

Dear Travelers,

Hasn't the first part of this year been mesmerizing?!? The referendum in Sudan, the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt, and now the war in Libya. Whew! While the travel world seems to be shrinking, Far Horizons is committed to adding new destinations to our schedule of trips. Look for three new or re-designed trips in 2012 – **Bolivia**, **Costa Rica**, and **Hike the Inka Trail**. When I walked this Inka road a few years back, I was mesmerized by the glorious scenery, the stunning archaeological sites and the sprays of wild orchids. Speaking of Peru, the majority of the most exciting recent discoveries in that country are along the north coast. See the newly-revised **Inka and Their Ancestors** and visit Caral, dating back to 2700 BC; the vast adobe pre-Inka city of Cajamarquilla; and Chanquillo, where a line of thirteen towers was recently interpreted as a solar observatory.



We are always striving to create unrivaled itineraries that revisit some of our most popular destinations. Belize was where Far Horizons began. Last month I returned to Belize after several years. I stayed at a jungle lodge where the earsplitting roar of Howler Monkeys hanging from a tree branch ten feet above my bungalow woke me at 5 a.m. I drove to southern Belize along a miraculously good, paved road (the Hummingbird Highway which used to be the worst road in Belize). I spent time at the Belize Zoo where the founding director, Sharon Matola, introduced me to Liz, a tiny two month old otter that climbed into my lap (I fell in love!), and Buddy, the four year old jaguar who does summersaults on command. Sharon let me hand-feed pieces of raw meat to a Harpy eagle, one of the world's largest and most powerful birds of prey. I'm modifying our 2012 trip to include a special tour of the zoo by Sharon, an experience that very few Belize visitors ever have.

In the summer of 2012, we will again offer **Egypt in Rome**. Continuing with this theme, our Egyptologists – Bob Brier and Patricia Remler – will also lead a trip through Great Britain, aptly named **Egypt in Great Britain**. And our **Archaeological Pub Crawl of Great Britain** and **Riches of Scotland** offer you a chance to view castles, stone circles and hill forts while staying in pubs in small villages for a true cultural experience.

The Far Horizons staff is here to assist you with your travel plans. Don't hesitate to contact us about any of our trips, or if you would like us to design a trip just for you and your family or friends. We love discussing our destinations. As always, please continue to view our award-winning website – www.farhorizons.com – for updated information on our journeys both near and far.

Happy traveling!

Mary Dell Lucas, *Founding Director*



## FEATURED TRIP: *Turkish Treasures*

Join Professor Garrett Fagan, a Greco-Roman specialist and of Teaching Company fame, and only 12 participants on an extraordinary 15-day tour that includes *privately arranged private tours with archaeologists at three of the most important on-going projects in the eastern Mediterranean - Hattusa, Ephesus, and Troy.*

- **Hattusa**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the capital of the Hittites whose empire stretched from the Black Sea to Syria, join the project director for an insider's view of the work.
- **Troy**, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, meet privately with one of the excavators to learn how recent excavations have given us much more information on the city.

- **Ephesus** is the most renowned site in Turkey. Here, hosted by the Director of excavations, enjoy a private tour including areas of the city closed to the public.

But there is so much more! View the splendid remains of Sagalassos clinging perilously to the southern granite slopes of the Taurus Mountains and the highest city in the Roman Empire. See Xanthos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the capital city of the Lycian Federation. Explore the rock-cut churches of Göreme Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Walk through Assos where formidable basalt walls still encircle the city, and Pergamum, a city that rivaled Ephesus.

**DATES: September 10 - 24, 2011**

**COST: \$8,795.00** (per person, double occupancy) includes international flights from New York.

# Peru: A Cradle of Diverse Civilizations

By 2010 participants, Vicki and Schaen Fox

Many of us have had cause or opportunity to study the great ancient monumental civilizations of Asia and Europe: China, Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece. But Peru and the civilizations that flourished in this diverse land are subject matters that seem rarely incorporated into our scholastic endeavors.

