KLM Flights from Bristol, Birmingham, Newcastle,
Manchester, Edinburgh, Glasgow – nil
KLM Business Class – from £2095
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £525
British Airways Business Class – from £3195

Extra Nights – Osaka / Tokyo

Sheraton Miyako Hotel, Osaka

(per night) – £175

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 unavailable at the time of booking, a supplement may apply.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £700

Arrival transfer by shuttle bus £60

Departure transfer by shuttle bus

(Haneda Airport) £50

Departure transfer by shuttle bus

(Narita Airport) £70

SPECIAL DEPARTURES – SPRING & AUTUMN COLOURS

March & April 2022/2023 – Spring
October & November 2022/2023 – Autumn

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



Osaka Castle

JAPAN'S EARTHLY TREASURES

A journey across Japan exploring her finest gardens and true cultural treasures, all immersed in a way of life unchanged for generations

12 nights
from
£3995



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night), Tokyo (3 nights)
Kami Suwa (1 night)
Kanazawa (1 night)
Kyoto (2 nights)
Osaka (1 night)
Matsue (2 nights)
Tokyo (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Geisha Maiko Experience
High-Speed Train Included
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Group Size: 10 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Tea Ceremony

Experience the ceremonial preparation and presentation of matcha at the Daitokuji temple.

INTRODUCTION

The Japanese archipelago has an intriguing history of emperors, shoguns, samurai, geisha, colourful kimonos, exquisite gardens and Zen Buddhism. Bustling Tokyo, mixes the ultramodern and the traditional, from neon-lit skyscrapers to historic temples. Kyoto, former Imperial capital, is famous for its Shinto shrines, gardens and geishas, and tranquil Kanazawa for breathtaking gardens and castles. Nara, Japan's first capital, dates back to the 8th century and Matsue in the north is a water city famed for its wondrous castle and gardens.

Japanese gardens are a traditional art form with intrinsic aesthetic and philosophical ideals that date back 1400 years. They highlight the natural landscape to encapsulate the spirit of nature and the transience of life. Originally created as idylls to tempt the deities from heaven, they range from tiny landscaped spaces, to historic Imperial gardens over many acres.

Our travel dates are ideal for 'spring blossoms' and 'autumn leaves'. Be captivated by the Land of the Rising Sun, this enigmatic country filled with cultural treasures.



ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from Heathrow to Tokyo.

DAY 2 Visit the Imperial Palace Plaza, primary residence of the Emperor of Japan and Asakusa Sensoji Buddhist temple. Spend three nights at the 3-star Hotel Monterey Hanzomon. (L)

DAY 3 Explore Tokyo, visiting Showa Kinen Park and Meiji Jingu Shinto shrine. (B)

DAY 4 Visit Kamakura's most important shrine, Tsurugaoka Hachimangu, the Great Buddha at Kotokuin and Hase temple. Travel to Yokohama the second largest city in Japan and visit the fine classical Japanese garden at Sankeien, renowned for its seasonal beauty. (B, L)

DAY 5 Travel by bullet train to Odawara. Cruise on Lake Ashi and visit Hakone Open-Air museum. Overnight at the 3-star Shibu-no-yu Hotel or similar, in Japanese style rooms. Enjoy the Onsen hot springs. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Travel to Kanazawa (4 ½ hours) via Matsumoto castle (photo stop). Visit Kenrokuen Garden, regarded as one of Japan's most beautiful, continue to East Chaya Old Street, a historic entertainment district with tea houses where geisha perform song and dance. Overnight at the 3-star Hotel Vista Kanazawa. (B)

DAY 7 Travel by express train to Kyoto (2 hrs). Visit Nijo castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of Kyoto's most impressive, Heian Jingu shrine and explore Shin'en Garden. Spend two nights at the 3-star Righa Gran Kyoto Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 8 Visit Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion and its garden continue to Ryoanji temple famous for its stone garden and Gioji temple with its famous moss garden. Enjoy a tea ceremony at Daitokuji temple and a traditional dinner and Maiko experience. (B, D)



Daitoku-ji Temple, Kyoto

DAY 9 Travel to Nara, visiting Uji Byodoin temple and garden. Stroll through Nara Park to Kasuga Grand Shrine and botanical gardens. Visit Kofukuji and Todaiji temples. Continue to Osaka for overnight at the 4-star Righa Royal Hotel Osaka. (B, L)

DAY 10 Depart for Okayama, visit Korakuen Garden, one of Japan's three most celebrated gardens. Continue to Matsue for two nights at the 3-star Matsue Excel Hotel Tokyu. (B, L)

DAY 11 Visit Adachi Museum of Fine Art, named the best garden in Japan annually since 2003 by the Journal of Japanese of Gardening. Continue to Matsue's 17th century castle. Stroll along Nawate-Koji Old Street and enjoy a traditional tea ceremony. (B, L)

DAY 12 Visit Iwami Silver Mine and Izumo Taisha Shinto shrine. Fly to Tokyo for a night at the 3-star Hotel Monterey Hanzomon. (B, L)

DAY 13 Return flight to London. (B)

Notes: This is a full itinerary with most visits on foot and sites with steps/inclines and uneven surfaces. On day 5, main luggage is transported by road, so an overnight bag is needed for your stay in Kami Suwa and Kanazawa. Please note that in Japan room sizes are generally smaller than in Europe.



Mount Fuji



Kinkakuji Golden Pavillion



Kyoto Gion-district

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin room
British Airways from Heathrow*

2022 – Mondays

Mar 21	£4195	Nov 7	£4045
Mar 28	£4295		

2023 – Mondays

Mar 27	£4045	Nov 6	£3995
Apr 3	£4075		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £645 (Mar 2022 £675)
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £525
British Airways Business Class – from £3195

Extra Nights – Tokyo

Hotel Monterey Hanzomon (per night) – £115
Single supplement – £80

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 11 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 8 lunches and 2 dinners, 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £650
Arrival or departure transfer by shuttle bus £50

POST-TOUR EXTENSION – HIROSHIMA

Visit Hiroshima, today a vibrant city of leafy wide boulevards with a thriving cosmopolitan community. Visit the majestic Itsukushima Shrine on Miyajima island and the Hiroshima Peace and Memorial Park including the Atomic Bomb Dome with its moving message of peace. Breakfast daily.

2 nights – £495 (Mar 2022 £595)
Single supplement – £70 (Mar 2022 £75)



Ancient Japan Land of the Samurai

— 17 nights from £7795 —



Visiting: Kyoto - Nara - Toba - Nagoya - Takayama
Kanazawa - Tokyo - Nikko - Aizu - Tokyo

Join us as we travel through mountainous landscapes to vibrant, neon cities, exploring villages of the old Samurai. Discover the World Heritage treasures at Kyoto, temples and shrines of Nara and relax in an onsen. Traverse Japan's famous railway network on exhilarating bullet train rides. Experience the customs and culture of ancient Japan with an authentic sumo wrestling show, a traditional tea ceremony and Maiko dinner. Gain a true insight into the ancient world of the Samurai in one of the most fascinating and intriguing destinations on earth.



For full details of our itinerary see
vjv.com/themes/great-journeys



Nagoya

Venture deep into the land of legends where age-old traditions exist side by side with modernity. Samurai were the hereditary military nobility of medieval and early modern Japan, the highest-ranking social caste of the Edo Period. Bushido, 'the way of the warrior' is the guiding philosophy of the Samurai. Explore the influence of these great warriors, an intrinsic part of Japanese culture, manifested through great castles, gardens, residences and the lasting heritage that are prevalent in Japan's modern society, this unique and endlessly fascinating nation.



Nikko

What's Included

- 16 nights in Specially Selected Hotels • Expert National Guide • Samurai Sword Performance • Traditional Painting Lesson
- Sumo Wrestling Performance • UNESCO World Heritage Sites • Ryokan Stay • Price Guarantee • VIP Chauffeur Driven Transfer* • Group Size 6 – 20



Departures & Prices

per per person in a twin room
British Airways from London Heathrow

2022 – Wednesdays

May 4	£7795	7 Sep	£7895
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2023 – Wednesdays

10 May	£7795	6 Sep	£7895
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £1390
World Traveller Plus – from £945
Business Class – from £2895

Extension – South Korea

5 nights – £1550
Single supplement – £285

Note

* On all of our Great Journeys, we provide a VIP chauffeur driven transfer for passengers living within a 70-mile radius of the point of departure. For those passengers that live outside of this 70-mile radius, we will provide the most competitive quotation for the additional mileage.

WILD BORNEO

Focus on the enchanting wildlife of Malaysian Borneo, including orangutan and sun bear rehabilitation centres, the bat exodus from Mulu caves, against a backdrop of tropical jungle

12 nights
from
£3095



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night), Kuching (2)
Mulu (2)
Kota Kinabalu (2)
Sukau (2)
Sepilok (1)
Kuala Lumpur (1)
Flight (1)

KEY FEATURES

Wildlife & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing / Activities
Improved Itinerary
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 4 – 14

INTRODUCTION

The equatorial island of Borneo offers a spectacular opportunity to encounter flora, fauna, topography and tribes people of astonishing diversity in Sarawak and neighbouring Sabah – the two states of Malaysian Borneo.

Sarawak, the one-time outpost of the White Rajahs – the erstwhile rulers – is the gateway to a huge hinterland of dense tropical rainforest and mountain ranges, historical Kuching, the capital, is dotted with temples, museums and regal colonial architecture. Known for its Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, to observe these unique animals in the surrounding forest reserve, having been rescued from captivity. Orangutans only native to the island of Borneo and sharing 97% of their DNA with humans, have been sadly losing their habitat owing to deforestation for palm tree oil production.

Sabah is home to the world's oldest jungles, sandy beaches, Kota Kinabalu and the fascinating Kinabatangan River area which has a concentration of 10 primate species, with some of the most satisfying to spot being the wild orangutan and Proboscis monkey.



