



# NEWSLETTER

FAR HORIZONS ARCHAEOLOGICAL & CULTURAL TRIPS

Volume 15, Number 2 • Fall 2010

Published Erratically by Far Horizons • P.O. Box 2546 • San Anselmo, CA 94979 USA

(800) 552-4575 • (415) 482-8400 • fax (415) 482-8495 • [www.farhorizons.com](http://www.farhorizons.com) • email: [journey@farhorizons.com](mailto:journey@farhorizons.com)

Dear travelers,

I hope your summer travels have taken you to memorable destinations both near and far! We at Far Horizons are very excited with the new look of our blog – [www.farhorizons.com/blog](http://www.farhorizons.com/blog) - where you can find testimonials and travel logs from our study leaders, clients and tour managers! Please go there often to read (and see photos) about a trip **while it's happening**. Far Horizons is also on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/far.horizons.trips> - so be sure to visit our page and please become a fan.

Far Horizons is proud that we are the only U.S. company that successfully completed three land tours to **Libya** in 2007 and 2008 at a time when tourist visas weren't available for Americans. The Libyan government has now once again opened its borders to Americans. Professor Garret Fagan, Roman specialist and of Teaching Company fame, has agreed to lead our October 2011 trip. Speaking of the Teaching Company, two other featured scholars are leading Far Horizons tours next year – Professor Jeremy McInerney, author of forthcoming *The Cattle of the Sun: A Study of Cattle in the Myth, Religion and Sacred Economics of the Greeks*, to Greece June 6-16, 2011, and our undisputedly most popular study leader, Bob Brier (or "Mr. Mummy") to Egypt January 30-February 13, 2011. Please give our office a call to discuss these unique trips.

Ancient people of the Four Corners area of the **Southwest USA** observed the sun, moon, and stars, and absorbed what they saw into their architecture and rock art. Some of their traditions were preserved by their descendants in their ceremonies, symbols, and astronomical observations. In June travel with Dr. E. C. Krupp, director of Los Angeles' Griffith Observatory, to explore some of the most famous and stunning ruins in the Four Corners region and beyond, including Canyon de Chelly, Hovenweep, and Chaco Canyon. Co-sponsored with UCLA Extension, the trip is timed to coincide with summer solstice to include observations of sunrise and sunset as the ancients may have viewed them so long ago.

Every once in a while an opportunity comes along that shouldn't be missed and our **Turkish Treasures** trip in September 2011 is truly a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience. Travel with only eleven others on this cultural tour and enjoy specially-arranged **private tours of three of the most important archaeological projects in the eastern Mediterranean - Hattusas**, former capital of the Hittite Empire and its sacred shrine Yazilikaya, **Troy**, and unrivaled **Ephesus**. Call for a brochure!

As those of you who have read these newsletters over the years know, I am happiest when traveling by Turkish *gulet* (wooden yacht) along the coast of Turkey. The unsurpassed means to see and fully appreciate this region and its unique history is by sea. And to travel aboard a charming gulet with only eight other participants offers a truly memorable experience. Join our **Voyage through History** in May 2011 and sail across the Aegean to the Dodecanese Islands of Greece to explore five remarkably different islands – Kos with the Temple of Asklepios that was founded after the death of the famed physician Hippocrates, Nisyros with its still active volcanic crater, Tilos and its magnificent St. Panteleimon Monastery, Simi with its multi-hued Greek houses climbing the hills above the harbor, and Rhodes where we spend a full day within the medieval fortification walls.

Last, but certainly not least, is our trip to enchanting Mongolia. We have re-worked the trip to include a multitude of historic sites along with engaging cultural events, including a Nadaam Festival. We posted lots of enticing photos in the brochure to give you a taste of what this destination has to offer, so be sure to visit our website and see for yourself what awaits you on this adventure to an untouched land.

So many fascinating trips, so little time.... Happy traveling!



