



FAR HORIZONS

2024 CATALOGUE



Welcome!

We're happy you are here!

At Far Horizons, we curate and cultivate trips for a niche market of intellectually curious people with an interest in exploring and getting off the beaten track. We speak directly with our guests and take the time to explain our itineraries and set expectations. We are happy to chat with you about your interests and goals and ensure to that each trip is a good fit for you.

Did you know that 85% of our guests return and travel with us again and again? There are good reasons for that!

Far Horizons is unique. Our tours are different. They focus on archaeology and culture, are led by renowned scholars, and are curated by a visionary team. We offer education, camaraderie, and an understanding of the world's cultures - both past & present.

Our itineraries are curated with education, archaeology, and discovery as the focus; 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.

Far Horizons has been offering trips around the world since 1983. In 2022, the founder, Mary Dell Lucas, retired and entrusted us to continue the legacy which she built.

As we continue to advance and grow, 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.

We look forward to connecting, engaging, and of course, traveling with you!



Mary Collins
Stefan Woehlke

Chief Executive Officer &
Chief Curation Officer



FAR HORIZONS

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Tashkent, Uzbekistan



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 CEO of Far Horizons, Mary is the co-founder of Blue Fern Travel, a history-infused food and cocktail tour company focused on supporting local businesses and community by sharing stories through flavors.

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 archaeology, 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 TEAM OF EXPERTS

Our mighty staff has rich travel experience, as 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 eight years prior, 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 tour and learn, 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

Scott joined the Far Horizons family in 2022 and is excited to 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!



Judy Hoffman

Destination Assistant

Judy is thrilled to be a part of the Far Horizons team! She loves being able to work where her two passions - archaeology & travel - intersect. She received her undergrad in Ancient Studies from University of Maryland and enjoys using the knowledge she acquired there whenever she is able to travel. Judy is excited to help people discover the joys of travel, archaeology, and history. When she isn't working or traveling, she can be found at home reading about a new archaeology site, or hiking with her chocolate lab, Hilde.



JOURNEY THROUGH THE BRITISH ISLES & EIRE

SUMMER 2024 TOURS

Join Far Horizons in the summer of 2024, as we head off to the UK and Ireland! We are excited to offer a variety of trips across the pond, that highlight the vast history, charming architecture, and fascinating archaeological sites these regions have to offer.

Limited Spots Remain!



Whitby Abbey, England

CATHEDRALS OF ENGLAND

During the medieval era, England witnessed the establishment of nearly a thousand religious edifices, including abbeys, priories, cathedrals, and friaries. The grandeur of their architecture and embellishments symbolized the Church’s devotion and reverence to God. Even modest parish churches showcased splendid biblical scenes painted with great care.

A Medieval Holiday: Tracing the Legacy of Faith and Artistry

Far Horizons presents a select group of 14 participants with a two-week journey through England’s rich medieval history led by Dr. Bill Cook.

Our meticulously curated route unveils both renowned and secluded gems that house some of the finest art and architectural marvels from the Middle Ages.

The highlights include awe-inspiring cathedrals, remnants of ancient sanctuaries, and churches adorned with centuries-old biblical illustrations.

“Bill Cook is a treasure: brilliant, intensively in love with his subject, and a superb communicator.”
– Howard Gradet



SCOTLAND: HIGHLANDS AND LOWLANDS

July 12-26, 2024

Led by Dr. Brian Buchanan, our Scotland tour explores a nation of astounding contrasts. Famed for its moody highland mountains, mist-shrouded glens, dazzling lochs, wild coastlines, and verdant forests, the sweeping landscapes possess an otherworldly quality, and scattered throughout this dramatic scenery are fascinating remains of Scotland's past.

Travel with just 5 others, from the southern border with England to the far north and see historic and archaeological sites that few visitors manage to find.

View Scotland's prehistoric stone circles and chambered tombs, glorious abbeys and cathedrals, and savor the view from battlements of medieval castles in remote and beautiful areas of the country.

