



FAR HORIZONS

FALL NEWSLETTER 2023



大阪市生野区

御トラストビルト

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Fall is Here!

Autumn is traditionally the season in which we begin to slow down & harvest & store & prepare for winter. Here at Far Horizons, we are still very much blooming and growing. The year will soon be coming to an end, but there is no end in site for our progress!

While the new website launched a few months ago, we continue to dabble and add and optimize and improve. (And YES, we did add our maps back onto our trip pages!)

We have just announced three brand new itineraries that will be offered for 2024. Japan in Bloom is now available to book for April 2024! Stay tuned for more details to come for our trips to the Swahili Coast, and Spain.

In just a few short weeks, we will have some new faces joining us, both on our internal operations team as well as a few new scholars in the field.

We will also be introducing a new travel partner which we have chosen to aid our guests with planning and travel arrangements.

All of these new people and projects and partners have been cultivated with our lasting values in mind. Our new itineraries were curated with education, archaeology, and discovery as the focus; and as always, we are dedicated to directly supporting the regions we visit by selecting local hotels; making monetary contributions to worthy projects and sites; and engaging with local people during our travels.

As we continue to advance our team and our systems, we keep at the forefront our commitment to providing a personalized experience. Working directly with our travelers is highly valuable; we want to hear from you, we enjoy getting to know you, and we are here to assist you.

Thank you for being part of our success in creating lasting relationships & memories for a lifetime. We look forward to continuing to connect, engage, and of course, travel with you!



Mary Collins
Stefan Woehlke

Chief Executive Officer &
Chief Curation Officer



FAR HORIZONS

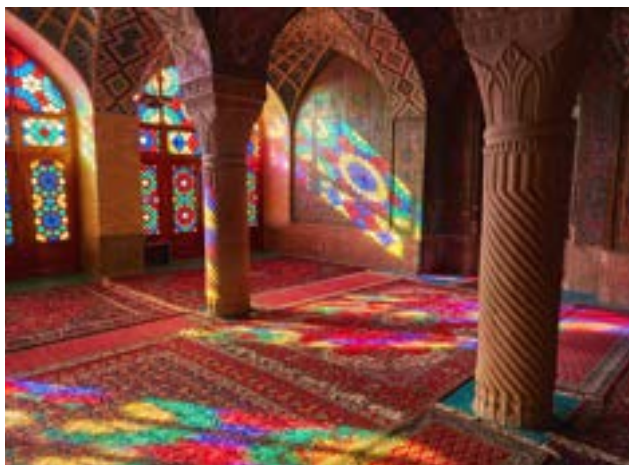
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter From the CEO & CCO	1
Meet Your Team	3 & 4
India: Three Unforgettable Explorations	5 -7
Easter Island & Santiago, Chile	8
Central America	9 & 10
The Majesty of Egypt	11



Japan - New Destination!	13 & 14
Swahili Coast - New Destination!	15 & 16
Jordan & Petra	17 & 18
Why Travel With Far Horizons?	19

Experience Italy	20 & 21
Explore Türkiye	22
In Memoriam: Dr. Damian Evans	23
Visit Greece	24 & 25
Spain & Iran	26
England's Castles	27
2024 Schedule of Trips	20 & 21





MEET THE CEO & CCO

Partners in life and business, this dynamic duo seeks to carry out the legacy of Far Horizons and add their own unique elements to shape and grow the vision.

Mary Collins Chief Executive Officer

In addition to leading the charge as the new CEO of Far Horizons, Mary is the co-founder of Blue Fern Travel, a history-infused food tour company focused on supporting local businesses and community.

Mary earned her M.P.A. in nonprofit and international management, and has worked with Ugandan-based NGO, Paper to Pearls; children's shelter For Children's Sake; and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Mary and Stefan have two daughters and a son who are adventurous culinary and cultural explorers.



Stefan Woehlke Chief Curation Officer

Stefan received his PhD in Archaeology from the University of Maryland. As the co-founder of Blue Fern Travel, his passion lies at the intersection of food, history, and culture.

As an archaeologist, Stefan has worked with countless communities and students on projects, and loves to share untold stories discovered through artifacts and research with the community in which they are found.

Stefan welcomes the challenge ahead of curating new itineraries, developing relationships with scholars, and identifying private experiences that set us apart.



MEET YOUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Our mighty staff has rich travel experience, and well as strong service skills and organizational knowledge.



Heather Stoeckley

Director of Operations

Heather Stoeckley is excited to continue her 17-year journey with Far Horizons as Director of Operations. Her wanderlust started at a young age, propelling her on a never-ending pursuit to learn about different cultures and histories, both near and far. Heather loves sharing her expertise to provide life-changing experiences for our valued clientele. Her favorite travel quote, and personal credo, is "Always say yes to new adventures!"



Catharine Pear

Director of Communications

Catharine Pear joined the Far Horizons team in early 2022, bringing with her over 15 years of experience in tourism and travel. Working as an independent consultant for the past eight years, Cat helped guide & grow tour companies, including Blue Fern Travel, owned by Far Horizons' CEO, Mary Collins. Working for Far Horizons - traveling and assisting others in exploring the world - is a dream realized! While Cat loves to travel, she is equally fond of being home, trying out new vegetarian recipes, and walking to the beach with her blue staffy, Essie.



Scott Gilbert

Destination Manager

As the newest member of the team, Scott is excited to join the Far Horizons family and continue our tradition of excellence. While studying History at Towson University, Scott fell in love with learning about new cultures which only fueled his wanderlust. Scott has worked in the travel industry since 2018, in a number of roles that have taken him to Thailand, Colombia, Israel and everywhere in-between! When he's not on the road traveling, Scott loves trying his hand at cooking new recipes and obsessing over the Indianapolis Colts!

See you in India!

Choose from three unforgettable explorations in India

Far Horizons is proud to offer three exciting explorations through India, including Eastern India: From Bodh Gaya to Kolkata to Puri with Dr. Malcolm David Eckel; South India Tour: Temples and Traditions; and North India: Gods, Temples and Archaeology both led by Dr. Michael Fisher and Dr. Paula Richman.

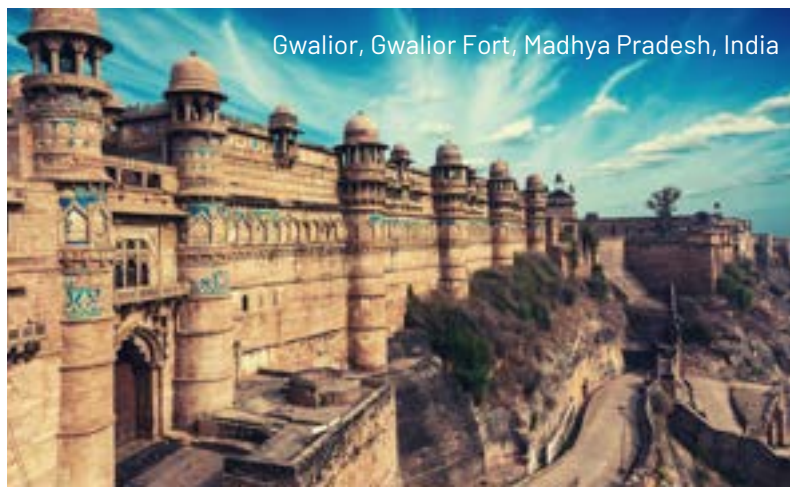
The archaeology across India spans over two thousand years, and is home to a myriad of powerful dynasties and empires. Many of which are now UNESCO World Heritage sites including the rock-cut temple caves of Ellora and Ajanta, the glorious Taj Mahal and the Konarak Sun Temple. In addition to the archaeology, each of these journeys has extraordinary highlights, like the Coconut Lagoon listed by National Geographic Traveler's '50 greatest places of a lifetime.'



Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya, India



Ellora Rock Cut Temple Cave



Gwalior, Gwalior Fort, Madhya Pradesh, India



Kerala Backwaters, Southern India

India: Three Epic Adventures

South India

January 22-Feb 7, 2024

Beginning January 22, dive 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 we visit contain some of the greatest architectural and sculptural achievements in India.

In addition to the unforgettable sites, our trip to Southern India includes stays in Visalam, a gracious century-old mansion with original woodwork and art deco grilles, and the Coconut Lagoon in Kerala's Backwaters, described by Condé Nast Traveler as one of the 25 Best Destinations in the World!

North India

February 8-22, 2024

Then starting February 8, join Far Horizons on an extraordinary journey through North India, traveling from Mumbai to Agra to Delhi to Jaipur to see nine UNESCO World Heritage sites: the rock-cut temple caves of Ellora and Ajanta; Khajuraho; the glorious Taj Mahal; Agra's Red Fort; the splendid Fatehpur Sikri; the Jantar Mantar Observatory in Jaipur; and in Delhi, Mughal Emperor Humayun's Tomb and the 14th century Qutab Minar complex.

The cornucopia of remarkable sites, scenery, and profusion of complex cosmologies makes this country one of the most intricate and rewarding on earth.

'Paula and Michael are a first-class team, obviously deeply enamored of their respective areas of expertise and great teachers to boot. I'd love to travel with them again.' – Barbara Rachko



India is a Spiritual Mecca, the Profusion of Cosmologies Make this Country one of the Most Complex and Rewarding on Earth.

Eastern India

January 6-21, 2024

Rarely visited by tourists, eastern India is where two of these spiritual systems began. This is the birthplace of Jainism, started almost 3,000 years ago in the Ganges basin, and the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gaya in the 5th century BC, creating the belief system that is now practiced all over the world.

Join Professor David Eckel and only 13 others on a captivating odyssey through eastern India to explore hidden gems of sacred sanctuaries way off the beaten tourist trail. Our unusual journey will take us from Bodh Gaya where the Buddha attained enlightenment, to Patna where a casket believed to contain the Buddha's ashes was found, to the great city of Kolkata, to Bishnupur's Laterite Hindu temples, to the Buddhist Golden Triangle of the East, to the intricately carved Jain caves of Udayagiri and Khandagiri. Our truly unique exploration includes three UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Bodh Gaya dominated by the ancient brick Mahabodhi Temple, the oldest Buddhist University of Nalanda, and Konârak, dedicated to the Hindu Sun God Surya.

EASTER ISLAND

FEB 7 - 18, 2024

With
Dr. Sidsel
Millerström



Moai at Ahu Tongariki



Moai at Tahai

A unique open-air museum with nearly a thousand immense stone statues and hundreds of stunning petroglyphs.

We have timed this tour to include the wonderful Tapati Festival, a celebration of the Rapa Nui culture. Each day will dawn with new and exciting contests of strength and skill, while evenings will bring the mesmerizing melodies of Polynesian music as grass-skirted dancers perform beneath the stars. It is a time of revelry and feasts, and the hypnotic chant used to hand down the island's history from generation to generation.

Join Far Horizons and only 13 others on this 12-day Easter Island tour that includes three days in Chile's capital, Santiago, where we will visit the Natural History Museum and Pre-Columbian Art Museum as well as the stunning coastal city of Viña del Mar.

Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya



Tikal Ruins, Guatemala

Two ways to travel Central America with **Dr. Stanley Guenter**

Capital Cities

February 2--15, 2024

Extension February 14-18

In 2024, Far Horizons is pleased to announce two great ways to explore Central America with Dr. Stanley Guenter! Starting February 2nd through the 15th, join Dr. Guenter for Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya, and travel through Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico. Travel with only 13 others on an exceptional journey through Central America and Mexico's Chiapas state to explore Ancient Mayan capital cities, including four UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Copán, Quiriguá, Tikal and Palenque. However, more than archaeology awaits! Our itinerary begins in Copán and Quiriguá, two breathtaking sites that have attracted explorers and scientists for more than 150 years. Continue to the enormous Maya center of Tikal where, swathed in a cacophony of wildlife calls, we will walk through the myriad of canopy-shadowed trails that lace the park.

We also encounter dense rainforest teeming with wildlife, ferns, orchids, and bromeliads. Move deeper into the remote area of Guatemala to cross the mighty Usumacinta River into Mexico. Here, travel by river vessel to Yaxchilán, where, surrounded by uncut forest, explore buildings with exquisite carved limestone lintels. Then it's on to Bonampak with its fabulous painted murals. End up in Palenque, arguably the most beautiful of the ancient Mesoamerican cities. Many scholars believe that the height of Maya artistic achievement occurred at Palenque, and certainly the remains of magnificent painted frescoes and sculptured stucco friezes decorating its buildings show brilliant artistry. For a glimpse into modern Maya culture, the trip will end in San Cristóbal de las Casas located in the Chiapas highlands and one of Central America's most beautiful colonial towns.

After much exploration and discovery, we will transfer on to Mexico City to fly home.....or continue on our post-trip extension in one of the world's largest metropolises.

Mexico's Yucatan



Group at Chicanna, Mexico

Mexico's Yucatan Tour

February 16-26, 2024

Beginning on February 16, Tour Mexico's Yucatán and Visit Uxmal and Chichén Itza along with the Hidden Cities of Balamkú, Ek Balam, and Calakmul.

Deep in the remote southern area along the border with Guatemala, recent excavations have exposed remains of pyramids and cities that until recently, were nearly impossible to reach. Hieroglyphic texts found here are changing our knowledge of the Maya by revealing history that has been hidden for more than one thousand years. At Dzibanché, fragments of polychrome painted stucco and graffiti bear the family glyphs of Kaan, and may have been the center of power prior to Calakmul. Balamkú displays stunning stucco murals, still covered with polychrome paint.

This exciting itinerary includes four UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Calakmul, now known to have been the capital of the Kaan, or Snake, Kingdom, the formidable empire that challenged Tikal for power; Uxmal with its beautifully decorated buildings; Chichén Itzá, with its Great Ballcourt, the largest yet found in Mesoamerica; and Campeche, founded in 1540 and fortified against pirates during the 17th century.

'Stanley is an excellent leader. He managed by his presence and manner to make the group a cohesive unit while allowing for individual differences in ability and pace. We also respect his knowledge and willingness to share his opinions and back them up with facts and logical arguments.' –Anne and Joe Frankel

MAJESTY OF EGYPT

With Professor
Salima



Medinet Habu, Luxor Egypt

Majesty of Egypt

March 3-16, 2024

The Majesty of Egypt Tour: Travel from Cairo to Luxor to Aswan to Abu Simbel with private entrée to some of Egypt's most memorable temples and tombs.

Herodotus said it 2,500 years ago: "Egypt is the gift of the Nile" – and what a gift it is – a narrow strip of cultivatable land teased from barren expanse of desert that is home of one of the greatest civilizations the world has ever known.

