

A red and white high-speed train is crossing a stone viaduct in a mountainous landscape. The viaduct has several large arches. The train is moving from left to right. The background shows steep, rocky mountains with green forests and some snow-capped peaks in the distance.

THE GREAT COURSES®

Journeys

2026-2027 ITINERARIES

WHERE THE JOY OF TRAVEL MEETS THE THRILL OF LEARNING



Dear fellow travelers,

We are excited to bring you our newest Great Courses Journeys catalog, featuring our expanded lineup of upcoming offerings for 2026 and 2027. For more than 35 years, we have sought out the world’s most respected and brilliant minds to create captivating and informative courses. While we have always crafted our courses to be as engaging as possible, when it comes to learning, we know there is nothing quite like “being there” with a world-class expert.

We are so delighted to continue expanding our Great Courses Journeys offerings for our community of lifelong learners. As ever, each destination combines intellectual enrichment with real-world experiences and offers the unique chance to explore the culture, history, art, culinary delights, and more of each locale. And, as part of this expansion, we are thrilled to introduce PONANT Explorations—a travel company renowned for their small ship luxury expeditions—as a new trusted partner, offering you even more ways to travel. As with all Journeys a Great Courses expert will be joining each of our PONANT departures and we have worked with PONANT to create unique enriching excursions for The Great Journeys travelers. See our Table of Contents on page 3 for trips that are designated as New Cruises.

Every itinerary you will find in these pages is crafted in close collaboration with our experts and with the same care and intent that our audiences have come to expect from The Great Courses, ensuring that every detail contributes to a transformative experience.

We look forward to embarking on these rewarding adventures with you and enriching your travels through the power of education.

Sincerely,

Paul Suijk
President and CEO
The Great Courses



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NEW!
Timeless Ireland
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Embark on an Educational Adventure of a Lifetime.

With so many ways to see the world, what makes The Great Courses Journeys the perfect fit for the intellectually curious traveler?

The World's Most Brilliant Guides

Every Journeys itinerary is crafted and led by the very same scholars and experts that make each Great Course such an enriching and rewarding learning experience. Their passion, dedication, and expertise make each trip a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to engage with the world in new and exciting ways.

35+ Years of Experience

While Journeys may be our most recent endeavor, The Great Courses is not new to crafting immersive educational content that takes you beyond the classroom. Our deep and ever-expanding library of courses has provided the perfect foundation for creating unique and illuminating travel experiences.

Fostering Connections between Lifelong Learners

One of the great benefits of travel is meeting fellow adventurers and enthusiasts who share your passion for discovery. When you see the world with The Great Courses Journeys, you'll become a member of a truly special community of lifelong learners.

"This is the journey of a lifetime for any devoted fan of the Beatles, one that will forever change the way you think of their music, their lives, and their enduring influence on the world."

— Professor Michael Shelden
The Beatles and the Triumph of the British Invasion p. 28



Never stop learning—
It's in your DNA. And ours.

Ancient Treasures of Turkey p. 52

A Journey That Is More than the Destination.

See the world like never before with The Great Courses Journeys, where the joy of travel meets the thrill of learning.

Nearly four decades of crafting educational content for lifelong learners has taught us what it takes to make learning truly immersive, engaging, and enlightening. When we had the opportunity to take this experience to the next level with The Great Courses Journeys, we knew just what we needed to make every journey a truly transformative one.

The professors, scholars, authors, and experts that have made our courses such incredible educational resources now bring that same level of invaluable insight to The Great Courses Journeys. These expert guides have meticulously crafted and curated our itineraries to go beyond the average tour, creating a travel experience that seamlessly blends learning and enjoyment for the ultimate learning adventure. Our trips reflect the breadth and depth of the hundreds of courses we have created over the years. On these pages, you'll find the many journeys we have designed with the same care, attention, and focus on lifelong learning we give every Great Course.

"This trip provides an opportunity to witness one of the most dynamic and important turning points in Western history: when the Ancient World transitioned into the Middle Ages."

— Professor Thomas F.X. Noble
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ARCHAEOLOGY

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ART HISTORY

Immerse yourself in the creative spirit of each destination, guided by art historians who reveal the stories behind iconic works.

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MILITARY HISTORY

Journey through time as you uncover the pivotal events and figures that shaped the world we live in today.

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Meet Our Experts

Our experts bring unique depth of knowledge to every journey. They are more than just guides; they are scholars, authors, speakers, professors, academics, and seasoned professionals who bring a wealth of knowledge and passion to each journey. With years of experience in their respective fields, they offer unparalleled insights and a unique perspective that elevates every aspect of the trip.

Robert Greenberg

Dr. Robert Greenberg is Music Historian-in-Residence with San Francisco Performances. A graduate of Princeton University, Professor Greenberg holds a PhD in Music Composition from the University of California, Berkeley. He has seen his compositions—which include more than 45 works for a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles—performed all over the world, including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, England, Ireland, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands.

Robert will be the expert on:

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Patrick Allitt

Dr. Patrick Allitt is a professor of American History at Emory University. He was an undergraduate at Oxford in England (1974-1977), a graduate student at the University of California Berkeley (PhD, 1986), and held postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard Divinity School and Princeton University.

He is presenter of 12 Great Courses, most recently *How Railways Changed the World* and including *The Great Tours: England, Scotland, and Wales*, *The American West: History, Myth, and Legacy*, and *The Industrial Revolution*. He is author of seven books, most recently *A Climate of Crisis: America in the Age of Environmentalism*.

Patrick will be the expert on:

Switzerland by Rail and Italy's Lake District p. 22



Joyce E. Salisbury

Dr. Joyce E. Salisbury is a Professor Emerita of Humanistic Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay. She is an expert in the colonial world of Spain, and has led tours for several decades. Professor Salisbury has been widely recognized for her teaching abilities, including being named Professor of the Year in 1991 by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She has taught three times on Semester at Sea, a study-abroad program on a ship that circumnavigates the world with more than 500 students for a full semester. She has written more than 10 books and created four Great Courses, the first of which was *The History of Spain: Land on a Crossroad*.

Joyce will be the expert on:

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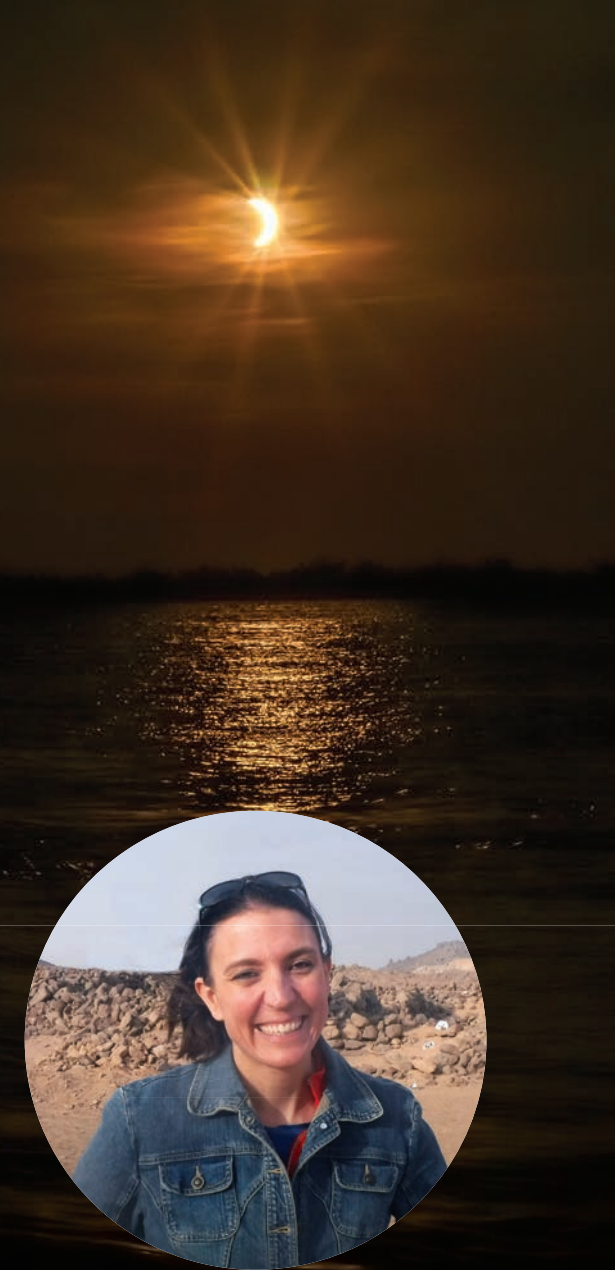


Keith Huxen

Dr. Keith Huxen is the Senior Historian at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation in support of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and was previously the Senior Director of Research and History in the Institute for the Study of War and Democracy at The National WWII Museum. An expert in 20th-century military and diplomatic history, Professor Huxen has extensive experience leading tours and delivering lectures at battle and historical sites in Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Poland, China, and Taiwan. He has published articles on military history in numerous academic journals and created *World War II: Up Close and Personal* for The Great Courses.

Keith will be the expert on:

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Kate Liszka

Dr. Kate Liszka brings ancient Egypt to life through the lens of social history, identity, and desert archaeology. As Director of the Wadi el-Hudi Expedition, she leads groundbreaking research into ancient Egyptian mining communities. She has served as a consultant for Disney's *Under Wraps* films and cohosted The Great Courses' *The Real Ancient Egypt*. With every excavation and lecture, Dr. Liszka invites learners to journey into the vibrant, complex world of ancient Egypt.

Kate will be the expert on:

2027 Solar Eclipse & Ancient Splendors on the Nile River aboard the M/S Tamr p. 36

Set Sail on Your Next Great Learning Adventure.

Experience a whole new world of educational travel with The Great Courses Journeys and PONANT Explorations. It's not just luxury travel—it's luxury learning.

At The Great Courses Journeys, we are constantly looking for new ways to combine travel with deeply insightful and immersive learning. That's why we are so pleased to announce our collaboration with PONANT Explorations. Specializing in small ship cruises, each PONANT departure includes a one night pre-departure stay, free transfers, and exclusive shore excursions with our Great Courses experts.

If you've ever wanted to explore the world from ship to shore with some of the world's greatest professors and experts—while enjoying luxury accommodations—our trips in collaboration with PONANT are exactly what you're looking for.



PONANT ships offer all the luxury of a cruise vacation, coupled with the immersive learning experiences of The Great Courses.

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The Panama Canal and Marvels of Costa Rica with Scott Solomon p. 46



Prague in the spring



SCAN FOR VIDEO PREVIEW!

NEW! Great Music Masters of Prague: From Dvořák to Mahler and Beyond

- Explore the life and legacies of prominent Czech composers such as Bedřich Smetana, Gustav Mahler, and Antonín Dvořák with visits to their birth houses, museums, and the prominent concert halls that bear their name.
- Discover rare musical manuscripts annotated by Mozart and Beethoven in the Lobkowitz Palace Collection, followed by an intimate concert in the beautiful Baroque Concert Hall.
- Tour historic landmarks like Prague Castle, the Klementinum, and the Estates Theatre where Mozart conducted the premiere of his celebrated *Don Giovanni*.

Join renowned musicologist, composer, and The Great Courses professor Robert Greenberg on a journey into the heart of Bohemia to explore the lives and legacies of notable Czech musicians, from Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana to Gustav Mahler and others whose work helped define the sound of a nation. Attend performances of the Prague Spring International Music Festival, one of the world's most prestigious classical music events.



Immerse yourself in Prague's musical legacy with live performances and private tours.

ITINERARY—8 DAYS

DAY 1: Welcome to Prague

Arrive on individual flights into Prague and transfer independently to your hotel. Set out on an introductory walking tour that showcases the city's rich architectural and cultural heritage. In the evening, gather with Dr. Robert Greenberg and your fellow travelers for a festive welcome dinner at a nearby restaurant.

Dinner; Grand Hotel Bohemia

DAY 2: Castle Walls and Concert Halls

Begin your day with a lecture by Dr. Greenberg and hear how Prague's complex history intertwined with the city's extraordinary musical legacy. Embark on a guided tour of Prague Castle, the largest ancient castle complex in the world. After lunch, continue to the grand Municipal House, a jewel of Czech Art Nouveau architecture. The evening concludes with a performance of the prestigious Prague Spring International Music Festival. Performance details will be announced closer to the departure date.

Breakfast, Lunch; Grand Hotel Bohemia

DAY 3: Mostly Mozart

Visit the Lobkowitz Palace, an historic residence within the Prague Castle complex that houses an extraordinary private collection belonging to the noble House of Lobkowitz. After lunch at a local restaurant, attend a classical concert held in the palace's intimate music salon. Then, enjoy a guided tour of the Estates Theatre, one of the oldest European theaters still in use and where Mozart personally conducted the world premiere of *Don Giovanni* in 1787. Dinner and the rest of the evening will be yours to enjoy in the "city of a hundred spires."

Breakfast, Lunch; Grand Hotel Bohemia

DAY 4: Smetana's Prague

Today, your journey continues with a tour of the Rudolfinum, the prestigious home of the Czech Philharmonic. Enjoy lunch at Café Mozart, which overlooks the bustling Old Town Square and the iconic Astronomical Clock. In the afternoon, visit the Bedřich Smetana Museum, housed in a charming riverside building. Next, step into the historic Klementinum, considered one of the most beautiful libraries in Europe. Then, enjoy a lecture by Dr. Greenberg, who will offer a deeper look into the life and works of Smetana. The remainder of the evening will be at your leisure.

Breakfast, Lunch; Grand Hotel Bohemia

DAY 5: Mahler's Moravian Roots

Travel to the Czech countryside with a visit to Jihlava, the childhood home of composer Gustav Mahler. The journey continues to the nearby UNESCO World Heritage town of Telč. Have lunch in the charming main square, followed by time on your own to wander the cobbled streets. Return to Prague for another remarkable performance of the Prague Spring International Music Festival.

Breakfast, Lunch; Grand Hotel Bohemia

DAY 6: In Dvořák's Footsteps

Begin with a scenic drive to Nelahozeves Castle, a Renaissance treasure overlooking the Vltava River. Along the way, Dr. Greenberg will speak about the life and work of Antonín Dvořák, setting the stage for the sites ahead. Just a short distance from the castle, visit the Antonín Dvořák Birth House. Return to Prague for a special evening chamber concert in the Gothic and intimate Saint-Martin-in-the-Wall Church.

Breakfast; Grand Hotel Bohemia

DAY 7: Prague's Musical Legacy

Your final day in Prague begins with a visit to the Antonín Dvořák Museum. Continue to Vyšehrad Cemetery, a place of national reverence and reflection where many of the Czech Republic's most celebrated cultural figures are laid to rest among striking sculptures and tombstones. Later, enjoy a tour of the recently restored State Opera. In the evening, raise a toast to the unforgettable history and music of Prague during a festive farewell dinner.

Breakfast, Dinner; Grand Hotel Bohemia

DAY 8: Departure

Transfer individually to the airport and depart Prague on individual flights for your journey home.

Breakfast



Your Journeys Expert
Robert Greenberg

Dr. Robert Greenberg is Music Historian-in-Residence with San Francisco Performances. A graduate of Princeton University, Professor Greenberg holds a PhD in Music Composition from the University of California, Berkeley. He has seen his compositions—which include more than 45 works for a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles—performed all over the world, including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, England, Ireland, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands.

He has served on the faculties of the University of California, Berkeley; California State University, Hayward; and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has lectured for some of the most prestigious musical and arts organizations in the United States, including the San Francisco Symphony, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Van Cliburn Foundation, and the Chicago Symphony. For The Great Courses, he has recorded more than 500 lectures on a range of composers and classical music genres.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 11–18, 2026
May 10–17, 2027

PRICE: From \$7,195
Double from \$7,195 per person
Single from \$8,445 per person



Karlskirche, Vienna

Great Music Masters of Vienna: The Romantics From Brahms to Mahler

- Take an after-hours tour of Schönbrunn Palace and enjoy a classical concert under the vaulted ceiling of the Orangerie featuring the works of Mozart and Strauss.
- View rare treasures on a guided tour of the Collection of Historic Instruments and discover the crossover of art nouveau and music in the Secession Museum.
- Set off on an excursion to the spa town of Baden bei Wien and discover the reasons key creatives from Vienna sought sanctuary there.

During the sunset of the Austro-Hungarian empire, Vienna served as the home to promising and innovative musicians and artists who would later become known as The Romantics. From Strauss' The Blue Danube to Brahms' Liebeslieder-Walzer, the spirit of the music created during these years permeates the lively streets of Vienna still. Explore the legacy of the city's music masters with acclaimed composer, pianist, musicologist, and beloved Great Courses professor Robert Greenberg. Follow the footsteps of Brahms, Strauss, and Mahler to the homes where they composed, the palaces and venues where they performed, and the cafés and shops they frequented. Through private tours, concerts, and an excursion to Baden bei Wien, delve deep into the circumstances and personalities that shaped their incomparable bodies of work and that of legendary musical forebears such as Mozart and Beethoven.

ITINERARY—7 DAYS

DAY 1: Welcome to Vienna

Arrive in Vienna and transfer independently to your hotel in the city center. After time to settle in, head into the streets of Vienna with Professor Greenberg, your fellow travelers, and a local guide for an overview of the city's historic heart and its enduring musical heritage. This evening, gather at a local restaurant for a welcome dinner.

Dinner; Le Méridien Vienna

DAY 2: Johannes Brahms and Gustav Mahler

Join Professor Greenberg for a morning lecture followed by a guided walk to Karlsplatz to see the Brahms Monument, the Karlskirche, and the State Opera House. Continue to the Neue Burg to visit the world-renowned Collection of Historic Musical Instruments. Browse the art collection at the adjacent Kunsthistorisches Museum. Cap off the day with an after-hours

tour of Schönbrunn Palace, the lavish summer residence of Empress Maria Theresa where 6-year-old prodigy Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart first played before the imperial court. After dinner at the palace restaurant, attend a concert in the elegant Orangerie. You may want to retire to the hotel bar with Professor Greenberg and your new friends to discuss the events of the day.

Breakfast, Dinner; Le Méridien Vienna

DAY 3: Johann Strauss

Make your way on foot to Stadtpark to see the golden statue memorializing Johann Strauss II. Continue to nearby St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna's spiritual center, where Haydn sang as a choir boy and Mozart's funeral was held. Enter the Theater an der Wien, where Strauss first performed several of his operettas. Enjoy dinner together in a nearby restaurant before continuing to an evening concert performance.

Breakfast, Dinner; Le Méridien Vienna

DAY 4: The Second Viennese School

Begin the day with a visit to the Haus der Musik, a museum dedicated to the concept of sound and Vienna's greatest composers, followed by a guided tour of Palais Lobkowitz and its Theaternmuseum. See the intersection of music and art with a guided visit to the Secession Museum to view the Beethoven Frieze by Gustav Klimt, considered one of Klimt's key works and a highlight of Viennese Art Nouveau. Finally, explore the Arnold Schönberg Center to discover his fusion of experimental art and music during the turn of the century.

Breakfast, Lunch; Le Méridien Vienna

DAY 5: Baden bei Wien

Pay your respects at the graves of Brahms and Strauss, buried at Zentralfriedhof alongside Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert. Travel south to the spa town of Baden, a retreat for Vienna's aristocracy, artists and musicians. Enter the house where Beethoven came regularly in hopes of a remedy for his encroaching deafness and see some of the folios he wrote here, including parts of the legendary Ninth Symphony. Visit a local vineyard for a tour and tasting. Back in Vienna gather with Professor Greenberg for evening lecture before dinner.

Breakfast, Dinner; Le Méridien Vienna

DAY 6: The Strauss Family

Visit Haydnhaus followed by the recently-opened House of Strauss. At the Lichtentaler Church, learn about Schubert's time as an organist. With luck, we'll catch a private organ recital inside the church. Continue to the Strauss Apartment on Praterstrasse where Johann Strauss wrote arguably his most famous piece, The Blue Danube. The associated museum is home to Strauss's manuscripts, instruments, and other original items. Tonight, toast Vienna's The Romantics musical masters at a farewell dinner at Griechenbeisl, the oldest inn in Vienna and a favorite of Professor Greenberg.

Breakfast, Dinner; Le Méridien Vienna

DAY 7: Departure

After breakfast, transfer independently to the airport for your flight home.

Breakfast

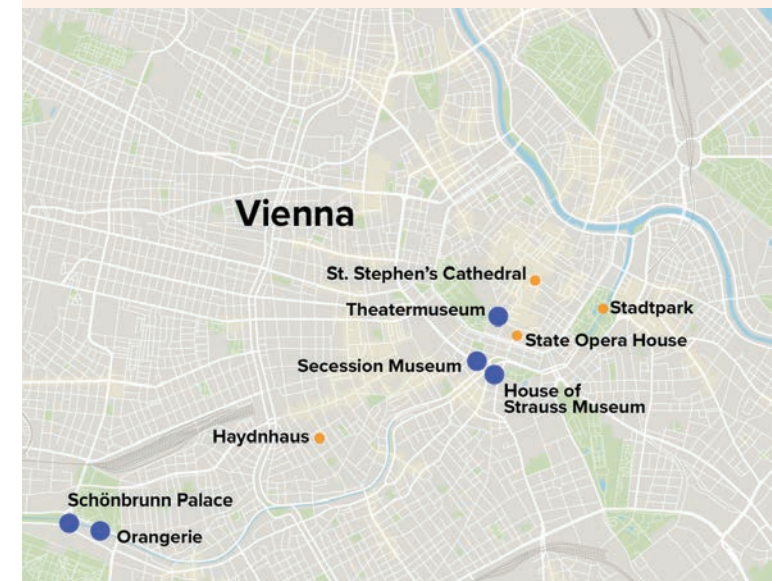


The legacy of the Romantics can be seen all across Vienna, including monuments like this famous golden statue of Johann Strauss.



Dr. Robert Greenberg is Music Historian-in-Residence with San Francisco Performances. A graduate of Princeton University, Professor Greenberg holds a PhD in Music Composition from the University of California, Berkeley. He has seen his compositions—which include more than 45 works for a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles—performed all over the world, including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, England, Ireland, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands.