"Brian was incredible! Not only was he unbelievably knowledgeable on all subjects Scotland, but he was really good at laying down the facts, the myths and legends in a fun, informative, and simple manner. We loved his demeanor and his humor and left the trip thinking of him as not only a great guide, but as our friend as well. He was the best!" -- Chris Bing



Scottish Mountain Landscape



Highland Cows | 7

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF IRELAND

*JOIN OUR NEWEST SCHOLAR,
DR. DAMIAN SHIELS ON AN EPIC
TOUR OF IRELAND*

July 13-28, 2024

The Emerald Isle has a rich history dating back over 9,000 years when Mesolithic hunter-gatherers migrated to the island. Since then, various populations have inhabited this territory and all left their imprint on the history of this fascinating country! Today, Ireland is home to the greatest surviving concentration of field monuments in Europe. The wealth of sites found here, both archaeological and historical, iconic and off-the-beaten-track, truly allows you to step back in time. Enjoy Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Early Christian, Medieval, Early Modern and Modern sites!

Join our newest Far Horizons scholar, Dr. Damian Shiels on a tour of Irish history that can't be missed! Dr. Shiels comes to us with over 20 years of experience in archaeology and heritage, specializing in conflict archaeology and post-medieval archaeology. Dr. Shiels has published and lectured widely in Ireland, Britain, Europe and the United States on Irish archaeological and historical topics stretching from prehistory through to the modern-day. His knowledge of Ireland's vast and intricate history and his gracious charm make him an ideal study leader and traveling companion.



**FYI - our Ireland trip
has a maximum of
just 6 people! Reach
out to your favorite Far
Horizons traveler and
book together today!**



Poul nabrone Dolmen



Kilmacduagh Monastery | 8



Doe Castle, Donegal

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Damian Shiels

We are very excited to welcome Dr. Damian Shiels as our newest Ireland scholar. He received his BA in archaeology from University College Cork, an MA in archaeology and heritage management from the University of Leicester and a PhD in history from Northumbria University. He has over twenty years' experience in archaeology and heritage, holding positions from curator in the National Museum of Ireland to company director at Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd., one of Ireland and Britain's largest archaeological firms.

Damian is a specialist in conflict archaeology, post-medieval archaeology and heritage interpretation and has been a regular contributor to tv and radio discussing Irish archaeology and history.

He pioneered the application of conflict archaeology in the Republic of Ireland, leading projects at famous battlefields such as Kinsale, Co. Cork (1601) and Vinegar Hill, Co. Wexford (1798). Damian has published and lectured widely in Ireland, Britain, Europe, and the United States on Irish archaeological and historical topics stretching from prehistory through to the modern-day.



Grange Stone Circle, Ireland

DISCOVER THE VIKINGS OF SCANDINAVIA

JUNE 21- JULY 5, 2024

*WITH
PROFESSOR
STEVEN ASHBY*

Join Professor Steven Ashby, a Viking specialist, on a 15-day journey to follow the path of the Vikings across four countries: Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden. Along this tour, we will stop at intricate stone ship burials, charming villages dating back to the Middle Ages, fortress churches decorated with 800-year-old frescos and museums overflowing with fascinating artifacts from the Viking period.

This extensive traverse also includes four private tours, including Germany's Haithabu Viking Museum in Hedeby, a tour of the Tanum Rock Art (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), the Roskilde Viking Ship Museum, and a private opening of the Hedared Stave Church, offering a one-of-a-kind glimpse into the life of the Vikings few will ever experience.

We will also visit a total of six UNESCO World Heritage sites and spend three full days in Visby, a medieval walled city on Gotland Island.

'As I reflect on this more and more, it is clear that it is one of the very best tours I have ever gone on (and I have done many): great learning curve, varied sites and artifacts, excellent private guides. It far exceeded my expectations.' – Louise A. Grincelis





Metéora, Greece



Ephesus, Türkiye



Summer on the MEDITERRANEAN

Embark on a captivating expedition through the heart of the Mediterranean, where our variety of curated tours promise an exquisite blend of archaeology and culture.

In Greece, trace the footsteps of ancient philosophers in Athens, explore the mystique of Delphi, and stand in awe of the historic grounds of Olympia.

Türkiye beckons with the legendary mysteries of Göbekli Tepe and the vibrant tapestry of Istanbul.