Far Horizons presents an extraordinary 14-day archaeological tour to Egypt that includes many highlights. such as private entrée to the Queen's Chamber of the Great Pyramid and Nefertari's Burial Chamber – both closed to the public. Hosted by the Director, we join working archaeologists for cocktails and a tour of the incredible library at the Chicago House, a major center for Egyptian Studies. Traveling from Cairo to Luxor to Aswan, we will travel in the footsteps of the pharaohs and marvel at the glory of these monuments that have withstood the passage of time.

"Salima is a dear, dear friend, a wonderful person, and she knows the Egyptian sites as well as anyone alive. She is a great scholar with a wonderful sense of humor – just the kind of person you want to hang out with, glass of wine in hand, at the end of a day of sightseeing. Pat and I feel very good about Salima taking over. Enjoy your future adventures with her!"

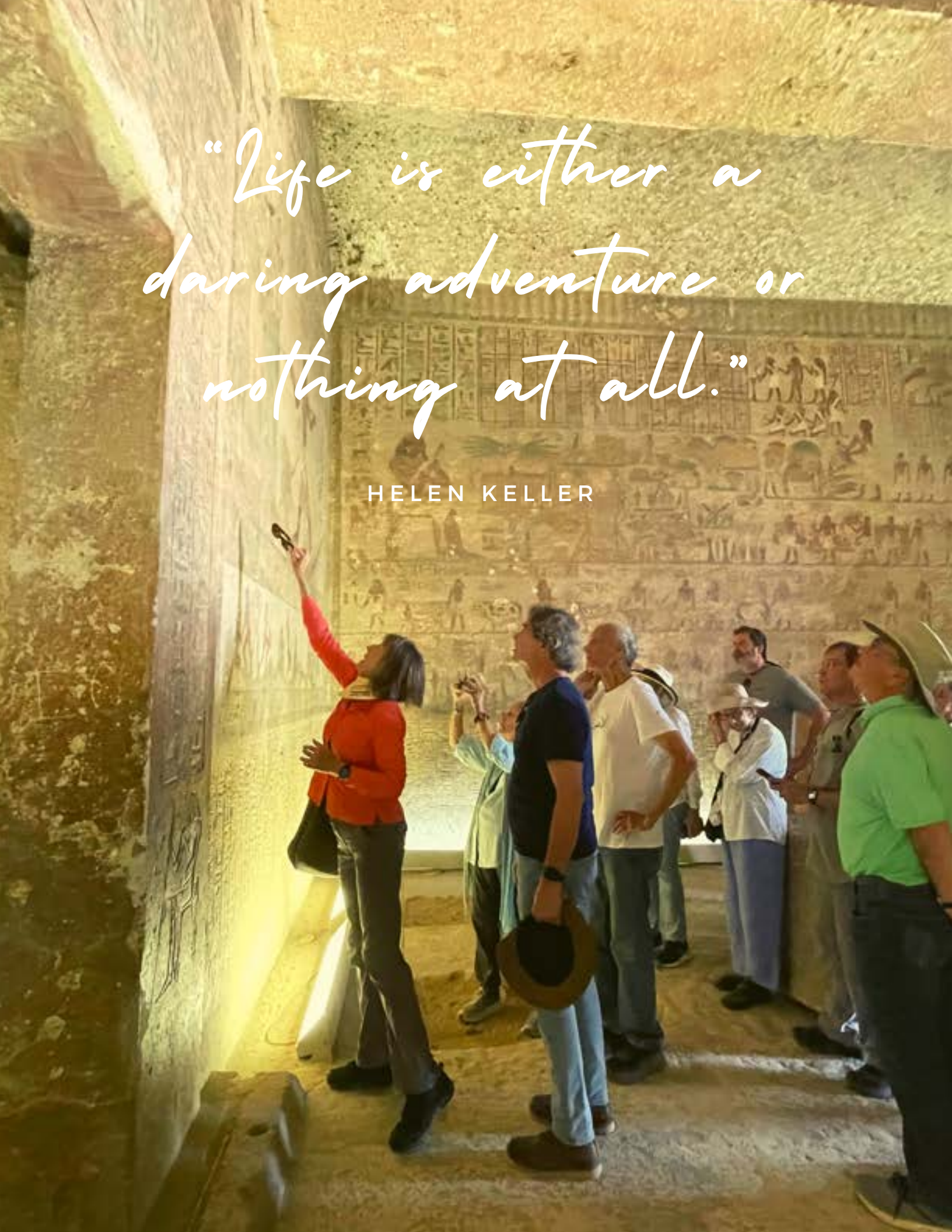
*–Dr. Bob Brier,
world renowned Egyptologist*

