

FEATURED TRIPS!

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You can travel with these outstanding scholars on a Far Horizons tour!

BOB BRIER

Majesty of Egypt

March 19 – April 1, 2022

Egypt in East Coast Cities

June 7 – 13, 2022

Egypt in European Museums

August 3 – 13, 2022

MALCOLM DAVID ECKEL

Eastern India

January 1 – 16, 2022

Himalayan Kingdoms

Bhutan, Ladakh, Sikkim

September 24 – October 13, 2022

STEVEN L. TUCK

Italy – The Etruscans

May 24 – June 4, 2022

Archaeology of Greece

June 4 – 19, 2022

WILLIAM R. COOK

Italy – Tuscany & Umbria

May 16 – 27, 2022

Cathedrals of England

July 17 – 31, 2022

Cathedrals of France

August 20 – 31, 2022

THOMAS F.X. NOBLE

Rome and Southern Italy

May 21 – 31, 2022

PATRICK N. ALLITT

Castles of England

June 24 – July 7, 2022

Dear Adventurers,

I have just returned from Iceland and would like to tell you about this exceptional island nation. Found accidentally in the last half of the 9th century by lost Norwegian seafarers, Iceland is an incomparable travel destination with absolutely gorgeous vistas and a captivating history. The Icelandic people are proud of their Old Norse/Viking heritage (rightfully so!), and the numerous museums, both indoor and outdoor, reveal the story of the settlement and the resilient pioneers. Fascinating treasures can be seen here: the turf-house of Erik the Red (*Eiriksstadir*), the Viking who discovered Greenland; the farmstead (with his 900-year-old hot tub!) of Snorri Sturluson, author of several of the Icelandic sagas; the Viking World Museum built around the *Íslendingur*, a replica of the *Gokstad* Viking ship; the still standing farm of *Keldur* where one of the characters in the Saga of *Njáll* lived from 974 until 1000. And the landscapes, from volcanos to glaciers to waterfalls, are stunning!



By the way, 80% of the population of Iceland has been vaccinated. At no time did I feel unsafe.

Won't you consider joining Far Horizons tour of Iceland, August 5-14, 2022, led by Dr. Elizabeth Rowe.

I hope you enjoy our latest newsletter and will pass it along to friends. Keep watching our blog as we post interesting tidbits on the latest archaeological and historic discoveries along with tales from our travelers about their journeys near and far.

Happy journeys,

Mary Dell Lucas
Founding Director

As part of our continuing efforts to conserve resources and be environmentally sensitive, this Fall 2021 Newsletter will be the last one to be printed and mailed. Our first digital-only newsletter in Spring 2022 will contain our 2022-23 schedule of trips and will be sent to you by email. All newsletters, as well as past newsletters, will be available on our website at <https://www.farhorizons.com/about-us/far-horizons-newsletters/>. If you do not have an email address on file with Far Horizons, please contact our office so that one can be added.

Padmasambhava & the Gangtey Tshechu in Bhutan

By David Eckel

One of the most colorful and attractive features of life in Bhutan is the annual tshechu (literally, the 10th day of the month) in which monasteries and temples across the country celebrate events in the life of Padmasambhava or Guru Rinpoche (Precious Teacher), one of Bhutan's greatest religious and cultural heroes.

According to legends that have been passed on for centuries in Tibet and in the kingdoms of the southern Himalayas, Padmasambhava was invited to Tibet in the eighth century to quell demons who resisted the introduction of Buddhism. Along the way, or on the way back (accounts differ on this point), he passed through Bhutan, suppressing demons as he went and leaving behind traces of his presence carved in the rock or inscribed in sacred texts or "treasures" (terma) to be discovered by his followers in later generations.

In September 2022, on our tour of the Kingdoms of the Himalayas, we will witness the tshechu at Gangtey Monastery. The Gangtey festival follows the tradition of Pema Lingpa, another key figure in the religious history of

Bhutan. According to Bhutanese tradition, the Gangtey festival is patterned on 108 "treasures" conveyed directly to Pema Lingpa from Padmasambhava in a vision. The present-day royal family of Bhutan traces its lineage to Pema Lingpa.