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TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 2–8, 2027

PRICE: From \$7,995

Double from \$7,995 per person

Single from \$9,945 per person



Interior of Teatro Regio di Parma

Great Music Masters of Italy: In the Footsteps of Verdi

- Trace Verdi's life from his humble beginnings in Le Roncole and Busseto to his philanthropic final years at Milan's Casa Verdi.
- Delve further into the world of opera during a class with a faculty member of the National Institute of Verdi Studies.
- Explore the towns and cities that inspired opera's most famous composers with guided walking tours and, of course, delicious Italian food.

Get ready to enter the enchanting world of Giuseppe Verdi with renowned musicologist, composer, and The Great Courses professor Robert Greenberg. From the historic city of Parma to the vibrant metropolis of Milan, down every street and around every corner you will find the traces of this region's passionate love for music. As you traverse Northern Italy, you'll get to experience first-hand the rich culture and artistic heritage that has shaped some of the most iconic operas ever written. Featuring exclusive access to the homes and haunts of Giuseppe Verdi, an opera lesson with the Verdi Institute, and captivating performances, this experience promises to be a harmonious blend of music, culture, and discovery. Don't miss out on this musical adventure!



Discover where history and modernity meet as you visit the Piazza del Duomo in Milan.

ITINERARY—7 DAYS

DAY 1: Arrival in Parma

Arrive in Bologna today and transfer to your hotel in the city center of Parma. One group transfer will be provided. Gather with fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at a local trattoria featuring traditional Emilian dishes. Professor Greenberg will share his opening remarks on the program, including some of his best tips and insights from his popular course, *How to Listen to and Understand Great Opera*.
Dinner; Hotel Du Parc, Parma

DAY 2: Verdi's Birthplace & Musical Beginnings

This morning starts with a visit to Casa Barezzi in the nearby village of Busseto, where Verdi's education was overseen by his greatest patron, a wealthy businessman named Antonio Barezzi. Continue to a guided tour of Casa Verdi in Le Roncole, where the composer was born. Dr. Greenberg will explain how Verdi's formative years cemented his belief in "sprezzatura"—the art of effortless mastery. Relax for lunch in a restaurant that

has been women-owned and operated for over a century with family recipes prepared to order. This evening, enjoy an opera performance as part of the Verdi Festival in Busseto or Parma. (Performance information will be provided closer to departure.)
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Du Parc, Parma

DAY 3: Toscanini and the Teatro

Visit one of Italy's most prestigious opera houses, the Teatro Regio di Parma. After lunch at la Greppia, which combines the region's famous produce such as Parmigiano Reggiano and Parma ham with culinary inspiration from across the globe. Afterwards, explore the birthplace of Arturo Toscanini, one of history's greatest conductors and a sworn champion of Verdi's work. Situated in the lively Oltretorrente district of Parma, this museum offers a glimpse into Toscanini's extraordinary life and enduring impact. As you tour the museum, Professor Greenberg explains the relationship between a conductor and their interpretation of a composer's work. Enjoy the remainder of your evening at leisure in Parma. (Performance as part of Verdi Festival could be scheduled this evening.)
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Du Parc, Parma

DAY 4: Mantua: The Setting of Rigoletto

Bid ciao to Parma and make your way to Milan, with a stop in the city of Mantua. Savor Mantua's flavors at La Fragoletta, a cozy spot known for its seasonal specialties like tortelli di zucca or risotto alla Pilota. Discover Mantua through Verdi's eyes on a walking tour of the key locations from Rigoletto, including the Ducal Palace, the Hunchback's House, and Sparafucile's Inn. Experience the opera's dramatic story and key arias with commentary from Professor Greenberg as to why the censors demanded the opera be set in Mantua. In the afternoon, depart for Milan and settle into your accommodations. Enjoy your evening at leisure in the bustling center of Milan.
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Sina de La Ville

DAY 5: Milan: Casa Verdi and Teatro La Scala

Start your day at the other famous Casa Verdi, a home for retired musicians and opera singers founded by the maestro himself. Your guided visit provides a unique glimpse into Verdi's final years and his dedication to supporting fellow musicians. Stop for lunch at a Milanese restaurant that features regional heritage dishes. In the afternoon, embark on an exclusive visit of the Teatro La Scala. Uncover the secrets of the theater from top to bottom as Professor Greenberg underscores the importance of the venue in Verdi's career and popularity. (Visit and locations subject to confirmation based on La Scala rehearsal schedules.) The remainder of the evening is yours to explore the cultural heart of Milan.
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Sina de La Ville

DAY 6: The Finale

Begin your day with a final lecture from Professor Greenberg. Indulge in a memorable farewell lunch, with a menu brimming with innovative dishes. Spend a relaxed early evening and dinner on your own before returning to the theater for the culminating performance of the program. End your Verdi adventure with a performance at Teatro La Scala (subject to confirmation).
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Sina de La Ville

DAY 7: Departure

Depart hotel for individual flights home from Milan.
Breakfast



Your Journeys
Expert
Robert Greenberg

Dr. Robert Greenberg is Music Historian-in-Residence with San Francisco Performances. A graduate of Princeton University, Professor Greenberg holds a PhD in Music Composition from the University of California, Berkeley. He has seen his compositions—which include more than 45 works for a wide variety of instrumental and vocal ensembles—performed all over the world, including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Los Angeles, England, Ireland, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands.

He has served on the faculties of the University of California, Berkeley; California State University, Hayward; and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and has lectured for some of the most prestigious musical and arts organizations in the United States, including the San Francisco Symphony, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, the Van Cliburn Foundation, and the Chicago Symphony. For The Great Courses, he has recorded more than 500 lectures on a range of composers and classical music genres.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: October 7–13, 2026
October 6–12, 2027

PRICE: From \$8,495
Double from \$8,495 per person
Single from \$10,395 per person



Coast of Normandy

Remembering D-Day: Churchill's War Rooms to Omaha Beach

- Walk along Omaha Beach where Allied forces made their historic landings, and pay tribute to the fallen heroes at the Normandy American Cemetery during a wreath-laying ceremony.
- Learn about the daring airborne operations and beach landings by the British at Pegasus Bridge and Sword Beach that were critical to the success of D-Day.
- Explore Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms, the historic underground bunkers where Churchill directed Britain's war strategy during World War II, preserved with original maps and artifacts.

Take an extraordinary journey through the pivotal moments and places that shaped D-Day and the Allied victory in World War II. Beginning in London, trace the footsteps of the courageous men and women who fought for freedom with visits to Winston Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms and Bletchley Park. Explore the *HMS Belfast* and travel to Portsmouth where final preparations for the invasion were secured. Then, cross the English Channel into Normandy and watch history unfold as you follow the events of the historic liberation of France. Your experience culminates in a powerful walk along Omaha Beach and a private wreath-laying ceremony to honor those who gave their lives.

ITINERARY—8 DAYS

DAY 1: Drama beneath Westminster

Your journey begins with a private guided coach tour of London's World War II sites and memorials, including a visit to Winston Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms, which remain preserved as it was in 1945. In the evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a welcome reception and opening remarks by your tour expert, followed by dinner as a group.
Reception, Dinner; Hotel Riu Plaza Victoria

DAY 2: Scrambled Messages and Royal War Ship

Begin your day with a guided visit to Bletchley Park, where your expert will uncover the true story of the Enigma code breakers and their pivotal role in the war effort. After lunch at leisure, get a firsthand look at naval life during one of history's most defining moments with a visit to the *HMS Belfast*, an historic Royal Navy warship. Dinner and the rest of the evening will be yours to enjoy in London.
Breakfast; Hotel Riu Plaza Victoria

DAY 3: Planning Is Everything

Travel south to Portsmouth, which in 1944 was part of a 10-mile-deep coastal strip closed to all visitors in preparation for Operation Overlord. Explore Southwick Village and gather for lunch at The Golden Lion Pub, once converted into an officer's mess during World War II. View copies of the map that Eisenhower and Commander-in-Chief General Bernard Montgomery used to plot the largest amphibious landing in military history. Visit The Portsmouth D-Day Museum, home to the Overlord Embroidery and Landing Craft Tak 7074, and join your expert in a discussion about the logistics of such a massive operation. Continue the conversation over dinner this evening at your hotel.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; The Marriott Hotel Portsmouth

DAY 4: Operation Tonga

This morning, cross the English Channel by ferry and arrive in Normandy in the afternoon. Visit the Merville Battery and Museum. As you walk amongst the original bunkers, hear the story of the 6th British Airborne Division who were deployed

just after midnight on June 6, 1944, to destroy the German stronghold before its troops could prevent the progress of Allied forces on nearby Sword Beach. Afterward, check in to your hotel in Bayeux and gather for dinner in a local restaurant.
Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel d'Argouges

DAY 5: A Mighty Endeavor

Begin at La Fièvre Bridge and its "Iron Mike" Monument, a tribute to the paratroopers who fought bravely in the area. Continue to Sainte-Mère-Église, one of the first towns liberated by Allied forces, and explore the Airborne Museum. In Saint-Marie-du-Mont, visit the historic Église Notre-Dame and see the confessional that is still riddled with bullet holes, then head to Utah Beach, where over 23,000 Americans made an amphibious landing in the early hours of D-Day. If time permits, pay a visit to the solemn La Cambe German Cemetery. Conclude the day with dinner in a local restaurant.
Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel d'Argouges

DAY 6: Keep Calm and Carry On

Begin with a morning visit to the Longues-sur-Mer Battery, a German artillery unit perfectly located to oppose the D-Day landings. In the afternoon, your exploration of the remarkable achievements of the British army continues with visits to Sword Beach and Pegasus Bridge. Return to Bayeux, where dinner and the rest of the evening will be at your leisure.
Breakfast; Hotel d'Argouges

DAY 7: The Fight for Liberation

Spend today exploring the Omaha Beach area, beginning with a visit to The Overlord Museum and its extensive collection of artifacts. Then, take a guided walk along Omaha Beach, where American soldiers entered the "gates of hell." Continue to the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville-sur-Mer and join your expert in a poignant wreath-laying ceremony. In the evening, gather with your fellow travelers to conclude your journey during a special farewell reception and dinner.
Breakfast, Lunch, Reception, Dinner; Hotel d'Argouges

DAY 8: Departure

Transfer to Paris for individual flights home.
Breakfast



The past comes alive when you walk the beaches of Normandy, a place still marked by the historic D-Day landing.

Your Journeys Experts



Dr. Keith Huxen is the Senior Historian at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation in support of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. An expert in 20th-century military and diplomatic history, Professor Huxen

has extensive experience leading tours and delivering lectures at battle and historical sites around the world. He has published articles on military history in numerous academic journals and created *World War II: Up Close and Personal* for The Great Courses.



Dr. Harry S. Laver is a professor of military history at the US Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, who specializes in the American Civil War and World War II Europe. Professor Laver received his PhD in history from the University of Kentucky. As an author, he has written *A General Who Will Fight: The Leadership of Ulysses S. Grant* and co-edited *The Art of Command: American Military Leadership from George Washington to Colin Powell*. Professor Laver is currently developing his first course with The Great Courses.

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TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 23–May 30, 2026, Harry Laver
May 27–June 3, 2026, Keith Huxen
June 4–11, 2027, Harry Laver

PRICE: From \$7,695
Double from \$7,695 per person
Single from \$8,945 per person



Allied war graves, the Somme region of France

Remembering World War I in France

- Walk the most significant and bloodiest battlefields of World War I, from the Somme to the Marne to Verdun with a Great Courses military history scholar.
- Stay in Ypres and Reims—two cities whose stunning medieval architectural treasures were badly damaged during the war but have been restored to their earlier splendor.
- Learn the lessons of the War to End All Wars through visits to at key museums, including the Musée de la Grande Guerre.
- Explore the Champagne region of France, including a cellar tour to see how this iconic export is made.

Among the most moving travel experiences one can have is visiting France’s many locations that comprised the epicenter of World War I. With our exclusive tour led by a military history expert, walking on the same hallowed ground and taking in the same vistas as the millions of soldiers throughout the Great War provides a deeper insight into how this tragic event shaped the modern world.

ITINERARY—9 DAYS

DAY 1: Beginning With the End

After you arrive in Paris and meet your fellow travelers, transfer by private coach to Ypres, Belgium, for the start of your journey. En route, visit the reconstructed railroad car in the woods of Compiègne, France, where the armistice to end World War I was signed. Arrive in Ypres in time to enjoy a welcome dinner at the hotel with opening remarks from your expert.
Hotel Ariane; Dinner

DAY 2: Battle of Ypres

Ypres was the linchpin that halted the German advance to the English Channel. Visit the “In Flanders Fields” museum in the restored Cloth Hall and its cathedral. Afterward, walk the city ramparts to the Menin Gate. You will have some time to stop for lunch on your own before continuing to the Ypres Salient. Pay your respects at the impressive Tyn Cot British Commonwealth Cemetery and the moving Langmark German Cemetery. End at the village of Passchendaele. After dinner on your own, return to Menin Gate with your expert, where every night buglers play the Last Post in a moving ceremony.
Hotel Ariane; Breakfast

Hotel Ariane; Breakfast

DAY 3: The Somme, 1916

Visit Vimy Ridge, Thiepval, Beaumont-Hamel, and other key sites where the fighting raged for over four months in the unexpectedly prolonged conflict on this front. After lunch on your own, you will continue to the American Military Cemetery at Bony. Drive by the Riqueval Tunnel, constructed under Napoleon, and discuss the joint American-British attack on the Hindenburg Line on September 29, 1918. End the day in Reims in the heart of the Champagne region and enjoy dinner in a local bistro.

Hyatt Centric Reims; Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4: First Battle of the Marne, 1914

Head to the Cathedral of Notre-Dame in Reims then continue to Fort de la Pompell. After a picnic lunch, visit the Centre d’interprétation Marne 14-18 museum for an in-depth look at the war. Conclude the day with a tour of the cellars of one of the major Champagne houses. Spend an evening and dinner at leisure in Reims, followed by a lecture from your expert.

Hyatt Centric Reims; Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5: Second Battle of the Marne, 1918

Meet your local guide and begin the day with a visit to the Belleau Wood and Memorial Chapel. Walk through the



As you journey to the key sites of WWI, you’ll have the opportunity to see the beautiful French countryside, including the lush vineyards of the Champagne region.

Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and learn the history of this evocative resting place. You’ll break for lunch at a local restaurant before heading to the magnificent Château-Thierry American monument overlooking the Marne Valley. Return to Reims for dinner in a local restaurant.

Hyatt Centric Reims; Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

DAY 6: The Meuse-Argonne

This morning, you will depart Reims with your Great Courses expert and local guide and head toward Verdun. Drive through the Meuse-Argonne region to the US Meuse-Argonne Military Cemetery—the largest US military cemetery in Europe—with a brief stop to pay your respects at the Monument to the Lost Battalion in the Argonne Forest. Visit the nearby Argonne Museum for a curator-led tour of its US weapons, uniforms, and private collections. End the day in Verdun for dinner in a local restaurant.

Hôtel Jardins du Mess; Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 7: Verdun and Saint-Mihiel

Start the day in Verdun. From there, take a guided tour of Fort Douaumont, followed by a visit to the Verdun Memorial and Museum. After lunch, you’ll head to Saint-Mihiel and then the Apremont la Forêt war trenches, with a stop at the majestic Montsec American Monument. Return to Verdun for an evening lecture before dinner at your leisure.

Hôtel Jardins du Mess; Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 8: On to Paris

Today, you’ll return west along the Marne to visit the Musée de la Grande Guerre in Meaux. Continue to Paris and visit Les Invalides, a complex of museums and monuments dedicated to the French military. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner.

Chateau Frontenac; Breakfast, Reception, Dinner

DAY 9: Au Revoir

After sneaking in a final café, transfer independently to the airport for individual flights home.

Breakfast



Dr. Keith Huxen is the Senior Historian at the Henry M. Jackson Foundation in support of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency and was previously the Senior Director of Research and History in the Institute for the Study of War and Democracy at The National WWII Museum. An expert in 20th-century military and diplomatic history, Professor Huxen has extensive experience leading tours and delivering lectures at battle and historical sites in Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Poland, China, and Taiwan. He has taught at Arizona State University, the University of New Orleans, and Louisiana State University. Professor Huxen holds a PhD degree in American history from George Washington University, specializing in the diplomatic, military, and international history of the 20th century. He has published articles on military history in numerous academic journals and created *World War II: Up Close and Personal* for The Great Courses.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 18–26, 2026
May 17–25, 2027
September 20–28, 2027

PRICE: From \$7,150
Double from \$7,150 per person
Single from \$8,310 per person

Your Journeys Experts



Dr. Patrick Allitt is a professor of American History at Emory University. He was an undergraduate at Oxford in England (1974-1977), a graduate student at the University of California Berkeley (PhD, 1986), and held postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard Divinity School and Princeton University.

Professor Allitt is presenter of 12 Great Courses, most recently *How Railways Changed the World* and including *The Great Tours: England, Scotland, and Wales*, and *The American West: History, Myth, and Legacy*.



Dr. W. Bernard Carlson is the Joseph L. Vaughan Professor Emeritus of Humanities, Professor Emeritus of Engineering and Society, Program Manager, AgInnovation, University of Galway, Ireland, through

the University of Virginia. He is a historian of science and technology, committed to helping public audiences understand the role of technology in society. Professor Carlson teaches the Great Course *Understanding the Inventions that Changed the World*.



Bernina Express, Switzerland

Switzerland by Rail and Italy's Lake District

- Take an immersive journey into the fascinating history and lore of trains and rail travel and learn why railways are one of the most important inventions in modern history.
- Take in the sight of some of Switzerland's most dramatic peaks as you explore the mountain town of Zermatt and the towering Matterhorn Glacier Paradise—the highest cable car station in all of Europe—with views of the tallest peaks in Switzerland, France, and Italy.
- Savor Switzerland's picture-perfect landscapes in style on iconic trains, including the Glacier Express and Bernina Express.



SCAN FOR VIDEO PREVIEW!

Enjoy the highlights of Swiss and Italian scenery in style on this nine-day journey by rail that carries you from the peaks of the Alps to the island-dotted waters of Lake Maggiore. You will be joined by Professor Patrick Allitt (*How Railways Transformed the World*) or Professor Bernard Carlson (*Understanding the Inventions that Changed the World*). Board your first train in Zürich for a picturesque ascent into the mountains of Zermatt. Explore this quaint mountain town and ride cable cars high into the peaks to the dramatic Matterhorn Glacier Paradise. From Zermatt, journey on the iconic Glacier Express to the stylish Alpine resort of St. Moritz. Board the Bernina Express train traveling to Tirano, just across the border in Italy. Continue to the elegant resort of Como and come to rest along the shores of Lake Maggiore.

2026 ITINERARY—9 DAYS

DAY 1: Welcome to Switzerland

Arrive at Zürich Airport. Meet with fellow passengers and board your first Swiss train for a ride to Zermatt. Arrive in Zermatt and check in to your hotel. Delve into the history of Swiss mountaineering and railways with your Great Courses expert. Settle into your hotel and enjoy a welcome reception and dinner this evening.
Dinner, Reception; Hotel National (May), Mirabeau Resort & Spa (June)

DAY 2: Glacier Paradise

Board one of Zermatt's iconic red cable cars and ascend to Matterhorn Glacier Paradise. At the summit, enjoy unparalleled views of Switzerland, France, and Italy. Continue your journey into Italy for lunch in Cervinia. Then, return by cable car to Zermatt where, in an informal lecture, your expert will explore highlights of Switzerland's long history. Explore the charming, car-free mountain town on your own this evening.
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel National (May), Mirabeau Resort & Spa (June)

DAY 3: The Peaks of Zermatt

Step aboard the historic Gornergrat Railway for an ascent to one of Switzerland's most spectacular vantage points. At the summit, gaze upon the Dufourspitze and the striking Gorner Glacier. Descend to Zermatt for a traditional fondue lunch. Visit the Matterhorn Museum, followed by a walking tour of Zermatt's historic quarter. Along the way, visit a beloved Swiss chocolatier. Enjoy an evening at leisure.
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel National (May), Mirabeau Resort & Spa (June)

DAY 4: Grandeur on the Glacier Express—A Railway Masterpiece

Rise early today to catch one of Switzerland's most famous trains, the Glacier Express. This eight-hour journey will show you some of the most striking landscapes in the Swiss Alps. Travel while enjoying a gourmet lunch with fine Swiss wines. Disembark at the end of the line in St. Moritz and check into your centrally located hotel. Your evening is your own to enjoy in this glamorous alpine town.
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Schweizerhoff (May), Hotel Monopol (June)



Isola Bella, home to the Palazzo Borromeo, is just one of the many beautiful islands you will see in Italy's stunning Lake District.

DAY 5: Enchanting Engadine—The Beauty of St. Moritz

Take a ride on the Chantarella Funicular and experience breathtaking views. Upon returning to St. Moritz, enjoy a group lunch of regional specialties. Later, visit the Engadine Museum. This afternoon, your expert delivers a lecture on the history of mountain railways. Spend the remainder of the day and evening exploring the elegant streets of St. Moritz on your own.
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Schweizerhoff (May), Hotel Monopol (June)

DAY 6: Aboard the Bernina—From Switzerland to Italy

Today, embark on the Bernina Express, a UNESCO-listed railway that takes you from St. Moritz to Tirano, Italy. Upon your arrival in Tirano, board a private coach for a scenic drive along the shores of Lake Como. Pause for a leisurely lunch en route and visit the resort of Como before continuing to Lake Maggiore. Arriving in Stresa, settle into your lakeside hotel and enjoy a group dinner and remarks from your expert.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; La Palma Hotel

DAY 7: Island Idylls—Exploring the Borromean Islands

Today, set sail across the sparkling waters of Lake Maggiore to explore the Borromean Islands. Begin at Isola Bella, home to the magnificent Palazzo Borromeo, and wander through the island's terraced gardens. Continue to Isola Madre, the largest of the islands. In the afternoon, return to Stresa for a wine tasting. Learn about the history of Milan and northern Italy in a brief lecture and enjoy an evening at leisure.
Breakfast; La Palma Hotel

DAY 8: Milanese Marvels—A Day in Italy's Cultural Capital

Venture to Milan. Visit Milano Centrale, Milan's famous central train station. Take a private walking tour through Milan's historic center. Take in the façade of the world-famous La Scala opera house on your way to the Duomo di Milano. Afterward, you may choose to join your expert at the Leonardo da Vinci Museum of Science and Technology to see some of Italy's earliest steam trains. Return to Stresa in the evening for a celebratory farewell dinner.
Breakfast, Dinner, Reception; La Palma Hotel

DAY 9: Departure

Depart the hotel early this morning by private coach and transfer as a group to Milan-Malpensa Airport for your flights home.
Breakfast



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 17–25, 2026, Patrick Allitt
June 13–21, 2026, Patrick Allitt
May 2–9, 2027, Bernard Carlson
June 13–20, 2027, Bernard Carlson
See website for 2027 itinerary details.