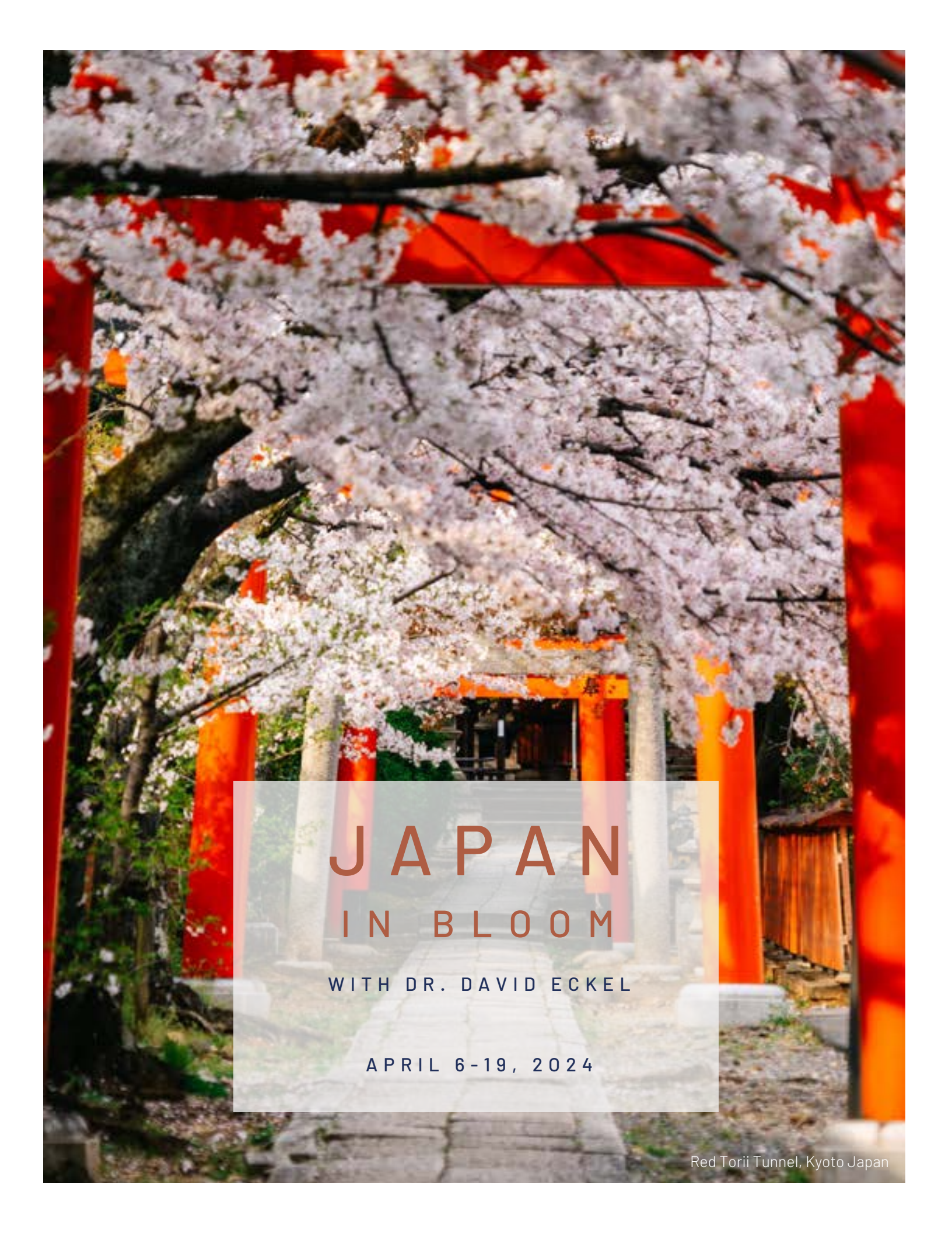


Abu Simbal, Egypt

*"Life is either a
daring adventure or
nothing at all."*

HELEN KELLER





JAPAN IN BLOOM

WITH DR. DAVID ECKEL

APRIL 6-19, 2024

Red Torii Tunnel, Kyoto Japan

JAPAN



Kinkaku-ji, Golden Pavilion, Japan

JAPAN IN BLOOM

APRIL 6-19, 2024

Whether it's a drive down one of Tokyo's neon-lit canyons, a view of Mt. Fuji from the window of a Bullet Train, a casual stroll through the cherry blossoms of Kyoto's famed "Philosopher's Walk," or a quiet moment contemplating the empty spaces of a Zen garden, there is nothing like Japan to transport a traveler to a world that is both ancient and new, full of elegance and a sense of timeless beauty.

Our tour begins in Tokyo, where we get our first taste of the energy and the style of modern Japan. From Tokyo we visit the old capital of Kamakura to stand in the presence of one of Japan's most famous symbols, the great bronze statue of Amida, the Buddha of Infinite Light. From there, we catch the Bullet Train to Kyoto and prepare ourselves to dive deeply into a city that is one of the world's greatest cultural treasures.

We will visit several of Kyoto's most magnificent temples and imperial properties, join the throngs in Kyoto's traditional markets, and explore the complexities of Japanese cuisine, surrounded by cherry trees with their clouds of pink blossoms.

The tour then takes us out of Kyoto to the ancient capital of Nara, with Shinto and Buddhist shrines that reach back to the origin of Buddhism in Japan. From there, we move on to visit the famous Himeji Castle in Osaka.

"With Osaka as our base, we visit two more of Japan's greatest treasures: the shrine of the Sun Goddess Amaterasu at Ise, and the ancient temples on Mt. Koya, where the sage Kukai, who brought Chinese traditions to Japan, is said to sit in quiet meditation in a cave behind its central shrine."

-Dr. Malcolm David Eckel

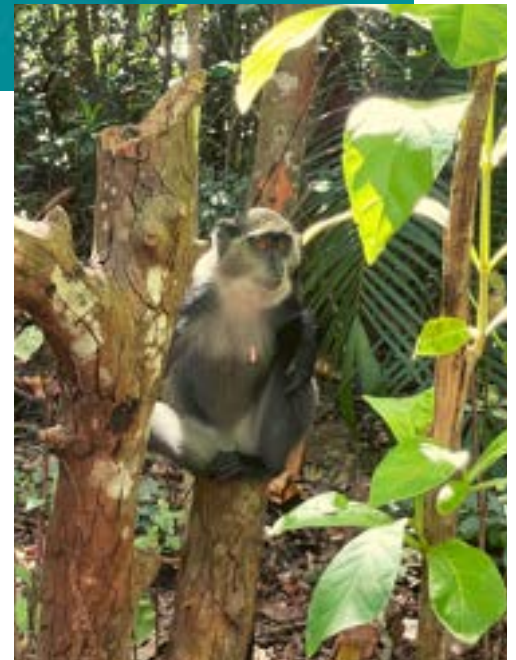


SWAHILI COAST

WITH DR. STEPHANIE WYNN-JONES

Far Horizons is excited to announce our newest tour in Africa's enchanting Swahili Coast! Join [Dr. Stephanie Wynn Jones](#), University of York, to explore the Kenyan, and Tanzanian coastlines, stopping at various fascinating islands along the way on an epic two week adventure into the heart of Swahili heritage.

EXPLORE KENYA, TANZANIA & ZANZIBAR



Travel with Dr. Wynne Jones to highlights including Lamu Island, home of the UNESCO World Heritage site, Lamu Town- the oldest and best preserved Swahili settlement in East Africa, the Zanzibar Archipelago with its famous Stone Town and Kilwa Kisiwani with the best ruins on the coast to name a few. Explore how people from interior Africa, villagers living on the coast, Arab traders and people from southern India all transformed this landscape and culture with archaeology dating as far back as the 7th century.

Departure for late July or Early August 2024. Exact dates and prices coming soon .

JORDAN & PETRA

A TOUR OF RITUAL THROUGH TIME

LED BY DR. GARY ROLLEFSON

APRIL 14 - 27, 2024



Camels in Wadi Rum Desert

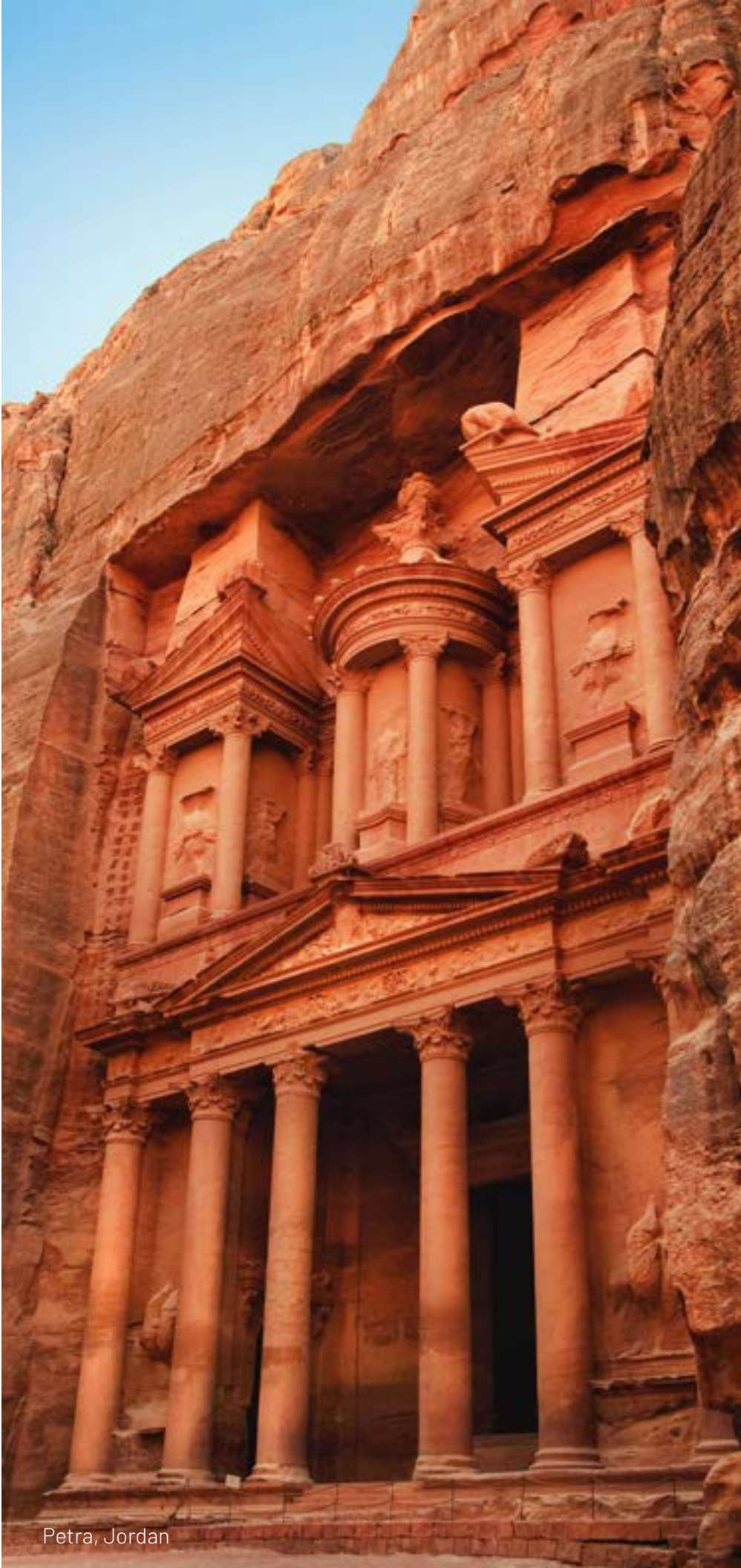
Our study leader, Gary Rollefson teases with a bit of history and culture to be explored in Jordan....