Italy, a canvas of historical grandeur, unfolds as you wander through the iconic Colosseum and bask in the artistic riches of Florence.

Our scholar-led excursions promise not just archaeological revelations but an immersive cultural experience that transcends time.

Join us in the summer of 2024 for an extraordinary journey, where the past comes to life in the most enchanting corners of Greece, Türkiye, and Italy.

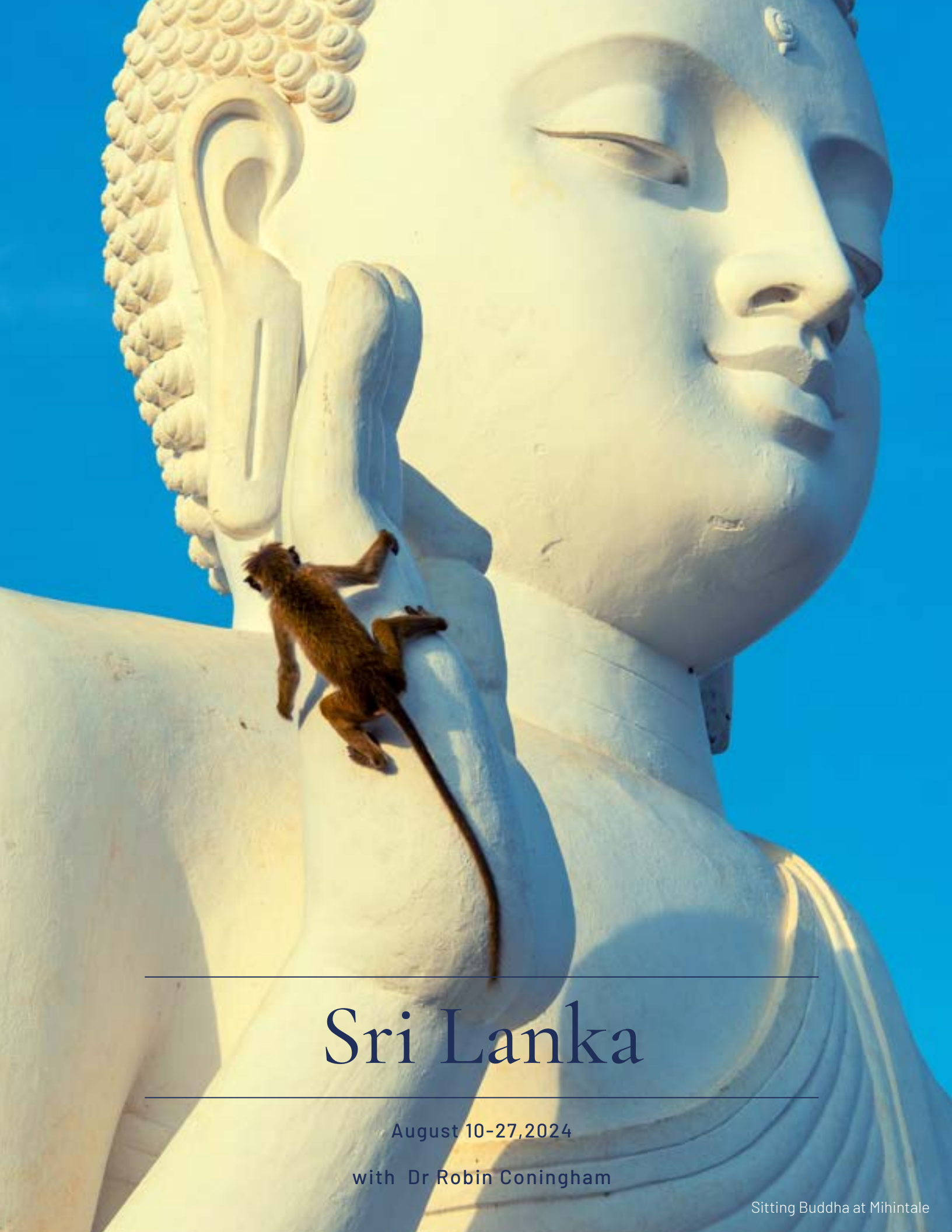
Indulge in the extraordinary and create memories that echo through the ages on one of Far Horizons expertly curated tours across the Mediterranean.