Mary Dell  
Founding Director

# South India: *Living temples and ancient traditions*

By Mary Dell Lucas, Founding Director

I traveled to India for the first time with a group that arrived into Delhi only three weeks after 9/11. It was a bitter-sweet and somewhat fearful time to travel abroad. But the hospitality and kindness of the Indian people gradually put us at ease as we explored the northern region of this culturally rich destination, and I returned from that tour telling everyone that India was my new favorite destination!

This past year I again traveled to India, but this time to the south. Oh, my, I really fell in love with Southern India. We visited stupendous temples, many hundreds of years old and painted in riotous colors, and they are still filled with life. Outside one of the shrines I observed a 'god man', my first experience with these Hindu ascetics. In another temple we saw an amazing ceremony, accompanied by a cacophony of music, elephants parading, hundreds of people marching... all inside of an enormous edifice that was built more than five centuries ago. The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi is truly one of the most amazing archaeological sites in India. Covering an immense area of land, there are the remains of literally hundreds of buildings all covered with exquisite decorations – magnificent! And the people we met along the way were always gracious, welcoming, and consistently cheerful.

But I think my favorite part of the trip was the time spent in lush tropical coastal area of Kerala. The lovely city of Cochin was colonized by the Portuguese, Dutch and the British Empire - all seeking control of the lucrative pepper trade. Here is found the oldest church in India, 500-year-old



Portuguese houses, old tiled houses built in the Chinese pagoda style, and a Jewish community whose roots go back to the Diaspora. The lush Backwaters of Kerala is a network of canals, lagoons and estuaries stretching over 1,000 miles. Along the narrow canals tiny picturesque villages can be seen along with people going about their daily lives – washing laundry in the waters, fishing, children walking to school – all viewed as we relaxed on our traditional houseboat drifting along the waterways....

*Travel to South India with Professor Sara Dickey, January 22 - February 8, 2011.*

From the time the camel caravans made their way across desert sands, we can travel the same roads that brought them to the great cities of Damascus, Aleppo, Palmyra and Bosra. Modern day Syria has been a land of historical enchantment, so we can take a trip on our own magic carpet as we fly over the lonely desolation of Ugarit, hugging the Mediterranean coast where the alphabet was first conceived.

Then to the north and the Bronze Age of Ebla, when surprised excavators discovered 1,500 clay tablets within its walls. Skim the mountain tops to view the line of Crusader castles built of stone to defend against trade or conquest. Saladin, the Turkish Sultan, built his castle of limestone and basalt to last through the centuries and through any seizure. Look then at the impressive mile long colonnaded Cardo Mazimus built by the Romans at Apamea and see the worn tracks made by the chariots still embedded in the stone streets. Each city-state built its own amphitheater and fortunately for us they are still standing so we can enjoy the artistry and beauty, imagining as well the contests that took place in them. Today the buildings are still used for fairs, concerts and plays.

## Why not Syria?

By Far Horizons participant, Cynthia Draper

Come and see the fabled Roman city of Palmyra, known throughout the centuries as Tadmor, where

Queen Zenobia ruled supreme under the watchful eye of the great god Baal, who controlled the movement of the stars. Animal sacrifices appeased the god, and Roman citizens were required to circle the temple seven times before entering to worship. The gold of the sunset highlighted the red marble of the colonnades, arches and temple in a rosy glow and just for a moment or two, we were part of that great city.

Today Syria is alive with fine hotels, restaurants and engaging Arab souks. Agriculture tops the list with great assortments of fruits and vegetables, while textiles dominate the markets in beautiful rainbow colored patterns. The land has something for everyone from the deserts to the mountains and the sea. Tourists are greeted with a tradition of hospitality and sincere interest that makes the visitor feel welcome and at home.