Archaeologists are only learning now how great the Moche Civilization was in northern Peru. One such archaeologist, Walter Alva, is busy discovering how far back in time this civilization flourished, and we got to visit his dig on our trip to Peru with Far Horizons.

The archaeologist that accompanied our tour, Dr. Bill Sapp, is the former graduate student of Chris Donnan, another major Moche scholar. We were privileged to see the gold covered artifacts and portrait pottery that are the hallmarks of the Moche as well as the intricately carved and painted adobe walls that make up the Moche palaces and temples. This is a



civilization that perhaps had lasted a thousand years, and we were able to experience it in a way that was “up close and personal” with our own private archaeologist.

The glories of the Inca are somewhat different. It was the last of Peru’s great monumental civilizations and much more popular among tourists. Having Dr. Sapp and Juan, an Inca specialist and our guide, take us around meant we could see things other tourists could not. We got to view archaeologists at Machu Picchu unearth intact bowels that were probably grave offerings. On the first day at Machu Picchu we saw the late afternoon sun on the ruins only to be followed the next morning by sunrise and early light. During meals and in the evening we always had Dr. Sapp with us to answer questions and give us an overview of the next day’s outings. In the Sacred Valley, we walked thru still populated Incan towns, visited their taverns and a private home with Juan there to unlock history’s secrets. This was truly a trip of a lifetime!

## Margat Castle (Arabic Marqab) in Syria

By Professor Paul Crawford

Margat Castle is one of the finest surviving crusader castles. Less well known than its glamorous neighbor, Krak des Chevaliers, the fortress is much larger and more extensive. It sits at an elevation of about 1000’, on the triangular top of an extinct volcano, drawing its building stones from the black basalt of the mountain. From its front gate one can look down and out a mile and a half to the Mediterranean below. When the sun is setting, the very air seems to glow.

Margat was one of the earliest castles acquired by the Knights of St. John or Hospitallers, who bought it from the Mazoir family, barons of the Principality of Antioch, on February 1, 1286. The site had been fortified at least since the 1060s, and the Mazoirs had possessed it since about 1117. From the 1130s on, it had been their headquarters, and they had dominated the surrounding countryside from its ramparts. The cost of defending the area grew prohibitively high, however, and only an international organization like the Hospitallers, could afford to maintain it. The Hospitallers built a wall running up the hillside to the castle; with these improvements they could prevent anyone from passing without their permission, and charged a toll to all passers.



All medieval castles contained chapels, which are naturally prominent in cases where the owner was a military order such as the Hospitallers—the military orders were not only associations of knights, but also fully functioning religious orders of the Church. The chapel in Margat, which the Hospitallers built as soon as they took over the castle, is spacious and impressive, but it also contains priceless art that is only now being recovered and appreciated. When I visited the site in 2006, it was possible to see the remains of a very beautiful fresco in a sacristy to the left of where the altar once stood. A year or so later, a Hungarian archaeological team discovered that there were frescoes along the walls of the chapel itself. These frescoes contain depictions of the fate of souls in Heaven and Hell. They represent a major addition to our too-slim body of surviving crusader art. The frescoes are only a small part of the excitement that is Margat, however. For my part, I am exceedingly eager to see the castle again!

# The Crusades

By Cathy Scofield, participant in 2010

Last fall, I participated in the first 'In the Path of the Crusades' with study leader, John France. I like history, I like castles, I like travel – this trip had them all. This was a brilliantly choreographed trip, with John's expert narration, highlighting some of the most famous sites of the multiple Crusades. We traveled from Istanbul, Turkey, where the call for help went out to Catholic Christendom. As we walked along the city walls, looking out on the sparkling Bosphorus, we could imagine the fleets of Crusaders ships arriving to begin their quest to 'free' the Holy Land. We traveled to the walled city of Antioch, now called Antakya, where John narrated the story of the year long siege by the Crusaders, and we saw the fortification remains, which Crusaders only successfully infiltrated by betrayal. We left Turkey and drove into Syria, visiting magnificent castles - Marqab, Krak des Chevaliers, the citadel at Aleppo, Qalat Saladin, Masyef, Chastel Blanc, the citadel at Damascus, and a fortified theatre at Bosra. We saw trebuchet balls, shooting galleries, machicolations, 'murder holes' and sally ports. We also saw museums, markets, mosques, and walked through the old cities. Like the Crusaders, we ended in Israel, seeing Acre, now called Akko, where the director of excavations took us to the Crusader city