PRICE: From \$9,750
Double from \$9,750 per person
Single from \$11,800 per person



Vineyards in Lavaux, Switzerland

NEW! Swiss Legacy: Science, Precision, Beauty

- Explore the Olympic Museum through a scientific lens, uncovering how physics, materials science, and precision timing shape elite athletic performance.
- Learn why Swiss innovation, precision craftsmanship, and leadership in the use of advanced materials have led Switzerland to be a global leader in watchmaking with a guided visit to the Patek Philippe Museum.
- Explore the historic vineyards of Lavaux, a UNESCO World Heritage vineyard region shaped by centuries of winemaking tradition and soil science.

Discover the dynamic intersection of science, innovation, and diplomacy on an immersive journey to Geneva, Switzerland. Explore global cooperation at the Palais des Nations and examine the science behind elite athletic performance at Lausanne's Olympic Museum. Explore Swiss ingenuity in engineering and horology (the study and measurement of time) with visits to the Swiss Plasma Center, Lausanne's Olympic Museum, and Patek Philippe Museum. Throughout, indulge in Swiss culture and cuisine, including wine tasting in the iconic terraced vineyards of Lavaux, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

ITINERARY—6 DAYS

DAY 1: Geneva Genesis

Arrive in Geneva today and transfer independently to your centrally located hotel. Take a guided walking tour of the historical center, including the Flower Clock and Jet d'Eau. Then, join your Great Courses Journeys expert and fellow travelers for a welcome reception and dinner.
Dinner; Hotel Bristol

DAY 2: International Collaboration—CERN and the UN

Visit the Geneva headquarters of CERN (subject to confirmation), the world's leading particle physics lab. For over 75 years, CERN has fostered international collaboration among scientists from 25 nations (including the United States), contributing to major discoveries and multiple Nobel Prizes. Explore interactive exhibits on the universe and quantum physics at CERN's Science Gateway and learn about the largest machine ever constructed, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC)—a 27-kilometer underground accelerator that recreates conditions just after the Big Bang to study fundamental particles and forces. Continue to explore the principles of scientific collaboration, diplomacy, and international

cooperation with a visit to the Palais des Nations, the European headquarters of the United Nations. Then, enjoy dinner as a group.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Hotel Bristol

DAY 3: Physics and Performance

Take a scenic journey along the shores of Lac Lemman for a day trip to Lausanne. Replace this sentence with the following: Visit the Swiss Plasma Center, where you'll learn about efforts to develop fusion as a clean energy source. Next, visit the Olympic Museum, where a specially curated tour reveals the scientific foundations of elite sport. Learn how materials science enhances athletic gear, how precision timing technologies shape competition outcomes, and how physics explains the mechanics behind throwing a football or shooting a basketball. Return to Geneva for dinner as a group this evening.
Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel Bristol

DAY 4: Keeping Time

Begin your day with a morning lecture from your Great Courses Journeys expert, setting the stage for Swiss scientific heritage and innovation. Visit the Patek Philippe

Museum, where horology meets precision engineering with over 2,500 timepieces dating back to 1839 and a library of over 8,000 works dedicated to the art and science of timekeeping. Continue to the Musée d'histoire des Sciences, home to centuries-old instruments that trace the evolution of astronomy, microscopy, and meteorology, revealing the progression of scientific research. Then, visit the Observatoire de Genève (subject to confirmation), where the first exoplanet was discovered in 1995 using Doppler spectroscopy. Learn how the Leonhard Euler Telescope detects unseen planets by measuring shifts in starlight. Conclude the day with a guided walk through Carouge, Geneva's bohemian quarter, which served as a refuge for religious minorities that were persecuted elsewhere in the 18th century. Return to Geneva for an evening at leisure.
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Bristol

DAY 5: Vines, Views, and Viticulture

Immerse yourself in Swiss culture with a full-day excursion to the stunning Lavaux region, a UNESCO World Heritage site famed for its terraced vineyards overlooking Lake Geneva. Begin with a scenic drive through the vine-covered slopes, followed by a guided tour that explores the region's winemaking traditions dating back to the 11th century. Learn how geography, climate, and soil science contribute to the unique character of Lavaux wines. Enjoy a light lunch and wine tasting at a local winery. Return to Geneva in the late afternoon and join your Great Courses Journeys expert and fellow travelers for a festive farewell dinner.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Hotel Bristol

DAY 6: Departure

Depart hotel for individual flights home.
Breakfast



Europe's UN headquarters, The Palais des Nations, is located in beautiful Ariana Park in Geneva.



Your Journeys Expert
Chad Orzel

Dr. Chad Orzel is the R. Gordon Gould Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy, and department chair, at Union College. He earned his PhD in Chemical Physics from the University of Maryland, College Park. Professor Orzel is a passionate public science communicator and is the author of several books explaining physics to non-scientists. His first book, *How to Teach Quantum Physics to Your Dog*, has been translated into more than a dozen languages. Subsequent books include *How to Teach Relativity to Your Dog*; *Eureka: Discovering Your Inner Scientist*; *Breakfast with Einstein: The Exotic Physics of Everyday Objects*; and *A Brief History of Timekeeping: The Science of Marking Time, from Stonehenge to Atomic Clocks*. Professor Orzel also maintains a blog about science (among other topics) at ChadOrzel.com, contributes to *Forbes* online, and writes on Substack. In 2021, he was named a fellow of the American Physical Society. Professor Orzel teaches the Great Course *Einstein's Legacy: Modern Physics All Around You*.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: October 18–23, 2026
March 21–26, 2027
October 17–22, 2027

PRICE: From \$7,995
Double from \$7,995 per person
Single from \$9,740 per person

Your Journeys Experts



Dr. Larissa Tracy is a Visiting Assistant Teacher Professor at University of Maryland, Baltimore County.. Her research focuses on 13th- to 15th-century literature with cross-cultural contacts and what such literature reveals about law violence, judicial torture and punishment, and social justice. She has appeared in several National Geographic and Discovery Channel documentaries. For The Great Courses, she produced the Audible Original *The Culture of Knighthood in Medieval Romance* and is developing a new Great Course on *Medieval Christianities*.



Dr. James Pfrehm is an independent scholar who taught German language, literature, and culture at the university level for more than 20 years. He has a deep passion for sharing his love of German and Austrian cultures. In addition to studying and conducting research in Germany and Austria, Professor Pfrehm has led many student tours to both countries. He is the author of the book *Technolinguism: The Mind and the Machine*. For The Great Courses, he has created *The Great Tours: Germany and Austria and Learning German: A Journey through Language and Culture*.



Heidelberg Castle Complex, Heidelberg

Germany's Castles, Cultural Traditions, and Medieval Life

- Explore the legendary Neuschwanstein and Hohenschwangau Castles and uncover the myths surrounding “Mad” King Ludwig II, Bavaria’s most enigmatic monarch.
- Visit Nuremberg and discover the historic stronghold that played a key role in the Holy Roman Empire while sampling the city’s signature red beer.
- Walk the cobblestoned streets of Rothenburg ob der Tauber, one of Germany’s best-preserved medieval towns, and enjoy a tasting of Franconian wines.

Join Professor James Pfrehm or Larissa Tracy on a The Great Courses Journey in southern Germany, a region where history and tradition intersect at every turn. Begin in Munich, where royal palaces stand as a testament to the artistic and political ambitions of former dynasties. Travel to Haldenwang for the rare opportunity to witness the annual Viehscheid, or cow train, that marks the return of cattle from alpine pastures. Continue to Nuremberg, where both castles and beer have roots that date back to the Middle Ages, and visit Rothenburg ob der Tauber, one of Germany’s most well-preserved medieval towns. Conclude your journey in the university town of Heidelberg, where culture is not only preserved in sites and monuments, but also in languages, traditions, and artisanal practices.

ITINERARY—8 DAYS

DAY 1: Willkommen in München

Arrive on individual flights into Munich and meet your fellow travelers and your expert. Begin your journey into southern German culture on an introductory coach tour of Munich, visiting vibrant gardens and Marienplatz, home to the city’s town halls as well as the iconic glockenspiel whose life-size characters reenact scenes from Munich’s history. Enjoy a guided tour of Nymphenburg Palace, followed by a welcome dinner at a classic German beer garden.

Dinner; Hotel Jakl-Hof

DAY 2: It’s a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad Monarch

Begin with a visit to the legendary Neuschwanstein Castle, built by “Mad” King Ludwig II of Bavaria. In the afternoon, visit Hohenschwangau Castle, King Ludwig II’s childhood residence, as well as The Museum of the Bavarian Kings, which highlights the history of the House of Wittelsbach. Throughout the day, your expert will discuss Ludwig’s unique vision, his patronage

of the arts, and the role his mythologized image continues to play in Bavarian identity. Join your professor this evening at a local restaurant.

Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel Jakl-Hof

DAY 3: Bavarian Bovines and Alpine Traditions

Travel to the quaint village of Haldenwang to experience an annual event during which decorated cows are driven from mountain pastures to mark the beginning of autumn. This Viehscheid, or “cow train,” is accompanied by traditional Bavarian music, folk dancing, hearty local dishes, and local revelers celebrating this cherished rural tradition. Your expert will offer insight into how this festival underscores the deep connection between agrarian life and regional identity. After a day in the picturesque countryside, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant. (Viehscheid only takes place in the fall; travelers on the May departure will spend Day 3 in Augsburg with a visit to the Schaezler Palace.)

Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel Jakl-Hof



Witnessing the Viehscheid or “cow train” is a truly unique opportunity to experience authentic rural German traditions.

DAY 4: Imperial Nürnberg

Travel via coach to Nuremberg. Explore the city’s center on the Bimmelbahn, a comfortable mini train that passes by many historic sites. After lunch in a local restaurant, visit Nuremberg Imperial Castle. Gather at Hausbrauerei Altstadt for a cellar tour and a tasting of Rotbier. Check into your hotel and enjoy dinner and the rest of the evening at leisure.

Breakfast, Lunch; Le Meridien Grand Hotel Nuremberg

DAY 5: Medieval Charm in Rothenburg ob der Tauber

Enjoy a day trip to Rothenburg ob der Tauber, a “quintessentially German” walled town in the heart of the Franconia region. Learn about the thousand years of history packed between its cobblestones on a guided walking tour of the city’s remarkably well-preserved medieval center. After lunch on your own, visit a winery and enjoy the opportunity to taste local Franconian wine. Return to Nuremberg, where dinner will be in a local restaurant.

Breakfast, Dinner; Le Meridien Grand Hotel Nuremberg

DAY 6: From Grape to Glass

Check out and depart for the delightful town of Heidelberg and a tour of the 12th century Eberbach Monastery. Enjoy a tasting of the monastery’s most popular varietal wines and Grauburgunder, and engage in a discussion with your expert about the ways in which religious institutions have historically shaped both regional economies and cultural landscapes. After lunch in a local restaurant, the remainder of the day will be yours to enjoy at leisure in Heidelberg.

Breakfast, Lunch; Atlantic Hotel Heidelberg

DAY 7: Historic Heidelberg

Begin the day with a walking tour of Heidelberg Altstadt, the historic city center known for its narrow streets, quaint market squares, and gothic churches. Explore the grand ruins of Heidelberg Castle, the former home of the Palatine Wittelsbach family that offers sweeping views of the Neckar River below. In the evening, raise a toast to your journey through southern Germany during a farewell dinner cruise along the Neckar River.

Breakfast, Dinner; Atlantic Hotel Heidelberg

DAY 8: Departure

Transfer to the airport and depart Germany on individual flights for your journey home.

Breakfast



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 28–June 4, 2026, Larissa Tracy
September 24–October 1, 2026, James Pfrehm
May 27–June 3, 2027, James Pfrehm

PRICE: From \$6,750
Double from \$6,750 per person
Single from \$7,340 per person



Gateway to the iconic Strawberry Field, Liverpool, England

NEW! The Beatles and the Triumph of the British Invasion

- Walk Mathew Street and visit the Cavern Club with Professor Shelden, who brings Lennon's Liverpool to life through vivid stories and literary insight.
- Explore the Casbah Coffee Club with Pete Best's family and hear Professor Shelden's reflections on the Beatles' gritty beginnings and their rise from cellar gigs to stardom.
- Visit Lennon and McCartney's childhood homes (rarely open to the public) and learn about the context and creative spark that turned teenage grief into timeless music.

Step into the heart of Beatlemania with Dr. Michael Shelden on a journey that blends music, history, and culture across two iconic cities. Begin in Liverpool, where the Beatles' story was born—from the gritty charm of Penny Lane and the Casbah Coffee Club to the soulful echoes of their childhood homes. Explore legendary landmarks, sip a pint at John Lennon's favorite pub, and hear insider stories from local historians and Pete Best's (the original drummer for the Beatles) own family. Then, ride the rails to London, where the Beatles conquered the world. Wander through Soho's hidden alleys, cross Abbey Road, and stand where the Fab Four played their final rooftop gig. From intimate anecdotes to iconic photo ops, this tour is a deep dive into the legacy of the world's most influential band.

ITINERARY—6 DAYS

DAY 1: Welcome to Liverpool

Arrive at Manchester Airport and transfer independently to Liverpool. Drop your bags at your hotel and meet your expert, "Scouser" travel director, and fellow travelers for a city orientation by private coach. See iconic sites like St George's Hall, St. Luke's Bombed-Out Church, and Royal Albert Dock. Walk Mathew Street, greet John Lennon's statue, and spot Eleanor Rigby reading the Liverpool Echo. Raise a toast at the Cavern Club before enjoying a welcome dinner. You've just stepped into the Beatles' hometown—and it's all coming together.

Dinner; Radisson RED Liverpool

DAY 2: A Day in the Life

Gather with Professor Shelden this morning as he gives you an overview of what is to come. Dive into Beatles history: their first studio, Brian Epstein's (former manager of the Beatles)

home, and Clubmoor Hall. Visit the Casbah Coffee Club—a time capsule of early Beatles gigs—with a tour by a member of the Best family. Stroll through Strawberry Field, then explore St Peter's Church (where John met Paul), Eleanor Rigby's grave, and Penny Lane. In the evening, enjoy a talk by a Beatles historian and dinner.

Breakfast, Dinner; Radisson RED Liverpool

DAY 3: In My Life

In smaller groups, visit Mendips and 20 Forthlin Road, childhood homes of Lennon and McCartney. These modest houses birthed a musical revolution and are not readily open to the public. After lunch on your own, explore Liverpool's docks—the city's gateway to American music and the Merseybeat sound. Snap a photo with the Fab Four statues and cruise the River Mersey on the ferry. Gather with Professor Shelden this evening for a discussion followed by dinner at John Lennon's favorite pub.

Breakfast, Dinner; Radisson RED Liverpool



Walk the same streets as the Fab Four in Liverpool and London as you consider the amazing trajectory of the band.

DAY 4: Ticket to Ride

After breakfast, walk to Lime Street Station—where the Beatles once waited for record deal news—and board the fast train to London (your luggage will be transferred separately). Upon arrival, enjoy a guided coach tour of the capital's landmarks: Trafalgar Square, Hyde Park, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. Then, explore Royal Albert Hall, where the Beatles rocked in '63. Check into your London hotel and freshen up. Dinner awaits you at a local restaurant.

Breakfast, Dinner; Leonardo Royal Hotel London City

DAY 5: Come Together

Join Professor Shelden and your guide to retrace the Beatles' London legacy. Explore Soho's alleys, the Apple Studios offices, and the rooftop concert site. Visit Abbey Road Studios and cross the iconic street. See Carnaby Street, Wimpole Street, and the London Palladium. Discover quirky spots like the gentlemen's toilet where Lennon filmed a skit. From Paul's office to Marylebone Station, it's a whirlwind of Beatles lore. Toast your journey at a farewell dinner.


Breakfast, Dinner; Leonardo Royal Hotel London City

DAY 6: Hello, Goodbye

Check out and transfer to Heathrow for your flights home or onward. You've walked in the footsteps of legends, from Penny Lane to Abbey Road, and experienced the magic behind the music. The tour may end, but the memories—and melodies—will stay with you. Until next time...let it be.

Breakfast

CULTURE



Your Journeys Expert
Michael Shelden

Dr. Michael Shelden is a highly acclaimed author and professor. He is the Dean's Research Professor in the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue University. Professor Shelden has written six biographies, including *Orwell: The Authorized Biography*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Book and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; *Young Titan: The Making of Winston Churchill*; and *New York Times* bestseller *Mark Twain: Man in White*. His work has appeared in a wide range of publications, including *The Times* of London; the *Shakespeare Quarterly*; the *Columbia Journalism Review*; and the *Guardian* (UK). In addition, he was a features writer for *The Daily Telegraph* of London from 1995 to 2007. Professor Shelden has taught four Great Courses, including *England, the 1960s, and the Triumph of the Beatles*; *How Winston Churchill Changed the World*; *George Orwell: A Sage for All Seasons*; and *Reconsidering JFK*.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: October 12–17, 2026
March 15–20, 2027
October 11–16, 2027

PRICE: From \$6,395
Double from \$6,395 per person
Single from \$7,220 per person



Clonmacnoise Abbey ruins, Ireland

NEW! Timeless Ireland

- Uncover Ireland’s spiritual and archaeological heritage with visits to ancient wonders like the 6th-century monastic site of Clonmacnoise, the prehistoric Poul nabrone Dolmen, and the Cliffs of Moher.
- Experience life in the Aran Island of Inishmore, where Irish remains the primary language and ancient customs still shape daily life.
- Travel to Dublin for a look at the brilliantly illuminated *Book of Kells* at Trinity College, then explore the “Fair City’s” cathedrals, museums, and monuments with scholarly interpretation.

Step into the heart of Ireland’s storied past with a renowned Great Courses expert, Dr. Edward Lengel, on a journey that blends breathtaking landscapes, ancient wonders, and fascinating cultural heritage. From the haunting beauty of the Cliffs of Moher to the mystical Dún Aonghasa ringfort on Inishmore, the Emerald Isle becomes a living classroom where history, myth, and memory converge. You’ll explore medieval friaries, megalithic tombs, and monastic sites; marvel at the 9th-century *Book of Kells*; and reflect on Ireland’s resilient spirit at famine memorials and independence tributes. Whether savoring smoked salmon in the Burren or raising a glass of whiskey in Dublin, you’ll experience traditional Irish hospitality and deepen your understanding of the country’s history and enduring legacy.

ITINERARY—8 DAYS

DAY 1: Cead Mile Fáilte!

Arrive on individual flights into Ireland’s Shannon Airport and begin your journey into the country’s storied past with a visit to the ruins of Ennis Friary. Continue to Leamenah Castle, a 15th-century fortified tower-house once ruled by the legendary “Red Mary,” whose fiery spirit still lingers in local lore. Join your expert and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner at your hotel.
Dinner; Hotel Woodstock

DAY 2: Cliffs, Megaliths, and the Ancient Burren

Begin the day at the awe-inspiring Cliffs of Moher. Continue to Burren National Park for a guided walk through its otherworldly limestone landscape. Savor a tasting of locally smoked salmon at the Burren Smokehouse, followed by lunch at the cozy Roadside Tavern. This afternoon, journey deep into Ireland’s past with visits to a remarkably preserved 1,000-year-old stone ringfort and the country’s oldest dated megalithic tomb. Return to Ennis for an evening and dinner at your leisure.

Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Woodstock

DAY 3: Island Life on Inishmore

Take the ferry to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands. Acquaint yourself with a timeless way of life as you explore the island and walk up to the mystical Celtic ring fort of Dún Aonghasa, perched at the edge of a 300-foot cliff. Throughout the day, your professor will provide additional insights that illuminate the island’s ancient history and culture. Dinner this evening will be at a local restaurant.

Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel Woodstock

DAY 4: Faith and Famine in Connemara

Cross into County Mayo for a day steeped in Irish history and lush natural backdrops. See the poignant Doolough Famine Memorial, honoring those who perished during the devastating famine years of 1845-1849. Continue into the wilds of Connemara to visit Kylemore Abbey, a stunning lakeside monastery established by Benedictine nuns. As the day draws to a close, settle into the historic Renvyle House Hotel and share a group dinner, reflecting with your expert and fellow travelers on the day’s encounters.

Breakfast, Dinner; Renvyle House Hotel

DAY 5: The Rocky Road to Dublin

Journey east across the countryside towards Dublin, stopping along the way to explore Clonmacnoise, founded on the banks of the River Shannon in the 6th century and one of Ireland’s most important early monastic sites. Pause in the lively town of Athlone for an independent lunch before continuing to the capital. Arrive in Dublin and check in to your hotel before dining as a group in a local restaurant.

Breakfast, Dinner; Iveagh Garden Hotel

DAY 6: Treasures, Tributes, and Tales of Ireland’s Past

Spend today exploring the “Fair City.” Admire the ornate details of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, visit the medieval Christchurch Cathedral, and stroll through the elegant Georgian expanse of St. Stephen’s Green. Continue to Trinity College and view the exquisite *Book of Kells*, a 9th century illuminated manuscript that stands as one of Ireland’s greatest cultural treasures. Finally, enjoy a guided tour of Pearse Lyons Distillery and learn about the art of Irish whiskey-making. The evening is yours to enjoy Dublin at your own pace.