On the last day of the Gangtey tshechu, the monastery unveils a massive thonggrel or appliqué, hanging depicting Padmasambhava, surrounded by his consorts and manifestations. In Dzongkha, the language of Bhutan, the name indicates that participants in the festival experience "liberation" (grel) by "seeing" (thong). For visitors, the same words could be a description of the festival itself. To sit in the monastery courtyard and watch the stately movements of the costumed monks is to be lifted into a vision of another world.

<https://www.farhorizons.com/trips/asia-tours/himalayan-kingdoms-ladakh-sikkim-bhutan-tour/>



**Travel with Professor David Eckel
to the Himalayan Kingdoms:
Ladakh, Sikkim, Bhutan,
September 24 – October 13, 2022.**

Travel to Wales?

By James Bruhn

Wales is a land rich in history, with a strong tradition of storytelling and rich medieval literature. The themes covered in the tales of the Mabinogion are ones that resonate through time and delve to the very heart of what makes us human. Welsh storytelling gave us the rich Arthurian legends, which went on to influence English and French literature. The sublime landscape and rich prehistory of Wales inspired these tales, and they continue to influence our understanding of the Welsh past, as they influenced King Edward I when he constructed



the magnificent and awe-inspiring castles of Northern Wales. These castles were constructed to secure his control of the north of Wales, but they were also myth made physical and

placed on the landscape of Wales to legitimise Edwards's rule. They are testimony to an incredible engineering feat as no expense was spared. The castles of Harlech, Conway, Beaumaris, Caernarfon, Flint, and Rhuddlan Castle in north Wales cost the royal treasury a fortune and required materials, masons, and labours from all over England. Yet the achievement cannot be understated, and if you ask someone to image the ideal castle the image that would come to mind would resemble these concentric designed masterpieces.

The castles have been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, but they are not the only UNESCO World Heritage Site in northern Wales, recently the slate mines of Wales have been inscribed in recognition of the industrial role in Wales and the importance of Welsh slate around the world. The rural feel of north Wales is partially an illusion, as an industrial landscape surrounds the Castles of northern Wales, creating a unique and sublime vista and one look forward to sharing with you when we explore the myth, history, and prehistory of Wales.



**Travel with Dr. James Bruhn
through Wales, June 2 – 16, 2022.**

<https://www.farhorizons.com/trips/european-tours/wales-and-roman-england-tour/>

EXPLORE THE VAST AND VARIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES OF MEXICO

THE GULF COAST – The Olmecs



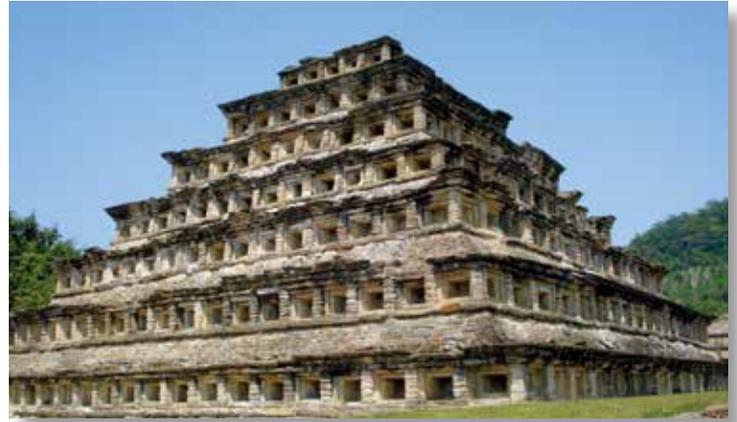
Almost four thousand years ago, the Olmec “mother culture” of Mesoamerica was born and ultimately covered what are the present-day Mexican states of Veracruz and Tabasco. On this expedition, see La Venta, San Lorenzo, and Tres Zapotes, where the first of the colossal stone Olmec heads of former rulers were found. Gaze upon the beautifully-inscribed boulders at Chalcatzingo and view the Olmec objects on display at the National Museum of Anthropology in Mexico City.