My favorite experience was following the drama of the Battle of the Horns of Hattin – the defeat of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem in the Second Crusade. We started at Sepphoria, where there are many springs; the access to water was perfect for the Crusaders to assemble and plan. However, it was a 26 kilometer march for the Crusaders to engage the enemy, and that July was extremely hot.

Saladin, the commander of the opposing force, let the heat and the lack of water erode the Crusader strength. By the time the Crusaders reached the battle site, they and their horses were exhausted and their formation fell apart. Saladin carried the day. I loved the way we physically followed the path the Crusaders took, with the narration adding depth to the story, culminating in our view over the Horns of Hattin with the Sea of Galilee in the background.

Consistently, John France added depth and framework to what we were viewing. He thoroughly integrated knowledge of medieval warfare, medieval history, the various sites which he has studied, and present day Middle East. He was always available for questions, a congenial traveler and was adept at showing how a piece of history influences our world today. As we travelled through Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Israel, we ate (and drank) regional specialties. In a word, the food was fabulous! We even enjoyed a deluxe wine tasting in a Golan Heights winery. The hotels were boutique and every room a prize to remember.

It was an intense trip in every way – I want to go again!!



underneath the current living city and closed to the public. We toured the walls and citadel of Jerusalem, where John related the story of the victory of the Crusaders in the First Crusade.



## FEATURED TRIP: *Angkor & the Greater Angkor Project*

Travel to Angkor and enjoy a rare opportunity to learn about the region in the company of a renowned archaeologist working there. Dr. Damian Evans, the Deputy Director of the largest international, multidisciplinary research project at Angkor, will take you into areas normally closed to the public and give you an insider's view of the latest discoveries being made in this great city.

- **Go behind-the scenes** into the great repositories of Khmer art and artifacts at Angkor Conservation which is normally off-limits to the public.
- Tour works-in-progress by other archaeological teams associated with the University of Sydney, such as massive temple reconstruction projects. **Visit active excavations** being carried out by the Greater Angkor Project (GAP), and engage with various members of the multinational team.
- **Enjoy talks by specialists working in Angkor.** Receive daily briefings on research breakthroughs and emerging

issues related to our understanding of the history and archaeology of the Khmer – the kind of insider knowledge that won't make it to history or guide books for years to come.

But there is so much more. Visit the rarely-visited Prasat Wat Nokor where the interior of the ancient Kymer temple is filled with a riot of multi-hued garishly painted scenes from the life of Buddha.

And in Laos, journey down the great Mekong River to view Vat Phu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, spend two full days in the former royal capital of Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage City, and travel by long-tailed boat to the ancient meditation caves of Pak Ou, filled with thousands of stunning Buddha images.

**DATES:** January 5 - 21, 2012

**COST:** \$9,995.00 (per person, double occupancy) includes international air from Los Angeles.

## Far Horizons visit to the "Horizon of the Aten"

*By Patricia Remler*

Tell el-Amarna, one of Egypt's hidden treasures, lies in the remote desert north of Luxor. Here the heretic pharaoh, Akhenaton, a religious mystic, built his city dedicated to the Aten, a sun god. In a vision the Aten told the king to settle virgin land, where no other god had been worshipped. By moving his family and followers to the new city, Akhenaton changed the religion, art, and capitol of ancient Egypt. At Amarna he wrote the "Hymn to the Aten" in praise of his new god—a hymn that has been compared to the 104th psalm written several hundred years later.