Breakfast; Iveagh Garden Hotel

DAY 7: Erin go Bragh

Travel back in time as you learn about 1916 Easter Rising Rebellion. See the bullet holes marking the exterior of the General Post Office, hear stories about revolutionary figures such as James Connolly and Michael Collins, and pay your respects at the Garden of Remembrance, where your expert will offer thoughtful commentary on the nation’s path to freedom. Then visit Kilmainham Gaol, whose somber walls tell the story of Ireland’s struggle for self-determination. In the evening, say sláinte as you raise a toast to your travels through Ireland during a festive farewell dinner.

Breakfast, Dinner; Iveagh Garden Hotel

DAY 8: Departure

Transfer individually to the Dublin airport for your journey home.

Breakfast



Trace hundreds of years of Irish history as you visit some of its most beautiful locations.

Your Journeys Expert

Ed Lengel



Dr. Edward G. Lengel is an award-winning historian and educator. He received his PhD in Irish and British history from the University of Virginia, and wrote his first book about the Irish Famine, which was the focus of his dissertation. He has conducted archaeology in Ireland, and traveled and studied there over the past 35 years, including learning about Irish architect, James Hoban, who designed the White House. Professor Lengel previously directed the Washington Papers Project for many years. Also a professional author, speaker and battlefield tour guide, he has written 15 books on Irish, European, and American history. Professor Lengel is a co-recipient of the National Humanities Medal and has won two writing awards from the Army Historical Foundation. With The Great Courses he produced the Audible Original *Ireland in the 1990s: The Path to Peace*.

I love Ireland like no other country on Earth, and especially I love the Irish people, who are quite simply the best in the world.

— Professor Edward Lengel



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: October 17–24, 2026
May 9–16, 2027
October 16–23, 2027

PRICE: From \$7,195
Double from \$7,195 per person
Single from \$8,145 per person



Your Journeys Expert
Michael Wysession

Dr. Michael E. Wysession is the Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis. An established leader in seismology and geophysical education, Professor Wysession is noted for his development of a new way to create three-dimensional images of Earth's interior from seismic waves. These images have provided scientists with insights into the makeup of Earth and its evolution throughout history. He is the coauthor of *An Introduction to Seismology, Earthquakes, and Earth Structure*; the lead author of *Physical Science: Concepts in Action*; and the primary writer for the texts *Earth Science*, *Earth's Interior*, *Earth's Changing Surface*, and *Earth's Waters*. Professor Wysession has received the Innovation Award of the St. Louis Science Academy and the Distinguished Faculty Award of Washington University and in 2014 the inaugural Ambassador Award of the American Geophysical Union. Professor Wysession earned his ScB in Geophysics from Brown University and his PhD from Northwestern University. He has created three Great Courses, including, *The World's Greatest Geological Wonders: 36 Spectacular Sites*, *How the Earth Works*, and *The Science of Energy: Resources and Power Explained*; and he contributed to *National Geographic Polar Explorations*.



Seljalandsfoss waterfall in Iceland



The Aurora Basecamp in Reykjavik is one of the best places on Earth to observe the phenomenon of the northern lights.

Solar Eclipse in Iceland: Geothermal Wonders & Celestial Spectacles

- Experience a total solar eclipse on August 12, 2026 during a private viewing event at a lava-field basecamp, perfectly situated in the zone of totality. Enjoy expert commentary, live music, and a celebratory dinner reception.
- Discover geothermal innovation at Hellisheiði Power Plant, home to the groundbreaking CarbFix project that turns carbon into stone. Learn how Iceland harnesses Earth's heat and runs almost entirely on renewable energy. Then, experience Iceland's geothermal wonders with bread baked beneath the earth.
- Traverse a lava tube and explore Iceland's dramatic South Coast, featuring stunning glacier-fed waterfalls and rugged volcanic rock formations.

Embark on an unforgettable journey through Iceland's dynamic landscapes, guided by the scientific expertise of renowned geophysicist Michael Wysession. This immersive itinerary blends natural wonder with intellectual discovery, offering travelers a rare opportunity to explore the forces that shape our planet—from geothermal energy and glacial movement to volcanic activity and tectonic drift—and culminates with one of the most striking planetary events: a solar eclipse. Each day features hands-on experiences and in-depth commentary from Professor Wysession.

ITINERARY—5 DAYS

DAY 1: Reykjavik Roots

Welcome to Iceland! Upon arrival at Keflavík International Airport, transfer to Reykjavik, a city where Nordic charm meets cutting-edge sustainability and modern innovation. This afternoon, you'll explore the capital on a guided walking tour, visiting iconic sites like Hallgrímskirkja Church and the Harpa Concert Hall. As you stroll through the city, begin to uncover the geological and cultural forces that have shaped this island nation. In the evening, gather for a welcome dinner featuring seasonal Icelandic cuisine. Your Great Courses Journeys expert, Professor Michael Wysession, a renowned geophysicist and science communicator, will share insights about Iceland's volcanic origins, tectonic activity, and optimal location for the upcoming eclipse—laying the foundation for the days ahead.
Dinner; Fosshotel Reykjavik

DAY 2: Geothermal Wonders and the Golden Circle

Your day begins at the Hellisheiði Power Plant, where Iceland's geothermal energy is harnessed to power homes and industries. Learn about the innovative CarbFix project, which turns carbon emissions into stone—an environmental breakthrough Professor Wysession will place in the context of global climate solutions. Continue to Laugarvatn to sample rye bread baked beneath the earth. Then visit Friðheimar Farm, where tomatoes thrive in greenhouses heated by volcanic warmth. After that, enjoy a fresh, greenhouse-to-table lunch featuring fresh tomatoes at a nearby farm. In the afternoon, explore the Golden Circle's geological marvels, including the erupting geysers at Geysir and the tectonic rift at Thingvellir National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. As you stand on the dividing line of two continental plates, Professor Wysession will explain the dynamic forces at play beneath your feet, bringing Iceland's seismic story vividly to life.
Breakfast, Lunch; Fosshotel Reykjavik

DAY 3: Shifting Ice of the South Shore

Travel along Iceland's dramatic South Shore today, where waterfalls, volcanoes, and glaciers define the landscape. Begin at Seljalandsfoss, a waterfall you can walk behind, then continue past the Eyjafjallajökull volcano to Sólheimajökull Glacier. Here, gear up for a guided glacier walk across ice-carved terrain. As you explore, learn how glaciers form, move, and melt—linking your experience to the broader story of climate change and Earth's evolving systems. After a group lunch near the stunning Skógafoss waterfall, return to Reykjavik for an evening at leisure. Throughout the day, Professor Wysession's commentary will deepen your understanding of Iceland's ever-changing landscape and the geologic forces that shape it.
Breakfast, Lunch; Fosshotel Reykjavik

DAY 4: Subterranean Secrets and Celestial Shadows

Begin the day with a visit to Raufarholshellir, a vast lava tunnel formed by ancient eruptions. Walk through this subterranean world where lava once flowed as Professor Wysession explains the volcanic processes that created it. After a midday break, continue to the Aurora Basecamp, a remote lava field along the eclipse's path of totality. Enjoy a reception with live music and refreshments. Before the eclipse, Professor Wysession and other experts will share a wealth of scientific background about solar eclipses, celestial mechanics, and Iceland's unique vantage point for viewing this rare event. Then, witness the total solar eclipse—from 4:47 to 6:47 p.m. GMT, with 2 minutes and 18 seconds of totality at 6:08 p.m. Celebrate with a farewell dinner under Iceland's twilight sky.
Note: Eclipse visibility is weather-dependent. While the Aurora Basecamp is located along the path of totality, viewing cannot be guaranteed.
Breakfast, Dinner, Reception; Fosshotel Reykjavik

DAY 5: Farewell Fjords

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home. As you depart, reflect on Iceland's unforgettable landscapes, scientific insights, and celestial wonders.
Breakfast



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: August 9–13, 2026

PRICE: From \$7,495

Double from \$7,495 per person
Single from \$8,670 per person



Old Port of Nice, France

2026 Solar Eclipse Cruise: Totality in the Mediterranean

- On August 12, 2026, witness a solar eclipse from the deck of a stylish small ship ideally positioned in the Mediterranean's path of totality.
- Enjoy a full day in the vibrant city of Barcelona. In the evening, gather for a unique stargazing experience at one of the world's oldest astronomical observatories.
- Visit the charming city of Mahón, known for its gothic cathedral, local art galleries, and picturesque harbor.

Embark on a once-in-a-lifetime Mediterranean cruise to witness the 2026 total solar eclipse with author, astrophysicist, and TED speaker, Dr. Sarah Rugheimer, and The Great Courses Journeys. Begin and end your journey in the glamorous city of Nice—a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its glimmering beaches and tree-lined promenade—and enjoy ports of call in Barcelona and the sunny islands of Menorca and Mallorca, where optional shore excursions include walking tours, food crawls, and a stargazing experience at a planetarium. When the sky darkens and the stars emerge on August 12, you'll have one of the best vantage points in the world for experiencing the total solar eclipse—at sea, directly in the path of totality, with an unobstructed view of the moon as it passes between the Earth and the sun.

ITINERARY—8 DAYS

DAY 1: Bienvenue

Arrive on individual flights into Nice's Côte d'Azur Airport. Spend the day at your leisure, transferring independently to the *MV La Belle des Océans* for embarkation at 5:00 PM. After taking time to settle into your cabins, gather with Professor Rugheimer and your fellow travelers this evening for a celebratory welcome dinner as you cruise along the French Riviera at night.
Dinner; MV La Belle des Océans

DAY 2: At Sea

Enjoy a day at sea aboard the *MV La Belle des Océans*. In the afternoon, Professor Rugheimer will offer a lecture on the science of solar eclipses—why they happen, what makes a total eclipse rare, and how to get the most out of your eclipse experience. She will go over a detailed explanation of the many optical effects as well as eclipse eye safety. Afterward, enjoy the beautiful scenery as the ship sails towards Barcelona.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; MV La Belle des Océans

DAY 3: Barcelona

Arrive in Barcelona early this morning. After breakfast, explore this capital of Catalonia on a guided bus tour. Those who wish may return to the ship for lunch. The afternoon is for independent explorations in Barcelona or to relax onboard the ship. In the evening, attend an exclusive after-hours visit to the Observatorio Fabra. Enjoy a private guided tour of the observatory, explore distant constellations with the assistance of local astronomy experts, and gather for dinner overlooking the city. Return to the ship and set sail for Menorca.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; MV La Belle des Océans

DAY 4: Menorca

Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Mahón, Menorca's charming capital city. Stroll along the waterfront for views of one of the largest natural harbors in the world, explore the vibrant boutiques and galleries, and sample local specialties like a glass of gin or Mahón cheese, known for its distinctive orange rind. History buffs may choose to visit Santa Maria de Maó, a 14th-century gothic cathedral and home to a magnificent organ,



Total solar eclipse

or take a short walk to Fort Marlborough. Return to your ship this evening for dinner and overnight in the port of Menorca.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; MV La Belle des Océans

DAY 5: Menorca y Mallorca

This morning, delve deeper into the natural beauty and fascinating history of Menorca on a guided walking tour. Return to the ship for lunch and cruise across to the island of Mallorca. After dinner on board, gather for a private star party at the Observatorio Astronómico de Mallorca. Hear from Observatory staff about current research and key discoveries, tour facilities, and enjoy a clear view of the night sky through the lens of a powerful telescope. Overnight in the port of Palma.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; MV La Belle des Océans

DAY 6: Total Solar Eclipse

Start your day in the stunning city of Palma, Mallorca, on a guided small-group tour of La Seu Cathedral, the city's iconic gothic church and a stroll through Palma's enchanting old quarter filled with historic mansions and bustling squares. Return to the ship for lunch and set sail for the path of totality. Enjoy your unforgettable view of cosmic alignment.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; MV La Belle des Océans

DAY 7: At Sea

Enjoy a day at sea aboard the *MV La Belle des Océans*. In the afternoon, attend a lecture on the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) by Professor Rugheimer and learn about the extraordinary findings of NASA's most recent flagship mission. JWST can peer further back in our Universe's history than ever before—it's even the first telescope with the potential to detect life on another planet. As your ship sails towards Nice, raise a toast to your journey of sea and sun during a farewell dinner on board.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; MV La Belle des Océans

DAY 8: Disembarkation

Disembark after breakfast and transfer independently to the airport for flights home or onward.
Breakfast

© Brear Harman/TED.



Your Journeys Expert
Sarah Rugheimer

Dr. Sarah Rugheimer is an astrophysicist and astrobiologist at the University of Edinburgh. Her work is focused on how to detect life on an exoplanet by looking for atmospheric biosignatures and her research interests are modelling the atmosphere and climate of extrasolar planets.

Sarah earned her bachelor's degree in physics at the University of Calgary, and her MA and PhD at Harvard in Astrophysics. In addition to research, Sarah is interested in public outreach. Her TED talk *The Search for Microscopic Aliens* has 1.7 million views on TED.com. She previously has been awarded the Barrie Jones Award and the BSA Rosalind Franklin Lectureship in 2019, and the Caroline Herschel Lectureship Prize in 2018.

Her astrobiology course for the public is available on Amazon Audible Originals, partnered with the Great Courses, called *Searching for Extraterrestrial Life*. Partnering with the Great Courses again, she is releasing a course on the wonders we are discovering with the James Webb Space Telescope in 2026.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: August 7–14, 2026

PRICE: From \$8,995

Double from \$8,995 per person
Single from \$15,645 per person
See website for deck plans



The Great Sphinx and Pyramids of Egypt



SCAN FOR VIDEO PREVIEW!

2027 Solar Eclipse & Ancient Splendors on the Nile River

- Experience a Total Solar Eclipse on August 2, 2027, from the deck of a luxury Nile cruise—over six minutes of totality in the path of the eclipse, surrounded by Egypt’s timeless landscape.
- Travel with Dr. Kate Liszka, whose expertise in desert archaeology, social history, and ancient Egyptian culture will bring ancient Egypt’s history, astronomy, and mythology vividly to life.
- Cruise the Nile in style, visiting legendary temples in Luxor, Edfu, Kom Ombo, and Aswan, with expert Egyptologists guiding you through their celestial alignments and sacred symbolism.

Embark on an extraordinary journey through Egypt, where ancient wonders meet celestial marvels. This immersive expedition is guided by your Great Courses Journeys Expert Dr. Kate Liszka, seasoned local Egyptologists, and other experts offering rich historical context and scholarly insight at every turn. From the timeless majesty of the Pyramids of Giza to the sacred temples of Luxor and Aswan, you will explore the heart of pharaonic civilization. And experience six-and-a-half minutes of darkness during a total solar eclipse from the deck of a luxury Nile cruise ship.



Experience a rare and spectacular celestial event as you cruise the Nile in the path of totality.

ITINERARY—10 DAYS

DAY 1: Nile Nights Begin

Depart from the United States and arrive in Cairo. Transfer to your hotel, which offers panoramic views. Unwind and meet your fellow travelers and Professor Liszka over a welcome dinner.

Dinner; Sofitel Cairo Downtown Nile

DAY 2: Pyramids and Pharaohs

Explore the Pyramids of Giza and stand before the Great Sphinx. Enjoy a scenic lunch with views of these ancient wonders. In the afternoon, delve into the newly opened Grand Egyptian Museum. Return to your hotel for a relaxing evening.

Breakfast, Lunch; Sofitel Cairo Downtown Nile

DAY 3: Bazaars and Boarding

This morning, wander through the lively Khan El Khalili Bazaar, where scents of spices and sounds of haggling fill the air. In the afternoon, fly south on a chartered flight to Luxor and board the luxurious *M/S Tamr*, your floating home for the week. Following

a safety briefing, settle into your stateroom and enjoy dinner on board.

Breakfast, Dinner; M/S Tamr

DAY 4: Temples of Time

Experience the vast Karnak Temple complex, a monumental tribute to Thebes’ ancient glory. Return to the ship for a lecture from Dr. Liszka, who will offer unique insight into how temple spaces reflected social hierarchies and religious practices. This evening, visit Luxor Temple under the stars, where dramatic lighting brings its ancient carvings to life.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; M/S Tamr

DAY 5: Lights over Luxor

Witness a rare once-in-a-lifetime celestial event as the total solar eclipse unfolds above the Nile with a deeper understanding from your experts about the scientific and cultural significance connected with the stars in ancient Egypt.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; M/S Tamr

DAY 6: Visit to the Valley of the Kings

Cross to the West Bank to explore the Valley of the Kings. Visit the Temple of Hatshepsut, a striking tribute to Egypt’s trailblazing female pharaoh. Pause at the Colossi of Memnon before returning to the ship for lunch and a discussion on women in ancient Egypt. Enjoy afternoon tea, sail through the Esna Lock, and unwind with a movie under the stars.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; M/S Tamr

DAY 7: Dual Deities and Desert Temples

Journey south to Edfu to explore its remarkably preserved temple. Cruise onward to Kom Ombo, where a rare double temple honors both Sobek and Horus the Elder. As the sun sets, enjoy a festive dinner on board while sailing toward Aswan.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; M/S Tamr

DAY 8: Dams and Dhow Rides

Visit the Aswan High Dam, a modern marvel of engineering, designed to control flooding on the Nile. Then, explore the ancient Unfinished Obelisk. Sail a traditional felucca along the Nile this afternoon and enjoy high tea at the historic Old Cataract Hotel.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; M/S Tamr

DAY 9: Isis and Indigenous Insights

Visit the island sanctuary of Philae Temple, dedicated to the goddess Isis and rescued from rising waters. Explore the Nubian Museum to learn about the region’s rich, pre-dynastic culture. Hear about Dr. Liszka’s research on Nubian-Egyptian interactions and the role of identity in border regions. Then, enjoy a final evening in Aswan with a farewell dinner and live entertainment aboard the ship. Those who choose can visit Aswan’s colorful spice market this evening.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; M/S Tamr

DAY 10: Departure

Return on a chartered flight to Cairo late this morning and connect independently to your international flight home, carrying with you memories of ancient wonders and celestial marvels.

Breakfast



Dr. Kate Liszka brings ancient Egypt to life through the lens of social history, identity, and desert archaeology. As Director of the Wadi el-Hudi Expedition, she leads groundbreaking research into ancient Egyptian mining communities and their interactions with Nubian populations. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. Liszka combines rigorous scholarship with a passion for storytelling, revealing the human side of ancient civilizations. Her work has uncovered previously unexplored settlements and inscriptions, offering fresh insights into the lives of workers, immigrants, and officials in Egypt’s Eastern Desert. She has also served as a consultant for Disney’s *Under Wraps* films and cohosted The Great Courses’ *The Real Ancient Egypt*, making her a dynamic voice in both academic and public history. With every excavation and lecture, Dr. Liszka invites learners to journey beyond the pyramids and into the vibrant, complex world of ancient Egyptian society.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: July 29–August 7, 2027

PRICE: From \$15,495

Double from \$15,495 per person
Single from \$26,390 per person
See website for deck plans



Reykjavik, Iceland



SCAN FOR VIDEO PREVIEW!

NEW CRUISE! Iceland: In the Wake of the Vikings

- Travel with your expert and uncover the deeper meaning of Iceland’s myths and legends, hearing Norse sagas brought to life both on board and at historic sites.
- Marvel at Iceland’s breathtaking natural wonders, from the thunderous cascades of Goðafoss and Dynjandi to the dramatic volcanic landscapes of the Snæfellsjökull Peninsula.
- Explore the Viking heritage of Thingeyri at the Skálinn Viking Center, where hands-on exhibits reveal the daily lives, clothing, and craftsmanship of Norse settlers.

Land of volcanoes. Land of glaciers. Stomping ground of Vikings. Setting of countless legends and Norse sagas. These are some of the things that attract inquisitive travelers to this island nation in the North Atlantic, and this voyage has them all, but with something even more exceptional. On your ship, *Le Lapérouse*, you’ll be joined by Professor Jennifer Verdolin, an animal behavior scientist, author, speaker, and conservationist, whose deep knowledge and dedication to the preservation of Iceland’s natural beauty will transform the way you see every landscape on this extraordinary voyage to the land of fire and ice.

ITINERARY—9 DAYS/8 DAYS ABOARD LE LAPÉROUSE

DAY 1: Arrival in Reykjavik

Arrive in Reykjavik Keflavik International Airport (KEF), Reykjavik, Iceland, where you will be met by your driver and transferred to the Radisson RED Hotel (or similar) for overnight. This evening, join your fellow travelers and your Great Courses Journeys Expert for a welcome cocktail reception. Dinner will be at your leisure.

Reception; Radisson RED Hotel

DAY 2: From Shore to Ship in Reykjavik

After breakfast, set out with your expert and a local guide to explore Reykjavik’s dynamic blend of history and innovation. At the National Museum of Iceland, trace the nation’s evolution from the Viking Age to today. Continue to Perlan, where interactive displays reveal Iceland’s natural wonders. Lunch will be at your leisure, and then visit Árbær Open Air Museum, where preserved houses and exhibits bring early Reykjavik life to vivid reality before you embark on your ship, *Le Lapérouse*.