The Toltecs are the most mysterious group from ancient Mesoamerica. They were the ancestors of the Aztecs who claimed lineage from them. Visit the great sites of the Aztecs as they formed their own empire in Central Mexico: Tula, the legendary capital of the Toltecs, Cacaxtla with brilliantly painted murals; the UNESCO site of Xochicalco, adorned with commanding reliefs of the Feathered Serpent; and Teotihuacán, according to the Aztecs the birthplace of the gods.



CENTRAL MEXICO – The Toltec Heritage

VERACRUZ & THE BAJÍO – Hidden Mexico



From the Veracruz Gulf Coast to Mexico’s Central Plateau, see nine UNESCO World Heritage sites: the colonial town of Tlaxotlalpan; El Tajin, with its Pyramid of the Niches; the Sanctuary of Atotonilco; the 16th century Padre Tembleque Aqueduct; El Camino Real Tierra Adentro, the road that connected Mexico City to New Mexico; and the colonial cities of Puebla, Querétaro, San Miguel de Allende, and Mexico City. A highlight will be Cantona, where at least 24 ballcourts have been found!

Recent excavations along the Guatemala border have exposed remains of ancient cities that had previously been almost impossible to reach, revealing histories that has been hidden for more than 1,000 years. At Dzibanché, Kaan (or snake) family

glyphs suggest it may have been the center of power prior to Calakmul, and at Balamkú, a painted stucco façade depicts four rulers enthroned upon the sacred mountain. Explore Calakmul, Uxmal, Chichén Itzá and Campeche, all UNESCO sites.



YUCATAN – The Hidden Yucatan

ALL ROADS LEAD TO MEXICO...

YUCATAN: OFF THE BEATEN PATH

with Dr. Stanley Guenter
February 20 – March 2, 2022

IN THE PATH OF THE OLMECS

with Dr. Karl Taube
March 19 – 28, 2022

CENTRAL MEXICO'S TOLTEC HERITAGE

with Dr. Stanley Guenter
April 30 – May 10, 2022

HIDDEN MEXICO

with Dr. Karl Taube
July 15 – 29, 2022



ROME AND THE MEZZOGIORNO

By Thomas F. X. Noble

Our days in Rome will give us a chance to experience the four main layers of the city's history and culture: Republican, Imperial, Christian, and Modern. Everyone has heard the saying "All Roads Lead to Rome." The reverse is no less true: No city has been more influential than Rome.

Begin on the Esquiline – one of Rome's Seven Hills and a great place to catch the flow of Rome's history. High and breezy, this was an aristocratic zone in Republican and Imperial times. In 432, Pope Sixtus III dedicated Rome's first church honoring Mary, the magnificent Santa Maria Maggiore. The Renaissance era Quirinal Palace was until 1871 the summer residence of the popes and has been since then the official residence of Italy's President.

A modern city would have sports and government; so too, Rome. In the Forum try to make mental comparisons with Washington DC or with London's Whitehall. In the Colosseum, imagine an 80,000-seat football stadium, and in the Circus Maximus imagine Churchill Downs, which is about the same size.

Leaving Rome, we enter the land of the mid-day sun – il Mezzogiorno. Italy's south, nearly as complex as Sicily, is one of the world's most culturally diverse places. The Romans fought bitter wars to conquer the Samnites. And Greeks, Byzantines, Lombards, Muslims, Normans, Angevins, and Aragonese also ruled the area. As we travel, note especially the rugged topography. If you know your WWII history, you will have a new appreciation for General Mark Clark and the US Fifth Army – and for the Romans twenty-five centuries ago. In Pompeii and Herculaneum, see how an ancient tragedy resulted in a modern opportunity. In just a few hours two thriving cities were locked in time.



Travel to Rome and Southern Italy with Professor Thomas F. X. Noble, May 21 – 31, 2022.