Within Jordan's history lay hidden surprises, following the developments of how social behavior is organized to enhance social harmony and protect critical relationships with the environment. Cult behavior has a long evolution everywhere, and Jordan is no exception.

The Neolithic site of 'Ain Ghazal, in the center of greater Amman, shows much about ancestral cults and how they functioned 10,000 years ago. Statues made of plaster and the practice of plastering the skulls of revered members of a family lineage were powerful expressions of how the people of 'Ain Ghazal faced the future. The construction of statues of reeds coated with plaster reminded the people of the myths of their ancestors, and the more than 30 such sculptures from 'Ain Ghazal remind them of the power of their forbears. By 9,000 years ago, communal cults added to the ancestral focus in the forms of some of the oldest temples in the Near East.

The primeval and sinister basalt landscapes of the Black Desert in the eastern extension of the country witnessed phenomenal population growth in the 7th millennium BCE, and a response to the increasing demand for water and pasture land for their herds combined family cult buildings into workshops for carrying out every day tasks. The erection of standing stones in the houses were symbols of spiritual forces that preserved their future well-being. There are literally thousands of such blended building across the otherworldly remains of volcanic eruptions.

Across millennia of alterations in how people managed their spiritual beliefs saw a growing general consensus in how this should be accomplished. Expanding regional religious beliefs centered on powerful temples, such as the hulking Bronze Age temples in the Jordan Valley and the Iron Age temples on the plateau. By the 3rd century BCE temples became airier and more visibly welcoming, as the unfinished temple called Qasr al-Abd west of Amman demonstrates. Roman temples proliferated as the army brought the Jordanian territory under their control. The Temple of Zeus and the Temple of Artemis in Jerash and the Temple of Hercules in Amman reminded people of the central role of Roman gods and goddesses in everyday life of the empire.



Petra, Jordan

The empire didn't collapse into anarchy, rather into tetrarchy when the empire was divided into four separate parts in the 3rd century CE. The eastern Mediterranean capital was Byzantium (modern Istanbul), and at the death of Emperor Constantine in the 4th century CE, richly ornamented Byzantine Christian churches were built throughout Jordan, as shown by many of them in Jerash, Umm Qais, and Madaba.

The 7th century CE beheld the emergence of a new religion in the Mecca-Medina area of the Arabian Peninsula. An ambitious campaign to convert non-Muslims to Islam spread rapidly throughout Jordan, and mosques became a center of learning and teaching a new philosophical understanding throughout the country."

--Gary Rollefson

'I cannot say enough good things about Gary Rollefson. He was polite, patient, deeply knowledgeable, engaging, often funny, and just plain enjoyable to spend time with. His depth of knowledge of human history and archaeology in Jordan is unparalleled. We felt very privileged to travel with Gary. He is a rock star in Jordan!' – Karen Nardi



Why Travel with Far Horizons?

With over forty years of experience, and an 85% customer return rate, we have stood the test of time. Remind yourself what makes Far Horizons so unique.



Scholar Led Tours: Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.



Trusted Partnerships: For more than forty years we have donated to archaeological and other projects in all our destinations.



Behind the Scenes Access: Our groups have private access to closed areas and on-site specialists.



Unique Trips: Our itineraries are designed to showcase sites that are off-the-beaten path; we explore places that many travelers never see.



Customer Service: Our offerings are personalized with full-attention to detail and our staff is here to assist you.



Small Groups: Our tours have a maximum of 14 travelers. So you can trust that you will have a boutique experience every time.



EXPERIENCE ITALY



Saint Francis of Assisi



Trevi Fountain Rome

With popular shows like White Lotus featuring the Amalfi Coast, Italy has become one of the most popular international travel destinations. Travelers come for the culture, cuisine and architecture to name a few. While this can be done on your own, to have a truly unique, behind the scenes, private access experience, you'll need the experts, and that's where Far Horizons comes in. We offer three enlightening ways to experience Italy!

TUSCANY & UMBRIA: ART & ARCHITECTURE MAY 19-30, 2024

Beginning May 19, travel with Dr. Bill Cook on an Art and Architecture tour of Italy's Tuscany and Umbria regions. Our tour commences in the iconic cities of Florence, Siena, and Assisi, which are brimming with architectural and artistic masterpieces. From the tranquil corridors of the Uffizi Gallery in Florence to the serene Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi, every location is a testament to the artistic prowess of the past.

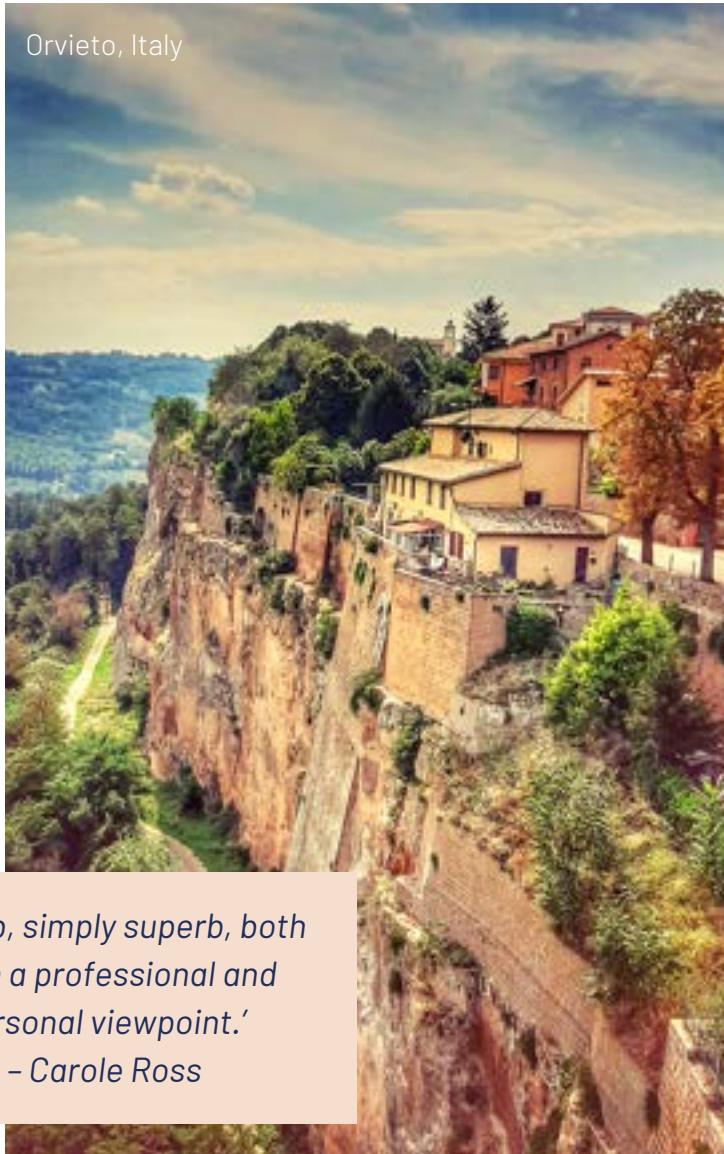
The expedition doesn't end there. We will also be venturing to charming hilltop towns like San Gimignano, Spoleto, and Orvieto, among others. These places, steeped in history and culture, are like frozen snapshots of an era gone by, yet they still vibrate with the hum of contemporary Italian life. Together, let's retrace the history of art and culture in these remarkable regions, on a journey that promises to be as enlightening as it is unforgettable.