Breakfast, Dinner; *Le Lapérouse*

DAY 3: Sailing in the Westman Islands

The Westman Islands, located off Iceland’s southern coast, are home to one of the world’s largest seasonal puffin colonies and countless other seabirds, making them an unparalleled site for observing avian ecology. Cruise along the dramatic cliffs to witness this abundance before arriving at Heimaey, the archipelago’s largest island. Here, walk across the lava field formed during the 1973 eruption of Mt. Eldfell. At the Eldheimar Museum, interactive exhibits chronicle a deeper understanding of volcanic processes.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; *Le Lapérouse*

DAY 4: Volcanic Wonders

Today’s excursion provides an in-depth look at the volcanic forces that shaped the Snæfellsjökull Peninsula. Begin with a climb to the rim of Saxhóll Crater. As you hike among smaller craters and lava fields, gain insight into the peninsula’s dramatic geologic evolution before reaching Dritvik, a pebble beach that once supported a thriving fishing community. The day culminates in a descent into Vatnshellir Cave, a 7,000-year-old lava tube

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; *Le Lapérouse*

© Ophélie Beuven

DAY 5: Life in the Far North

Grimsey—Iceland’s northernmost inhabited island—is uniquely marked by the Arctic Circle and offers a compelling example of human resilience in a remote environment. The island is equally renowned for its ecological importance, providing critical nesting grounds for seabirds.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; *Le Lapérouse*

DAY 6: Turning Points in Icelandic History

Your local guide will provide an overview of Akureyri, the cultural and economic hub of northern Iceland. From there, travel inland to Goðafoss, the famed “Waterfall of the Gods.” Returning to town, visit the Laufás Folk Museum, a preserved turf farm that offers insight into rural domestic life of the 19th century. Conclude at the Akureyri Botanical Garden, where more than 7,000 species flourish under subarctic conditions.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; *Le Lapérouse*

DAY 7: Thingeyri’s Viking Past

Today’s program highlights Iceland’s Viking heritage with a visit to the Skálinn Viking Center in Thingeyri. Here, examine reconstructions of clothing, handicrafts, and weaponry that illuminate everyday life during the Norse settlement of the 9th and 10th centuries. You may also view a replica Viking ship moored in the harbor. On the return to Ísafjörður, pause at the spectacular Dynjandi Waterfall.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; *Le Lapérouse*

DAY 8: Where Continents Collide

On your final day, journey inland across Iceland’s dramatic rift valley, a living lesson in geology. Continue to Friðheimar Horse Farm and Greenhouse, where you will learn how Icelanders grow fresh produce year-round in a challenging climate. Conclude your experience at the Laugarás Lagoon, a newly developed, mineral-rich two-story oasis.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; *Le Lapérouse*

DAY 9: Departure

After breakfast aboard, disembark and transfer to the Reykjavik Keflavik International Airport (KEF), Reykjavik, Iceland, for flights homeward.

Breakfast



Puffins are just one of the many seabird species you are likely to encounter so close to the Arctic Circle.



Your Journeys
Expert
Jennifer Verdolin

Dr. Jennifer Verdolin is an Associate Professor at the University of Arizona and an animal behavior scientist, author, speaker, and conservationist, in addition to being a former Fulbright Scholar. She’s developed a passionate interest in the heritage and wild beauty of Iceland, pursuing independent research into Iceland, including its language, land, cultures, and animals. Professor Verdolin earned a PhD in Ecology and Evolution from Stony Brook University. Her writing and research on animal and human behavior have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Scientific American*, and *National Geographic*. She is also the author of the popular nonfiction books *Wild Connection* and *Raised by Animals*, and she has contributed to multiple podcasts, radio shows, and wildlife documentaries. For The Great Courses, she taught *The Great Tours: Iceland* and the Audible Original *Reconnect with Nature: Lessons from the Natural World*.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: July 26–August 3, 2026*
*Due to timing at ports of call, schedules and order of sites visited are subject to change

PRICE: From \$10,995
Double from \$10,995 per person
Single from \$12,090 per person
See photos of *Le Lapérouse* and deck plans on our website.



Hydra, Saronic Islands, Greece

NEW CRUISE! The World of the Greeks: From Myth to Empire

- Delve into the sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi, exploring its temples, theater, stadium, and museum to understand its role as one of the most influential religious and political centers of the ancient world.
- Examine the roots of Greek identity at Mycenae and Epidaurus, from the Lion Gate and royal tombs of the Bronze Age citadel to the perfectly preserved theater renowned for its acoustics and architectural beauty.
- Walk the medieval streets of Monemvasia, a fortified Byzantine town built into the rock, where chapels, mansions, and walls reveal Greece's layered history from antiquity through the Middle Ages.

Setting sail on *Le Champlain* from the ancient splendor of Athens, this round-trip voyage journeys across the glittering Aegean and celebrates Greece's timeless allure. Walk in the footsteps of the gods at Delphi. Explore the birthplace of the Olympic Games in Olympia. Stand amid healing history at the Sanctuary of Asklepios. Wander the stone lanes of Monemvasia, a hidden medieval citadel rising from the sea.



While the Temple of Apollo at Delphi no longer stands intact, you can see the ruins of its former glory on Mount Parnassus.

ITINERARY—9 DAYS/8 DAYS ABOARD LE CHAMPLAIN

DAY 1: Welcome to Greece

Arrive in Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos (ATH), Athens, Greece where you will be met by your driver and transferred to your hotel for the night. This evening, join your fellow travelers and your Great Courses Journeys expert for a welcome cocktail reception. Dinner will be at your leisure. *Reception; Athens Capital Hotel—MGallery Collection (or similar)*

DAY 2: Feast on Tradition in Athens

Set out in the morning with your expert and a local guide for an exploration of the Acropolis where you'll see the Parthenon, Erechtheion, and Temple of Athena Nike. In the afternoon, enjoy lunch at your leisure, and continue to the Agora and walk through the reconstructed Stoa of Attalus. After time at leisure, transfer to Piraeus and embark *Le Champlain* to begin your voyage.

Breakfast, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 3: Journey to the Center of the Greek World

This morning, sail through the Corinth Canal, the narrow

waterway cut in the late 19th century to link the Aegean and Ionian Seas. Arriving in Itea, continue to Delphi, once believed to be the center of the world and home to Apollo's oracle. Explore the Temple of Apollo, ancient theater, stadium, the sanctuary of Athena Pronaia, and the treasuries of city-states lining the Sacred Way. In the museum, sculpture and inscriptions reveal Delphi's enduring role in the Greek world.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 4: Farming and Culture in the Countryside

This morning begins with a drive to the village of Olympia. Continue to Magna Grecia Farm, a family estate where viticulture and olive cultivation illustrate practices central to Greek identity. Your visit concludes with a lively demonstration of traditional Greek music and dancing.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 5: Olive Oil across the Ages in Sparta

From the port of Gytheion, travel inland to explore Sparta, long recognized for its fertile land and ideal climate for olive cultivation. Since antiquity, olives have been central to Spartan life, economy, and identity, and this legacy is vividly presented at the Museum of the Olive and Greek Olive Oil. Continue to Estate Theodorakakos, a family-run vineyard dedicated to sustainable viticulture. Here, learn how agricultural traditions have adapted to modern practices while maintaining ties to centuries of cultivation.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 6: From the Middle Ages to Modernity

Monemvasia, a walled fortress often compared to Gibraltar, flourished in the Middle Ages. As you walk through its narrow streets, you'll encounter Byzantine chapels, Venetian mansions, and artisan workshops that reflect the wealth generated by trade, culminating in a visit to the Church of Christ Elkomenos. Beyond the fortress, continue into the countryside to the Liotriv Estate, a restored 18th-century mansion. Here, learn how olive oil and wine production were intertwined with local economy and daily life.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 7: Sanctuaries, Citadels, and Civic Life

This morning, travel to Epidaurus, site of the Sanctuary of Asklepios. Here, you will also encounter the remarkable 4th-century theater. Continue to Mycenae and explore the citadel, entering through the monumental Lion Gate, and examine its shaft graves, which reveal wealth, artistry, and social organization. Nearby, the beehive-shaped "Treasury of Atreus" illustrates both advances in engineering and the mythological past.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 8: Hydra's Maritime Past

Touring Hydra on foot—the town prohibits automobiles—reveals the enduring imprint of this era. Visit the Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin, and the Koundouriotis Mansion.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 9: Goodbye, Greece

After breakfast aboard, disembark and transfer to Athens, Greece, for flights homeward.

Breakfast



Your Journeys Expert
Sheila Hoffman

Dr. Sheila Hoffman is a scholar of art history, world cultures, and symbols who has taught and lectured around the world as a guest of governments, universities, and on tours. She is Senior Lecturer in Art History at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. Professor Hoffman has two doctoral degrees: one in Art History from The Sorbonne in Paris and the other in Museology from the Université du Québec à Montréal. She has appeared on many science-based television series, appearing on the Science, Discovery, and Travel Channels. The author of several books and articles, she serves as the Reviews Editor for the International Museum Worlds Journal. Professor Hoffman is currently working on her first Great Course, on the great libraries of world history.

It's deeply rewarding to guide others through layers of myth and history, helping awakening in their imagination not just what's ancient, but what's enduring.

— Dr. Sheila Hoffman



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: October 24–November 1, 2026*
*Due to timing at ports of call, schedules and order of sites visited are subject to change.

PRICE: From \$9,740
Double from \$9,740 per person
Single from \$13,330 per person
See photos of *Le Champlain* and deck plans on our website.



Primošten, coastal town in Croatia

NEW CRUISE! Adriatic Odyssey: Venice to Dubrovnik

- Trace the transformation of the Adriatic world from the Roman Empire to medieval Europe, exploring the layered history of the stunning islands of Hvar and Korcula where imperial ambition gave way to new cultural and political identities.
- Walk through Diocletian's Palace in Split, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that illustrates Roman imperial power and its transformation into a thriving medieval city.
- Discover Kotor's UNESCO-listed Old Town, a maze of cobblestone streets, Venetian architecture, and historic churches set against the dramatic backdrop of the Bay of Kotor.

The Dalmatian Coast, stretching along the eastern Adriatic, is a region where history and culture converge. Ancient Greek and Roman settlements, Venetian fortifications, medieval cathedrals, and Renaissance palaces reveal the many civilizations that shaped this landscape, while natural wonders frame the story in dramatic beauty.

Throughout the voyage onboard *Le Bougainville*, you will travel in the company of distinguished Professor Thomas F. X. Noble—an expert in medieval, Mediterranean, and Byzantine history. Onboard, his presentations illuminate important themes of your journey. Onshore, Professor Noble brings context directly into the places you explore, ensuring that every site becomes not just a destination, but part of a deeper narrative of empire, identity, and the shifting tides of history.

ITINERARY—9 DAYS/8 DAYS ABOARD *LE BOUGAINVILLE*

DAY 1: Arrival in Venice

Arrive at Venice Marco Polo Airport, in Venice, Italy, where you will be met by your driver and transferred to your hotel. This evening, join your fellow travelers and your Great Courses Journeys expert for a welcome cocktail reception. Dinner will be at your leisure.

Reception; Hotel Splendid Venice (or similar)

DAY 2: Your Odyssey Begins

After breakfast, join your expert and a local guide for a walking tour of central Venice. Begin in the studio of a master mascheraro, where you will examine the centuries-old craft of creating Carnival masks. Continue through the narrow alleys to one of the few remaining gondola workshops. A stop at a local gelateria is followed by an independent lunch before embarking on your ship, *Le Bougainville*.

Breakfast, Dinner; Le Bougainville

DAY 3: Culture and Heritage in Croatia

Rovinj has long nurtured its own maritime identity, centered on the emblematic flat-bottomed boats known as batane. At the Batana Eco-Museum, you will explore how these vessels remain vital. Continuing to the 18th-century Church of Saint Euphemia, discover the story of Rovinj's patron saint. Some leisure time is included before returning to the ship.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Bougainville

DAY 4: Zadar, Past and Present

Your exploration of Zadar weaves together the city's rich past and its vibrant present. You'll sample two of the region's most iconic specialties, the sheep's milk cheese of Pag and Zadar's maraschino liqueur. Explore the Old Town, including the pre-Romanesque Church of St. Donatus and the Cathedral of St. Anastasia.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Bougainville

DAY 5: National Parks and Imperial Palaces

From the port of Primošten, travel inland to Krka National Park.

Continue through the Croatian countryside to Split, where you will explore the Palace of Diocletian, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the best-preserved Roman imperial residences in existence. *Le Bougainville* remains in port until midnight, providing ample time for you to enjoy an evening ashore if you wish.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Bougainville

DAY 6: Hvar's Layered History

Begin your exploration with a visit to the Hvar Fortress, taking in sweeping views of the Adriatic before descending into the heart of the city and arriving at St. Stephen's Square. *Le Bougainville* remains in port until late evening, allowing ample time to enjoy the evening ashore.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Bougainville

DAY 7: Island Hopping in Korcula and Mljet

Begin your day on the storied island of Korčula with a guided tour of the medieval town. Continue to the village of Lumbarda to visit the Milina-Bire Winery. Sail onward to Mljet Island, most of which is protected as a National Park. Here, explore the islet of St. Mary and its 12th-century Benedictine monastery.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Bougainville

DAY 8: Kotor on Land and Sea

The final day of your voyage is devoted to exploring the UNESCO World Heritage city of Kotor. Visit the Romanesque Cathedral of St. Tryphon, dedicated to the city's patron saint. In the early evening, *Le Bougainville* sails through one of the Adriatic's most breathtaking natural wonders.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Bougainville

DAY 9: Departure

After breakfast aboard the ship, disembark and transfer to Dubrovnik Ruđer Bošković Airport in Dubrovnik, Croatia, for flights homeward.

Breakfast



See how the iconic gondolas of Venice are still made today with a visit to one of the few remaining workshops.



Your Journeys Expert
Thomas F.X. Noble

Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble is Andrew V. Tackes Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Notre Dame. Due to his passion for ancient Greece and Rome, plus world of late antiquity, Professor Noble has led numerous tours throughout Europe and the Mediterranean for decades. Professor Noble received his MA in History and Latin and PhD in Medieval History from Michigan State University. He is a widely published scholar, and is the author, coauthor, or editor of 12 books, including the coauthored textbook, *Western Civilization: The Continuing Experiment*, now in its 7th edition. Professor Noble produced 4 Great Courses, including all-time customer favorite *Foundations of Western Civilization*, plus *Popes and the Papacy: A History*, and *The World of Late Antiquity: Crisis and Transformation*.

The Dalmatian coast puts one in mind of the guy who starved in a candy shop because he could not decide what to eat!

— Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: August 5–13, 2026*
**Due to timing at ports of call, schedules and order of sites visited are subject to change*

PRICE: From \$9,480
Double from \$9,480 per person
Single from \$13,110 per person
See photos of Le Bougainville and deck plans on our website.



Paleokastritsa village in Corfu, Greece

NEW CRUISE! Greek Odysseys: From Athens to Syracuse

- Walk through the Lion Gate of Mycenae, the Bronze Age citadel whose tombs, walls, and myths illuminate one of the earliest and most influential civilizations of the ancient world.
- Explore Monemvasia, a Byzantine fortress town, where medieval chapels, Venetian mansions, and fortifications reveal centuries of shifting power, commerce, and cultural exchange in the eastern Mediterranean.
- Discover Syracuse's vast archaeological park, with its Greek theater, Roman amphitheater, and quarries, before wandering Ortygia's streets, where temples and Baroque piazzas reveal layers of history and myth.

Sailing from Athens to Valletta on *Le Champlain*, this voyage immerses you in the layered histories of the ancient Mediterranean. Along the way, you will encounter the Bronze Age citadel of Mycenae, the healing sanctuary and theater at Epidaurus, the Byzantine fortress town of Monemvasia, and the monumental remains of Syracuse, one of the most important cities of the Greek world. Visits to Corfu, Gallipoli, and Crete reveal how myth, religion, and politics intersected with local identity and regional trade, while UNESCO sites such as the Palace of Diocletian at Split and the Old Town of Valletta underscore the enduring legacies of empire.

ITINERARY—10 DAYS/9 DAYS ABOARD *LE CHAMPLAIN*

DAY 1: Arrive in Athens

Arrive in Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos where you will be met by your driver and transferred to your hotel for the night. This evening, join your fellow travelers and your Great Courses Journeys expert for a welcome cocktail reception. Dinner will be at your leisure.

Reception; Athens Capital Hotel—MGallery Collection (or similar)

DAY 2: The Ancient Heart of Athens

Set out in the morning with your expert and a local guide for an exploration of the Acropolis where you'll see the Parthenon, Erechtheion, and Temple of Athena Nike. In the afternoon, enjoy lunch at your leisure, and continue to the Agora and walk through the reconstructed Stoa of Attalus. After time at leisure, transfer to Piraeus and embark *Le Champlain* to begin your voyage.

Breakfast, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 3: Sanctuaries and Citadels

This morning, travel to Epidaurus, site of the Sanctuary of Asklepios, where religion and medicine were closely intertwined. Continue to Mycenae and pass through the monumental Lion Gate. Nearby, the "Treasury of Atreus" showcases advanced engineering and the blending of history and myth.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 4: Byzantine Beauty

Monemvasia, a walled fortress often compared to Gibraltar, flourished in the Middle Ages. As you walk through its narrow streets, encounter Byzantine chapels, Venetian mansions, and artisan workshops, culminating in a visit to the Church of Christ Elkomemos. Beyond the fortress, continue into the countryside to the Liotriv Estate, a restored 18th-century mansion.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 5: Pottery, Wine, and Ancient Aegean Civilization

Begin in Thrapsano, a hillside village famed for pottery. Continue to Peza, one of Crete's most historic viticultural



Not only will you immerse yourself in thousands of years of history, you'll also indulge in the spectacular beauty of Greece today.

centers. A panoramic drive through Heraklion concludes your exploration of this island.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 6: Spartan Culture and Cultivation

From the port of Gytheion, travel inland to explore Sparta. Visit the Museum of the Olive and Greek Olive Oil to see how olives shaped Spartan life. Continue to Estate Theodorakakos, a family-run vineyard dedicated to sustainable viticulture.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 7: History and Myth in Corfu

In Corfu, begin at the Archaeological Museum, where artifacts from temples and sanctuaries illuminate the island's role in the ancient Greek world. Continue to Lakones, a mountain village offering panoramic views. Conclude with a drive through Corfu's Old Town.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 8: Southern Italy's Cultural Treasures

In Lecce, the exuberant Baroque style dominates the urban landscape. The Basilica of Santa Croce dazzles with its intricate carvings, while Piazza Duomo demonstrates the grandeur of ecclesiastical power. Returning to Gallipoli, explore this historic port town.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 9: The Ancient Ruins of Syracuse

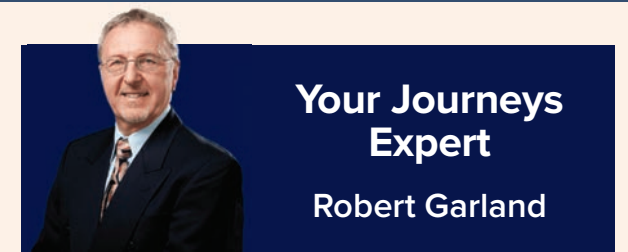
On your final full day, explore Syracuse. Begin at the archaeological park, home to the Roman Amphitheater of Augustus and the Altar of Hieron II, a monumental sacrificial altar dedicated to Zeus. In the Latomie of Paradise, stand before the Ear of Dionysius. In Ortygia, layers of history remain visible: Baroque piazzas, the 6th-century Temple of Apollo, and the Piazza Duomo.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Champlain

DAY 10: Departure

After breakfast aboard, disembark and transfer to Malta International Airport for flights homeward.

Breakfast



Your Journeys
Expert
Robert Garland

Dr. Robert Garland is the Roy D. and Margaret B. Wooster Professor of the Classics, Emeritus, in the Department of the Classics at Colgate University. His research and passion for ancient Greece has taken him throughout the Greek world for several decades. Professor Garland has a PhD in Ancient History from University College London. A former Fulbright Scholar, he was also a fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC, and a visiting scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton. He has written 19 books, including *Greek Mythology: Gods and Heroes Brought to Life* and *Roman Legends Brought to Life*. He has also published extensively in academic and popular journals and served as a consultant for educational film companies. Professor Garland has taught five Great Courses: *The Other Side of History: Daily Life in the Ancient World*, *Living History: Experiencing Great Events of the Ancient and Medieval Worlds*, *The Greek World: A Study of History and Culture*, *Athenian Democracy: An Experiment for the Ages*, and *God against the Gods: The History of Monotheism and Polytheism*.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: November 7–16, 2026*
*Due to timing at ports of call, schedules and order of sites visited are subject to change

PRICE: From \$9,995
Double from \$9,995 per person
Single from \$10,660 per person
See photos of *Le Champlain* and deck plans on our website.



Panama Canal, Panama

NEW CRUISE! Treasures of Central America: The Panama Canal and Marvels of Costa Rica

- Transit the Panama Canal, a modern engineering wonder, with expert commentary that places its construction and operation in the broader story of human innovation and global trade.
- Hike in Portobelo's rainforest and explore its UNESCO-listed colonial forts, learning how ecology, empire, and piracy intersected at this vital hub of Spain's treasure fleets.
- Discover Ecocentro Calathea, a conservation garden showcasing southern Costa Rica's remarkable biodiversity through native plants, medicinal species, and vibrant birdlife near Piedras Blancas National Park.

Embark on the *Le Lapérouse* for an unforgettable Central American journey with Professor Scott Solomon from Rice University, a biologist, science communicator, and expert in ecology and evolution. His lectures and in-field commentary will sharpen your understanding of biodiversity, tropical ecosystems, and the interplay between nature and human culture. With his insight, every rainforest trail, mangrove stand, and island lagoon becomes a living laboratory.



As a bridge between two continents, Panama is home to a unique array of flora and fauna.

ITINERARY—10 DAYS/9 DAYS ABOARD LE LAPÉROUSE

DAY 1: Bienvenidos a Panamá

Arrive in Tocumen International Airport Panama, Panama City, Panama, where you will be met by your driver and transferred to the Waldorf Astoria Hotel (or similar) for the night. This evening, join your fellow travelers and your Great Courses Journeys Expert for a welcome cocktail reception. Dinner will be at your leisure.