Mulu Canopy Walk

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly overnight from London Heathrow to Kuching, via Kuala Lumpur.

DAY 2 On arrival, transfer to the 3-star Hotel Meritin for two nights.

DAY 3 Visit the Semengoh Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. Continue to Sarawak Cultural Village for demonstrations of traditional arts and crafts and daily activities of local communities. (B, D)

DAY 4 Fly to Mulu (via Miri) in Northern Sarawak. Two nights at the 5-star Mulu Marriott. Plank walk in the rainforest to Lang's Cave, the world's largest cave passage. At Deer Cave witness the sunset exodus of thousands of bats (weather permitting). (B, D)

DAY 5 Travel by longboat to Wind Cave. Explore the 'King's Room', continue to Clearwater Cave. In the afternoon walk in the lush tree tops on the Mulu Canopy Skywalk, one of the longest tree based canopy walks in the world. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 Morning at leisure. Fly to Kota Kinabalu for two nights at the 4-star Le Meridien Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 7 Visit Gayang village and observe the lifestyle of the Bajau which includes a cruise through the mangroves and batik painting. Late afternoon panoramic tour of Kota Kinabalu followed by a countryside dinner set high on a hilltop. (B, D)

DAY 8 Early morning flight to Sandakan. Visit Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre and the Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre. Boat journey on the Kinabatangan River with many wildlife spotting opportunities including three kinds of leaf monkey and herds of pygmy elephant. Two nights at Kinabatangan Riverside Lodge in Sukau. (B, L, D)



DAY 9 Boat trip on the Oxbow Lake in search of the elusive Proboscis monkey, macaques, maroon langur and Bornean Gibbon. Optional visit to the Gomantong Caves (approx. £30). Afternoon cruise to spot more wildlife. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Return to Sandakan by boat (by road from June 2020) viewing the local wildlife en route. Sandakan city tour. Overnight at the 3-star My Nature Resort located in the rainforest of Sepilok where many species of birds can be spotted. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Fly to Kuala Lumpur for overnight at the 5-star Park Royal Hotel. (B)

DAY 12 Guided sightseeing tour of Kuala Lumpur including the National Mosque, War Memorial and striking Thean Hou Temple. Return flight in the late evening (late check out is included at the hotel). (B)

DAY 13 Arrive Heathrow in the early morning.

Notes: Humidity is high throughout the year.

A good level of agility and walking ability is needed for some visits and to embark small boats.

On Day 5 the Wind Cave visit includes many steps.



Kinabatangan River

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
Malaysian Airlines from Heathrow*

2022 – Wednesdays

Apr 20	£3195	Sep 7	£3195
May 11	£3195	Oct 12	£3195
Jun 15	£3145	Nov 2	£3095

2023 – Wednesdays

Feb 15	£3195	Jun 14	£3195
Mar 8	£3245	Sep 6	£3245
Apr 19	£3245	Oct 11	£3245
May 10	£3245	Nov 1	£3095

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £495 (Apr 20/Nov 2 £475)
London/Kuala Lumpur/London
Malaysian Airlines Business Class – from £3445
Privately Guided – £995 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Kuala Lumpur

Melia Hotel (per night) – £35
Single supplement – £30; Departure transfer – £12

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes (excluding Malaysian departure tax, approx. £4), transfers, 10 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 4 lunches and 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.

Notes

Boat trips on occasion may be shared to contribute to sustainable tourism in the area.

The order of sightseeing and timing of flights may vary in accordance with local conditions.

An accommodation tax is payable locally, approx. 150 Malaysian Ringgit per room (Days 2 – 12).

EXTENSION – LANGKAWI

Spend three nights on the idyllic island of Langkawi at the Berjaya Langkawi Beach Resort Hotel. Includes flights, transfers and a mangrove river cruise with lunch. An accommodation tax is payable locally, approx. 15 Malaysian Ringgit per room.

3 nights – £525 (Jun 2022 £595;
2023 £545)

Single supplement – £215 (Jun 2022 £275;
2023 £225)



GRAND TOUR OF INDOCHINA

The temples of Angkor, the mighty Mekong River, a Ha Long Bay overnight cruise and the ancient and modern capitals of South East Asia

21 nights from
£3295



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Ho Chi Minh City (3)
Hue (2), Hoi An (2)
Ha Long Bay (2)
Hanoi (2), Luang Prabang (3)
Siem Reap (3), Phnom Penh (2)
Flight (1)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour & Natural Wonders
Jules Verne Sightseeing
6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supplement
5 Lunches and 6 Dinners
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Baci Ceremony, Apsara Dance and Cruises

In Vietnam, enjoy a medley of cruises, including a Ha Long Bay overnight cruise. Attend a traditional Baci ceremony and Ballet performance unique to Laos. In Cambodia, enjoy an Apsara dance dinner and show.

INTRODUCTION

The expression, Indochina, is perhaps from French colonial times, but the meaning becomes clear at Angkor. The original Hindu temples were inspired by India, but the later Buddhist additions came from further east, with Angkor Wat the most impressive and Ta Prohm, the 'jungle' temple the most photogenic.

Vietnam is historic and scenically beautiful, but also thought-provoking and moving. Increasing prosperity is changing the country, the villages as well as the cities.

Laos, 'the earthly paradise of South East Asia', is a surprising contrast, less developed. You will wonder at the majestic temples and palaces but the gentle people and beautiful scenery may stay longer in the memory.

ITINERARY

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

DAY 2 Transfer to the 4-star Novotel Saigon Centre (early check-in) for three nights. Afternoon city tour. (B)

DAY 3 Visit the Cu Chi tunnels. Dinner cruise on the Saigon River. (B, D)



Japanese Bridge, Hoi An

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 Imperial Citadel. (B)

DAY 6 Visit the tombs of the Emperors Tu Duc and Khai Dinh. Visit Thien Mu Pagoda. Cruise on the Perfume River back to Hue City. 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 Ha Long Bay (3 hrs). Overnight at the 4-star Wyndham Legend Ha Long Hotel overlooking Ha Long Bay. Lunch at a local restaurant. (B, L)

DAY 10 Morning free. Overnight Ha Long Bay cruise with seafood lunch. Visit a variety of islands and caves. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Further cruising, then transfer to Hanoi (3 hrs) to visit the Ethnological Museum. Two nights at the 5-star Movenpick Hotel Hanoi. (B)

DAY 12 Visit Ho Chi Minh's home and Mausoleum, the One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature, History Museum, Hoan Kiem Lake and old quarter. Water puppet show. (B)

DAY 13 Fly to Luang Prabang. Three nights at the 4-star Muang Thong Hotel. Visit Vat Xieng Thong, Vat Vixoune and That Makmo. Baci ceremony with music and dance. (B, D)

DAY 14 Early morning, witness monks during their ritual of Tagbat. Visit the Royal Palace Museum. Cruise on the Mekong to Pak Ou caves and visit a village. Walk through the Hmong market. (B, L)



DAY 15 Visit Kuangsi waterfall (chance to swim). Afternoon free. Evening ballet performance at the Royal Palace. (B)

DAY 16 Morning climb up Phousy Hill with panoramic views, then visit the Ethnic Museum. Fly to Siem Reap for three nights at the central 4-star Lotus Blanc Hotel. (B)

DAY 17 Visit by tuk tuk the South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Elephant Terrace, the Terrace of the Leper King and Ta Prohm. Afternoon visit to Tonle Sap Lake. Apsara dance theatre show and dinner. (B, D)

DAY 18 Visit the temples of Banteay Srei and Banteay Samre. Afternoon visit to Angkor Wat and 'Les Artisans d'Angkor'. (B)

DAY 19 Travel by road to Phnom Penh (6 hrs) for two nights at the 4-star Sunway Hotel. Farewell dinner. (B, D)

DAY 20 Visit Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and Choeung Ek Killing Fields. Cyclo tour of Phnom Penh with the Silver Pagoda and Royal Palace. Cruise on the Mekong. (B, L)

DAY 21 Visit the National Museum, Ounalom Pagoda and Wat Phnom. Overnight flight via Saigon. (B)

DAY 22 Arrive Heathrow in the morning.



Angkor Wat, Siem Reap



Imperial Citadel, Hue



Ha Long Bay

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

Mar 9*	£3395	Nov 2*	£3495
Oct 12*	£3395	Nov 16	£3495

2023 – Wednesdays

Jan 25*	£3395	Oct 11*	£3395
Feb 15	£3395	Nov 15	£3495
Mar 8	£3295		

Supplements per person

*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

(limited dates/availability)

Single supplement – £895

London-Ho Chi Minh City/Hanoi-London

Vietnam Airlines Premium Economy – from £695

Vietnam Airlines Business Class – from £1945

Privately Guided – £795 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 19 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 5 lunches and 6 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £400

Transfers to/from airport with group included

Note

This is a full itinerary with some visits on foot and some uneven surfaces and inclines.

EXTRA NIGHTS

Why not make the most of your time? Extra nights can be added pre-tour to draw breath after the flight or post-tour to reflect, relax or explore independently. See vjv.com for more details.

Novotel Saigon Centre Ho Chi Minh
(per night) – £70; Single supplement – £65
Arrival transfer – £15

Sunway Hotel Phnom Penh
(per night) – £40; Single supplement – £38
Departure transfer – £15



Novotel Saigon Centre

TREASURES OF INDOCHINA

A magnificent and varied adventure from Saigon, Hanoi and the Mekong to Laos and the temples of Angkor with an overnight cruise on Ha Long Bay – all in just 2 weeks away!

13 nights
from
£2395



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Ho Chi Minh City (2 nights)
Siem Reap (3 nights)
Luang Prabang (3 nights)
Hanoi (2 nights)
Ha Long Bay Cruise (1 night)
Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supplement / Solo Group
3 Lunches and 7 Dinners
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 6 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Evening Entertainment

Cocktail and appetisers at Saigon Saigon rooftop bar. In Luang Prabang, a Baci ceremony with traditional music and dance and a dinner cruise on the Mekong. Apsara theatre dance, and cocktails and tasting at the Bug Café in Siem Reap.