Few ancient rulers have inspired such fascination, and caused such controversy as Akhenaton. He lived in quiet isolation in this desert city with the beautiful queen, Nefertiti, and their six daughters. This is where Tutankhamen, the boy king, was born and spent the first ten years of his life. To this day Egyptologists have yet to unravel the complete story of what happened at Amarna.

Far Horizons' *Egypt and Its Hidden Riches* trip in November 2011 offers a unique opportunity to wander through Amarna, enjoy the solitude, and experience this fabled site in a way that very few tourists ever do. Guided by Dr. Barry Kemp, who has spent his life excavating the site, we walk the Royal Road, explore the city, and visit the royal tomb, marveling at this ancient experiment in the desert.

When Akhenaton arrived he erected boundary stelae carved high up on cliffs that marked the perimeter of *Aketaten*, his new city, the Horizon of the Aten. Today we can climb stone

steps to the stele and translate Akhenaton's ancient decree. Visiting the tombs of the nobles, decorated in the new art style, gives us a snap shot of daily life at Amarna. My favorite is the Tomb of Ay who was vizier to Akhenaton. Ay and his wife Tey were prominent figures in the royal court, and the large tomb reflects their status. Figures of Ay and Tey worshipping the Aten are near the doorway and the best preserved version of the "Hymn to the Aten" is on the right side of the doorway. A visit to Amarna is an experience that no one ever forgets!



# Far Horizons Schedule of Trips

All Dates and Prices Subject to Change • Revised 4/1/11

## EUROPE & TURKEY

### Greece and Turkey: A Voyage through History

Travel through history aboard a private yacht to the remote Dodecanese Islands of Greece - the healing island of Kos, Nisyros, Tilos, Simi, Rhodes and beyond. In friendly Turkey, see both ancient sites and charming modern fishing villages scattered along the coast.

May 15 - 28, 2011 with Professor Jennifer Tobin ..... \$7,495.00 + air

### The Art & Archaeology of Greece

Explore the celebrated and more remote remains of the many civilizations that have passed across Greece. Spend two days in Athens, travel through the Peloponnese Peninsula, Olympia, Delphi, Vergina and more. And finally travel by ferry to Santorini, with an optional extension to Crete.

June 6 - 16, 2011 with Professors Jeremy & Maud McInerney ..... \$9,795.00

### The Riches of Scotland

From the English border to the Orkney Islands, enjoy many of the historic and archaeological sites that few visitors manage to find - prehistoric stone circles and chambered tombs, glorious abbeys and cathedrals, and medieval castles.

August 7 - 22, 2011 with Dr. James Bruhn ..... \$8,495.00 + air

### Eastern Turkey's Lost Kingdoms

From the mountains of eastern Anatolia, to the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, to the Cilician plain, through visiting temples, monasteries, and mosques, cities and castles, and the historic towns of the region, with only 13 others experience the history and culture of Eastern Turkey, truly a crossroad of civilizations.

September 3 - 18, 2011 with Dr. Angus Stewart ..... \$9,395.00

September 8 - 23, 2012 with Professor John France ..... \$9,695.00

### Turkish Treasures

With only eleven others enjoy private tours of three of the most important archaeological projects in the eastern Mediterranean - Hattusha, capital of the Hittite Empire; Troy, and Ephesus. Also visit five of nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and Sagalassos, Pergamum, Cappadocia, Assos, and more.

September 10 - 24, 2011 with Professor Garrett Fagan ..... \$8,795.00

September 15 - 29, 2012 ..... \$8,995.00

### An Archaeological Pub Crawl of Great Britain

Explore prehistoric stone circles and chambered tombs, walk in the footsteps of Roman armies along Hadrian's Wall, and savor the view from battlements of medieval castles in remote and beautiful areas of Britain - and rarely be far distant from a source of liquid replenishment.