Reception; Waldorf Astoria Hotel (or similar)

DAY 2: Past and Present in Panama City

After breakfast at the hotel, begin your day with your expert and local guide at the Punta Culebra Nature Center. A short distance away, the Frank Gehry-designed Biomuseo features interactive displays that trace Panama's unique geology and its role in connecting two continents. Following lunch in a historic setting, continue with a guided exploration of Casco Antiguo, Panama City's colonial quarter. Later in the afternoon, drive across the isthmus to Colón to embark *Le Lapérouse*.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Lapérouse

DAY 3: Ecology and Tradition in the San Blas Islands

Spend the afternoon in the San Blas Islands, anchored off the idyllic *Holandes Cayes*. The islands form part of the autonomous Guna Yala territory, where the Guna people continue to preserve their language, traditions, and distinctive art forms. Encounters here offer insight into how cultural identity and environmental stewardship are interwoven.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Lapérouse

DAY 4: Historic Portobelo and Biodiversity

Your full day in historic Portobelo begins with a guided hike into the surrounding rainforest. In the afternoon, explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Portobelo itself, once a vital Spanish port for treasure fleets crossing the Atlantic. Visit 17th-century forts built to guard against pirates and the Customs House. The day concludes with a Congo Dance Workshop.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Lapérouse

DAY 5: A Marvel of Modern Engineering

Transit one of the world's greatest feats of engineering. Discover how the Panama Canal reshaped global trade and politics. Your transit begins in Colón, where massive locks lift vessels 85 feet to Gatun Lake. Crossing the lake and passing through the Gaillard Cut, you witness both technical ingenuity and rainforest biodiversity. Descending through the Pedro Miguel and Miraflores Locks, you reach the Pacific at day's end.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Lapérouse

DAY 6: Indigenous Culture and Ecological Wonders

Declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1983, Darién National Park protects one of the most ecologically diverse regions in the Americas. The region is also home to indigenous communities who preserve traditions that predate European contact. In Playa Muerto, meet the Emberá people, whose language, crafts, and daily practices offer insight into centuries of cultural resilience.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Lapérouse

DAY 7: A Day at Sea

Enjoy a day at sea, attending lecture by your expert and other education briefings on board, treating yourself to the ship's amenities, or simply relaxing on deck as you cruise the open ocean.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Lapérouse

DAY 8: Conservation and Community in Costa Rica

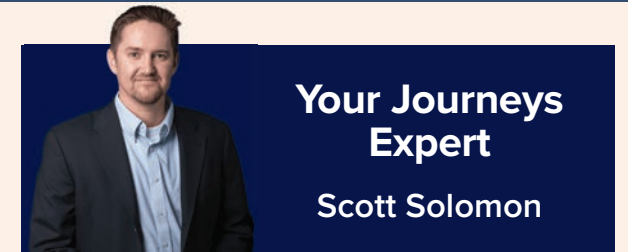
The small Costa Rican port of Golfito serves as your gateway to Ecocentro Calathea, an open-air botanic garden. Dedicated to preserving and interpreting the fragile ecosystems bordering Piedras Blancas National Park, the eco-center introduces visitors to the extraordinary biodiversity of southern Costa Rica. The visit concludes with a pause at the welcome center before returning to the ship.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Le Lapérouse

DAY 9: Departure

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to Juan Santamaría International Airport, San Jose, Costa Rica, for flights home.

Breakfast



Your Journeys Expert
Scott Solomon

Dr. Scott Solomon is an Associate Teaching Professor at Rice University, where he teaches ecology, evolutionary biology, and scientific communication. He received his PhD in Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior from The University of Texas at Austin. Professor Solomon's research projects have taken him through Panama and Costa Rica, and developed a deep understanding of their land and ecosystems. Professor Solomon has also worked as a visiting researcher with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and with São Paulo State University in Rio Claro, Brazil. He has taught field biology courses at Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory in Colorado and in the rainforests and coral reefs of Belize. He also serves as an associate editor for the *Journal of Tropical Ecology*. His writing and photography have appeared in such publications as *Aeon*, *Nautilus*, *Slate*, and *WIRED*. Professor Solomon has taught two Great Courses: *What Darwin Didn't Know: The Modern Science of Evolution* and *Why Insects Matter: Earth's Most Essential Species*.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: January 14–22, 2027*
*Due to timing at ports of call, schedules and order of sites visited are subject to change

PRICE: From \$8,800
Double from \$8,800 per person
Single from \$12,590 per person
See photos of *Le Lapérouse* and deck plans on our website.

Your Journeys Experts



Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble is Andrew V. Tackes Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Notre Dame. Due to his passion for ancient Greece and Rome, plus the world of late antiquity, Professor Noble has led numerous tours throughout Europe and the Mediterranean for decades. Professor Noble has produced four Great Courses, including all-time customer favorite *Foundations of Western Civilization*, plus *Popes and the Papacy: A History*, and *The World of Late Antiquity: Crisis and Transformation*.



Dr. Jodi Magness is the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She received her PhD in Classical Archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania. She has participated in more than 20 excavations in Israel and in Greece, including co-directing the 1995 excavations in the Roman siege works at Masada. For The Great Courses, she has taught *The Holy Land Revealed* and *Jesus and His Jewish Influences*.



Capri island, Italy

Exploring Southern Italy’s History, Art, and Archaeology

- Discover the hidden layers beneath Naples, from ancient reservoirs to eerie catacombs, revealing centuries of history beneath the bustling streets.
- Walk through the remarkably intact ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum—Roman cities buried by Vesuvius in 79 AD—which offer an unparalleled glimpse into daily life in antiquity.
- Explore volcanic craters, the legendary Lake Avernus, and the Cave of the Sibyl, landscapes once believed to be gateways to the underworld.

Uncover the rich history, breathtaking landscapes, and vibrant culture of southern Italy on this immersive journey through Campania, guided by a Great Courses expert to learn about the history, art, and archaeology of the region. From the bustling streets of Naples to the legendary ruins of Pompeii and the stunning island of Capri, this tour offers a deep dive into the region’s fascinating past. Walk in the footsteps of ancient Romans as you explore underground Naples, the volcanic landscapes of the Phlegraean Fields, and the remarkably preserved cities of Herculaneum and Pompeii. Along the way, enjoy guided visits, hands-on culinary experiences, and breathtaking coastal views, ensuring an unforgettable journey through one of Italy’s most captivating regions.

DAY 1: Arrival in Naples

Arrive in Naples, a city rich in history, culture, and breathtaking coastal views. Transfer to the elegant San Francesco al Monte hotel, a former 16th-century monastery offering stunning vistas of the Bay of Naples. Settle into the hotel and then gather with your fellow travelers and Great Courses expert for introductions and an overview of the journey ahead. Then, enjoy a delightful welcome dinner at the hotel’s restaurant.
Dinner; San Francesco al Monte Hotel, Naples

DAY 2: Beneath the Surface—Exploring Underground Naples

Begin the day with an engaging lecture by your expert to gain insights into Naples’ rich history. Then, venture beneath the city to explore a labyrinth of ancient reservoirs, catacombs, and tunnels that have shaped Naples over centuries. Back above ground, stroll through the historic center for a guided visit to the stunning 14th-century Gothic Duomo. After lunch, visit the renowned National Archaeological Museum, home to an extraordinary collection of artifacts from Pompeii, Herculaneum,

and beyond—the most important archaeological museum in Europe. The evening is yours to explore and dine at leisure.
Breakfast, Lunch; San Francesco al Monte Hotel, Naples

DAY 3: The Ancient World of the Phlegraean Fields

Journey to the Phlegraean Fields, a landscape of volcanic craters, steaming fumaroles, and bubbling mud pools that fascinated ancient Romans, who believed this region to be the entrance to the underworld. Explore Solfatara, a dormant volcano known for its otherworldly terrain and mythological significance. Continue to Pozzuoli to visit its impressive 1st-century AD amphitheater, one of the largest in Italy, where gladiators once battled for the entertainment of Roman spectators. After lunch at your leisure, stop at Lake Avernus, a volcanic crater lake once considered the gateway to Hades, before exploring the ancient ruins of Cumae, home to the legendary Cave of the Sibyl. Return to Naples for a special evening of Neapolitan culture with a hands-on pizza-making demonstration and dinner.
Breakfast, Dinner; San Francesco al Monte Hotel, Naples

DAY 4: From Ruins to the Riviera—Herculaneum & Sorrento

Depart Naples and journey to Herculaneum, an ancient Roman city famously buried by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD. Unlike Pompeii, Herculaneum was covered in volcanic mud, preserving wooden structures, frescoes, and household items in remarkable detail—even ancient graffiti still lingers on the walls throughout the city. Explore the city’s well-preserved houses, baths, and streets, offering an intimate glimpse into Roman daily life. Continue to Castellammare di Stabia and check in at the elegant Hotel La Medusa. Later, travel to Sorrento and visit the cathedral, known for its stunning frescoes and Romanesque architecture. Then, enjoy free time to explore this charming coastal town. Conclude the day with a seafood feast before returning to Castellammare di Stabia for a restful night.
Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel La Medusa, Castellammare di Stabia

DAY 5: Pompeii—A City Frozen in Time

Step back into the ancient world with a visit to Pompeii, a Roman city frozen in time during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Wander through remarkably intact streets, temples, and homes, gaining insight into daily life in this once-thriving metropolis. Marvel at intricate frescoes and mosaics that adorn private villas, offering glimpses into Roman art and culture. After lunch, explore the Villa of Mysteries, renowned for its enigmatic frescoes depicting Dionysian rites. Enjoy free time to further explore the vast archaeological park before returning to the hotel for an evening at leisure.
Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel La Medusa, Castellammare di Stabia

DAY 6: From Roman Luxury to Island Splendor

Begin the day with a guided visit to Villa San Marco in Stabiae, a lavish Roman villa that once belonged to the elite of the ancient world. Overlooking the Bay of Naples, this UNESCO World Heritage Site features stunning frescoes, grand courtyards, and thermal baths, reflecting the opulence of Roman aristocracy. Then, board a public ferry to the enchanting island of Capri. Enjoy free time to explore Capri’s charming piazzas, designer boutiques, and picturesque coastal paths. In the evening, return to Castellammare di Stabia and gather for a memorable farewell dinner along the seafront to celebrate an unforgettable journey.
Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel La Medusa, Castellammare di Stabia

DAY 7: Departure

Depart hotel for Naples Airport and individual flights home.
None



Step into the ancient past as you see the beautifully preserved art and architecture of Pompeii and Herculaneum.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: October 17–23, 2026, Thomas Noble
March 20–26, 2027, Jodi Magness
October 16–22, 2027, Thomas Noble

PRICE: From \$7,590
Double from \$7,590 per person
Single from \$8,775 per person



Parthenon, Athens

Ancient Greece: Myths, History, and Archaeology

- Immerse yourself in the myth and majesty of the Acropolis and explore the Parthenon and its surrounding temples.
- Travel in the footsteps of Agamemnon as you walk through the Lion Gate of Mycenae and visit the Tomb of Agamemnon.
- Explore the sacred center of Delphi as you ascend the slopes of Mount Parnassus to the Temple of Apollo, where the Oracle once delivered cryptic prophecies.

Step into the world of gods, heroes, and philosophers as you embark on an unforgettable journey through Greece. Led by Monica Cyrino, a scholar of ancient Greece and an expert in classical mythology and literature, this immersive exploration brings the past to life through legendary sites, evocative ruins, and thought-provoking lectures. Travel from the grandeur of the Acropolis in Athens to the sacred sanctuary of Delphi, where the Oracle once shaped the fate of kings. Walk in the footsteps of Agamemnon in Mycenae, stand where Olympians once competed in honor of Zeus, and marvel at the healing sanctuary of Asclepius at Epidaurus. With expertly guided visits and engaging discussions, this journey offers you a deep understanding of Greece's enduring cultural and historical legacy.



Layers of history: The Ekklesia Isodia Theotokou Church was built in 1050 AD over the remains of an ancient temple.

2026 ITINERARY—11 DAYS

DAY 1: Welcome to Wisdom: The Journey Begins

Fly into Athens and transfer independently to your centrally located hotel. Join your Great Courses Expert Professor Cyrino and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner.
Dinner; Fresh Hotel

DAY 2: Acropolis of Athens: Athena's Abode

Ascend to the Acropolis and the Parthenon. Then, tour the Acropolis Museum. Continue to the Plaka district and dine as a group at a local restaurant. Return to the hotel for a lecture from Professor Cyrino on the founding myths of the Athenians. Spend the evening discovering modern Athens on your own.
Breakfast, Lunch; Fresh Hotel

DAY 3: Artifacts and Appetites in Athens

Begin the day at the National Archaeological Museum. Then, savor Greek flavors on a culinary walking tour. Continue to explore Athens on your own this afternoon and evening.

Professor Cyrino will also share some of her favorite sites in Athens.

Breakfast, Lunch; Fresh Hotel

DAY 4: Corinth and Coastal Chronicles

Travel along the coast to Corinth. Visit the Temple of Apollo, view Acrocorinth, and marvel at the Corinth Canal. Enjoy authentic Greek fare during lunch at a local restaurant. Next, visit Epidaurus, home to the sanctuary of Asclepius. See one of the best-preserved theaters in Greece, the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus. Continue to Nafplio for a brief walking tour of the city. Conclude the day with dinner and Greek dancing at a local taverna.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Amalia Hotel Nafplio

DAY 5: Agamemnon's Legacy

Explore Argos and Tiryns. Continue to Nemea for lunch and wine tasting at a local winery. Journey to the fortified city of Mycenae, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Return to Nafplio for a lecture from Professor Cyrino on the Peloponnesian cycle. Explore the many delights of Nafplio on your own this evening.

Breakfast, Lunch; Amalia Hotel Nafplio

DAY 6: Olympian Origins and Honoring Zeus

Travel to Olympia, passing through the Arcadian landscape. After lunch on your own, visit the site of the first Olympics. Explore Olympia's temples, altars, and stadium and visit the archaeological museum. After, learn about olive oil production with a hands-on tasting experience and a farm-to-table dinner.

Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel Europa

DAY 7: Delphi: Apollo's Sacred Center

Depart the hotel and drive along the Gulf of Corinth to Delphi. Pause for lunch in Nafpaktos. Then, enjoy a visit to a local farm to learn about beekeeping through the ages. Gather for an evening lecture from Professor Cyrino before enjoying dinner as a group at the hotel.

Breakfast, Dinner; Amalia Hotel Delphi

DAY 8: Sanctuaries and Secrets of Delphi

Ascend the Sacred Way to the Temple of Apollo and explore Delphi's ruins. Recharge at lunch as a group at a local restaurant. Then, visit the Sanctuary of Athena Pronaia, "in front of the Temple," the gateway to Delphi, and admire its circular tholos. Tonight, discover Delphi's many dinner offerings.

Breakfast, Lunch; Amalia Hotel Delphi

DAY 9: Byzantine Beauty

Drive approximately 45 minutes to the Hosios Loukas Monastery. Enjoy a private reception with mezze platters and wine. Return to Athens this afternoon and settle into your hotel before enjoying an evening on your own.

Breakfast, Lunch; Fresh Hotel

DAY 10: Aegina Adventures: Aphaea's Ascent

The morning begins with a ferry to Aegina, home to the well-preserved Temple of Aphaea. Savor lunch in a private farmhouse on the island. Then, return by ferry to Athens and freshen up before a final celebratory dinner and reception.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Fresh Hotel

DAY 11: Departure

Depart the hotel this morning for individual flights home.

Breakfast



Your Journeys Expert
Monica S. Cyrino

Dr. Monica S. Cyrino is a Professor of Classics at the University of New Mexico. Her research centers on Greek and Roman poetry, Aphrodite and Ancient eros, and Classical portrayals in film and television.

Professor Cyrino has led student tours through Greece and Italy and frequently gives talks around the world on classics and popular culture in addition to serving as an academic consultant for numerous feature films and television productions.

An esteemed teacher, she's won numerous teaching awards, including the national Society for Classical Studies' Excellence in Teaching Classics Award, the Presidential Teaching Fellowship Award, and the UNM Alumni Association Faculty Teaching Award. Professor Cyrino is the author of many popular and academic books, including the widely used textbook, *A Journey Through Greek Mythology*. For The Great Courses, Professor Cyrino created an Audible Original *Sex Scandals of Ancient Greece and Rome*.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 8–18, 2026
October 2–12, 2026
May 7–16, 2027
October 1–10, 2027
See website for 2027 itinerary.

PRICE: From \$7,175
Double from \$7,175 per person
Single from \$8,500 per person



Ancient Treasures of Turkey

- **Marvel at the stunning fusion of Christian and Islamic influences at the Hagia Sofia with its grand dome, breathtaking mosaics, and centuries of historical significance.**
- **Step back in time at Ephesus, where ancient wonders come to life as you explore grand ruins and uncover the stories of a lost civilization.**
- **Witness the architectural brilliance of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders, with its intricate sculptures and immense historical significance.**

Embark on a captivating nine-day journey through Turkey. Wander the bustling streets of Istanbul—home to the architectural wonders of Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque—and witness the scenic Bosphorus waters that separate Europe and Asia before venturing to the ancient ruins of Ephesus, Aphrodisias, and beyond. Explore the remarkable cities of Bergama, Bodrum, and the Aegean coast, where you'll uncover the hidden gems of ancient Greek and Roman life, including the Acropolis of Bergama and the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Along the way, you'll immerse yourself in Turkey's rich culture, visit grand monuments, and experience local traditions, with you expert's guidance illuminating the fascinating past that shaped the region, leaving you with a deep understanding and appreciation for Turkey's ancient heritage.

ITINERARY—9 DAYS

DAY 1: Welcome to Istanbul

Arrive on overnight flights into Istanbul. Transfer to your hotel in the heart of the modern city. Early this afternoon, tour the Basilica Cistern, an ancient underground water reservoir. After time back at the hotel to freshen up, gather with fellow travelers and your professor for a welcome dinner at a local restaurant where you will be introduced to the rich flavors of Turkish cuisine.
Dinner; Occidental Taksim

DAY 2: Museums, Palaces, and Treasures

Continue exploring Istanbul's rich history with a visit to some of its most iconic landmarks. Wander through the ancient Hippodrome, once the heart of Byzantine life. Marvel at the majestic Hagia Sophia. Explore the wonders of the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace. After lunch on your own, stroll through the Grand Bazaar's maze of over 4,000 shops. Finish your evening with free time to explore Istanbul's food scene.
Breakfast; Occidental Taksim

DAY 3: Bergama's Hidden Gems

The scenic four-hour drive from Istanbul to Bergama offers stunning views of the region. After arriving in this ancient city rich in archaeological wonders, enjoy lunch as a group. Explore the Acropolis and Asclepion, with ruins that showcase Hellenistic architecture and ancient medical practices. Continue to Izmir, Turkey's third-largest city known as the "pearl of the Aegean." After hotel check-in, dine as a group.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; La Bella

DAY 4: Coastal Charm and Ancient Wonders

Depart for Sardis, the ancient capital of Lydia, to immerse yourself in its influential history and culture. Begin with a visit to the Temple of Artemis, the Roman gymnasium, and the Sardis Synagogue, and explore the city's multicultural heritage. After lunch on your own, head to Akhisar (ancient Thyatira), one of the Seven Churches of Revelation, to learn more about its biblical significance. Finish the day with a visit to a traditional leather tannery or textile workshop. Continue to Kuşadasi, a picturesque coastal town on Turkey's Aegean coast.
Breakfast, Dinner; Grand Belish Hotel Resort and Spa

DAY 5: Ephesus: Time Travel to Rome

Today is devoted to the ancient city of Ephesus. Explore this remarkable archaeological site, marveling at grand monuments like the Library of Celsus and the Great Theater. Visit the beautifully restored Slope Houses, revealing the luxurious lifestyle of the Roman elite, and then the House of the Virgin Mary, a revered pilgrimage site. Return to your hotel for an afternoon at your leisure before dining as a group this evening.
Breakfast, Dinner; Grand Belish Hotel Resort and Spa

DAY 6: Aphrodisias: Sculptures & Secrets

Sojourn east to Aphrodisias, a less-known yet must-see UNESCO site. Explore its well-preserved ruins as Professor Tuck's sheds light on Aphrodisias' significance as a cultural and architectural marvel. Return to Kuşadasi to enjoy a final night in this seaside town.
Breakfast, Dinner; Grand Belish Hotel Resort and Spa

DAY 7: Ancient Wonders of the Meander

Journey south through the Meander River Delta. First, visit Priene, an ancient Greek city. Next, explore Miletus, a center of philosophy and trade, and Didyma, home to the impressive Temple of Apollo. After lunch, continue to Bodrum. Take some time to relax and enjoy the scenery before dining as a group at your hotel this evening.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Azka Otel

DAY 8: Bodrum's Legends

Begin your day by exploring Bodrum. Visit the ruins of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, then continue to Bodrum Castle, a medieval fortress with panoramic views. Walk along the Hellenistic city walls and see the Myndos Gate, where Alexander the Great once battled to breach the city's defenses. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Gather this evening for a farewell dinner as you toast the ancient treasures of Turkey.
Breakfast, Dinner; Azka Otel

DAY 9: A Fond Farewell

Depart your hotel and transfer as a group to Bodrum Airport for individual flights home or onward.



The past meets the present when you stroll the maze of Byzantium's Grand Bazaar, home to over 4,000 shops and stalls.

Your Journeys Experts



Dr. Steven L. Tuck is Professor of History and Classics at Miami University. Professor Tuck is an expert in the ancient Mediterranean world, with a particular interest in the art and architecture of the region. He has conducted archaeological fieldwork and research in Italy, Greece, England, and Egypt, and has directed more than 20 study tours.

Professor Tuck has taught several Great Courses, including *Pompeii: Daily Life in an Ancient Roman City*, *The Mysterious Etruscans*, and *Cities of the Ancient World*.



Dr. Hans-Friedrich Mueller is the Chair of Classics and the Thomas B. Lamont Professor of Ancient and Modern Literature at Union College. Known for his broad expertise and enthusiastic teaching style,

Professor Mueller has decades of experience teaching and leading tours. He has created three Great Courses: *Latin 101: Learning a Classical Language*, *Greek 101: Learning an Ancient Language*, and *The Pagan World: Ancient Religions Before Christianity*.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 24–June 1, 2026, Stephen Tuck
October 4–12, 2026, Hans-Friedrich Mueller
May 23–31, 2027, Stephen Tuck
November 14–22, 2027, Hans-Friedrich Mueller

PRICE: From \$6,995
Double from \$6,995 per person
Single from \$7,695 per person



Valley of the Moon in the Atacama Desert

NEW! Astronomer's Alley: Chile's Atacama Desert

- Visit the largest collection of telescopes of any public observatory in South America—in perfect darkness—when the stars are showing off their brightness and colors.
- Explore the lagoons, hot springs, mountains, and salt flats of the Atacama Desert, recognized by many as the best stargazing spot in the world.
- Catch a glimpse of the cosmos as you explore the moonlike landscape of dunes, rugged mountains, and distinctive rock formations of the Valley of the Moon, the testing grounds for the first prototype of the Mars rover.