INTRODUCTION

Indochina was essentially a French invention but while some vestiges of their colonisation still exist in stylish architecture and wide boulevards, the countries of Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam exude their own character and atmosphere: the serenity of Luang Prabang contrasts sharply with hectic Hanoi and sophisticated Ho Chi Minh City, while Siem Reap remains the lively gateway to the magnificent temples of Angkor.

This tour encompasses all the major sites and cities of three contrasting countries in a concise itinerary giving you a taste of the culture and way of life including three nights in Siem Reap to explore the vestiges of a great civilisation and an overnight in Ha long Bay on board a luxury vessel to admire the emerald waters and thousands of towering limestone islands. Stay in 4-star hotels, centrally located to allow you to explore independently and taste the local cuisine in a nearby local restaurant.

ITINERARY

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

DAY 2 Transfer to the central 4-star Novotel Saigon Centre (early check-in) for two nights. Visit the Reunification Palace and History Museum. A photo stop at Notre Dame Cathedral, Opera House and General Post Office. (B)

DAY 3 Drive to Ben Tre in the Mekong Delta for a cruise through the narrow channels surrounded by overhanging jungle. In the evening enjoy cocktails and appetisers at Saigon Saigon rooftop bar. (B, L)

DAY 4 Visit the Cu Chi tunnels. Fly to Siem Reap for three nights at the 4-star Tara Angkor Hotel. (B)

DAY 5 Visit the South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Royal Enclosure, Terrace of Elephants and Ta Prohm. Boat trip on Tonle Sap Lake. Apsara dance theatre show and dinner. (B, D)

DAY 6 Visit temples Banteay Srei, Banteay Samre and Angkor Wat. Cocktail and tasting at the Bug Café; insect (for the brave!) or vegetarian platter. (B)

DAY 7 Fly to Luang Prabang for three nights at the 4-star Muang Thong hotel. (B, D)

DAY 8 Visit Kuangsi waterfall (chance to swim). At Luang Prabang visit the Ethnic Museum, Wat Vixoune, That Makmo



Baci Ceremony

and Wat Xieng Thong. Dinner on the Nava Mekong boat. Enjoy a drink downtown by tuk-tuk. (B, D)

DAY 9 Early morning, witness monks during Tagbat then climb up Phousy Hill. Visit the Royal Palace Museum. By boat to the Pak Ou Buddha caves and visit a Hmong market. Evening Baci ceremony with traditional music and dance. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Optional morning cooking class or optional morning weaving class (bookable locally). By local boat across the river to Pha Tad Ke, Laos' first botanical garden. Fly to Hanoi. Two nights at the 4-star The Lapis Hotel. (B)

DAY 11 Visit the One Pillar Pagoda, Ho Chi Minh's home and Mausoleum, Temple of Literature with a rikshaw around Hoan Kiem Lake and the old quarter. Water puppet show. (B, D)

DAY 12 Transfer to Ha Long Bay (4 hrs) for an overnight cruise visiting a variety of islands and caves. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Extended cruising with brunch. Disembark and return to Hanoi (4 hrs). Visit the Ethnological Museum. Return flight. (B, D)

DAY 14 Arrive early morning.



Bayon, Siem Reap



Ha Long Bay



Ta Prohm, Siem Reap



Kuangsi Waterfall, Luang Prabang



Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum



Monks during Tagbat, Luang Prabang

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

Sep 17	£2395	Nov 12*	£2545
Oct 15*	£2495		

2022 – Saturday (Solo Group)

Sep 10*	£2395		
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2023 – Saturdays

Jan 28*	£2495	Sep 23*	£2395
Feb 18	£2495	Oct 14*	£2395
Mar 11	£2395	Nov 11	£2495

Supplements per person

*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

(limited dates/availability)

Single supplement – £595 (Sep £545)

London-Ho Chi Minh/Hanoi-London

Vietnam Airlines Premium Economy – from £695

Vietnam Airlines Business Class – from £1945

Privately Guided – £595 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 11 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 7 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £400

Transfers to/from airport with group included

Note

Some visits are on foot including uneven surfaces and inclines.

EXTRA NIGHTS

Why not make the most of your time? Extra nights can be added pre-tour to draw breath after the flight or post-tour to reflect, relax or explore independently.

Novotel Saigon Centre Ho Chi Minh

(per night) – £70 (Apr-Sep £55)

Single supplement – £65 (Apr-Sep £50)

Arrival transfer – £15

Lapis Hotel Hanoi (per night) – £60

Single supplement – £55

Departure transfer – £20



Novotel Saigon Centre

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

15 nights from
£2395



OVERVIEW

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

KEY FEATURES

- Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
- Jules Verne Sightseeing
- 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- No Single Supplement
- 5 Lunches and 3 Dinners
- Local Expert Guides
- Group Size: 6 – 18

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).

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 2000 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.



Hoi An

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 direct from Heathrow 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. (B)
- 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 Ha Long Bay (3 hrs). Overnight at the 4-star Wyndham



Ha Long Bay

Legend Ha Long Hotel overlooking Ha Long Bay. Lunch at a local restaurant. (B, L)

DAY 10 Morning free. Overnight Ha Long Bay cruise with seafood lunch. Visit a variety of islands and caves. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Further cruising with brunch, then transfer to Hanoi (3 hrs) to visit the Ethnological Museum. Two nights at the 5-star Movenpick Hotel Hanoi. (B)

DAY 12 Visit Ho Chi Minh’s home and Mausoleum, the One Pillar Pagoda, Temple of Literature, History Museum, Hoan Kiem Lake and old quarter. Water puppet show. (B)

DAY 13 Visit to Duong Lam ancient village and lunch with a local family and visit the Mong Phu temple. Continue to Ninh Binh. Two nights at the 4-star Emerald Hotel. (B, L)

DAY 14 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 15 At leisure before returning to Hanoi for evening flight to Heathrow. (B)

DAY 16 Arrive early morning.



Thien Mu Pagoda, Hue



Tam Coc

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

Oct 12*	£2445	Nov 16	£2495
Nov 2*	£2495		

2023 – Wednesdays

Jan 25*	£2495	Oct 11*	£2495
Feb 15	£2495	Nov 15	£2495
Mar 8	£2395		

Supplements per person

*NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT

(limited dates/availability)

Single supplement – £745

London-Ho Chi Minh City/Hanoi-London

Vietnam Airlines Deluxe Economy – from £645

Vietnam Airlines Business Class – from £1945

Privately Guided – £495 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 13 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 5 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £400

Transfers to/from airport with group included

Note

Some visits are on foot including uneven surfaces and inclines.

EXTENSION – SIEM REAP

Why not make the most of your time?

Fly to Siem Reap for four nights at the 4-star Tara Angkor Hotel. Explore the temples of Angkor, including Angkor Wat, South Gate of Angkor Thom, Bayon, Royal Enclosure, Elephant Terrace, Banteay Srei and Ta Prohm. Visit a floating village. Breakfast daily.

4 nights – £495

Single supplement – £115



Bayon, Siem Reap

THE ORIGINAL MEKONG CRUISE

10 nights from £2995

Alternatively, embark on a ship combining charm and colonial-style comfort and cruise along the Mekong River, on this grand and plentiful 'water snake', from Ho Chi Minh City, still largely influenced by the French colonial days, to Phnom Penh, Tonle Sap Lake and Siem Reap.

Excursions Incl. • Early Booking Offer



RV Indochine Mekong, CroisiEurope

AMERICAS

feefo^{co}



Grand Tour of South America

Excellent itinerary. Very good hotels. Travel arrangements by plane and coach went very smoothly. Guides were excellent.

David Buss, Sunday, April 19, 2020



GRAND TOUR OF SOUTH AMERICA

INTRODUCTION

Latin America boast a great variation in geography, climate, culture and history. Landscapes range from snow-capped mountains, plunging canyons, impenetrable jungles and trackless deserts to thundering waterfalls and mighty glaciers.

Central America's landscapes are dramatic with rugged mountains and volcanoes, coastal plains, lakes, forests and jungles that sustain fabulous flora and fauna. Its culture is based largely on the Maya and Spanish colonial periods that bequeathed their religion, language, architecture and character.

South America, with its diverse history, culture, flora and fauna, is one of the world's most inspiring regions, secreting mountain-top ruins, spectacular glaciers, inhospitable deserts, soaring peaks and colourful markets. From Peru and Chile to Argentina and Brazil lie a great variety of civilisations.

For our full range of tours visit vjv.com/americas-tours



GRAND TOUR OF COSTA RICA



PATAGONIA TO CAPE HORN

CONTENTS

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THE SEARCH FOR EL DORADO



MYSTERIES OF THE MAYA & AZTECS



HEMINGWAYS'S CUBA



LOST WORLD OF THE INCAS



Trusted Customer, Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Lost World of the Incas

Very well organised from start to finish.
Stunning locations, friendly people,
good food and accommodation,
exceptional guide in Juan Lazó.

feefo

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

18 nights
from
£4895



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)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guides
Central Hotels
Group Size: 5 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Dinner & Tango Show

Enjoy a typical Uruguayan dinner and witness a tango show at the intimate Primuseum in Montevideo.

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 Rio 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 Inside 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)

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)



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 38-metre 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.

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. See page 238 for note on altitude.



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



La Paz, Bolivia



Iguazu Falls View from Argentina

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Wednesdays

May 11	£4895	Sep 14	£4925
Jul 13	£4995	Oct 5	£4925
Aug 10	£5145	Nov 9	£4895

2023 – Wednesdays

Jan 18	£4895	Aug 9	£5195
Feb 22	£4925	Sep 13	£4975
Apr 12	£4945	Oct 4	£4945
May 3	£4895	Nov 15	£4895
Jul 5	£5045		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £595 (2023 £1095)
British Airways/Iberia World Traveller Plus – from £625
British Airways/Iberia Club World – from £2295
Privately Guided – £1795 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Lima / Rio de Janeiro

Inside Lima Miraflores, Lima (per night) – £60
Single supplement – £55
Hilton Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro
(per night) – £110
Single supplement – £110

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.