<https://www.farhorizons.com/trips/european-tours/romeandsouthernitalytour/>

Bess of Hardwick

By Patrick Allitt



Hardwick Hall was built in the 1590s, designed by Robert Smythson and paid for by Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury, whom we remember as "Bess of Hardwick." Born in 1527, she married four times and outlived all four husbands, inheriting a fortune from each in turn and becoming one of the richest people in England. Hardwick was a "prodigy house," created in an era when English aristocrats no longer had to worry about fortifying their homes but could instead make them impressive to onlookers and comfortable to live in. Hardwick astonished visitors by having so many windows, at a time when glass was an expensive luxury. To help with the construction she ordered the building of a glass factory on site.

Bess was a friend to Queen Elizabeth I, while her fourth husband, the Earl of Shrewsbury, was a senior minister. The queen gave the couple

the thankless task of keeping Mary Queen of Scots prisoner, an assignment that lasted fifteen years and cost them a fortune. They could afford it. Bess and her royal prisoner spent a lot of time together working on tapestries, some of which can still be seen at Hardwick. Mary, however, was a compulsive plotter and manipulator, who eventually brought down destruction on her own head. She helped set Bess and her husband at odds, leading eventually to the couple's permanent separation.

Bess of Hardwick, whom many of Britain's later lords and monarchs have claimed as an ancestor, outlived both queens, dying in 1608 at the age of 81. Thinking ahead, she had written a very positive inscription for her tomb, but it's in Latin, so few visitors today understand what it says. Beneath it, in Derby Cathedral, lies her effigy, in a great Tudor ruff, red robe, and coronet. None of her husbands is buried nearby. Hardwick Hall, as magnificent as ever, still stands on its Derbyshire hilltop.



Travel with The Great Courses Professor Patrick Allitt on England's Castles, Battlements & Great Houses, June 24 – July 7, 2022.

<https://www.farhorizons.com/trips/european-tours/englands-castles-battlements-and-stately-homes/>

FAR HORIZONS SCHEDULE AND BROCHURE REQUEST FORM

Below you will find a list of our upcoming tours. Which destinations are tempting you? Complete the contact section on back of this page, check the tours that interest you and return to our office by email, mail or fax. We also enjoy talking with you so give us a call at 1-800-552-4575 or 1-415-482-8400!

EUROPE & TURKEY

- Sail the Sapphire Seas of Turkey**
with Professor Jennifer Tobin
April 25 – May 9, 2022
- Cyprus, Rhodes and Malta:
In the Path of the Crusader Knights**
with Professor John France
April 27 – May 12, 2022
- Lost Kingdoms of Eastern Turkey**
with Professor Jennifer Tobin
May 13 – 28, 2022
- Churches of Italy: Tuscany & Umbria**
with Professor William R. Cook
May 16 – 27, 2022
- Rome & Southern Italy**
with Professor Thomas F. X. Noble
May 21 – 31, 2022
- Turkish Treasures**
with Professor Charles Stewart
May 28 – June 13, 2022
- An Exploration of Wales and England**
with Dr. James Bruhn
June 2 – 16, 2022
- Archaeology of Greece**
with Professor Steven L. Tuck
June 4 – 19, 2022
- Cathedrals of England**
with Professor William R. Cook
June 6 – 20, 2022
- The Baltics**
with Professor John France
June 6 – 19, 2022
- The Archaeology of Ireland**
with Dr. Enda O'Flaherty
June 11 – 26, 2022
- Greek Isles of Myth**
with Professor Jennifer Tobin
June 19 – July 2, 2022
- England's Castles, Battlements & Stately Homes**
with Dr. Patrick Allitt
June 24 – July 7, 2022
- The Riches of Scotland**
with Dr. Brian Buchanan
July 8 – 22, 2022
- In the Path of the Vikings: Denmark, Norway & Sweden**
with Dr. Steven Ashby
July 10 – 24, 2022
- Egypt in Eight European Museums: St. Petersburg,
Moscow, Copenhagen, Edinburgh and Glasgow**
with Professor Bob Brier
and Art Historian Patricia Remler
August 2 – 12, 2022