September 17 - 29, 2011 with Dr. James Bruhn ..... \$7,495.00 + air

### Sensational Sicily

As we circle this lovely isle, view marvels from the past and beauties of the present - Syracuse; Agrigento, one of the most impressive classical sites in Italy; the perfect temple at Segesta; the magnificent Norman Cathedral at Cefalù; and Taormina's superb Roman amphitheater. All this and more makes this trip memorable.

May 12 - 26, 2012 ..... \$9,295.00 + air

### Cyprus & Malta

On Cyprus, see Paphos, a UNESCO World Heritage site, the "painted churches" of the Troodos Mountains, also UNESCO World Heritage sites and much more. On the lovely island of Malta, explore the UNESCO World Heritage site of the capital, Valletta, as well as the Hypogeum and the megalithic temples of Malta and Gozo.

June 3 - 17, 2012 with Professor Brett Whalen ..... \$8,995.00 + air

### Egypt in England

Join Egyptologists, Bob Brier and Patricia Remler, on this unusual journey to out of the way areas. Travel from Edinburgh to London visiting the Egyptian collections of museums and Roman sites along the way.

June 16 - 24, 2012 with Professor Bob Brier and Patricia Remler ..... CALL

## INDIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA and CHINA

### South India: Temples and Traditions

Travel into an area of India which has managed to retain the essence of its mystique despite invasions both historical and modern. From Hampi to Karaikudi to Tanjore, the temples visited contain some of the greatest architectural and sculptural achievements in India.

January 1 - 18, 2012 with Professor Sara Dickey ..... \$9,995.00

### Angkor Wat and Laos

An exciting 17-day trip through historically-rich Cambodia and Laos that includes six full days at Angkor, and the bustle of Phnom Penh. In Laos, see Vat Phou, certainly one of the most spectacular of the Khmer cities, and the World Heritage city of Luang Prabang and the capital, Vientiane.

January 5 - 21, 2012 with Dr. Damian Evans ..... \$9,995.00

### Gods, Temples, and Archaeology of Ancient India

Explore India with its copious smells of incense, cacophony of sounds, succulent cuisine and drinks, and wealth of ancient architecture. Visit ten UNESCO World Heritage Sites including the incomparable Taj Mahal, and Khajurajo with its beautifully decorated temples. Explore Varanasi, Auroangabad and Jaipur.

January 9 - 23, 2012 ..... \$8,995.00

### China: Along the Silk Road

See the renowned Mogao Caves' ornate Buddhist cave paintings, explore one of the world's oldest continuous markets in Kashgar, learn about the Uighur culture, and travel through the Taklamakan Desert by camel to see the earliest Buddhist pagoda in Khotan. Visit Turpan, Kuqa, Urumqi and much more.

August 27 - September 12, 2012 ..... \$9,995.00

## OCEANIA

### Easter Island's Tapati Festival

Explore Easter Island's immense stone statues, perplexing petroglyphs, and vibrant cave paintings. The trip is timed to include the wonderful Tapati Festival, a time of revelry and feasts and of honoring the culture - both past and present. Also including are three days exploring Santiago, Chile and nearby coastal towns.

January 31 - February 11, 2012 with Dr. Sidsel Millerstrom ..... \$7,995.00 + air

Continued on next page

## EGYPT AND AFRICA

### Egypt and its Hidden Riches

Uncover seldom visited Tell el-Amarna, Beni Hasan, Abydos, St. Catherine's Monastery, and the well-known Luxor and Aswan. Highlights include a special opening of Nefertari's tombs, normally closed to the public, and private entrance inside the Great Pyramid at Giza.

November 5 - 19, 2011 with Professor Bob Brier and Art Historian Patricia Remler ..... \$9,995.00

### The Majesty of Egypt

Travel from Cairo to Luxor to Aswan to Abu Simbel, and experience awe-inspiring events as Far Horizons opens sites closed to the public - the richly-painted tombs at the Valley of the Kings, Nefertari and Sakkara's Unas Temple, and the burial chamber of the Great Pyramid.