Note

Accommodation tax to be paid in Buenos Aires locally, currently 1.5 USD per person/per night (can be paid in USD or Pesos).

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 – £715; Single supplement – £325

Extensions to the Nazca Lines and Arequipa & Colca Canyon are also available.



Posada Amazonas

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 – £535 (2023 £545)

Single supplement – £195



Búzios, Brazil

LOST WORLD OF THE INCAS

A journey through Peru visiting outstanding monuments, from Lima to Cuzco's cobblestone streets to the Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu, through the Andes to Lake Titicaca

11 nights
from
£2825



OVERVIEW

Lima (2 nights)
Sacred Valley (2 nights)
Machu Picchu (1 night)
Cuzco (2 nights)
Lake Titicaca (2 nights)
Lima (1 night)
Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Solo Group Departure (see page 7)
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 5 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Maras Culture & Tradition

Visit the rural village of Maras in the Sacred Valley where you will learn about Andean culture and traditions.

INTRODUCTION

Hiram Bingham's sense of wonderment when, in 1911, he discovered the 'lost' city of the Incas can scarcely be imagined. Not only was there no written record that Machu Picchu had ever existed but its ruins were extensive, unspoiled and stood in surroundings of outstanding natural beauty.

The Inca Empire stretching from Chile to Ecuador was the largest the Americas had ever seen and at its time was the greatest in the western hemisphere. Highly advanced, it had nonetheless failed to discover the wheel and had developed no writing system for its language, Quechua. This allied to the fact that its heartlands lay mainly amongst the inaccessible peaks and jungles of the interior of Peru largely explains why these important sites remained undiscovered for so long. Our arrangement explores Machu Picchu and the principal Inca sites in the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Several outstanding colonial monuments are also visited in Lima and contact is made with present-day descendants of the Inca, the Quechua-speaking Indians living in Andean mountain villages and on the shores of Lake Titicaca.



Lima

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly to Lima and stay two nights at the 4-star Casa Andina Select Miraflores.

DAY 2 Tour of Lima includes the impressive buildings of the Plaza de Armas; the 17th-century Convent of San Francisco – the largest in South America and part of the Historic Centre of Lima on the UNESCO World Heritage list; and the hacienda-housed Larco Museum. (B, L)

DAY 3 Fly to Cuzco (3,400 metres) and transfer to the Sacred Valley (2,400 metres), visiting the Living Museum of the Andes and the famous Pisac Market en route for two nights at 4-star Taypikala Sacred Valley. (B)

DAY 4 Visit the archaeological site of Moray and Ollantaytambo fortress to view the best surviving example of Inca town planning. A stop to view the Maras Salt Mines. Special visit to Maras village. (B)

DAY 5 Join the Vistadome train to Aguas Calientes before the final ascent by road to Machu Picchu. Tour the ruins and overnight at 3-star El Mapi by Inkaterra Hotel in Aguas Calientes. (B, D)

DAY 6 In the morning, time to ascend to the archaeological site once more for independent exploration before returning by rail and road to Cuzco (4 hrs) in the afternoon. (Optional second entrance to Machu Picchu – £65) Stay two nights at the 4-star Hilton Garden Inn. (B)

DAY 7 Tour of Cuzco includes the Temple of the Sun, cathedral and the Plaza de Armas, the imposing Inca fortress of Sacsayhuaman, the underground temple of Kenko, the Inca baths of Tambo Machay and the 'red fort' Puka Pukara. (B)

DAY 8 Journey across the Andean high plain by road visiting Andahuaylillas Church, considered to be the 'Sistine Chapel' of the Americas, and Raqchi ruins before reaching



Puno (6 hrs) on the shores of Lake Titicaca, the highest commercially navigable lake in the world at 3,812 metres. Spend two nights at the 4-star Casa Andina Premium Puno. (B, L)

DAY 9 Visit to the floating islands of Uros. These Aymara-speaking Indians still live on islets made from tortora reeds of Lake Titicaca. Visit Taquile Island and enjoy a home cooked lunch. (B, L)

DAY 10 Fly from Juliaca to Lima for overnight at the 4-star Casa Andina Select Miraflores. (B)

DAY 11 Optional visit to a market and cookery class (£125). Return overnight flight. (B)

DAY 12 Arrive London.

Notes: This is a full itinerary with many visits on foot including some uneven surfaces and inclines.

On day 5 your main luggage is transported to Cuzco so an overnight bag is needed for the Machu Picchu stay (max. 5kgs).

Day 8 includes a long transfer with sightseeing en route.

See page 238 for note on altitude.



Machu Picchu



Lake Titicaca

DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin/double room
Air France from Heathrow*

2022 – Sundays

Mar 27	£2895	Sep 4	£2875
Jul 31	£2895	Oct 2	£2825

2023 – Sunday (Solo Group)

Feb 26*	£2845		
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2022/23 – Festival Departures (13 nights)

Jun 10 (Fri)	£3275	Jun 2 (Fri)	£3245
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2023 – Sundays

Jan 22	£2825	Aug 6	£2895
Mar 19	£2845	Sep 3	£2875
Apr 16	£2825	Oct 8	£2825

Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)

Single supplement – £345 (Jun 2022 £415;
2023 £515; Jun 2023 £625)

Air France from Birmingham, Edinburgh,
Manchester and Newcastle – nil

Air France Business Class – from £1775

KLM from Bristol, Birmingham, Edinburgh,
Glasgow, Heathrow, Manchester, Newcastle
and Southampton – from £100

Privately Guided – £1295 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 10 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £650

Arrival or departure transfer £25 (2023 £45)

EXTENSION – NAZCA LINES

By air experience the enigma of the Nazca Lines (weather permitting) and by boat visit the nearby Ballestas Islands, home to a large sea lion colony. Travel from Lima to Paracas (4 hrs) and stay at the 4-star La Hacienda Paracas on the shores of a bay. Breakfast daily.

4 nights – £975

Single supplement – £495

Extensions to the Amazon and Arequipa & Colca Canyon are also available.



Nazca Lines

FESTIVAL DEPARTURES – (13 NIGHTS)

Corpus Christi Festival Cuzco

These departure dates (10 June 2022 & 2 June 2023) coincide with the most important religious festival taking place in Cuzco. Witness the main procession in Plaza de Armas where ten saints and five virgins parade around it. Includes a visit to Arequipa on the foot of the Misti volcano and Colca Canyon – twice as deep as the Grand Canyon.



PATAGONIA TO CAPE HORN

Explore Patagonia's majestic glaciers and mountains, from vibrant Buenos Aires and Los Glaciares National Park to sophisticated Santiago and Valparaíso

17 nights
from
£6495



OVERVIEW

Flight (1 night)
Buenos Aires (2)
El Calafate (2), Ushuaia (1)
Cruise to Cape Horn (4)
Puerto Natales (3)
Santiago (3)
Flight (1)

KEY FEATURES

Cruise & Natural Wonders Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
Improved Itinerary
2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guides
Guaranteed Departure (see page 5)
Group Size: 2 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

El Ateneo Bookstore/Santiago Market

In Buenos Aires, visit the former Teatro Gran Splendid, now the world's most beautiful bookstore, for a coffee break. Explore Santiago's vibrant central market and taste some wholesome typical Chilean everyday food.

INTRODUCTION

The most southerly region of South America has always captured the imagination of writers and adventurers. Its relative inaccessibility has preserved its pristine beauty as one of the world's last great unspoilt wildernesses. Spellbinding lakes, imposing mountains, magnificent glaciers, untouched forest and fjords produce breathtaking landscapes of mythology and magic yet to be affected in any visual sense by the actions of man.

The awe-inspiring Perito Moreno glacier features dramatic calving and quaint Ushuaia stands on the Beagle Channel at the very end of the world. Cape Horn, wild, wind-whipped and desolate, culminates in Isla Homos, with its rocky promontory, lighthouse, chapel and a monument of the albatross in flight. The region of Ultima Esperanza is home to Torres del Paine National Park, designated a biosphere reserve by UNESCO with lakes, lagoons, glacier and snow capped peaks.



Torres del Paine National Park

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from London Heathrow overnight direct to Buenos Aires.

DAY 2 Check-in at the 4-star Marriott Buenos Aires for two nights. Tour of the centre and the neighbouring districts. Visit to El Ateneo Bookstore for a coffee break.

DAY 3 Tour the Argentinian Pampas and visit an estancia for an asado (barbecue). (B, L)

DAY 4 Flight to El Calafate and stay two nights at 4-star Kosten Aike Hotel. (B)

DAY 5 Full-day tour to Los Glaciares National Park to marvel at Perito Moreno glacier. (B)

DAY 6 Fly to Ushuaia, the world's southernmost city for overnight at the 4-star Los Acebos Hotel. (B)

DAY 7 Morning exploration of the Tierra del Fuego National Park. Embark on the MV Stella Australis or MV Ventus Australis for a four-night cruise. Traverse Beagle Channel. (B, D)

DAY 8 Arrive at Cape Horn. Excursion to Wulaia Bay, walking through a Magellanic forest. (B, L, D)

DAY 9 Sail round the remote Brecknock Peninsula and enter Pia Fjord. Excursion to Pia Glacier and Garibaldi Glacier. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 Sail through Cockburn Channel to the De Agostini Sound. Walk to the base of Aguila Glacier and an excursion to Condor Glacier. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 Disembark on Magdalena Island, home of a penguin colony. City Tour in Punta Arenas. Transfer to Puerto Natales for three nights at the 4-star Hotel Remota. (B, D)

DAY 12 Drive to the vantage points of Lago del Torro, Los Cuernos and Grey Glacier. Enjoy a cruise on Lake Grey. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Visit the spectacular Torres del Paine National Park. (B, L, D)



DAY 14 Travel to Punta Arenas and fly to Santiago. Three nights at the 4-star Ugo Hotel. (B)

DAY 15 Full-day excursion to Valparaíso and Viña del Mar. Wine tasting. (B)

DAY 16 Tour of the capital of Chile including the Cousino Palace, San Francisco Church, Cerro San Cristóbal and a visit to the central market. (B)

DAY 17 Return overnight flight. (B)

DAY 18 Arrive Heathrow in the morning.