ROME AND SOUTHERN ITALY MAY 24-JUNE 3, 2024

Then, starting May 24, join Far Horizons on an archaeological tour of the 'Eternal City' of Rome and Southern Italy. Our 11-day journey will explore the monuments of Rome's ancient past, which are deeply embedded in the fabric of the modern city. The sites we visit are not only impressive in size and construction, but their endurance over the passing of time reveal the empire's lasting influences on future generations. (Con't next page)



Perugia, Italy



Orvieto, Italy

*Superb, simply superb, both
from a professional and
personal viewpoint.'*
– Carole Ross

ROME AND SOUTHERN ITALY (CONT)

Our quest to uncover the Roman past also takes us south where we visit the UNESCO World Heritage sites at Pompeii, Herculaneum and Paestum. Led by Steven L. Tuck, lecturer for The Great Courses, this trip is not to be missed!

IN THE PATH OF THE ETRUSCANS

JUNE 3-14, 2024

On June 3, Discover the depths of Italy's fascinating past through our archaeology tour of Italy: In the Path of the Etruscans. This journey provides an intriguing glimpse into the ancient civilization of Etruria, founded in 7th century BC and spread across what we now know as Tuscany and Umbria. These early architects of history significantly shaped Rome's ritual and architectural, even ruling Rome for a time.

Our tour begins in Rome, where we'll explore the National Etruscan Museum and the Gregorian Etruscan Museum nestled within the Vatican City Museums. From there, we journey north to rarely-visited UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Cerveteri, the largest necropolis in the ancient Mediterranean, and Tarquinia, which boasts beautifully decorated tombs. Then you'll visit the captivating town of Orvieto, and descend into the historical Volumnus Hypogeum in Perugia. Wander the medieval streets of Cortona and step into the Roman Amphitheater in Arezzo. Get lost in the bustling shops lining Florence's Ponte Vecchio. And you'll get to explore this fascinating world in the company of a leading scholar of Etruscan history, Dr. Steve Tuck.

EXPLORE
TÜRKİYE

WITH DR. JENNIFER TOBIN



Şanlıurfa, Mosque,
Türkiye

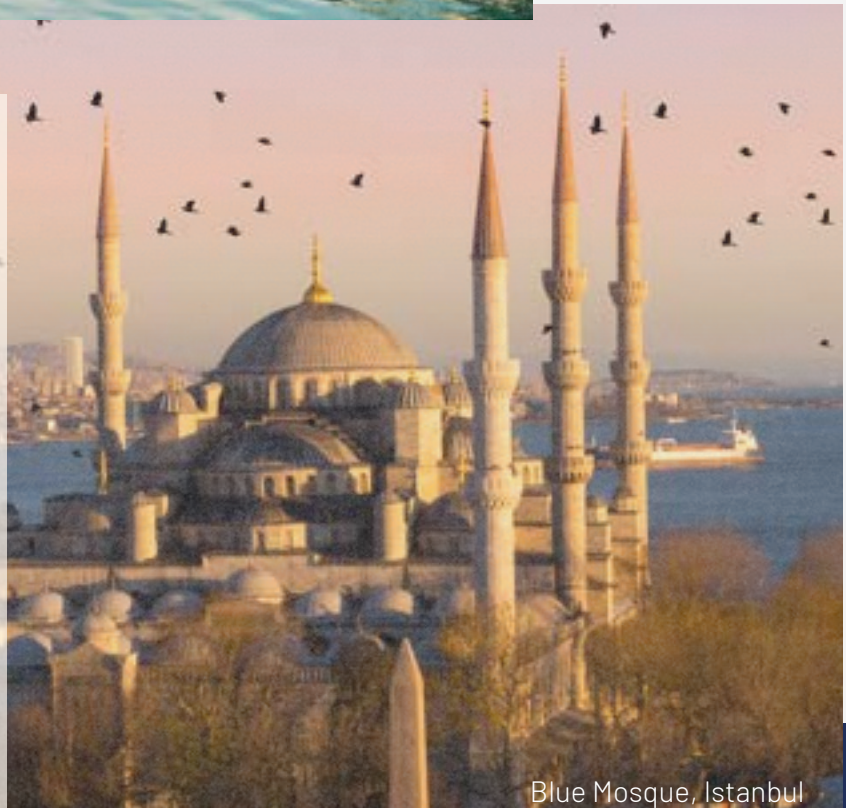
Join Far Horizons, on a 16-day tour to this remote and rarely visited region of Türkiye. See six UNESCO Heritage Sites and by special arrangement, enjoy a private tour of Göbekli Tepe and Karahantepe, possibly the world's oldest temples predating Stonehenge by 6,000 years. Journey from the mountains of eastern Anatolia, to the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates. Along the way, visit Neolithic temples, medieval churches and mosques, formidable castles, and the historic towns of the region. And learn about the remarkable history and culture of Eastern Türkiye, truly a crossroad of civilizations.

EASTERN
TÜRKİYE

MAY 13-28, 2024

Far Horizons offers guests an extraordinary 17-day archaeological sojourn that includes nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Experience a multitude of highlights: revel in a barbeque and beer dinner onsite with the archaeological crew of Hattusa; enjoy an evening cruise up the Bosphorus by private vessel; view outstanding museum collections in Ankara, Burdur, Antalya, and Ephesus; and enjoy specially arranged private tours with archaeologists at several archaeological sites including - Hattusa, Perge,, Ephesus, and Troy. From Ankara to Istanbul, this exciting expedition reveals the texture and hue of Türkiye's history. This truly unique journey is sure to resonate with the discerning traveler for years to come.