*Travel with Professor Amr al-Azm on our Syria and Its Hidden Splendors trip, May 6 - 21, 2011.*



## Postcard from Mexico

Dear Seth,

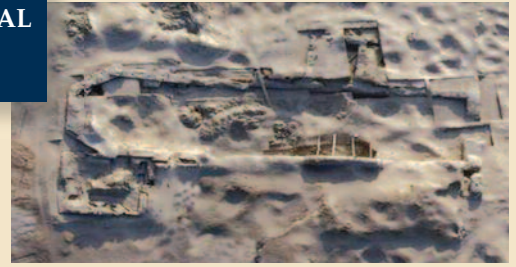
Mexico City is bursting with color! From the purple-blooming Jacaranda trees that line Reforma Avenue, to the yellow and orange dome that tops *Palacio de Bellas Artes*, everywhere you turn you are acutely aware of how this place epitomizes sun and life. Bustling streets and welcoming smiles are further evidence of the city's vibrant modern culture, yet just around a simple street corner you will find remnants of one of the most powerful and influential empires the world has ever known.

Nowhere is Mexico's glorious past more brilliantly depicted than at *Palacio Nacional* (National Palace), the once residence of colonial viceroys and now home to the famous Diego Rivera murals. Rivera left an indelible stamp on history with these colossal works of art, which vividly chronicle such important events as the Legend of Quetzalcoatl, Cortez's conquest of the Aztecs and the Mexican Revolution; all masterfully woven together in his *pièce de résistance*, the "Mexico Through the Centuries" mural, condensing over 2,000 years of history and political themes onto one wall. Each character seems to have a story to tell: the *mestizo* baby with dark skin and piercing blue eyes who stares hauntingly as you walk by; Frida Kahlo's eminent yet solemn portrait that seems somehow usurped by that of another woman (Rivera's lover); the hardened farmer dutifully harvesting his crop with a symbolic sickle. It's no wonder people spend countless hours gazing studiously at these paintings, trying to unlock the narratives and subtleties that Rivera so cleverly wove into his works.

Exiting the National Palace I find myself on the *zócalo* just as the bells from the Metropolitan Cathedral – the oldest cathedral in the Americas – chime the noon hour. I turn right and walk only a short distance where the ruins of Temple Mayor and the great city of Tenochtitlán casually lie. But that's a whole other story...

*Heather*

## LATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS



## New tomb discovered near Sipán, Peru

By Bill Sapp

The Central and North Coasts of Peru are constantly revealing new archaeological finds that are changing the way we view cultural development in South America. Particularly important have been the discoveries at Caral, the New World's oldest city located in the Supe Valley, and on the North Coast at sites such as San Jose de Moro, El Brujo and in Lambayeque. The history of civilization on the North Coast stretches back more than 4,500 years and many new discoveries are yet to be found.

Within the past few weeks, Walter Alva and a team of Peruvian archaeologists found a new tomb located at Huaca Rajada. This find brings to 16 the number of tombs found in the platform since Alva began excavating at Sipán in 1987. The burial is in the same small platform and just 16 meters away from where the Lord of Sipán's tomb was found. The tomb of the Lord of Sipán is the most richly decorated burial found in the New World during the 20th century and rivals the tomb of King Tut in its importance to the archaeological community.

The new tomb is thought to be that of a teenager and was found with several pieces of ceramics, including a stirrup-spout vessel in the form of a peanut. Peanuts were an important ritual product and were reproduced in various forms in Moche art. The Lord of Sipán was found with a necklace of silver and gold peanuts which is currently on display at the Sipán museum in Chiclayo. Grave goods from all of the 15 graves are on display at the museum as well. No doubt that the goods from the newly found grave will be put on display at the museum after excavation and restoration has been completed.

The teenager was found in a cane coffin, a treatment reserved for the elite of Moche society. The area around the grave has not yet been uncovered, but archaeologists report that there appears to be other artifacts surrounding the coffin, including a llama skeleton. The excavations to uncover the balance of the grave goods continue, just as archaeologists continue to search for more graves at Sipán.