Notes: This is a full itinerary with many visits on foot including some uneven or slippery surfaces. Cruise excursions may involve the use of zodiac boats and are subject to weather conditions.

MV STELLA/VENTUS AUSTRALIS

Built in 2010 and 2017, these expedition vessels have a restaurant, three lounges, two bars, a spacious viewing deck and gym. No WiFi coverage during the cruise. Lectures about the region are provided by the on-board guides. Open bar with selected, liquors and wines is included. All 100 outside cabins are spread over three decks and have private facilities, heating, hairdryer, safe and a picture window with panoramic views.



Perito Moreno Glacier



Torres del Paine National Park



Pia Glacier



DEPARTURES & PRICES

*per person in a twin room/Cat. A cabin
British Airways from Heathrow*

2022 – Mondays

Oct 17	£6495	Dec 12	£7595
Nov 14	£6995		

2023 – Mondays

Jan 9	£6995	Mar 6	£6495
Feb 6	£7045		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £1875 (Oct/Mar £1595)
Cat. AA Cabin – £145 (Oct/Mar £80)
Single supplement – £2195 (Mar/Oct £1795)
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £655
British Airways Club World – from £2725

Extra Nights – Buenos Aires / Santiago

Marriott Hotel, Buenos Aires (per night) – £65
Single supplement – £65
Ugo Hotel, Santiago (per night) – £65
Single supplement – £60

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, all port charges, transfers, 15 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 3 lunches and 3 dinners, most drinks at Hotel Remota, full board and most drinks 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £600
Arrival transfer £45
Departure transfer £45

EXTENSION – EASTER ISLAND

A rare opportunity to see the mystical Moai statues on this remote and isolated island. Visits to Rano Raraku, a quarry of almost 900 stone statues, Ahu Tongariki, Ahu Akivi and the ceremonial site Tahai. Three nights at the 4-star Nayara Hanga Roa Hotel, a stylish eco-village on Easter Island and one night in Santiago. Breakfast daily and one lunch.

4 nights – £1595
Single supplement – £795



Easter Island

THE SEARCH FOR EL DORADO

Colombia is where colonial meets contemporary offering an exciting array of places to visit revealing diverse culture, history and natural beauty

12 nights
from
£2595



OVERVIEW

Bogotá (3 nights)
Villa de Leyva (1 night)
Coffee Region (2 nights)
Medellín (2 nights)
Cartagena (3 nights)
Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural Tour & Natural Wonders
Jules Verne Sightseeing
2 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guides
Central/Historic Hotels
Group Size: 4 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Empanadas at Las Margaritas/ Cartagena Street Food

A private demonstration of Empanadas preparation at Las Margaritas, Bogotá's Oldest restaurant.

A tour through Cartagena's historic centre showcases a range of cuisine. Enjoy tasting a variety of snacks.

INTRODUCTION

After years of turbulence, Colombia is now firmly on the map! One of South America's most rewarding and diverse countries. Colonial cities, Andean landscape, verdant coffee regions and Pacific and Caribbean coasts.

Bogotá is set on a high plateau at the country's heart and surrounded by towering Andean peaks. Its Gold Museum is considered the most impressive in the Americas, housing the famous Muisca raft. This beautifully crafted artefact represents the El Dorado ceremony and supports a claim that the legendary 'Lost City', which has eluded explorers for centuries, was located close by.

Cartagena is the jewel in Colombia's crown. Founded in 1533 as a port it is today one of the most complete examples of a Spanish colonial walled city in the world. Perfectly preserved, and a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1984.

The Colombian people are among the warmest and most welcoming of South America, quick to dispel any negative stereotype that may linger from the past.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from your chosen airport via Paris to Bogotá. Transfer to 4-star Hotel Cite for three nights.

DAY 2 Empanadas at Las Margaritas. Tour of Bogotá includes the historical centre (La Candelaria), the Botero art collection and Gold museum. (B, L)

DAY 3 Tour of Usaquen, a colonial district and coffee tasting. (B, L)

DAY 4 Drive via Zipaquirá and the Salt Cathedral, built inside an old salt mine, to the Convento del Santo Ecce Homo. Stay overnight at the 3-star Posada de San Antonio in Villa de Leyva, known for its whitewashed colonial buildings. Walking tour and visit the 120-million-year old kronosaurus fossil. (B)

DAY 5 Return to Bogotá and fly to Pereira in the coffee region, declared a UNESCO site, for two nights at the Hacienda San José. (B)

DAY 6 Visit Cocora Valley, located in the central Andean mountains, to view the wax palm tree, hummingbird and perhaps the endangered yellow-eared parrot. Continue to Salento, with its colourful houses dating back to colonial times. (B, L)



DAY 7 Visit a coffee producing farm and enjoy a tasting. Travel to Medellín (7 hrs). Two nights at the 4-star Hotel Poblado Plaza. (B, L)

DAY 8 Tour of Medellín includes the Plaza Botero and Comuna 13, which has undergone a complete transformation, now known for its graffiti and outdoor escalators. (B)

DAY 9 Travel to Guatapé and climb the 740 steps up the Peñol Rock and enjoy a cruise on the reservoir created for a hydro-electric dam. Fly to Cartagena for three nights at the 4-star Arsenal Hotel. (B)

DAY 10 Walking tour of Cartagena's colonial district includes Bolivar park, a visit to the Inquisition Palace, the Naval Museum, the fortifications and Santo Domingo Church. (B)

DAY 11 Visit to the Monastery of La Popa, San Felipe Fortress, the walled old town, including the convent of San Pedro Claver and the artisan centre in Las Bóvedas. Cartagena Street Food Tour. (B)

DAY 12 Fly overnight via Amsterdam to your chosen airport. (B)

DAY 13 Arrive at your chosen airport.

Note: This is a full itinerary with some steps and uneven surfaces.



Bogotá



Cartagena



Peñol Rock, Guatapé

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Air France/KLM from Heathrow

2022 – Fridays

Oct 21	£2595	Nov 18	£2595
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2023 – Fridays

Jan 20	£2675	Nov 17	£2695
Oct 20	£2675		

2023 – Festival Departure

Feb 10 (Fri)	£2875		
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Supplements per person

Single supplement – £595 (2023 £625)
Air France/KLM from Birmingham, Edinburgh, Manchester or Newcastle – nil
Air France/KLM Business Class – from £1775
Privately Guided – £645 (see page 9)

Extra Nights – Bogotá / Cartagena

Cite Hotel, Bogotá (per night) – £55
Single supplement – £55

Arsenal Hotel, Cartagena (per night) – £80
Single supplement – £80

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 11 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 4 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £500
Arrival transfer £35
Departure transfer £30

POST-TOUR EXTENSION – MUCURA ISLAND

Travel by boat to Mucura Island (2 hrs), a coral island part of the San Bernardo archipelago in the Caribbean Sea. Spend two nights at the 3-star Punta Faro Hotel with access to a private beach. Restaurants, bar, WiFi (free) and 45 air-conditioned rooms. Full board included.

2 nights – £495 (2023 £515)
Single supplement – £335 (2023 £345)



Mucura Island

FESTIVAL DEPARTURE – 10 FEB 2023

Barranquilla Carnival

These departure dates coincide with this extraordinary event. Enjoy a full day tour to Barranquilla (day 10) to experience this most festive and carefree carnival. The carnival dates back to the 19th century and UNESCO has declared it as one of the Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2003.



Barranquilla

HEMINGWAY'S CUBA

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

15 nights
from
£2215



OVERVIEW

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

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
No Single Supplement
Solo Group Departures (see page 7)
Group Size: 5 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Hemingway's Haunt

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

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

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from Heathrow 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)



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)