WESTERN TÜRKİYE
MAY 27- JUNE 12, 2024



Blue Mosque, Istanbul



In Memoriam Dr. Damian Evans

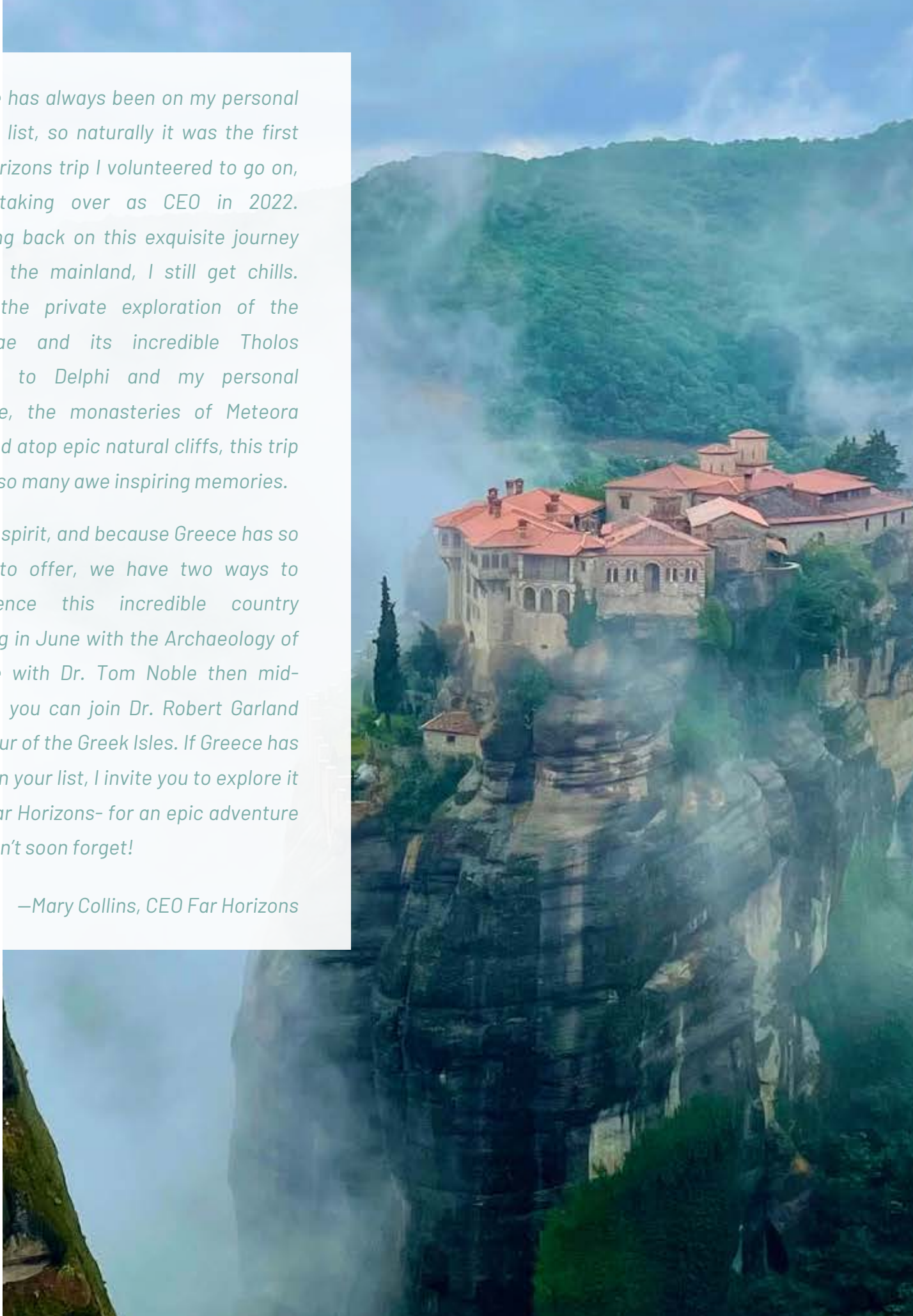
On September 12, 2023, the international community lost an invaluable archaeologist, Damian Evans, whose trailblazing research transformed the landscape of Southeast Asian archaeology. As tributes to his life and legacy continue to pour in from all over the world, we at Far Horizons are also mourning the loss of a treasured colleague and friend. Damian's unique brand of charisma and his extensive work to discover new Khmer cities (using Lidar laser technology) made him an ideal scholar to lead our trips to Cambodia and Laos. For over a decade, our travelers returned from these tours having been 'wowed' by Damian's expertise and his endless enthusiasm. He will be sorely missed by all who had the distinct privilege of knowing him. As one former Far Horizons traveler so aptly stated, "Damian was excellent in every way!"

- Heather Stoeckley

Greece has always been on my personal bucket list, so naturally it was the first Far Horizons trip I volunteered to go on, after taking over as CEO in 2022. Thinking back on this exquisite journey across the mainland, I still get chills. From the private exploration of the Mycenae and its incredible Tholos tombs, to Delphi and my personal favorite, the monasteries of Meteora perched atop epic natural cliffs, this trip offers so many awe inspiring memories.

In that spirit, and because Greece has so much to offer, we have two ways to experience this incredible country starting in June with the Archaeology of Greece with Dr. Tom Noble then mid-month, you can join Dr. Robert Garland on a tour of the Greek Isles. If Greece has been on your list, I invite you to explore it with Far Horizons- for an epic adventure you won't soon forget!

—Mary Collins, CEO Far Horizons





GREECE

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF GREECE

WITH DR THOMAS F.X. NOBLE | JUNE 2-17, 2024

Join Professor Noble on a very special journey through Greece viewing both its celebrated and remote archaeology. Begin in Thessaloniki, a millenniums old city. View the ancient remains at Philippi, and Aigai, known for its stunning Macedonian royal tombs. Gaze upon the magnificent monasteries in Meteora and Mystras. Walk through great cities like Corinth and Mycenae. See the remarkable sanctuaries of Olympia, and Delphi, and finally spend two days exploring Athens. Along the way, dine on delicious regional cuisine, and enjoy the hospitality of the Greek people.

GREEK ISLES: CYCLADES, SANTORINI, & AEGINA

WITH DR. ROBERT GARLAND | JUNE 17-30, 2024

The Greek Isles offer travelers a unique perspective of Greece, both ancient and modern. A wealth of archaeological sites set in stunning locations reveal the myth and history specific to each island including the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Delos celebrated as the birthplace of the twin gods Artemis and Apollo. Traveling by ferry on the sparkling Aegean Sea explore the Cycladic isles of Tinos, Mykonos, Delos, Paros and Naxos, along with Santorini and Aegina. Observe active excavations at the Sanctuary of Apollo and Artemis on Despotiko. And gaze at the stunning Aphaia Temple on the island of Aegina. Along the way, view the varied remains of millennia of continuous occupation while learning about the mythology of the ancient gods and heroes.



Paros, Greece

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We have exciting ways to spend your second half of 2024!