*Travel with Dr. Bill Sapp on Peru: Inka and Their Ancestors, August 13 – 28, 2011.*

# Egypt with Far Horizons

By Far Horizons participant, Vivian Mosby



Photos by Vivian Mosby

My first trip to Egypt was the Majesty of Egypt with Bob Brier and Pat Remler. The first day started with the Pyramids of Giza, the Boat Museum, and the tomb of Unas. What a thrill when the group discovered they were going to close the Great Pyramid for us to go inside, just us! WOW! We got an “exclusive” on the interior ramp theory from Dr. Brier, which since has become a book, a TV special and featured in Archaeology magazine. At the end of the day I turned to a new found travel friend, Janet, and said “It can’t get better than this!” Bob overheard me, turned, grinned and said “just wait kids, just wait!” Well, I can tell you it actually did get better. I can still remember the chills I got from getting private entry to Nefertari’s tomb (another Far Horizon’s exclusive), which literally took my breath away! Another highlight for me was the trip to the Chicago House (Oriental Institute) hosted by Dr. Ray Johnson and his team to watch the epigraphers at work. This trip was not only the exciting sites and monuments, fabulous hotels (I had a room in Luxor that was almost the size of my house!), but the expertise and easy manner of both our study leaders, Bob and Pat. Our Egyptian guide, Mohammed was the best host; fun, conscientious, accommodating and knowledgeable. I have traveled quite a bit and I can say he is amongst the top guides around. Bob was right, this trip literally got better every day!

I immediately signed up for the Oases of the Egypt trip. This trip had a totally different feel but was equally as spectacular, a mix of ancient monuments, local culture and out-of-this-

world, almost alien landscapes. Do not forget your camera for this! Riding through the desert in

4WD jeeps visiting natural phenomena and ancient Roman forts and then having dinner at sunset in the vast desert was an experience never to be repeated or forgotten. Later, listening to native music around the campfire under the stars topped another incredible day. I think one of my favorite spots in my travels so far has been the Siwa Oasis, a step back into a simpler way of life in a primarily Berber community. This trip had the added bonus of having Salima Ikram of the American University in Cairo travel part of the Kharga Oasis with us and share her insights as an archaeologist and her efforts to preserve the more remote sites from human destruction.

If you have traveled with Far Horizons before or even if you have not ...do not miss either of these trips, and certainly do not miss the opportunity to travel with Bob Brier and Pat Remler, they make amazing places come to life in a way no one else can!

*Travel with Professor Bob Brier and Pat Remler on Majesty of Egypt, January 30 – February 13, 2011.*



“Thoughts on why I travel with Far Horizons. We could start with a variation on Edmund Hilary - because you are there - but that would not begin to answer the question. The first concept is of course the destination and Far Horizons goes to the exotic and wondrous places that call to me and you are so good at arranging all the details that consume so much time when I plan our trips myself. Good lecturers and good company are part of the package and the groups are small so the trip feels individualized. We have enjoyed many trips on our own so that this feeling of not being part of a herd is very important. The small size also allows for flexibility on the tour - allowing for more time at a site if it is so desired. Perhaps, most of all I appreciate the staff of Far Horizons who are gracious, patient, friendly, supportive and caring and thoughtful. Our trip to the Western Desert of Egypt and to Mongolia and Korea for the eclipse were so well planned and well led that we were spoiled. We look forward to more good times with Far Horizons.”

— Elaine Zieve

# Far Horizons Schedule of Trips

All Dates and Prices Subject to Change • Revised 9/1/10

## EUROPE & TURKEY

### 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 5 - 20, 2011 with Dr. James Bruhn ..... \$8,495.00 + air

### Turkish Treasures

As guests of the archaeological teams, view six ongoing excavations including the UNESCO World Heritage site, Hattusha, former capital of the Hittite Empire and its sacred shrine, Yazilikaya, and Sagalassos, where incredible discoveries are being made daily. Visit Ephesus, Aphrodesius, Troy, and the Lycian capital of Xanthos.

September 10 - 24, 2011 ..... \$8,795.00

### An Archaeological Pub Crawl of Great Britain

A unique cultural pub-crawl through southern Scotland and England that offers a rare chance to see, when we are not within the confines of a public house, historic sites that few visitors manage to find. 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

### Cyprus and Malta

On Cyprus experience the Greek and Turkish cultures as they merge, see the exceptional architecture and wonderfully preserved mosaics of Paphos, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit several of the "painted churches" of the Troodos Mountains, also UNESCO World Heritage sites and part of the largest groups of churches and monasteries of the former Byzantine Empire. 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.