February 26 - March 11, 2012 ..... \$11,495.00

### Ethiopia: The Wonders of the Horn of Africa

Its mountainous isolation Ethiopians developed a sophisticated culture based on a deep love of Christianity. Explore the fascinating remains of this culture, including the underground churches of Lalibela, join the colorful Easter celebrations in Axum, visit Gondar, Bahir Dar, and a boat ride on Lake Tana.

April 3 - 17, 2012..... \$8,395.00 + air

## THE MIDDLE EAST & ARABIA

### Syria and its Hidden Splendors

Discover Syria's hidden splendors and view the monumental remnants of past Greek, Roman and Byzantine occupants - Apamea, Palmyra, and Dura Europus - and walk in the footsteps of the crusaders at Chastel Blanc, Krak des Chavaliers, and Saladin's Castle.

May 6 - 21, 2011 with Professor Paul Crawford ..... \$8,895.00

May 4 - 19, 2012..... \$9,295.00

### The Grandeur of Petra, The Splendors of Jordan

Jordan has captivated travelers and conquerors alike with its beauty and mystery. View the celebrated mosaics of Madaba and prehistoric 'Ain Ghazal where huge, unique statues were discovered. Finally, spend three days exploring the 2,500 year old Petra, full of amazing rock carved buildings.

May 19 - 27, 2012 with Professor Gary Rollefson ..... \$6,495.00

### In the Path of the Crusades: Turkey, Syria, Jordan and Israel

Walk Istanbul's city walls built to secure the city from a land invasion but breached by the army of the Fourth Crusade. In Syria view the many spectacular castles and holy places created by the Crusaders. And in Israel, see the incredible remains of the crusader city of Akko and the many crusader-era sites in Jerusalem.

October 15 - 29, 2011 with Professor John France ..... \$9,995.00

### Iran: Empires of Everlasting Fire

Embrace the cultural diversity of Iran! Follow the path of the author of the first human rights charter, Cyrus the Great, and his powerful Achmaenid dynasty at sites like Pasargad and Persepolis. Travel to Isfahan, Shiraz, and other sites, and witness how previous empires have left their indelible mark.

April 22 - May 8, 2012 with Dr. Jennifer Rose ..... \$9,995.00

## THE AMERICAS

### Under Southwest Skies co-sponsored with U.C.L.A. Extension

Explore some of the most stunning ruins in the Four Corners region, including Canyon de Chelly, Hovenweep, and Chaco Canyon. Co-sponsored with UCLA Extension, this trip is timed to coincide with summer solstice to include observations of sunrise and sunset as the ancients may have performed.

June 17 - 26, 2011 with archaeo-astronomer Dr. E. C. Krupp ..... \$3,995.00 + air

### The Maya of the Yucatan

Enjoy an 8-day expedition traveling with only 13 others through Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. Visit renowned Chichén Itzá and Uxmal and see recently excavated discoveries at Ek Balam. View the walled city of Campeche and impressive 16th century colonial churches.

July 10 - 17, 2011 with epigrapher Stanley Paul Guenter..... \$3,995.00

### Peru: Inka and their Ancestors

From the Moche cities of the north to the fabled Inka sites of the highlands, experience the wealth of Peru's archaeological past. Caral, Chanquillo, ChanChan, Ollantaytambo, and the incomparable Machu Picchu all await you.

August 13 - 28, 2011 with Dr. Bill Sapp..... \$7,995.00

### The Maya

Travel on a very special 13-day trip designed for people with an interest in the Maya. The journey focuses not only on the ancient Maya with visits to Copan, Tikal, Takalik Abaj, and El Baul, but also the world of today's Maya and the unique Maya-Christian culture that forged during the Colonial period.