SPAIN: IN THE PATH OF THE CONQUISTADORS WITH DR. STANLEY GUENTER OCTOBER 13-27, 2024

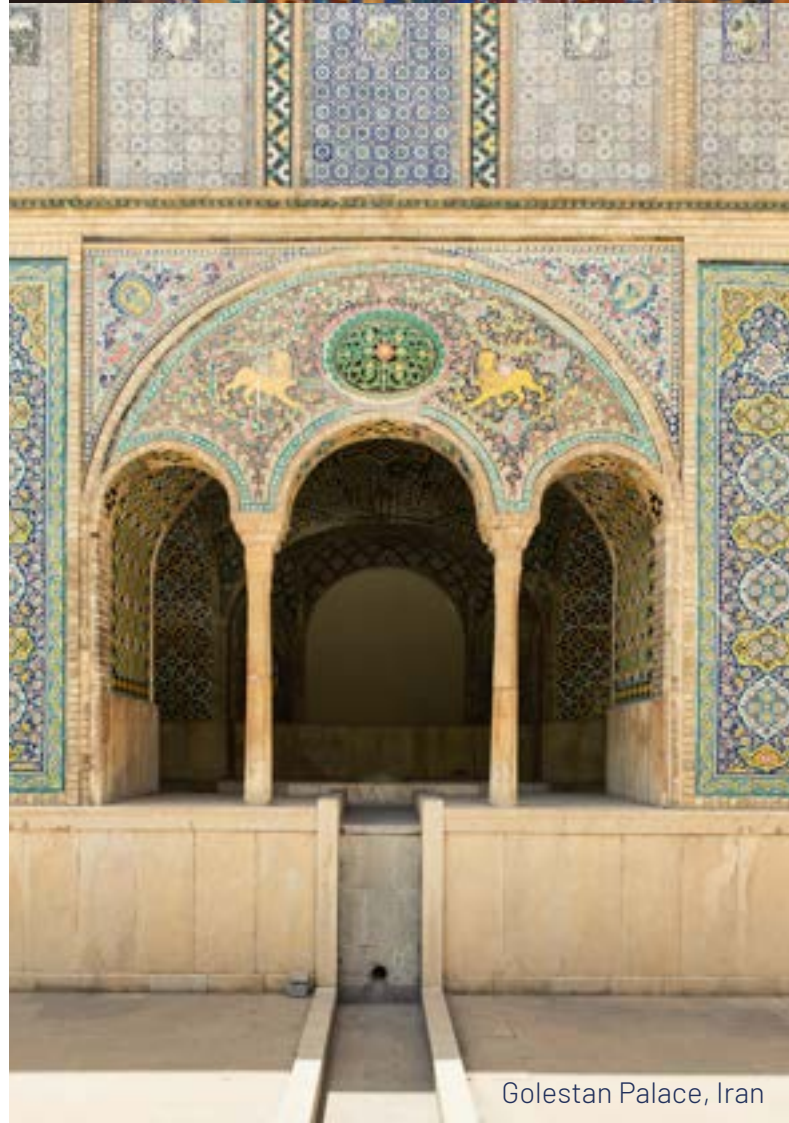
Our trip will take us to the heartland of the fabled al-Andalus, including Córdoba and Granada. We will also visit Seville, the port in southern Spain from which the Spanish would set sail for the Americas. Here Christopher Columbus is buried in the gigantic cathedral. Merida is an ancient Roman city in western Spain whose ruins so impressed the Conquistadors that they renamed the Maya capital of Yucatan, also famous for its own extensive ruins, in its honor. Our trip concludes with visits to the wonderfully preserved medieval cities of Salamanca and Avila and a special tour of the castle of Zorita de los Canes, where Dr. Guenter has worked and which perfectly exemplifies the diverse ethnic history of medieval Spain.

IRAN: EMPIRES OF EVERLASTING FIRES WITH DR. JENNY ROSE OCTOBER 5-21, 2024

Included in our 17-day itinerary are a wealth of mesmerizing sites – Bisotun, where an enormous multilingual inscription was carved into a cliff face by Darius the Great in the 5th century BC; the Biblical city of Susa; the ziggurat at Chogha Zanbil built about 1250 BC; Shushtar's 2,500-year-old Hydraulic System; Isfahan's stunning Jameh Mosque and Maidan Emam, Tehran's sparkling Golestan Palace, Pasargadae, The Persian Qanat, several of The Persian Gardens; and, of course, Persepolis, an amazing testament to ancient international relations. The echoes of the ancient world are ever present in modern-day Iran. Not only is it the home of millennia-old monuments but also striking works of art which include intricate carpets, fine ceramics, ornate miniatures, and Ghalamzani, the art of engraving exquisite designs on metal!



Seville bridge, Spain



Golestan Palace, Iran

ENGLAND'S CASTLES, BATTLEMENTS & STATLEY HOMES JULY 20 - AUG 3, 2024



“England has a rich architectural heritage that can teach us a lot about the people who built it, lived in it, and fought over it. There is much to enjoy on this tour of castles, fortifications, and stately homes, with representative buildings from each of the last nine centuries. Visiting them provides us with the opportunity to learn about the development of England’s political and social system as well as the history of some of its most prominent families.

Leading the tour in 2022, I found the most fascinating places were the more obscure ones, such as Norton Conyers and Markenfield, because they are off the beaten track and still serve as homes to their owners. Not that there was anything disappointing about the monumental set pieces like Bamburgh Castle—it’s one of the most imposing structures in Europe! Touring the Tudor battlements at Berwick on Tweed was terrific too—a reminder of how much better it is to see fortifications after the fact than it is to visit them when they are the scene of chronic predation and war.

I was born and raised in England but have spent most of my adult life in the United States. That experience has given me the chance to think about my native country from the outside and to appreciate it all the more. It gives a new richness to each return visit. I found the Far Horizons travelers to be wonderful companions because they shared my enthusiasm for learning more about every castle, getting beyond the familiar anecdotes, and looking for unexpected connections between the sites we visited.”

- Patrick Allitt, Scholar
England’s Castles, Battlements, and Stately Homes



2024 Schedule of Trips

JANUARY

Eastern India: Bodh Gaya to Kolkata to Puri
January 6 – 21, 2024

South India: Temples and Traditions
January 22 – February 7, 2024

FEBRUARY

Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya: Honduras, Guatemala & Mexico:
February 2 – 15, 2024

Easter Island & Chile:
February 7– 18, 2024

North India: Gods, Temples and Archaeology
February 8 – 22, 2024

Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula:
February 16 – 26, 2024

MARCH

Egypt – The Majesty of Egypt:
March 3 – 16, 2024

APRIL

Japan In Bloom
April 6-19, 2024 **New Tour!**

Jordan & Stunning Petra
April 14 – 27, 2024

Türkiye: Sail the Sapphire Seas:
April 28 – May 12, 2024

MAY

Eastern Türkiye's Lost Kingdoms:
May 13 – 28, 2024

Italy's Tuscany & Umbria:
May 19 – 30, 2024

Rome and Southern Italy:
May 24 – June 3, 2024

Western Türkiye's Tour
May 27 – June 12, 2024

JUNE

The Archaeology of Greece:
June 2 – 17, 2024

Italy: In the Path of the Etruscans:
June 3 – 14, 2024





2024 Schedule of Trips

Check out what's coming up in 2024!

JUNE CONTINUED...

Wales and Roman England Tour
June 5 – 19, 2024

Greek Isles of Myth: Cyclades, Santorini
and Aegina
June 17 – 30, 2024

JULY

Scotland Tour: Scottish Highlands and
Lowlands
July 12 – 26, 2024

Cathedrals of England:
July 20 – August 3, 2024

England: Castles, Battlements &
Stately Homes
July 27 – August 9, 2024

AUGUST

Swahili Coast: Kenya, Tanzania and
Zanzibar **New Tour!**
Dates: Coming soon!

AUGUST CONTINUED...

Sri Lanka: Resplendent Land
August 10 – 27, 2024

SEPTEMBER

France: Architectural Cathedral Tour
September 17 – 28, 2024

Asia – Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan:
September 18 – October 3, 2024

Himalayan Kingdoms: Ladakh, Sikkim,
Bhutan Tour
September 21– October 10, 2024

OCTOBER

Iran: Empires of Everlasting Fires
October 5 – 21, 2024

Sicily Tour: Art & Archaeology
October 4–18, 2024

Spain: In the Path of the Conquistadors
October 13–27, 2024 **New Tour!**



Ready to Travel?

Get in touch!

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FAR HORIZONS