Which country and which trip calls you? If you need help deciding, schedule a call with us today!



**“LIVE LIFE WITH
NO EXCUSES,
TRAVEL WITH NO
REGRET.”**

– OSCAR WILDE



Sri Lanka

August 10-27, 2024

with Dr Robin Coningham

Sitting Buddha at Mihintale



Dambulla, Sri Lanka

EXPLORING SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's fascinating history spans at least three thousand years. Known as Lanka, the 'resplendent land' in the great Indian epic

"Ramayana" written around 500 BC, over the centuries many others have testified to the island's natural beauty. Deep water harbors provided strategic importance and through the ages many great civilizations developed here. Today's Sri Lanka is the home to a fascinating abundance of languages, religions and cultures.

A highlight of this archaeological tour will be the Esala Perahera Festival, a centuries-old celebration of Sri Lankan Buddhism.

As elephants process through the streets, they are accompanied by a cacophony of percussionists pounding traditional drums, dancers clanging finger cymbals, and the rhythmic thumping of mock sword battles.

Almost straddling the equator, Sri Lanka's weather is determined by its two monsoons – one from the north-east and the other from the south-west. In July and August there is a gap in the rains which makes this an excellent time to visit the country!

Join Far Horizons and Dr. Robin Coningham and only 13 others for an 18-day tour of this enticing land, including six of the island's UNESCO World Heritage Sites!



Sigiriya, Sri Lanka



SWAHILI COAST

July 30-August 11, 2024



Zanzibar Coast, Tanzania

Embark on a transcendent journey along the Swahili Coast, where ancient history meets contemporary allure. Our 2024 archaeological tour promises a unique adventure. Led by Africanist archaeologist Dr. Stephanie Wynne-Jones, we ensure a deep dive into the captivating stories of the Kenya coast and the Zanzibar archipelago.

LAMU ARCHIPELAGO: A TAPESTRY OF AGES

Nestled within the Lamu Archipelago, Lamu Island invites exploration of contemporary stonetowns, Lamu Town, and Shela. Rich in Omani flavor from the 18th-19th century, Lamu exudes Swahili tradition. While here, we'll stay at the Majilis Resort, strategically located in this historical haven. Our resort includes breathtaking views, a private beachfront and is perfectly situated for visits to the Takwa ruins, a Swahili townscape from the 17th-18th centuries and Pate Island, which includes three key archaeological sites: Shanga, Pate, and Siyu, ranging from the 7th to 19th centuries.