April 3 - 17, 2011 with Professor John France ..... \$9,495.00

### 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

On this carefully planned archaeological tour 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, visit the rugged northern part of the country to view the tomb of Philip II (father of Alexander the Great), Olympia, Delphi, Vergina and more. And finally travel by ferry to the islands of Crete and Santorini.

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

June 15 - 18, 2011 Crete Extension ..... \$2,275.00

## THE AMERICAS

### The Archaeology of Belize

During this nine-day trip, explore lost Maya ceremonial centers concealed by jungle shadows, and meet people from the country's varied ethnic groups, while seeing spectacular wildlife that other countries around the world label 'endangered'. This adventure takes you from the northern sites of Cerros and Santa Rita to the far south of the country, location of Lubaantun, Nimli Punit, and Uxbenká.

January 1 - 9, 2011 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 3 - 13, 2011 with epigrapher, Stanley Paul Guenter ..... \$7,495.00

### The World of the Olmecs

Much of the imagery still present in modern Maya iconography had its genesis in Olmec art. Travel with renowned Olmec scholar, Professor Kent Reilly, from Villahermosa to Chalcatzingo to visit the birthplaces of that art, where the colossal heads and finely carved sculptures emblematic of the Olmec style were found. And enjoy the Xalapa Museum and Mexico City's Anthropology Museum where much of the most spectacular Olmec artifacts are on display.

March 12 - 19, 2011 with Professor F. Kent Reilly III ..... \$4,795.00

### Hidden Maya Cities of the Yucatan

Visit the well-known ancient cities of Chichén Itzá, Palenque and Uxmal. Walk through the open mouths of huge earth monsters in the Rio Bec area, and learn the area's history including how the city of Calakmul was in a continuous battle with Tikal as the two super-powers struggled to dominate the Maya World.

April 2 - 17, 2011 with epigrapher, Stanley Paul Guenter ..... \$7,995.00

### 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 ..... \$8,495.00

Nasca Line Extension August 27 - 30, 2011 ..... \$1,595.00

### The Maya

Travel on a very special 13-day trip designed for people with an intense 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 Guatemalan Highland Maya and the unique Maya-Christian culture that was ultimately 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 museum containing the finest of Olmec art, the colonial city of Puebla, Cacaxtla where remarkably preserved murals combine the art of the Maya with the highland cultures, and the great city of Teotihuacan. The last 4 days are spent in Mexico's capital city to view glorious paintings by the country's most famous muralists.

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

Continued on next page

## INDIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA and CHINA

### 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 and Urumqi.  
October 1 - 17, 2011 ..... \$9,895.00

### Essential Mongolia: Deer Stones, Steppes & Monasteries

Visit the Valley of the Kings to view these mysterious deer stone monuments. Travel to Lake Khovsgol one of the world's most ancient lakes and enjoy a local Naadam Festival. Visit Kharkhorin, the 13th century site of the Mongolian Empire's capital and home to Erdene Zuu, an important Buddhist Monastery. See the Przewalski horses, explore Amarbyasgalant Monastery, and discover the vibrant capital city of Ulaanbaatar.  
September 14 - 29, 2011 with Lauren L. Bonilla ..... \$7,995.00

### 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 7 - 23, 2011 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 Khajuraho with its beautifully decorated temples. Explore Varanasi, Aurangabad and Jaipur.  
January 9 - 23, 2011 with Dr. Gerald J. Larson ..... \$8,595.00

### 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 and Chikmagalur and Karaikudi to Tanjore, the temples visited contain some of the greatest architectural and sculptural achievements in India.  
January 22 - February 8, 2011 with Professor Sara Dickey ..... \$9,995.00

## OCEANIA

### Chile and 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.  
February 1 - 12, 2011 with Dr. Sidsel Millerstrom ..... \$7,995.00 + air