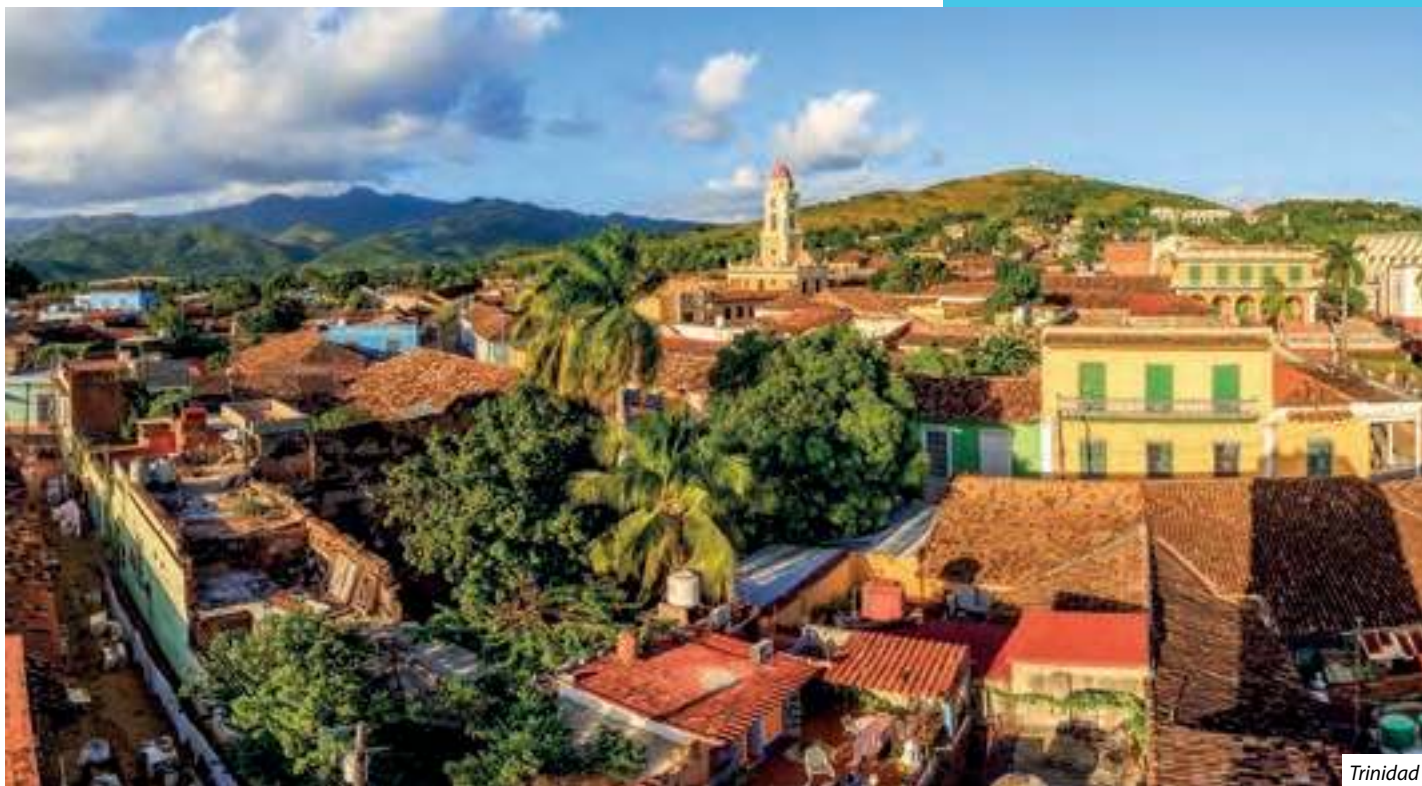
DAY 16 Arrive London.

Notes: 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.

For 'Travel in Cuba' details, see page 230.

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.



Trinidad



Havana



Viñales Valley

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Virgin Atlantic from Heathrow (May-Oct 2022 Iberia)

2022 – Sundays

Jun 12*	£2215	Oct 16*	£2245
Sep 11*	£2215	Nov 6	£2345
Oct 2*	£2245	Nov 20	£2345

2023 – Sundays

Jan 15	£2495	Mar 5	£2495
Jan 29	£2475	Nov 5, 19	£2445
Feb 19, 26	£2495		

2023 – Saturdays

Apr 22	£2335	Sep 30*	£2245
Jun 10*	£2245	Oct 14*	£2245
Sep 9*	£2225		

2022/23 – (Solo Groups)

May 1* (Sun)	£2245	May 6* (Sat)	£2225
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Single supplement – £365 (Nov 2022/Apr 2023
£315; Nov 2023 £345)
Virgin Premium Economy – from £545
Virgin Upper Class – from £1845

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.

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



Varadero

THE BEST OF CUBA

Revealing Cuba's charming past and present, unique culture, landscapes and colonial architecture whilst staying in Cuban 5-star hotels

8 nights
from
£1845



OVERVIEW

Havana (3 nights)

Trinidad (1 night)

Cayo Santa Maria (2 nights)

Havana (1 night)

Flight (1 night)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour

Jules Verne Sightseeing

4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

No Single Supplement

Solo Group Departures (see page 7)

6 Lunches and 6 Dinners

Group Size: 5 – 25

SPECIAL EVENT

Hemingway's Haunt

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

INTRODUCTION

Accommodation is often limited and simple in Cuba, however we have been fortunate enough to secure space, at a favourable rate, with Iberostar hotels in Havana, Trinidad and Cayo Santa Maria, allowing for a tour of the island whilst staying in some of Cuba's best accommodation. Due to the popularity of these hotels, space is limited so early booking is highly recommended.

Cuba offers a unique and heady cocktail of experiences, blending beautiful white beaches, a wealth of well-preserved Spanish colonial architecture and the effervescence and sparkle of its music and people. Havana has a wealth to explore with Spanish, Moorish, Italian, Greek and even Roman architecture lining the streets and squares of the Old Town.

An extended stay in Havana allows time to also visit the unique natural beauty of nearby Pinar del Rio, whilst Trinidad offers a living museum of preserved squares and colonial houses. Culminating on the beautiful island of Cayo Santa Maria, declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, development is modest compared other resorts.



Faro Castillo del Morro, Havana

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from Heathrow to Havana. Three nights at the 5-star Hotel Parque Central. (D)

DAY 2 Travel to Viñales and Indian's Cave, part of the spectacular Santo Tomas cave system. Visit a cigar factory. (B, L, D)

DAY 3 Havana city tour, including the Cuban Art Museum and a rum factory. Evening classic car tour and cocktail lesson. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Visit Cienfuegos old town and Palacio de Valle. Continue to Trinidad for overnight at the 5-star Grand Hotel Trinidad. (B, L)

DAY 5 Trinidad tour includes the museum and La Canchanchara Bar. Visit a sugar plantation at Manaca Iznaga. Travel to Cayo Santa Maria. Two nights at the 5-star Iberostar Ensenachos. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 At leisure. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 Visit Santa Clara, Ernesto Guevara Square and the Armoured train. Overnight in Havana. El Floridita Special Event. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 Afternoon transfer to the airport for the overnight flight to London. (B)

DAY 9 Arrive London.

TRAVEL IN CUBA

Cuba is a unique experience, a country that sits halfway between the past and present where travel requires an open mind and flexible approach. All vehicles are air-conditioned and the highways are reasonable, whereas minor roads can be in poor repair. Meals outside hotels can be quite basic, consisting of rice, beans, pork, chicken and fish, whilst international cuisine is available in Varadero, Cayo Santa Maria and Havana. WiFi (free at Iberostar hotels) Varadero) is available at hotels in Viñales and Santa Clara with the purchase of a scratch card, but connectivity can be intermittent and expensive for one hour intervals.



ACCOMMODATION

All hotels have air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.

Iberostar Hotel Parque Central, Havana: A 5-star hotel in the Old Town, a short distance from the Capitol building. Restaurants, bars, rooftop pools, Jacuzzi, WiFi (free) and 427 air-conditioned rooms with hairdryer, safe, mini-bar and satellite TV.

Iberostar Grand Hotel, Trinidad: A 5-star boutique colonial 16th-century building located in the heart of the city. Restaurant, bar, WiFi (free) and 40 rooms.

Iberostar Ensenachos, Cayo Santa Maria: A 5-star all-inclusive resort on a remote key, with a choice of restaurants, bars, pools, spa, divided into distinct areas with Jules Verne guests accommodated in the Spa section (adults only) and WiFi (free). 506 rooms with balcony/terrace.



Trinidad

**PRICES
REDUCED**
Save up to £100
New prices shown in white



Havana



Iberostar Parque Central, Havana



Iberostar Grand Hotel, Trinidad

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
Virgin Atlantic from Heathrow (Apr-Oct 2022 Iberia)

2022 – Sundays

Apr 24	£1945	Oct 9*, 23*	£1845
May 8*	£1875	Nov 13	£2025
Sep 18*	£1845	Nov 27	£2025

2023 – Sundays

Jan 8, 22	£2045	Mar 5	£2085
Feb 5, 19	£2065	Nov 12	£2125

2023 – Saturdays

Apr 22	£2045	Sep 16*	£1925
May 6*	£1925	Oct 7*, 21*	£1925

2022/23 – (Solo Groups)

Jun 5* (Sun)	£1845	Jun 3* (Sat)	£1925
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Supplements per person

***NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT** (limited availability)
Single supplement – £265 (Apr 2022 £210;
Nov 2022/Apr 2023 £225; Nov 2023 £245)
Virgin Premium Economy – from £545
Virgin Upper Class – from £1845

Price Includes

Air travel and taxes, transfers, 7 nights' accommodation, breakfast daily, 6 lunches and 6 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.

EXTRA NIGHTS – VARADERO

Varadero is Cuba's most popular Caribbean resort, a long slender strip of sand overlooking the sea. Stay at the 5-star all-inclusive Iberostar Selection Varadero on the beachfront with restaurants, bars, pools, spa, gym and WiFi (free). 386 air-conditioned rooms.

(per night) – £125 (May – Nov £95)
Single supplement – £65 (May – Nov £55)
Arrival or departure transfer £70



Varadero

GRAND TOUR OF COSTA RICA

A comprehensive journey discovering diverse landscapes and exotic wildlife from the Caribbean lowlands and central highlands to the Pacific coast and less-visited south

19 nights from
£3595



OVERVIEW

San José (1 night)
Turrialba (1), Tortuguero (2)
Arenal (2), Rincón de La Vieja (1)
Potrero Beach (2), Monteverde (2)
Turrubares (2), Dominical (2)
San Gerardo de Rivas (2)
San José (1), Flight (1)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Wildlife Experience Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
UNESCO World Heritage Site: Guanacaste
Eco-Friendly Accommodation
Local Expert Guide Throughout
Group Size: 5 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Rural Home Visit & Evening Tortuguero Cruise

Visit a rural home in La Trinidad de Dota for a tasting of local products and to see the farming activities of the local communities. Enjoy a cruise on the waterways of Tortuguero, with a complimentary drink.

INTRODUCTION

Encompass the depths and variety of Costa Rica's ecosystems from the Caribbean lowlands of Tortuguero on the east coast, the central highlands of Irazú, the Pacific west coast, to the Dominical area in the south. This small country covers less than 1% of the world and yet has 5% of its bio-diversity.

Well-known places of Costa Rica are visited along with some more remote areas of the country. The natural hydrologic system of Palo Verde National Park gives home to the most important concentration of birds in the country, plus reptile wildlife and monkeys. The fishing village of Potrero is surrounded by tropical vegetation uncrowded beaches and stunning coves to discover. San Gerardo de Rivas, a small village set against the Talamanca mountain range, is surrounded by forested hills and an ideal place to spot a wide range of bird species.

ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly from Gatwick direct to San José. Transfer to the Aurola Holiday Inn Hotel for overnight.

DAY 2 Visit Irazú Volcano National Park.



Visit Cartago City and continue to Turrialba Valley and visit the CATIE Botanical Gardens with grand displays of gardens and tropical plants. Overnight at Villa Florencia. (B, D)

DAY 3 Transfer by boat to the Evergreen Lodge in Tortuguero for two nights. Visit the Turtle Museum. (B, L, D)

DAY 4 Morning boat tour, exploring the Amazonesque channels surrounding the Tortuguero Lagoon before enjoying an afternoon at leisure. Evening Tortuguero cruise. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 Fly to San José. Visit the Doka Coffee Estate, Grecia town, Sarchi and Else Kientzler Botanical Gardens. Two nights at Volcano Lodge or similar. (B, L)

DAY 6 Naturalist walk includes the hanging bridges and Arenal Volcano National Park. Bathe in the hot springs at Ecotermales La Fortuna. (B)

DAY 7 Visit Palo Verde National Park, enjoy a Bebedero river cruise. Overnight at Hacienda Guachipelin Hotel. (B, D)

DAY 8 Discover Rincón de la Vieja National Park with a gentle hike to see geothermal wonders and ancient forests. Travel to Potrero Beach for two nights at the Bahía del Sol Hotel or similar. (B)

DAY 9 At leisure. (B)

DAY 10 Travel to Monteverde (3 ½ hrs) for two nights at Poco a Poco Hotel. Night walk at the Children's Rainforest. (B)

DAY 11 Visit Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve. Afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

DAY 12 Travel towards the Central Pacific Area and visit the Carara National Park with its unique ecosystems. Two nights at Macaw Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 13 Visit Macaw Lodge Sustainable Farm. Afternoon at leisure. (B, L, D)



Tortuguero

DAY 14 Continue to the Pacific area of Dominical for an afternoon guided walk through the jungle. Two nights at Hotel Villas Río Mar or similar. (B, L)

DAY 15 Morning dolphin and whale watching tour. Afternoon at leisure. (B, D)

DAY 16 Travel to San Gerardo de Rivas (2,200m). At leisure or walk with the local guide in search of rare bird species within the Reserve. Two nights at the Talamanca Reserve. (B, D)

DAY 17 Visit the Secret Gardens to discover the collection of orchids and other tropical plants. (B, L)

DAY 18 Take a Quetzal trail. Visit a rural house. Continue to San José. (B)

DAY 19 Morning at leisure for an optional city tour (bookable locally). Return flight. (B)

DAY 20 Arrive London in the morning.

Note: This is a full itinerary with some steps, uneven surfaces and occasional areas of altitude.



Cartago Church



Monteverde

DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Tuesdays

Nov 1	£3595	Nov 15	£3595
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2023 – Tuesdays

Jan 17, 31	£3695	Oct 31	£3745
Feb 21, 28	£3725	Nov 14	£3745

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £895 (2023 £925)
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £595
British Airways Club World – from £2275
Privately guided – £1945 (see page 9)

Price Includes

Air travel and UK departure taxes, transfers,
18 nights' accommodation in 3 or 4-star hotels
and lodges, breakfast daily, 8 lunches and
8 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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £700
Arrival or departure transfer £25

Notes

The hotels and lodges are 'eco-friendly'. Whilst precise definition will vary from property to property, it implies an environmentally sensitive architecture and operation, an active involvement in schemes to protect and regenerate Costa Rica's indigenous fauna and a desire to facilitate its guests' enjoyment and appreciation of Costa Rica's superb natural world heritage. Our local agent has been awarded the prestigious Costa Rican Sustainable Tourism certificate and has been upgraded to the highest level, 'five leaves'. On occasion hotels of a similar standard may be substituted.

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 – £695 (Nov 15 £925; 2023 £725)
Single supplement – £625 (Nov 15 £865; 2023 £645)



Manuel Antonio Beach

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

11 nights
from
£2195



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
Group Size: 5 – 18

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tortuguero Cruise & Cookery Class
Enjoy a cruise on the waterways of Tortuguero, with a complimentary drink, and a cookery class at La Quinta de Sarapiquí.

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 Amazonese 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 Sarapiquí 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)



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 with 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.



Arenal Volcano



DEPARTURES & PRICES

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

2022 – Saturdays

Nov 5	£2195	Nov 19	£2195
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2023 – Saturdays

Jan 14	£2245	Mar 4	£2245
Jan 28	£2245	Mar 11	£2245
Feb 4	£2275	Nov 4	£2275
Feb 18	£2275	Nov 18	£2275
Feb 25	£2275		

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £395 (2023 £415)
British Airways World Traveller Plus – from £595
British Airways Club World – from £2275
Privately Guided – £995 (see page 9)

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £700
Arrival transfer £25
Departure transfer with group included

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 – £695 (Nov 5 £925; 2023 £725)
Single supplement – £615 (Nov 5 £865; 2023 £625)



CENTRAL AMERICA'S GARDEN OF EDEN BIRDWATCHERS

12 nights from £2475

Alternatively, for enthusiastic birdwatchers we offer special departures in the same locations using a specialist guide and staying at charming small scale, eco-friendly accommodation during the best times. This itinerary focuses on some of Costa Rica's prime birdwatching spots.

Small Group • Local Expert Guide



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

21 nights
from
£3195



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)

KEY FEATURES

Cultural & Countryside Tour
Jules Verne Sightseeing
12 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
Local Expert Guides
Group Size: 6 – 22

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.

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

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



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

DAY 16 Visit the ruins of Tikal and the Sylvannus 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 Hotel Chichén Itzá. (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.



Lake Atitlán, Guatemala



Palenque, Mexico



Campeche, Mexico

DEPARTURES & PRICES

per person in a twin/double room
AeroMexico from Heathrow

2022 – Monday

Nov 7	£3195
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2023 – Mondays

Jan 16	£3295	Mar 6	£3295
Feb 13	£3275	Nov 6	£3275

Supplements per person

Single supplement – £745

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.

Independent Arrival (see page 9)

Save £650

Arrival transfer £40

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.

EXTENSION – CANCÚN

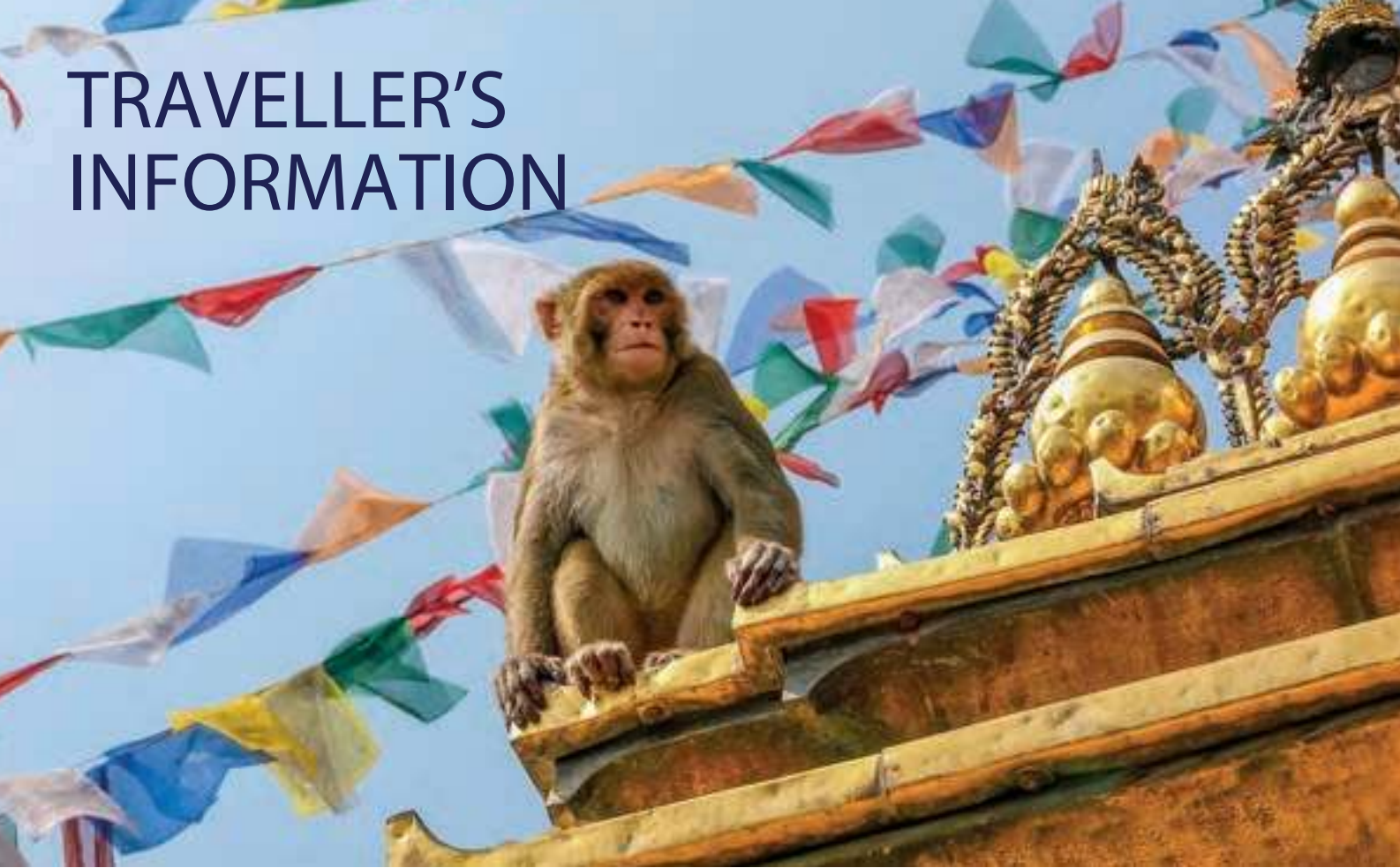
Enjoy four nights of relaxation on the beach at the 3-star Hotel Beach Scape Villas at Kin Há, Cancún. A 3-star hotel with 85 air-conditioned rooms set in verdant gardens with beach access to one of Cancún's most pristine beaches. Restaurant, bar, gym and pool. Breakfast daily

4 nights – £315 (Nov £245)

Single supplement – £275 (Nov £225)



TRAVELLER'S INFORMATION



HEALTH & VACCINATIONS

Health facilities, hygiene and disease risk vary worldwide, so please take early health advice and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures are taken early enough. Sources of information include the Department of Health's free leaflet 'Health Advice for Travellers' available from your GP or local specialist clinic.