- Iceland**
with Dr. Elizabeth Ashman Rowe
August 5 – 14, 2022
- Georgia & Armenia**
with Professor John France
August 6 – 23, 2022
- Cathedrals of France**
with Professor William R. Cook
August 20 – 31, 2022
- Sicily: Art & Archaeology**
with Professor Bill Tronzo and Dr. Gail Fiegenbaum
September 2 – 16, 2022
- Archaeology and History of England**
with Dr. James Bruhn
September 2 – 16, 2022
- Greece's Dodecanese Islands By Private Yacht**
with Professor Jennifer Tobin
September 18 – October 1, 2022
- Bulgaria: Land of History**
with Professor Vassil Tenekedjiev
October 4 – 21, 2022

THE MIDDLE EAST & ARABIA

- Iran: Empires of Everlasting Fires**
Fall 2022
- The Grandeur of Petra, The Splendors of Jordan**
with Professor Jennifer Tobin
March 26 – April 8, 2022

EGYPT & AFRICA

- Sudan: An Exploration of the Ancient Kush**
with Dr. Timothy Kendall
January 31 – February 13, 2022
- The Majesty of Egypt**
with Professor Bob Brier
and Art Historian Patricia Remler
March 19 – April 1, 2022 & Fall 2022
- Tunisia**
with Professor Jennifer Tobin
October 15 – 30, 2022
- Undiscovered Egypt**
with Professor Bob Brier
and Art Historian Patricia Remler
Fall 2022

OCEANIA

- Chile & Easter Island's Tapati Festival**
with Dr. Sidsel Millerström
February 7 – 18, 2022

FAR HORIZONS SCHEDULE AND BROCHURE REQUEST FORM

INDIA, ASIA & CHINA

- Eastern India**
with Professor Malcolm David Eckel
January 1 – 16, 2022
- Angkor Wat and Laos**
with Dr. Damian Evans
January 6 – 22, 2022
- India's Gujarat & Rajasthan**
with Professor Cynthia Packer
January 7 – 24, 2022
- South India: Temples and Traditions**
with Professors Michael Fisher and Paula Richman
January 24 – February 9, 2022
- North India: Gods, Temples and Archaeology**
with Professor Michael Fisher
February 10 – 24, 2022
- Indonesia: Java, Sulawesi, Bali**
with Professor Eric Tagliacozzo
July 22 – August 9, 2022
- Himalayan Kingdoms: Ladakh, Sikkim, Bhutan**
with Professor Malcolm David Eckel
September 24 – October 13, 2022

THE AMERICAS

- Belize**
with Dr. Stanley Guenter
January 9 – 17, 2022
- Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya**
with Dr. Stanley Guenter
February 5 – 18, 2022
- Mexico's Yucatan: Off the Beaten Path**
with Dr. Stanley Guenter
February 20 – March 4, 2022
- Mexico's Yucatan: Off the Beaten Path**
with Dr. Stanley Guenter
February 20 – March 4, 2022

- Mexico: In the Path of the Olmecs**
with Professor Karl Taube
March 19 – 27, 2022
- Central Mexico: The Toltec Heritage**
with Dr. Stanley Guenter
April 30 – May 10, 2022
- Bolivia**
with Professor Andrew Roddick
May 7 – 22, 2022
- Egypt in East Coast Cities:**
Boston, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, New York
with Professor Bob Brier
and Art Historian Patricia Remler
June 7 – 13, 2022
- Peru: Inkas & their Ancestors**
with Professor Clark Erickson
June 17 – July 2, 2022
- Hidden Mexico:**
El Tajín, Cantona, Puebla, San Miguel Allende, Guanajuato
with Professor Karl Taube
July 15 – 29, 2022
- Peru: Hike the Inka Trail**
with Professor Kylie Quave
July 23 – August 5, 2022
- American Southwest**
with Professor Stephen Lekson
September 3 – 12, 2022
- Mound Builders of the USA**
with Professor Timothy Pauketat
September 22 – October 1, 2022
- Christmas in Oaxaca**
with Professor Guy David Hepp
December 20 – 28, 2022