## EGYPT AND AFRICA

### The Majesty of Egypt

Travel from Cairo to Luxor to Aswan to Abu Simbel (optional extension), and experience awe-inspiring events as Far Horizons opens sites closed to the public - the richly-painted tombs of Seti I and Nefertari, the Red Pyramid and Sakkara's Unas Temple, and the burial chamber of the Great Pyramid.  
January 30 - February 13, 2011 with Professor Bob Brier and Art Historian Patricia Remler ..... \$10,995.00

### Sudan: An Exploration of Ancient Kush

Travel along the Nile and through the deserts of northern Sudan where towering pyramids, gigantic mud-brick buildings, painted rock-cut tombs, and ornately carved temples await discovery. This is the land of Kush where, fed by the richness of the river, remarkable civilizations developed more than 4,000 years ago. Journey with Bob Brier and only 16 others as we explore the land of the black pharaohs.  
March 1 - 16, 2011 with Professor Bob Brier and Art Historian Patricia Remler ..... \$10,995.00

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

In its mountainous isolation Ethiopians developed a sophisticated culture based on a deep love of religion. Explore the fascinating remains of this culture, including the underground churches of Lalibela, join the colorful Easter celebrations in Axum, visit Gondar and Bahir Dar, and enjoy a boat ride on Lake Tana.  
April 12 - 26, 2011 with Professor Neal Sobania ..... \$9,295.00

### Libya: Archaeology and Culture

Libya boasts five UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Cyrene, Leptis Magna, Sabratha, the old town of Ghadames, and the rock art sites of Tadrart Acacus in the southern desert - and is a treasure trove of archaeological remains.  
October 15 - 30, 2011 with Professor Garrett Fagan ..... \$7,995.00  
Akakus Extension: October 30 - November 7, 2011 ..... \$2,995.00

### 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 ..... \$9,995.00

## THE MIDDLE EAST & ARABIA

### Hidden Splendors of Syria

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 Chevaliers, and Saladin's Castle. Learn about the culture and history of this remarkable destination.  
May 6 - 21, 2011 with Dr. Amr Al-Azm ..... \$9,295.00

### 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.  
September 1 - 17, 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 the way in which previous empires have left their indelible mark.  
April 24 - May 11, 2011 with Dr. Ruth Young ..... \$9,995.00

### 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 22 - June 4, 2011 with Professor Gary Rollefson ..... \$8,995.00

# Custom Travel: *The world is your oyster*

Haven't you always wanted to plan a special trip with your family, a close group of friends, "just the two of you", or perhaps you have longed for a solo trip? Isn't this the year to take your grandchildren to see the pyramids? Or, your son or daughter to hike the Inka trail and be stunned by Machu Picchu? Didn't your mother mention she always wanted to see the sun rise over the Taj Mahal, slowly watching it appear out of the mist? Do you want to travel with a group of friends led by a special scholar? Are you a teacher who has always wanted to take a group of students to Belize? Did you know that every year we create once-in-a-lifetime custom trips for our clients?

Though Far Horizons certainly does have some remarkable tours and group travel is marvelous in its own right, sometimes what you really yearn for is a private trip. Years of experience, proven logistical capabilities, and exceptional knowledge of the most remote areas and cultures makes Far Horizons the ideal company to assist you in your journey. Our contacts among the peoples of our destinations, and the scientists that work in each of them, make each of our unique trips a very special and exciting experience!

Whether it's your own private yacht charter along the remote coast of Turkey, a private tour of Easter Island, becoming familiar with the delights of Laos or Vietnam, finally seeing Jordan's Petra, witnessing the spectacle of Persepolis in Iran, going back to Guatemala because you never made it to Tikal, or exploring Syria's stunning Palmyra, we can arrange just about anything for you - and we are very creative. The world is truly your oyster. And, we are here to crack it open for you!

Please call and let us create a memorable journey that will satisfy your wanderlust!