We indicate in the itinerary if tours travel at high altitude. Please consult a doctor to ensure that you are fully fit and understand the effects of travelling at altitude – essential if you have any pre-existing heart conditions, anaemia or lung problems.

FINANCIAL PROTECTION

All the flight-inclusive holidays in this brochure are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: atol.org.uk/ ATOLCertificate.

TRAVEL AWARE

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and National Travel Health Network and Centre produce up-to-date advice on staying safe and healthy abroad.

For the latest travel advice please visit travelaware.campaign.gov.uk

VISA PROCEDURES & INFORMATION

If visas are required for your tour they can be obtained either directly from the embassies or through a visa procurement agency. Whichever method you use, please remember that it is your responsibility to ensure that you travel with the correct documentation to enter the countries included in your itinerary.

Visa procurement and information on visa requirements relating to your Jules Verne tour are available from CIBT, our recommended supplier of visa processing services. CIBT offer a dedicated Visa Service web portal for our travellers at cibtvisas.co.uk/vjvvisas and telephone advice on 020 7593 6286. You will be dealing directly with CIBT for your visa applications and you will be responsible for informing them of all relevant details, amendments or cancellations relating to your visa arrangements.

Jules Verne will not be liable for any costs that you incur relating to visa applications.

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

We take full responsibility for ensuring that proper security measures are in place to protect the information you provide us in order to process your booking. We must pass this information on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements such as airlines, hotels, transport companies etc. Additionally, where your holiday is outside the European Economic Area (EEA), controls on data protection in your destination may not be as strong as the legal requirements in this country. However, we will not pass on any information to any person not responsible for part of your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements.

BROCHURE PRICES

The prices we advertise are based on specially negotiated airfares to be taken from an agreed allotment of seats or booked in a specific airline booking class. At the time of booking, if there is a lack of availability in the allotment or specified class on any particular flight, we will endeavour to secure seats for you in an alternative economy class and you will be told the applicable flight supplement before you book.



TRAVEL MONEY

We are delighted to introduce Jules Verne Travel Money, a new service offered exclusively to Jules Verne passengers allowing you to order holiday money from the comfort of your own home, enjoy competitive exchange rates and choose from 53 different currencies. Orders are sent by Royal Mail Special Delivery Guaranteed by 1pm so your currency is secure, fully insured and fully trackable for complete peace of mind. Twenty currencies are available on a next business day basis with the remainder needing one additional business day. When placing an order, the app or website will clearly show the delivery date that applies to your chosen currency, along with any options that are available to you.

If you have used our Jules Verne Travel Money service and have other holiday plans in the future, we can still provide currency for those trips. Wherever you're bound and however you get there, we can still help. If you haven't yet used this service, it's not too late – visit vjv.com/travelmoney.

JOURNEY TIMES

Where an overland journey is three hours or more, we have indicated the duration in the itinerary taking into account any comfort stops (journeys split by sightseeing or lunch are treated as two journeys).

TIPPING

Tipping is discretionary and varies by country and by tour. We would suggest you budget about £5-£10 per day for porters, drivers, guides and tour escorts (cruises £10-£15). Where portage is not included it can be arranged locally at an average tip per bag of £1-£2.

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Where optional excursions are shown, pre-booking is recommended. Due to changing exchange rates, fuel and economic factors, the price of locally purchased optional excursions may vary.

RESPONSIBLE TOURISM

We believe tourism should work positively towards protecting natural beauty, culture and wildlife. In most cases, sightseeing is by expert local guides, not only because we consider local people the best source of information but to help local communities benefit from tourism.

Where feasible, we utilise 'eco-friendly' accommodations. Whilst precise definitions vary, it generally implies environmentally sensitive architecture and operations and an active involvement in schemes to support local communities and regenerate flora and fauna.

FITNESS TO TRAVEL

On all programmes sightseeing and transfers include some walking over short distances and easy ground. Of necessity some programmes include more walking partly on uneven surfaces and inclines. Assistance is not always available for boarding vessels, trains and safari vehicles. Some hotels/vessels do not offer lifts (see accommodation/vessel information on vjv.com). We indicate in notes under the itinerary where more mobility is required.

Our tours are not normally manageable for those with walking difficulties (please check with us if unsure).

IMPORTANT HOLIDAY INFORMATION

For further details, please visit vjv.com/important-information

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 Wales 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.

Covid-19

We acknowledge the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 global crisis and accept our obligations to comply with any official guidance from governments or local authorities, both in the UK and whilst on holiday. For full details of how we can assist you, along with the limit of our liability, please see section 23 - Changing your holiday due to Covid-19.

Flexible Booking Policy

Certain bookings made with Jules Verne Ltd have the benefit of specially negotiated, bespoke terms. Where these arrangements apply to your booking this will be confirmed to you by your Personal Travel Expert. Our standard terms and conditions remain in full effect, except where specific terms enhanced by our flexible booking policy apply. For further details please visit <https://www.vjv.com/flexible-booking-policy/>

Before you 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 mobility. You must be fit and able enough to participate independently or alternatively have 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 form 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 14 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. 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 21 - 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 21 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 ten-year 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.

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. For assistance with any visa enquiry we recommend CIBT Visas. <http://www.cibtvisas.co.uk/vjvvisas>

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 failure 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 portage, 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 due to an increase in airfare or charges imposed.

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.

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.

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 = 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. Changing your Holiday due to Covid-19

We will have no liability for any refunds, compensation, costs, expenses or other losses of any kind incurred by you (including, where applicable, the cost of medical treatment), in the following circumstances:

a) If you, or anyone in your booking party, test positive for Covid-19 and have to quarantine for a period of time, or are notified or otherwise become aware that you have, or suspect you may have, come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 (or where they otherwise suspect they may have Covid-19) and have to self-isolate for a period of time.

If this happens within 14 days of your departure date, you must contact us as you may no longer be able to travel. We will offer you the following options where possible and subject to availability:

- Postponing your holiday to a later date. We will notify you of any impact on the price the postponement may have (please note that you may have to pay full cancellation charges on some elements of your holiday, such as the flight, as well as any increase in cost imposed by other suppliers);
- If not everyone on the booking is affected, you will have the right to transfer your place on the holiday to another person nominated by you, please refer to the section Transferring Bookings.

• Cancelling your holiday, in which case our standard cancellation charges will apply as at the date of cancellation by you. You may be able to claim these costs back from your travel insurance provider. If this happens whilst you are on your holiday, please notify us without delay and we will provide such reasonable assistance as we can in the circumstances. However, we will not be responsible for covering the cost of any curtailment of your holiday, missed transport arrangements, additional accommodation required, or other associated costs incurred by you. You must ensure you have travel insurance which covers these costs.

b) You fail any tests, checks or other measures imposed by a supplier, airline, port or airport, border control authority or other government body or local authority or fail to submit for testing or assessment when requested to do so, and as such you are denied entry to board the flight, entry to the destination, access to the services or you are otherwise unable to proceed with the holiday, or that portion of the holiday.

You are responsible for complying with any official guidance from governments or local authorities, both in the UK and whilst on your holiday. You also acknowledge that the suppliers providing your holiday, including airlines, hotels and excursion providers, will need to comply with national and/or local guidance and requirements relating to Covid-19, and have implemented certain measures as a result. This will likely include specific requirements regarding personal protective equipment, such as use of face-masks by staff (and you may be required to wear a face-mask as well), social distancing, maximum number restrictions on the use of certain facilities, designated alternative entrance and exit routes, mandatory hand sanitisation, limited entertainment options and limited food/drink availability. We do not expect these measures to have a significant impact on your enjoyment of the holiday and all measures will be taken with the purpose of securing your safety and those around you.

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.

If we want to Change or Cancel your Holiday

24. 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.

25. 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 itinerary 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.

26. 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.

27. 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:-

- accepting the changed arrangements (with any refunds that may be due to you for changes to a lower category of service); or
- 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
- 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

28. 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.

29. Minimum Numbers

We will indicate whether a particular holiday is subject to a minimum number of participants for its 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

30. 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.

31. 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:

- The contractual terms of the companies that provide the travel services which make up your package. These terms are incorporated into this booking; and
- 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 commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and regulations and failure to 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 illness, 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.

(j) 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.

32. 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.

33. 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.

34. 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.

35. 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 remain 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.

36. 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

37. 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.

38. 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@jv.com 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 your 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

39. 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.

40. 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).

41. Data Protection Policy

In order to process your booking, send you a brochure or respond to an enquiry, 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 jv.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.



INSPIRING TOURS TO ALL SEVEN CONTINENTS • SMALL GROUPS AND PRIVATELY GUIDED TOURS
KNOWLEDGEABLE LOCAL GUIDES • INDIVIDUAL CHARACTER HOTELS
EXPERTLY PLANNED AND ORGANISED

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



96 Great Suffolk Street, London, SE1 0BE
Sales & Information: Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm and Saturdays 10am to 2pm

Reservations

020 3131 0174 | email: sales@vjv.co.uk