Our mission is to design unusual itineraries to new destinations led by renowned scholars. This combined with our 85% return rate means that many of our tours fill quickly. The best way to remain updated is through Far Horizons email newsletters. Please return both sides of this form by one of the following methods:

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Travelling by Turkish Gulet

By Jennifer Tobin

The rich archaeological sites of Turkey and Greece are easily accessible today by car or bus, but the best way to visit them is by Turkish gulet. These wooden two or three masted sailing vessels ply the waves along the west and south coasts of Turkey and navigate between the islands of the Greek Dodecanese. Loosely based on an ancient schooner design, these majestic boats are fully motorized and equipped with modern amenities. A week or two-week voyage offers unparalleled comfort and relaxation, as all your needs are met by the ship's well-trained crew. The minute you step barefoot on board (no hard shoes allowed on the teak deck!), a crew member greets you with a frosty beverage of your choice and invites you to lounge on the deep cushioned banquettes that line the deck. Meanwhile your luggage is taken to your state room, an economically designed space with an attached private bathroom. Never mind that the room is small, you will be spending most of your time on the huge deck anyway. Here you will eat gourmet meals prepared by the vessel's cook – fresh vegetables and dips, traditional Turkish pastas and pilafs, grilled meat and fish caught that day off the bow of the boat. If you ask, the chef will give you a cooking lesson! Travel by gulet is leisurely. The vessel motors slowly, usually hugging the shoreline, past rugged cliffs, pine forests, and sandy beaches. This coastal journey is not aimless, however,

as there are spectacular ruins waiting for you to explore. To reach some sites, you will be transported to shore by dinghy, where private minibuses await to carry you to fascinating destinations like anthos and Patara, UNESCO World Heritage Sites. But some of the remains can only be visited by gulet. Ancient harbor towns like Lydae and Aperlae are so remote that no road can reach them. Instead, you approach them by boat, just as a visitor might have done 2,000 years ago. After a busy morning of site seeing and a fine onboard lunch, the gulet usually travels to a secluded cove, miles from civilization, where it will moor until morning. You can spend the afternoon dozing in the sun, reading a book, or take a swim, diving off the boat into the warm Mediterranean waters. Sipping wine at sunset, you can begin thinking about tomorrow's adventures. When sleep calls, you will be lulled to sleep by the sound of lapping waves. And you will awaken to the promise of another day filled with fantastic ruins, delightful food, and pleasurable experiences.



Cruise the Turkish coast onboard a gulet with Dr. Tobin, April 24 – May 9, 2022, on Sail the Sapphire Seas, or to the Dodecanes Islands of Greece, September 18 – October 1, 2022, on Voyage Through History.



<https://www.farhorizons.com/trips/european-tours/sail-the-sapphire-seas-of-turkey/>
<https://www.farhorizons.com/trips/european-tours/greece-cruise-and-tour-dodecanese-islands-of-greece/>

Sweden's Hedared Stave Church

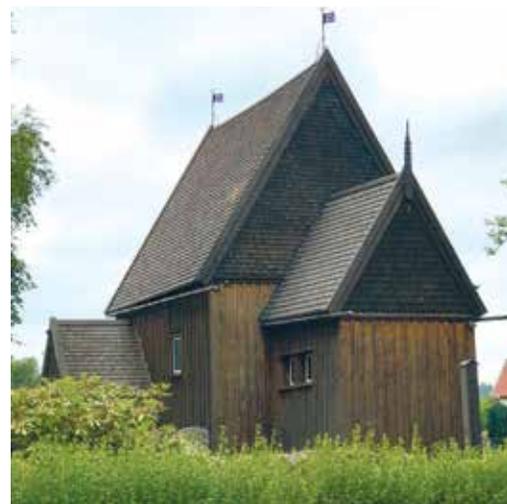
By Sidsel Millerström

Hedared Church in Västra Götaland, is the only medieval stave church that has survived in Sweden. Dating of the timbers show that the trees were cut in 1501 and the sanctuary erected shortly thereafter. It is believed that the present stave church was built on an earlier 12th century house of worship. Modified over the years, originally it had no floor or windows but only a small light hole. A wooden floor was added in 1735 and the present windows in 1781. When the interior was restored in 1934-35 a stunning altar painting was discovered, most likely applied when the church was built.