Join your Great Courses Journeys expert on an eye-opening and jaw-dropping exploration of the Atacama Desert, the driest desert in the world. With more than 300 cloud-free days each year and virtually no light pollution, the Atacama is one of the few places on earth where you can observe the Andromeda Galaxy with the naked eye. Explore the otherworldly desert terrain where scientists tested the first prototypes of the Mars rover. Visit the Tatio geyser field, where more than 80 active geysers erupt against a backdrop of volcanic peaks, and view wildlife at the National Flamingo Reserve.

ITINERARY—7 DAYS

DAY 1: Santiago Sites

Arrive in Santiago and meet your Great Courses Journeys expert for a welcome talk. Then, begin your Chilean adventure with a half-day city tour showcasing Santiago's vibrant urban landscape set against the Andes. Visit the civic center, La Moneda Art Center, and stroll through Plaza de Armas. Explore the bohemian neighborhoods of Bellavista and Lastarria, then ascend San Cristóbal Hill for panoramic views. End the day in the upscale Las Condes and Vitacura districts, followed by a welcome dinner featuring Chilean cuisine and stunning skyline views.
Dinner; Pullman Vitacura

DAY 2: Atacama Approach and Desert Moonscape

Fly to the Atacama Desert, a desert plateau nearly 8,000 feet above sea level. The Atacama is one of the driest places on Earth and a haven for stargazers. After lunch, explore the Valley of the Moon, a surreal landscape where NASA tested Mars rover prototypes. Return to the hotel for insights from your expert. Enjoy an aperitif as the sunset transforms the terrain, then enjoy dinner at the hotel. Later, join a local astronomer for a private

stargazing session under one of the clearest skies on the planet, where the Milky Way and countless stars shine brilliantly.

Breakfast, Lunch, Reception, Dinner; Cumbres Atacama Hotel

DAY 3: Floating on the Flats

Begin with a visit to Toconao Village, a charming village known for its colonial architecture and stone craftsmanship. Continue to the vast Atacama salt flats, Chile's largest salt deposit and home to flamingos and other wildlife that gather around shimmering lagoons. These surreal landscapes offer a glimpse into the region's unique ecology. After lunch, head to the Cejar Lagoon, where you can float effortlessly in its mineral-rich, hyper-saline waters while surrounded by breathtaking views of the desert and mountains.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Cumbres Atacama Hotel

DAY 4: Geysers and Stargazing

Rise early for an excursion to view the Tatio Geysers, located near the Bolivian border, at sunrise. This geothermal field—the largest in the Southern Hemisphere—is alive with bubbling mud pools, steaming fumaroles, and hot springs. Learn about extremophiles—resilient organisms that thrive in harsh

conditions—and offer clues to life on Mars. After lunch and a talk with your expert, enjoy free time at the hotel. In the evening, visit the SPACE Observatory for a guided stargazing session in perfect darkness. View nebulae and constellations through South America's largest public telescope park.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Cumbres Atacama Hotel

DAY 5: Rock Art & Rainbow Ridges

Travel west to the Domeyko Mountains to explore Yerbas Buenas, an open-air gallery of ancient petroglyphs etched by the Lican-Antay people, the desert's earliest inhabitants. Continue to the Rainbow Valley, named for its mineral-rich mountains, striped in shades of red, green, and yellow. End the afternoon with a visit to the remote village of Rio Grande, nestled among rivers and mountains and known for its adobe architecture and scenic location. An optional two-hour horseback ride can be arranged for an additional cost through the Salt Mountain Range (Cordillera de la Sal) in the afternoon.

Breakfast, Picnic Lunch, Dinner; Cumbres Atacama Hotel

DAY 6: Atacama Approach and Desert Moonscape

Begin your final morning in the desert with a sunrise excursion to the Likan Antay viewpoint, offering sweeping views of the salt mountains in early light. Then, transfer to the airport for a flight back to Santiago. Here, you can enjoy the afternoon and evening at leisure to explore the capital city on your own.

Breakfast, Boxed Lunch; Pullman Vitacura

DAY 7: Toast Your Adventure

Depart Santiago for a scenic drive to Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage port city known for its colorful hillside homes and poetic charm. En route, stop in Casablanca Valley for a wine tasting and a final lunch as a group. Explore Valparaíso's vibrant streets, historic funiculars, and panoramic harbor views. Then, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Breakfast, Lunch



The Tatio Geysers are part of the largest geothermal field in the Southern Hemisphere.



Your Journeys
Expert

Sarah Rugheimer

Dr. Sarah Rugheimer is an astrophysicist and astrobiologist at the University of Edinburgh. Her work is focused on how to detect life on an exoplanet by looking for atmospheric biosignatures and her research interests are modelling the atmosphere and climate of extrasolar planets.

Sarah earned her bachelor's degree in physics at the University of Calgary, and her MA and PhD at Harvard in Astrophysics. In addition to research, Sarah is interested in public outreach. Her TED talk *The Search for Microscopic Aliens* has 1.7 million views on TED.com. She previously has been awarded the Barrie Jones Award and the BSA Rosalind Franklin Lectureship in 2019, and the Caroline Herschel Lectureship Prize in 2018.

Her astrobiology course for the public is available on Amazon Audible Originals, partnered with the Great Courses, called *Searching for Extraterrestrial Life*. Partnering with the Great Courses again, she is releasing a course on the wonders we are discovering with the James Webb Space Telescope in 2026.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: November 2–8, 2026
February 5–11, 2027

PRICE: From \$8,495
Double from \$8,495 per person
Single from \$9,590 per person
Estimated Internal Airfare (R/T Santiago-Calama): \$695 per person



Ancient city of Chichen Itza near Uxmal



SCAN FOR VIDEO PREVIEW!

NEW! The Mayan World: Art, Architecture, and Culture

- With your guide, Professor Montes, visit the workshops and galleries of local artisans to learn from Maya artists and scholars how ancient traditions have survived for centuries.
- Trace the influence of the Maya with visits to some of the most iconic sites, including Chichen Itza, and lesser-known ruins, such as Mayapan, the focus of Dr. Montes' doctoral research.
- Discover what makes Maya art so iconic as you observe the masterful mix of color—using natural dyes—and the exquisite attention to detail in their works.

Step into the heart of the Maya world with Dr. Khristin Montes, a distinguished art historian with a background in anthropology and archaeology whose research focuses on the sacred art and architecture of this iconic civilization. In this immersive journey, you'll travel to the vibrant Yucatán Peninsula, where the echoes of the past still resonate through towering pyramids, great ballcourts, and sacred cenotes. This is more than a tour; it's a transformative experience that invites you to see, feel, and connect with the living Maya world.

ITINERARY—9 DAYS

DAY 1: ¡Bienvenidos a Mexico!

Arrive this afternoon in Merida, the capital of the State of Yucatán, and gather for a welcome lecture with Professor Montes about sacred Maya landscapes, followed by dinner at the award-winning Rosas y Xocolate, offering modern twists on Mexican classics in a Maya-inspired mansion.
Dinner; Villa Mercedes Curio

DAY 2: Museum and Murals in Merida

Start the day with a guided visit of the Great Museum of the Maya World. Continue to Merida's historic city center. Then, trace the history of the Maya along the walls of the elegant Palace of the Governors. After lunch as a group, you will have time to explore the city on your own. Tonight, experience the warmth and hospitality of dinner in a family home.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Villa Mercedes Curio

DAY 3: Engraving History

Depart after breakfast for the fishing village of Celestún, Enjoy a boat ride on a salt-water lagoon that provides a critical

habitat for hundreds of animal species. After lunch, continue toward Uxmal. En route, you will meet briefly with an artist to learn about the art of Maya carving. This afternoon, try your hand at writing your name in hieroglyphs and learn from Professor Montes about efforts to keep Maya languages alive, before dinner on your own.

Breakfast, Lunch; Hacienda Uxmal Plantation

DAY 4: People Preserved through Pottery and Ruins

Step out of your hotel and back in time as you spend the morning in the ancient Maya city of Uxmal. Later, visit with world-class artisan Patricia Martin and observe her flawless technique as she captures Maya history in exquisite pottery reproductions. Return to Uxmal this afternoon to learn about the significance of chocolate to the Maya. Then, enjoy an evening on your own.

Breakfast, Lunch; Hacienda Uxmal Plantation

DAY 5: Enduring Traditions and Indigenous Futures

Begin your day with a home visit to learn how sisal (a natural fiber used for rope and twine) is processed and used. Later, the strength and resolve of the Maya people are put into context



Flamingos flock to the Yucatán for mating season from late fall to early spring.

with a visit to Mani, where 16th-century missionaries destroyed hundreds of books and statues to eradicate Maya traditions. Savor culinary traditions with a group lunch at Tutul-Xiu before continuing to Mayapan. Arrive this afternoon at Chichén Itzá, another ancient Maya city. This evening, enjoy dinner as a group in the hotel.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Hotel Mundo Maya Chichén Itza

DAY 6: Morning at Chichén Itzá

Start the day with a visit to the brilliant ruins of Chichén Itzá, the dazzling ancient city that once dominated the Yucatán Peninsula. This afternoon, witness a fascinating demonstration of the ancient Maya ball game, Pok-Ta-Pok. Return to Chichén Itzá this evening for a spectacular light and sound show and dinner on your own.

Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Mundo Maya Chichén Itza

DAY 7: A Visit to Valladolid

This morning, visit Valladolid, named one of Mexico's "magic towns." After, depart for Cenote Hubiku, sheltered by a dome of stalactites. Continue to Tahcabo this afternoon, whose name loosely translates in Yucatán Maya to "the place we harvest honey." Tour the town with a local archaeologist and educator, Dr. Iván Batún Alpuche. After, return to the hotel with time to explore the grounds and enjoy dinner on your own.

Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Mundo Maya Chichén Itza

DAY 8: The Sun Shines on Izamal

Depart Chichén Itzá this morning for the Yellow City of Izamal where you'll tour the city's rich history. View the 10-story pyramid in the city center and walk through the Convent of St. Anthony of Padua. Return to Merida this afternoon where you will have time to explore the markets on your own before joining together for a final dinner.

Breakfast, Dinner; Villa Mercedes Curio

DAY 9: Adiós

Depart after breakfast for individual flights home.
Breakfast



Dr. Khristin Montes is an Assistant Professor of Art History at Regis University. She has expertise in and a passion for teaching and preserving the art and culture of the Maya. Professor Montes has authored or coauthored several articles and delivered numerous talks based on her research into Maya art, history, and culture, past and present. She received her PhD from the University of Illinois at Chicago, with her dissertation research focusing on pre-Columbian art of the Maya. Prior to teaching at Regis University, she was the Project Facilitator for the Cultural Heritage, Ecology, and Conservation of Yucatec Cenotes Project—a cultural and environmental sustainability and educational project that took place in nine Maya communities between 2018 and 2020. The "Cenotes Project" was jointly organized through InHerit (Indigenous Heritage Passed to Present) at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and the Universidad de Oriente in Valladolid, Yucatán, Mexico, and sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Professor Montes has completed work on her first Great Course, *Creation Stories of the Americas*, which was released in December.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: December 12–20, 2026
January 2–10, 2027
May 8–16, 2027

PRICE: From \$7,495
Double from \$7,495 per person
Single from \$8,690 per person



Bell Tower, Trinidad, Cuba

Exploring Cuba: From Havana to Trinidad

- Immerse yourself in Havana’s rhythms during a rooftop jam session, a salsa or Afro-Cuban percussion lesson, and a performance by a youth jazz/funk band.
- Explore Cuba’s indigenous and Afro-Cuban roots through visits to the Museum of Archaeology and the vibrant neighborhood of Callejón de Hamel.
- Embark on a tour of Playa Girón and the Bay of Pigs Museum, delving into the pivotal history between the US and Cuba, and lasting impact of the embargo.

Islands and island nations all over the world have always captivated people with their unique combination of isolation and connection. Perhaps none more so than Cuba. On this journey, you will delve into a rich and fascinating narrative—a complex tapestry woven by European explorers, enslaved Africans, and indigenous Taino people who converged on the island in the 16th century, leaving a lasting imprint on its heritage. Its architecture, food, music, and culture all reflect this rich history. Led by The Great Courses professor Joyce Salisbury, you will explore Cuba’s complicated historical, political, and economic past to gain insights into its present trajectory. By engaging with the entrepreneurial spirit of the next generation, contemplating the world-renowned rhythms of Cuban music, and visiting historic sites; you will begin to connect with Cuba’s past and gain a profound understanding of its heritage and ongoing evolution in the global landscape.

ITINERARY—7 DAYS

DAY 1: *Bienvenidos a Havana*

Arrive at José Martí International Airport and transfer to your boutique hotel in Havana’s centrally located Miramar neighborhood. Begin your journey with an orientation meeting and welcome lecture by your tour expert. Experience Havana’s charm firsthand with a driving tour along the famed seawall and through the Vedado neighborhood. As the sun sets, toast the beginning of your adventure with a rooftop jam session featuring local musicians. Then, dine at El Cocinero, a stylish restaurant housed in a former factory.

Dinner; Casa Italia

DAY 2: Indigenous and African Roots

Each morning, start your day with a chat led by your expert, focusing on a theme for your day’s activities. Today’s focus will be Cuba’s indigenous roots from Taino culture to Afro-Cuban influence. Engage in a conversation with a local historian and former Director of the Cultural Patrimony Section at the City

Historian Office. Explore Cuba’s rich history with a visit to the Museum of Archaeology. Afterward, take a walking tour en route to a traditional Cuban lunch at a paladar (a privately run restaurant). Immerse yourself in Havana’s vibrant culture and history at Callejón de Hamel. Conclude your day with dinner at one of Cuba’s pioneering female-led paladars.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Casa Italia

DAY 3: A Designed Fortress

Gather with your expert in the morning as she explores the theme of isolationism. Meet with Cuba’s top urban planner and discuss the city’s evolution and history. Embark on a journey through Havana’s iconic landmarks such as Morro Castle, La Cabaña, and Revolution Square. Enjoy a leisurely lunch at a paladar. Visit sites associated with the Mafia’s influence during pre-revolutionary times and Havana’s economic heyday. At a private class, delve into Cuban cigar craftsmanship with a local expert.

Breakfast, Lunch; Casa Italia

DAY 4: The Next Generation

Meet with your expert this morning as she discusses Cuba’s economy. Start with a tour of Finca Vigia, Ernest Hemingway’s former residence. Engage in a thought-provoking panel discussion with Cuban entrepreneurs and economist Oniel Diaz. Enjoy a unique dining experience, accompanied by a private musical performance. Later in the day, choose between a salsa-dancing session or an Afro-Cuban percussion class. Join a veteran for a firsthand account of the historic 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion.

Breakfast, Lunch; Casa Italia

DAY 5: A Battle and a Biosphere

Embark on a full day’s journey beginning with a southward drive to the Cienaga de Zapata, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Then, tour Playa Girón and the Bay of Pigs Museum. A picnic lunch will be provided as you soak in the history of the picturesque beach before continuing your journey to Trinidad. Upon arrival, settle into your *casa particular* before joining a walking tour to explore Trinidad’s rich architectural heritage. Conclude the day with a home-cooked meal prepared by your hosts.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Hostal Lola

DAY 6: It All Comes Back to Sugar

Continue your exploration of Cuba’s rich history with a final discussion on the economic and political role of sugar. Journey to the archaeological site of San Isidro near Trinidad to delve into the history of Cuba’s sugar cane industry. Enjoy a farm-fresh lunch in the scenic Sugar Mills Valley before returning to Trinidad for an afternoon of leisure. Conclude your Cuban adventure with a farewell dinner and live musical performance.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Hostal Lola

DAY 7: Departure

Depart from Trinidad this morning, making a poignant stops in Santa Clara, exploring significant locations important to Cuba’s history and legacy.. Proceed to Santa Clara International Airport for your individual flight back to the United States.

Breakfast



Witness the care and craftsmanship that is part of Cuba’s rich heritage, including their famous handmade cigars.



Your Journeys Expert

Joyce E. Salisbury

Dr. Joyce E. Salisbury is a Professor Emerita of Humanistic Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Green Bay. She began her career conducting research in Spain, is an expert in the colonial world of Spain, and has led tours for several decades.

Professor Salisbury has appeared on PBS specials and on HISTORY[®]. In addition, she has been invited to lecture in many venues around the world for her ability to bring the past alive. Professor Salisbury has been widely recognized for her teaching abilities, including being named Professor of the Year in 1991 by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education. She has taught three times on Semester at Sea, a study-abroad program on a ship that circumnavigates the world with more than 500 students for a full semester. She has written more than 10 books, including the widely used textbook, *The West in the World*; and created four Great Courses, the first of which was *The History of Spain: Land on a Crossroad*.



TRIP DETAILS

DATES: November 17–23, 2026, Joyce E. Salisbury
March 16–22, 2027*
November 17–23, 2027*
*See website for expert

PRICE: From \$6,195
Double from \$6,195 per person
Single from \$6,895 per person

The Great Courses Journeys offers opportunities to travel legally to Cuba under the current OFAC Regulations. As one of the few programs authorized under the US Treasury’s “People to People” category, our tour operator has been leading learning adventures there for over 25 years.



Christmas in London

NEW! Great British Mysteries: A Holiday Tour of Literary London

- Go on a captivating winter adventure through the world of British mystery writing, set against the festive charm of Christmastime in England.
- Spend a day in Devon delving into the life and work of Agatha Christie.
- Visit Greys Court and Chavenage House, two stately British manor houses that have served as filming locations for many popular television mystery series.

ITINERARY—8 DAYS

DAY 1: The Queen of Crime

Arrive on individual flights into London and travel as a group to Oxford. Embark on an Oxford Literary Tour. Gather at Morse Bar at the Randolph Hotel for a welcome beverage and opening remarks by your expert followed by dinner in a local restaurant.
Dinner; Mercure Eastgate Hotel

DAY 2: Golden Age of Detective Fiction

Today, enjoy a full day excursion through the picturesque villages of South Oxfordshire as your expert discusses the Golden Age of Detective Fiction. Return to Oxford, where dinner will be in a local restaurant.
Breakfast, Dinner; Mercure Eastgate Hotel

DAY 3: A Country House Mystery

Begin with a visit to Chavenage House. As you travel deeper into the misty moors of Dartmoor that inspired Agatha Christie, enjoy a talk by your expert on why Christie is considered one of the most popular novelists of all time. Check in to your hotel and after time to freshen up, gather for dinner in the hotel.
Breakfast, Dinner; The Moorland Hotel Haytor

DAY 4: Misty and Mysterious Devon

Spend today exploring Devon and the surrounding countryside, focusing on the life and work of Agatha Christie. Continue to Exeter, where holiday spirit fills the air. Stroll through the Exeter Christmas Market, taking in the festive music and local crafts, and enjoy a beverage at the Turk's

Head, the historic pub where Charles Dickens once gave a reading of *A Christmas Carol*. Dinner this evening will be at your hotel.

Breakfast, Dinner; The Moorland Hotel Haytor

DAY 5: In The Footsteps of Miss Marple

Depart Dartmoor for London, pausing midway in Nether Wallop. Continue to London and, after checking in to your hotel, gather for dinner in a traditional English pub.

Breakfast, Dinner; Leonardo Royal London City

DAY 6: The Game is Afoot!

In the morning, take a guided tour of the Tower of London. Continue with a guided walking tour of Sherlock Holmes's London and explore the elegant streets of Bloomsbury. Dinner and the rest of the evening will be yours to enjoy London, where you may choose to explore a traditional holiday market.

Breakfast; Leonardo Royal London City

DAY 7: Secrets, Lies, and Undercover Spies

Fast-forward to the modern era at the Imperial War Museum. Learn about the secretive world of the Special Operations Executive and the Churchill War Rooms. Afterward, raise a toast during a farewell dinner in a local restaurant.

Breakfast; Leonardo Royal London City

DAY 8: Departure

Bid farewell to London as you depart the hotel for individual flights home.

Breakfast

LITERATURE



Your Journeys
Expert
Pamela Bedore

Pamela Bedore is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Connecticut. She has taught courses in Sherlock Holmes, American Detective Fiction, *The Monster* in Literature and Culture, Stephen King, and much more. Professor Bedore was the winner of AAUP (American Association of University Professors) Excellence Awards in Teaching Promise and then in Teaching Innovation. She has published widely on science fiction, detective fiction, and writing administration. Her first book, *Dime Novels and the Roots of American Detective Fiction*, was published in 2013. Professor Bedore earned her PhD from the University of Rochester. For The Great Courses, she created *Great Utopian and Dystopian Works of Literature*.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES: December 5–12, 2026

PRICE: From \$7,295

Double from \$7,295 per person

Single from \$8,545 per person



Leadenhall Market, London

Shakespeare's England: The Play's the Thing

- Discover London through Shakespeare's eyes.
- Witness live performances of Shakespeare's plays and get key insights into understanding his language and style.
- Immerse yourself in Shakespeare's early life in Stratford-upon-Avon.

ITINERARY—6 DAYS

DAY 1: Act I Welcome to London

Arrive at London's Heathrow Airport on individual flights. Transfer independently to the Leonardo Royal London City Hotel. Later, gather with your fellow travelers and meet Professor Alissa Branch, who will be your expert for this journey. Enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant and discuss your upcoming journey through Shakespeare's England.

Dinner; Leonardo Royal London City

DAY 2: Act II Shakespeare's England

Embark on a guided walking tour through London. In the afternoon, explore Shakespeare's Globe and the National Portrait Gallery's impressive Tudor and Elizabethan collection, followed by a traditional Afternoon Tea in Covent Garden. End your day by joining Professor Branch at a captivating Shakespeare play at a renowned London theater.

Breakfast, Afternoon Tea; Leonardo Royal London City

DAY 3: Act III The First Folio and a New Museum

Gather this morning with your fellow travelers and Professor Branch for a lecture as she continues to reveal the secrets to unlocking Shakespeare's language. Visit The British Library for a viewing of Shakespeare's First Folio. Then, visit the newly opened Museum of Shakespeare. Enjoy an evening free to explore London.