November 1 - 13, 2011 with Professor Matthew Looper ..... \$8,495.00

### Central Mexico: Following the Historic Path from Olmec to Modern Day

An 8-day journey that includes Xalapa's fabulous Olmec museum, the colonial city of Puebla, Cacaxtla where remarkably preserved murals combine the art of the Maya with the highland cultures, the city of Teotihuacan and Mexico's capital city to view paintings by the country's most famous muralists.

November 5 - 12, 2011 with Dr. Khristaan Villela ..... \$4,995.00

### The Archaeology of Belize

During this nine-day trip, explore lost Maya ceremonial centers, meet people from the country's varied ethnic groups, while seeing spectacular wildlife that other countries around the world label 'endangered'. Travel from the northern site of Cerros to the far south, location of Lubaantun, and Nimli Punit.

January 7 - 15, 2012 with epigrapher, Stanley Paul Guenter ..... \$7,995.00

### Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya

Travel through Central America and Mexico's Chiapas state to explore the capital cities of the ancient Maya. See Copan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Quiriguá, Tikal's towering temples, Yaxchilán, the delicate paintings at Bonampak, and Palenque, arguably the most beautiful of the cities.

March 1 - 12, 2012 ..... CALL

### Costa Rica

Costa Rica is renowned for its natural history but the country also has a diverse archaeological heritage. Recent work here has brought to light exciting discoveries. On this nine day trip, learn about Costa Rica's past from an archaeologist working there.

January 7 - 15, 2012 with Professor John Hoopes ..... CALL

### Bolivia

The Pre-Columbian history of Bolivia has been shaped by two imperial empires - the Tiwanaku and the Inkas. This journey includes stunning archaeological sites - Tiwanaku, Inkallajta, Chiripa, and Lukurmata. And on Lake Titicaca, the sacred Island of the Sun where the Inka believed the sun, gods, and civilization were born.

July 1 - 15, 2012 with Professor John Janusek..... CALL

### Peru: Hiking the Inka Trail

Walk for four days along the sacred road seeing magnificent ruins of the ancient Inka only accessible from the trail. The 13-day trip also included Cuzco and the Sacred Valley.

August 10 - 22, 2012 with Professor Anita Cook ..... \$6,995.00 + air

## Postcard from Chennai



Dear Seth,

South India is a place that gets under your skin and infiltrates your senses. In can be overwhelming at first, but gradually you grow accustomed to and appreciative of these experiences, so colorful and diverse in their essence. The sight of the intricately carved temples at Hampi was awe-inspiring. I tried to capture it all on camera – every dancer, every Shiva, every pillar – but quickly realized that it would take a lifetime to photograph it all. In Cochin, we had the opportunity for a little “souvenir shopping.” When you enter a store, everything sparkles and beckons to be purchased, but precious few things are as enticing as the touch of fine silk, ornately woven into beautiful saris and scarves. As we slowly meandered through the labyrinth of backwaters aboard a houseboat in Kerala, the sound of the boat’s motors against the peaceful backdrop of the verdant rice paddies made me feel transported back in time, if not to a completely different world. Our journey took us through the Spice Mountains on our way to Tamil Nadu, and we stopped at a spice village for a nature walk. The smell of fresh cardamom, pepper and cinnamon lingered in the air and reminded us of delicious meals already savored. Speaking of food, en route to Madurai our guide encouraged a stop at a street-food vendor, who artfully prepared a local dish called *protta* with lamb, egg, bread, tomatoes and onion. Leary at first, we all grabbed a handful and as soon as this flavorful concoction met my mouth, my taste buds began to dance!

It’s not just the myriad sights and sounds that made my trip to South India so special. The diversity of the people, religion, and culture witnessed and experienced was unlike any trip before. Each day was a new adventure, each moment a unique memory. There is an infectious energy pulsating through the crowded streets and barren roads of this place that stays with you long after the day is over. As I board my plane back to Delhi, I know that one trip to South India will never be enough...