The name, Stave, derives from the building's structure of post and lintel construction, a type of timber framing where the load-bearing posts are called staff in Old Norse, or Stave in modern Norwegian.

Unfortunately, little is known of Swedish stave churches. There are some written sources and fragments of earlier stave-built churches have been found under the floor of old sanctuaries. An example is the 12th century Hemse Church on Gotland Island. During renovations in the late 19th century, large pieces were found of well-preserved, richly carved oak staves. Several were used to build the wood floor in the present church.

I was the Tour Manager for The Vikings of Scandinavia in 2018. It is an extraordinary tour that expanded my knowledge on how the Vikings lived and died, their belief system, how they traded, their battles and how they defended themselves.



Join the Vikings of Scandinavia, July 10 – 24, 2022, and enter the Hedared Stave Church for a private viewing, normally closed to the public.

<https://www.farhorizons.com/trips/european-tours/scandinavian-tour-a-journey-through-denmark-norway-sweden/>

THE WORLD'S LARGEST SINGLE FLOOR MOSAIC FOUND IN TURKEY

A 9,000 square-foot mosaic was discovered during the construction of a new hotel in Antakya, Turkey in 2010. Archaeologists believe the geometric work once decorated the floor of a public building in the previous city of Antioch, one of the most important cities in the Seleucid Empire. This empire was founded after the division of the Macedonian Empire founded by Alexander the Great. Vast segments of the original mosaic are still intact, and are housed in a museum below the now completed hotel.



See this art work on *Far Horizons tour of Eastern Turkey, May 13 – 28, 2022.*

<https://www.farhorizons.com/trips/european-tours/eastern-turkey-tour-of-the-lost-kingdoms/>

Madaba: A Map of the World

By Jennifer Tobin

Among the many fascinating sites in Jordan, one that cannot be overlooked, is Madaba host to numerous fine mosaics dating to the 5th and 6th centuries. During this time Madaba was a thriving city whose wealth and enthusiastic embrace of Christianity resulted in the construction of some thirty churches. Today, wandering through the twisting streets of Madaba a visitor comes across the foundations of chapels whose low stone walls frame colorful mosaics. In some cases, intricate geometric patterns adorn the surface; elsewhere, sinuous vines, encircling images of plants and animals, wriggle across the pavement.

Some mosaics dramatize events from the Bible, while others re-enact ancient Greek myths whose meanings were appropriated to serve Christian values. The most fascinating mosaic, however, is found in the Church of St. George. The 19th century church was built over a much earlier structure of the 6th century, whose floor presented in stone tesserae a colorful map of ancient Palestine. Originally measuring over 70 feet long, today only 15 feet survive. Even damaged and incomplete, one can still easily identify landmarks such as the Dead Sea, the Jordan River and the Nile Delta. Animals bound through fields and mountains and fish navigate the rivers and lakes. These and other topographical attractions are labeled in Greek, and Greek passages from the



New Testament and the Hebrew Bible are scattered throughout the mosaic. Block-like images of cities and villages dot the landscape, but the focus of the entire tableau is a depiction of the walled city of Jerusalem, with the various gates, streets, and, most importantly, churches. The purpose of this tour de force is not precisely known. Was the mosaic designed to graphically enliven sermons, where places mentioned in scripture could be pointed out on the floor? Did the mosaic serve as a kind of itinerary for pilgrims visiting the Holy Land? Did it represent some sort of spiritual journey?

It has been recently suggested that the original building that the mosaic graced was not a church at all, but a hall of justice. In this context, the map of the world may have carried a political meaning as well as religious. Whatever the intent behind the mosaic, the map presents for us today a fascinating 1500-year-old snapshot of the geography of ancient Palestine.



Travel to Jordan with Professor Jennifer Tobin, March 26 – April 8, 2022.

<https://www.farhorizons.com/trips/middle-east-tours/grandeurs-of-petra-tour-splendors-of-jordan/>