Breakfast, Lunch; Leonardo Royal London City

DAY 4: Act IV Kenilworth Castle

Join Professor Branch for a workshop on Shakespeare's verse and the hidden tricks for understanding it. Then, depart London for the English countryside and explore Kenilworth Castle. Continue to Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon. This evening, join Professor Branch and take in a show at the iconic Royal Shakespeare Company.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Swan's Nest Hotel

DAY 5: Act V Stratford-upon-Avon

Stroll through Stratford-upon-Avon. Begin at Shakespeare's Birthplace, then head to Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Guildhall. A short walk will bring you to Shakespeare's New Place, the home where he lived for nearly 20 years. At Holy Trinity Church, stand before his final resting place. Just a short distance outside of town, find Anne Hathaway's Cottage. Finally, make your way to the village of Wilmcote for a visit to the childhood home of Shakespeare's mother. Celebrate your journey with a farewell dinner with fellow travelers and Professor Branch this evening.

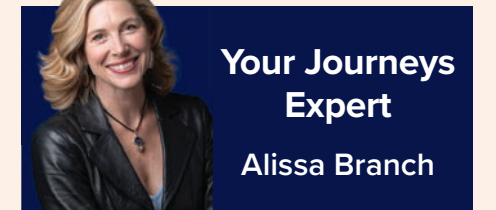
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; Swan's Nest Hotel

DAY 6: Epilogue: Parting Is Such Sweet Sorrow

Check out of your hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon and depart as a group for London's Heathrow Airport for individual flights home or onward.

Breakfast

LITERATURE



Your Journeys
Expert
Alissa Branch

Alissa Branch is an Associate Professor of Acting in the Helmerich School of Drama at the University of Oklahoma, where she created an advanced Shakespeare performance curriculum. She also serves as the Associate Artistic Director for the professional theater company, Oklahoma Shakespearean.

As an actor and director, her productions have several national awards. Professor Branch has studied acting at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts and Shakespeare's Globe, and she earned her MA in Drama from Washington University in St. Louis. For The Great Courses, she created *Experiencing Shakespeare: From Page to Stage*.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES: September 6–11, 2026

September 19–24, 2027

PRICE: From \$6,650

Double from \$6,650 per person

Single from \$7,790 per person



Christ Church College, Oxford

Enchanted England: Folklore, Literature, and Landscapes

- Walk through key sites of Arthurian legend in Dartmoor and Cornwall, including Tintagel Castle.
- Discover the inspiration for fantasy novels and films in Oxford.
- Meet with the owner of Treadwell's bookshop in Bloomsbury for a discussion centered on the shop's famous specialization in the occult.

ITINERARY—8 DAYS

DAY 1: Arrival in England

In the afternoon, join your experts and enjoy a guided tour of the Wallace Collection. After settling into the hotel, head out to a welcome dinner in a local restaurant.
Dinner; Leonardo Royal Hotel London City

DAY 2: Literary London

Visit Treadwell's, a small esoteric bookshop in Bloomsbury. Afterward, visit Covent Garden and enjoy some free time in central London. In the afternoon, follow in Shakespeare's footsteps on a walking tour. Finish the afternoon at the Swan by the Globe.
Breakfast, Afternoon Tea; Leonardo Royal Hotel London City

DAY 3: Inspiration in Oxford

Begin with a literary tour of Oxford. Break for lunch on your own, then, in the afternoon, see some of the iconic sites. Return to London in the evening for dinner in a local restaurant.
Breakfast, Dinner; Leonardo Royal Hotel London City

DAY 4: Onward to Cornwall and a Chat with a Mythic Artist

The day starts with a drive through rural England with a stop in Exeter. In the afternoon, editor and author Terri Windling will join your hosts for a lecture on mythic Dartmoor. Enjoy dinner at your hotel.
Breakfast, Dinner; Bodmin Jail Hotel

DAY 5: King Arthur's Cornwall Part I

First up is Boscastle. Then, explore the otherworldly in the Museum of Witchcraft. After lunch on your own, head to St. Nectan's Glen. Continue to the dramatic Tintagel Castle, followed by the tiny village of Slaughterbridge. End the day in the historic town of Camelford. Return to the hotel for a lecture from your experts. Dinner is at your leisure in Bodmin.
Breakfast; Bodmin Jail Hotel

DAY 6: King Arthur's Cornwall Part II

Start with a visit of the Tristan Stone. Next, see Roche Rock up close. Continue on and gaze upon the strangely beautiful Bodmin Moor. Spend time at the mysterious and melancholic Dozmary Pool. Your evening and dinner are at leisure.
Breakfast; Bodmin Jail Hotel

DAY 7: The Charm of the Countryside

Journey through the English countryside and visit Stonehenge. You'll have the opportunity to grab a quick bite for lunch before continuing to the final destination, Tylney Hall. Come together for a private farewell dinner.
Breakfast, Dinner; Tylney Hall Hotel & Gardens

DAY 8: Departure

Depart from the hotel for London Heathrow Airport.
Breakfast

LITERATURE



Drs. Sara Cleto and Brittany Warman are folklorists, teachers, and cofounders of The Carterhaugh School of Folklore and the Fantastic, which won the Dorothy Howard Prize from the American Folklore Society for their work in bringing scholarly rigor to the field of fantasy literature. They have authored and coauthored dozens of articles, academic reviews, and conference papers and have lectured at venues across the US and the UK. Professors Cleto and Warman both earned their PhDs in English and Folklore from The Ohio State University. For The Great Courses, they created *The Real History of Dracula* and *Urban Legends Explained*.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES: September 21–28, 2026

PRICE: From \$7,995

Double from \$7,995 per person
Single from \$9,695 per person



Sistine Chapel, Rome

Exploring Italy's Renaissance: Da Vinci and Michelangelo

- Discover the life and legacy of Michelangelo through his masterpieces.
- Explore the Uffizi Gallery, one of the world's most renowned art museums.
- Admire Michelangelo's breathtaking Sistine Chapel ceiling, a testament to his artistic genius.

ITINERARY—7 DAYS

DAY 1: Arrival in Florence: Center of the Renaissance

Arrive in Florence and settle into your accommodations. This afternoon, explore Florence's historical center on an walking tour. Later, indulge in a traditional Florentine meal.
Dinner, Reception; Hotel Executive

DAY 2: Michelangelo: Sculptor and Architect

Begin the morning with a lecture on the Florentine Renaissance. After, discover Brunelleschi's groundbreaking design at the San Lorenzo Church. Continue to the Medici Chapels. After lunch on your own, visit the cathedral with the dome designed by Brunelleschi, followed by a visit to the Museo dell'Opera del Duomo. Conclude your day with a meal at a local restaurant.
Breakfast, Dinner; Hotel Executive

DAY 3: Leonardo: Inventor and Artist

The day begins with a brief lecture from Professor Isbouts about Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper*. Then, visit the Convent of Ognissanti and the Sant'Apollonia to view Ghirlandaio and Castagno's *Last Supper* frescoes. Continue to the Accademia to admire Michelangelo's grand statue of *David*, along with his other signature works. After a group lunch at a local café, visit the renowned Uffizi Gallery. The rest of the afternoon and evening is yours to explore Florence on your own.
Breakfast, Lunch; Hotel Executive

DAY 4: Michelangelo and Leonardo: An Ideological Rivalry

Begin with a morning lecture from Professor Isbouts. Afterward, head as a group to the Bargello Museum. Continue to Brunelleschi's Pazzi Chapel at the Santa Croce church. Enjoy a leisurely meal at one of the charming restaurants overlooking the historic Piazza Santa Croce. Then, set out on a guided walking tour of Florence.
Breakfast, High Tea; Hotel Executive

DAY 5: All Roads Lead to Rome

Depart Florence for Rome this morning, traveling approximately three hours south through the picturesque Italian countryside. On arrival, savor Roman culinary delights in a traditional eatery. Then, explore the Capitoline Museum on the Campidoglio. Discover Rome's vibrant nightlife or relax at your hotel on your own this evening.
Breakfast, Lunch; Doria Palace Boutique Hotel

DAY 6: Michelangelo and Leonardo in Rome

Prepare for a visit to the Vatican with a lecture on its vast art collection. Then, enjoy a guided tour of the Vatican Museums, including the Sistine Chapel and Pinacoteca. Following lunch on your own, those who choose can visit St. Peter's Basilica. Toast your journey with a celebratory meal at a local restaurant.
Breakfast, Dinner; Doria Palace Boutique Hotel

DAY 7: Departure

Bid farewell to Italy and transfer interdependently to the airport for individual flights back to the United States.
Breakfast

ART HISTORY

Your Journeys Experts

Dr. Jean-Pierre Isbouts is a historian, biblical scholar, author, and filmmaker. He is faculty emeritus at Fielding Graduate University, where he served for 15 years as a member of the doctoral faculty. Professor Isbouts has led tours for several decades to Europe, the Middle East, and beyond, and delivered public talks all over the world. His Great Courses include *The History and Archaeology of the Bible*, *In the Footsteps of van Gogh*, and *Searching for People and Places of the Bible*.

Dr. Catherine Scallen is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor Emerita in the Humanities at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU), where she taught courses in art history covering Italy, France, Germany, and the Low Countries in the period 1400-1800. She has taught two Great Courses: *Art of the Northern Renaissance* and *Museum Masterpieces: The National Gallery, London*.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES: October 18–24, 2026,
Jean-Pierre Isbouts
October 17–23, 2027,
Catherine Scallen

PRICE: From \$6,750
Double from \$6,750 per person
Single from \$7,900 per person



Sunset camel ride across the Agafay Desert



SCAN FOR VIDEO PREVIEW!

Exploring Morocco: Medinas, Minarets, and Madrassas

- Admire the Islamic architecture in Marrakesh.
- Discover the University of al-Qarawiyyin, the world's oldest continuously operating university.
- Experience the stony landscape of the Agafay Desert on a camel trek, culminating in a breathtaking sunset over the High Atlas Mountains.

ITINERARY—9 DAYS

DAY 1: Welcome to Morocco

Arrive on individual flights into Tangier. Begin your journey with a guided walking tour through the Medina. Hear opening remarks from your expert during a welcome dinner.
Dinner; Barcelo Tanger

DAY 2: Timeless Traditions in Tangier

This morning, visit Tangier's historic Kasbah, a centuries-old fortress. After a group lunch at a local restaurant, continue to the Great Mosque. As the day winds down, enjoy dinner and the rest of the evening at your leisure.
Breakfast, Lunch; Barcelo Tanger

DAY 3: The Islamic Golden Age

Depart Tangier by coach and travel inland to the vibrant city of Fes. Upon arrival, step into the alleyways of the ancient Medina. In the afternoon, visit the historic University of al-Qarawiyyin. In the evening, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.
Breakfast, Dinner; Riad Salam Fes

DAY 4: Imperial Cities

Continuing your time in Fes, visit to the stunning Al Attarine Madrasa. Afterwards, board your coach for a journey to Rabat, Morocco's elegant capital. Check in to your hotel and then gather for dinner at a local restaurant.
Breakfast, Dinner; Riad Kalaa

DAY 5: Dynastic Legends

Begin exploring Rabat with a visit to Hassan Tower. Step into the Mausoleum of Mohammed. Continue to the Kasbah of the Udayas. The remainder of the day will be yours to enjoy Rabat.
Included Meal: Breakfast; Riad Kalaa

DAY 6: Marvelous Marrakesh

Depart for Marrakesh. Upon arrival, visit the iconic Koutoubia Mosque. Next, step into the opulent world of the Bahia Palace. As the day winds down, gather for dinner in a local restaurant.
Breakfast, Dinner; Riad Dar Justo

DAY 7: Morocco Then and Now

Today, start with a visit to Ben Youssef Madrasa. Continue to the enchanting Jardins Marjorelle. The remainder of the day will be yours to enjoy Marrakesh.
Included Meal: Breakfast; Riad Dar Justo

DAY 8: The Agafay Desert

Journey into the Agafay Desert. Check in to your desert camp and gather for a leisurely lunch. In the afternoon, embark on a camel ride across the desert. As night falls, raise a toast at a festive farewell dinner outdoors.
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner; The White Camel

DAY 9: Departure

Transfer to the airport and depart Morocco on individual flights for your journey home. The drive to Marrakesh will take approximately one hour.
Included Meal: Breakfast

CULTURE

Your Journeys Experts

Dr. Eamonn Gearon is an author and historian. He has spent decades living and working across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Professor Gearon relishes his role of public historian and speaker, and his work that blends history, culture, and contemporary affairs. His Great Courses include *The History and Achievements of the Islamic Golden Age*, *Turning Points in Middle Eastern History*, and *The Middle East in the 20th Century*.

Eve MacDonald is a Senior Lecturer in Ancient History at Cardiff University. She has traveled and worked widely across the Mediterranean, North Africa, and the Ancient Near East, and finds inspiration in all different periods and cultures that make up the global ancient worlds. For The Great Courses, she created *Hannibal: The Military Genius Who Almost Conquered Rome*.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES: October 24–November 1, 2026, Eamonn Gearon
April 1–9, 2027, Eve MacDonald

PRICE: From \$5,895
Double from \$5,895 per person
Single from \$7,245 per person



Machu Picchu

Peru: Machu Picchu and the Inca Empire

- Explore Machu Picchu with expert insights from Dr. Karen Bellinger.
- Immerse yourself in sacred traditions and gain a deeper appreciation for Andean spirituality.
- Delight in Cusco's Inca and colonial fusion and witness how centuries-old traditions blend seamlessly with modern Peruvian culture.

ITINERARY—8 DAYS

DAY 1: Llegar a Lima

Welcome to Lima. Gather this evening with fellow travelers and meet your Great Courses expert, Professor Karen Bellinger. Enjoy a welcome dinner featuring authentic Peruvian cuisine.
Dinner, Reception; Pullman Lima Miraflores Hotel

DAY 2: Lima's Legacy and Settle into the Sacred Valley

Begin the day with a lecture from Professor Bellinger. Then, explore Lima on a guided city tour. In the afternoon, board a flight to Cusco, the ancient Inca capital. Journey into the Sacred Valley.

Breakfast, Lunch; Sonesta Posadas del Inca Yucay (May), La Cosona de Yucay (October)

DAY 3: Culinary and Cultural Exploration—A Taste of Tradition

Visit Piuray Lagoon to participate in a hands-on culinary experience. After lunch, immerse yourself in traditional Andean spirituality by taking part in a ceremony. The afternoon is yours to enjoy the Sacred Valley.

Breakfast, Lunch; Sonesta Posadas del Inca Yucay (May), La Cosona de Yucay (October)

DAY 4: Ollantaytambo—The Last Inca Stronghold

Explore one of the best-preserved Inca sites in Peru. Continue to the remote Andean village of Willoq. Sit down with the community to enjoy a *pachamanca* meal. In the evening, return

ARCHAEOLOGY



Your Journeys Expert
Karen Bellinger

Dr. Karen Bellinger is an anthropologist, archaeologist, and historian who has explored human mysteries from prehistory through the 21st century.

Professor Bellinger has worked with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, the College of William & Mary, Queen Mary University of London, the Museum of London, and Yale educational travel. For The Great Courses, Professor Bellinger created *Great Archaeological Mysteries of Europe and the Mediterranean*.

TRIP DETAILS

DATES: May 6–13, 2026
October 7–14, 2026
May 5–12, 2027*
**See website for expert*

PRICE: From \$5,595
Double from \$5,595 per person
Single from \$6,320 per person
Estimated Internal Airfare (R/T Lima-Cusco) \$550 per person

to your hotel for a lecture from Professor Bellinger. Afterward, enjoy exploring the Sacred Valley on your own.

Breakfast, Lunch; Sonesta Posadas del Inca Yucay (May), La Cosona de Yucay (October)

DAY 5: Markets, Salt Mines, and Ancient Agriculture

Begin your morning in the colorful town of Chinchero and continue to the Salt Mines of Maras. Next, visit the enigmatic Moray agricultural terraces. After a farm-to-table lunch, embark on a train journey to Aguas Calientes. Spend the evening at leisure.

Breakfast, Lunch; El MaPi by Inkaterra

DAY 6: Majestic Machu Picchu

Your day starts with an early morning ascent by train to Machu Picchu. Back in the Imperial City, gather for a thought-provoking lecture from Professor Bellinger. Spend the evening wandering Cusco's lively cobblestone streets.

Breakfast, Lunch; Casa Andina Premium Cusco

DAY 7: Cusco's Cultural Heritage—Temples and Traditions

Today's journey begins at Awana Kancha. Return to Cusco for a walking tour, then venture beyond the city to surrounding archaeological wonders. Return to Cusco for a farewell dinner.

Breakfast, Dinner; Casa Andina Premium Cusco

DAY 8: Departure

Take a short flight from Cusco to Lima, then connect to your international flights home.

Breakfast



Ninh Binh, Vietnam

COMING SOON!

Vietnam's Hidden Gems: Past and Present with Nam Kim

Join the Great Courses Journeys on an immersive trip exploring Vietnam's rich culture, history, and hidden gems. Your Journeys expert on this trip is Dr. Nam Kim, an anthropological archaeologist who is both an expert in Vietnam's history and culture and has conducted archaeological fieldwork in Vietnam since 2005. From Hanoi's ancient citadels and vibrant street markets to the serene landscapes of Ninh Binh and the historic temples of My Son, you will engage with Vietnam's layered history and diverse communities. Cruise through the stunning karsts of Halong Bay, witness an exclusive water puppet performance and learn about the revival of this traditional art form, and delve into Cham heritage in Hoi An and Danang. This thoughtfully curated itinerary blends scholarly insight with authentic local encounters, offering a deeper understanding of Vietnam's past and present.

Frequently Asked Questions
Some basic questions and answers you may need to know.
For more detailed information, call 1-855-476-5080 or visit TheGreatCoursesJourneys.com

Does an expert join every trip?

Yes! We develop each Journey hand-in-hand with our experts. They are more than travel guides; they are scholars, professors, authors, researchers, speakers, and seasoned professionals who bring a wealth of knowledge and passion to each journey. Many are presenters for The Great Courses. With years of experience in their respective fields, they offer unparalleled insights and a unique perspective that elevates every trip. Most importantly, they are passionate about sharing their knowledge with others.

Is airfare included?

Airfare to and from the starting and ending point of the program is not included in the price, to give you maximum flexibility in choosing your preferences for air travel. This way, you can use frequent flier upgrades, depart from your airport of choice, or add pre- and post-trip extensions with no constraints. Please refrain from booking your airfare until your Guest Services Advisor reaches out to confirm your departure date.

What's included?

- Comprehensive educational program by content experts and professional on-site guides.
- All ground transportation within the itinerary, unless otherwise indicated.

- All sightseeing and entrance fees as specified in the itinerary.
- Comprehensive pre-departure information about the destination and what to expect on the trip, including a curated list of educational resources such as recommended videos, readings, etc.
- Gratuities to porters, drivers, guides, hotel and restaurant staff, as part of the group program, and shipboard personnel, as applicable.
- All accommodations and meals as outlined in the itinerary.
- PONANT Cruises Only: All meals aboard ship including early riser's coffee & pastry, breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner.
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Is the itinerary subject to change?

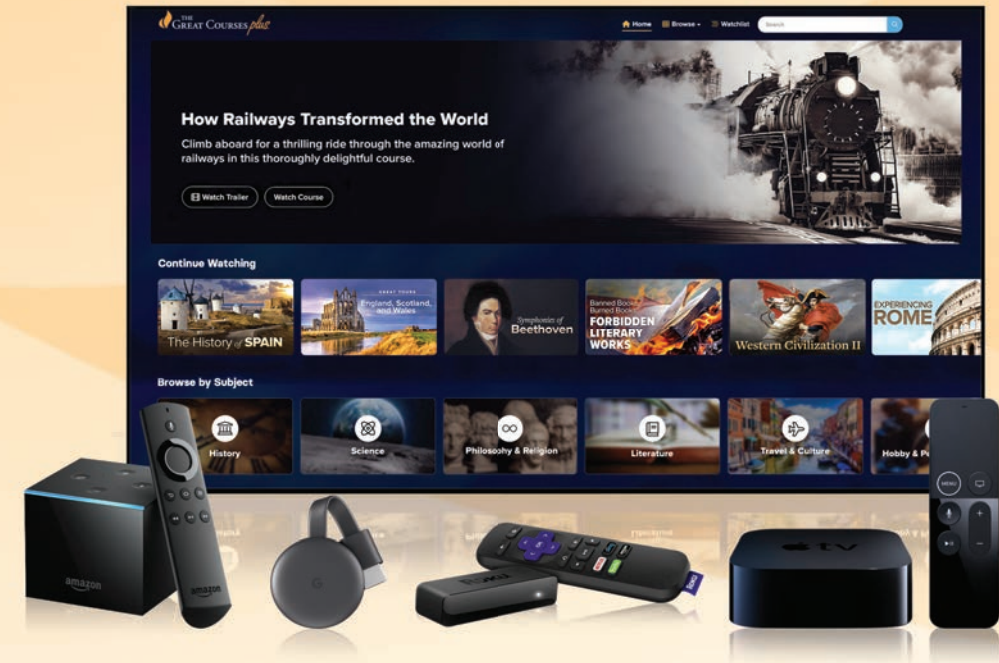
While every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, the nature of travel is unpredictable and we must be prepared for changes. The itinerary as described is subject to modification. Rest assured that, should any changes be needed, we commit to delivering an experience as outstanding as the one originally planned.

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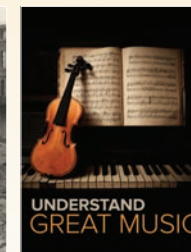
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Professor Keith Huxen
see pages 18 and 20



Professor Robert Greenberg
see pages 12, 14, and 16



Professor Kate Liszka
see page 36



Professor Patrick N. Allitt
see pages 22 and 66



Professor Steven L. Tuck
see page 52



Dr. Michael E. Wysession
see page 32

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