Heather

## LATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

## NEW BOOKS

### **The Cattle of the Sun: Cows and Culture in the World of the Ancient Greeks**

By Jeremy McInerney • 2010, Princeton University Press.

### **Reading Maya Art: A Hieroglyphic Guide to Ancient Maya Painting and Sculpture**

By Andrea Stone and Marc Zender • 2011, Thames & Hudson

### **Gandhi’s Spinning Wheel and the Making of India**

By Rebecca M. Brown • 2010, Routledge

### **Archaeologist Want to Dig Up Henry VIII**

Two American archaeologists have asked the Queen of England for permission to excavate the tomb of Henry VIII and use the latest techniques to reconstruct his face in order to see how accurate the royal portraits of the famous king really are. By measuring his skull, the scholars can then create an accurate image of what he looked like in real life. While this is interesting and is sure to make lots of headlines, of more historic importance is their plan to analyze the king’s DNA to test for McLeod Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that can lead to schizophrenia. Historians have long wondered why an intelligent, level-headed leader became an erratic tyrant in later life. No response yet from Queen Elizabeth on whether she’ll allow her predecessor to be exhumed. ***Travel to England on Far Horizons’ Archaeological Pub Crawl in September.***

### **Lost Friezes from the Parthenon Found**

Greek archaeologists report that they had discovered five long-lost friezes from the 2,500-year-old Parthenon in the walls of the ancient Acropolis. The friezes, which had been taken away to be used as building materials for the ancient Acropolis which at one point served as a fortress, were located along its southern walls by a weather balloon camera, officials at the Culture Ministry said. The Parthenon has suffered extensive damage over the centuries and archaeologists believed many of the friezes adorning the southern part of the temple were destroyed after it was bombed during a 17th century Venetian siege of Ottoman-held Athens or taken. ***See the Parthenon on tour to Greece in June, led by renowned Teaching Company scholar, Dr. Jeremy McInerney.***

### **Ness of Brodgar Wins Awards**

At the Current Archaeology annual awards ceremony held at the British Museum in London on Saturday February 26th the ongoing excavations at the Ness of Brodgar on Orkney were named the Research Project of the Year 2011. The Neolithic site at the Ness of Brodgar is a stunning complex of 5000 year old buildings contained within a large walled enclosure. The site lies between the stone circles of Brodgar and Stenness, at the center of the **Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site**. The discoveries at the Ness of Brodgar are dramatically changing our perceptions of this period of prehistory; as well as being built of incredibly sophisticated masonry; the walls of these temple-like buildings were lavishly carved and painted. ***Far Horizons has arranged a special tour by the archaeologists which you can enjoy on our Scotland trip in August.***

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**ATTENTION POSTMASTER:**

*Please deliver on or before*

**4/8/11**

*Call or Email  
Today for Trip  
Brochures!*

w w w . f a r h o r i z o n s . c o m



## **The Maya**

*By 2010 participant, Patricia Bland*

What made the fall Maya trip with Far Horizons so wonderful? How can one not enjoy a tour of Maya ruins and the local ambiance of Guatemala? Shouldn't be too hard. But Far Horizons surpassed all expectations.

The members of the group had all levels of knowledge and interest in archaeology and the Maya culture. They may have been rich or famous. We never knew. What bound everyone was a love of the past and present Maya. That's what we talked about and that's what we shared.

Far Horizons assembled a tour full of surprises. We had a local tour guide whose enthusiasm never waned. Juan Antonio loved his country and he loved the culture and he loved sharing this with us. From arranging for us to watch the sunset over Copan, a birthday party for me, to concocting elaborate arrangement for a wayward guest The Far Horizons' crew worked hard solely for our enjoyment.

We covered a lot of territory, saw a lot of ruins, museums and their labs and chased around the highlands looking for modern day Maya rituals. Far Horizons arranged a specialized tour full of activities one could never have found traveling on their own. I guess that's what made this trip so special. But I still don't understand how Far Horizons got such a friendly, kind and interesting group of travelers together. I guess that's the magic.