**“I love it all - Far Horizons superb planning, exotic cultures and fantastic archaeological sites visited, and, perhaps most of all, wonderful and lasting new friendships**

**made. I look forward to my next trip with Far Horizons. ”**

— Faith Henschel



**“I thought it one of the finest trips of my life and I have made many! ”**

— Wendy Larsen,

*Custom designed yacht itinerary to Turkey*

## TRAVEL FOR FREE!

Hand-select a group of your favorite friends or family members, 10 or more, and journey with them as the 11th traveler on either a regularly scheduled Far Horizons tour or a customized itinerary without incurring the trip's land cost. If you join one of our cultural tours with a smaller group of 8 or 9, you may still accompany them at 50 percent of the trip's land cost.



## FEATURED TRIP: Discover Angkor Wat and Laos

**Tour dates: January 7 – 23, 2011**

**Tour price: \$9,995.00**

There are two very big reasons to travel on our Cambodia and Laos trip in January. Begin with the fact that, without a doubt, Angkor is the most beautiful archaeological site in the world - that's one! And to travel with the Assistant Director of the largest project working in Angkor, well that's reason number two. Dr. Damian Evans is a prominent scholar who will (literally) open doors for you. He will take you into many areas where work is being done by excavators from all areas of the world - to see the latest discoveries and meet with the scientists making these discoveries. And not only will you step behind the scenes to see the work being done by the Greater Angkor Project, but, for you, he will unlock the storehouse doors that house GAPs extraordinary finds.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**ATTENTION POSTMASTER:**

*Please deliver on or before*

**9/16/10**

*Call or Email  
Today for Trip  
Brochures!*

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

## **Belize Then and Now**

*By Mary Dell Lucas, Founding Director*

When one of my professors asked me 'Would you like to work on an archaeological project in Belize?', my first thought was, 'Belize – where's that?' But one of my excavator friends had worked there the year before, loved the country and the project... and had a van, so I agreed to drive down with her. What an adventure – two single women (*solas!*) in 1978 driving from California through macho Mexico, the untamed Yucatan Peninsula, and across the border into Belize, on our own. But don't let me digress...



Although it was known that Belize was filled with Maya ruins, most were inaccessible and completely covered by jungle, and there had been very few scientific excavations. Our discoveries in the late 70s were important and proved that Belize hadn't been a backwater of the ancient Maya but, in fact, was in the mainstream of that civilization. After working on three different archaeological projects, I decided to design a tour to that tiny country. Email and even faxes didn't exist then, so I had to write letters and mail them hoping I'd get an answer. I did, and thus began the design of the tour.

You must understand that in 1982, no one in North America had any idea where this exotic-sounding country was located...or even that there was a nation called 'Belize'. After giving promotional talks anywhere possible, I actually found 12 people who gave me money to join the journey! I was the driver, baggage handler, tour guide, and tour operator on that first trip. Whew! And, oh my, the hotels! To say that they were basic is an understatement. But for some reason, people loved the trip and the word was out.

For the next three years, I had the good fortune of showing several groups my lovely home away from home, Belize. We had many adventures – there was the time that one of the van engines blew up in the middle of the jungle and an entire village (well, the men only) came to our rescue in a 1930s logging truck. Then another time when one of the bridges in southern Belize collapsed with us on the wrong side (at dusk) swatting the clouds of mosquitos. The engineers were already there and when I asked when the crossing would be useable, the answer was 'in a couple of hours IF we can find

a log long enough'. Ahh, well, there was an excellent Chinese (honest!) restaurant in Punta Gorda, about 20 miles behind us...so we turned around and off we went in search of chow mein and fried rice. And sure enough, when we returned after dinner, the stream was passable.

Belize has now grown up with comfortable 'jungle lodges', excellent restaurants, and paved roads (well, at least in the north). Archaeologists are excavating the ruins out of the forest and scholars are translating the hieroglyphic texts. After 25 years, Far Horizons proudly presents the Archaeology of Belize, departing January 1, 2011 – an eight day exploration of the ruins of that country from Santa Rita in the north to Lubaantun in the far south. The trip leader, Stanley Guenter, has had connections there since he was 12 years old. In fact, it turns out that I knew his uncle from when I was working there...oh, well, that's another story...

***Travel with epigrapher, Stanley Guenter on Archaeology of Belize,  
January 1 - 9, 2011.***