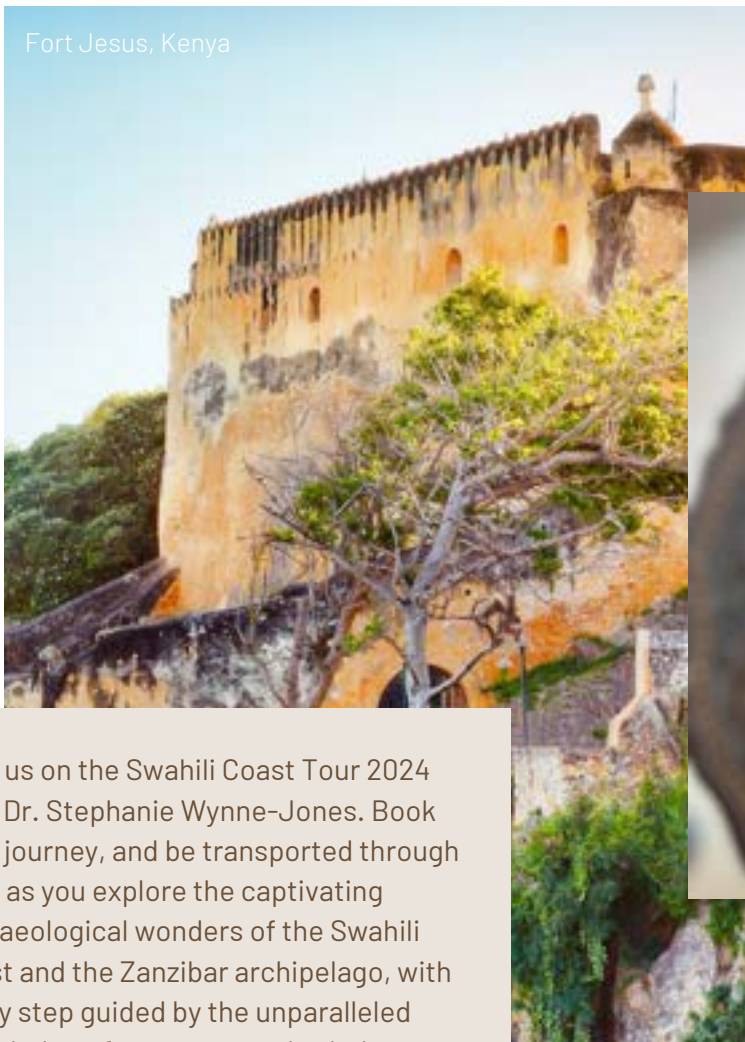
Tawka Ruins, Kenya



Mtoni Palace Ruins, Zanzibar



Gedi Ruins, Kenya



Fort Jesus, Kenya

MALINDI / MOMBASA: WHERE HISTORY UNFOLDS

Malindi and Mombasa, further south along the coast, beckon with their own tales. Malindi, a contemporary stonetown, bears traces of its past, including the Vasco da Gama monument, a gateway to Portuguese influences. Mombasa, with Swahili layers reaching back to the 10th century, showcases a fabulous stone town adorned with Omani and British colonial elements. Don't miss the iconic Fort Jesus, a Portuguese/Omani fort and museum on the waterfront, offering a captivating glimpse into the region's complex history.

ZANZIBAR ARCHIPELAGO: STONE TOWN EXTRAVAGANZA

Venturing into the Zanzibar Archipelago, immerse yourself in Stone Town. Mostly from the 19th century, this historical gem with winding alleys, vibrant markets, and ornate architecture promises a day of immersive exploration.



Join us on the Swahili Coast Tour 2024 with Dr. Stephanie Wynne-Jones. Book your journey, and be transported through time as you explore the captivating archaeological wonders of the Swahili coast and the Zanzibar archipelago, with every step guided by the unparalleled knowledge of our esteemed scholar.

July 30-August 11, 2024

HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS

September 21–October 10, 2024

Namgyal Tsemo Monastery, Leh, India



Dr. Malcolm David Eckel
Professor of Religion,
Boston University

The tiny isolated Himalayan kingdoms of Ladakh and Bhutan are squeezed between the powerful countries of China and India.

For centuries their monarchs enjoyed absolute power in their mountain strongholds, venerated by their subjects as embodiments of gods, but in the 20th century the supremacy of these domains fell. In 1947, partition left Ladakh a part of India and in 2005 Bhutan became a constitutional monarchy.

Won't you join Dr. Malcolm David Eckel and Far Horizons, on this 20-day journey through these Himalayan Kingdoms? The enticing itinerary includes the remote beauty and vibrant Tibetan Buddhist culture of Ladakh, one of the highest regions in the world, frequently called "Little Tibet." From the capital of Leh, drive through dramatic scenery to view the elaborate Buddhist sanctuaries, stupas, and former royal palaces to be found in the nearby rugged valleys. In Bhutan, emerald rice paddies cascade down the hillsides, remote centuries-old monasteries cling to the cliffs, and massive Buddhist sanctuary-fortresses dominate scenic towns.

For those seeking a bit more adventure, we invite you to stay on for the optional extension to Tiger's Nest, a sacred Vajrayana Himalayan Buddhist monastery high on a cliffside of the upper Paro Valley and Bhutan's most iconic landmark.

This trip is not for the weary. Truly an enchanting and off-the-beaten track part of the world!



Tigers Nest Monastery, Bhutan

TÜRKIYE



Istanbul, Türkiye

Japan



Tokyo, Japan

GREECE



Maeycene, Greece

ITALY



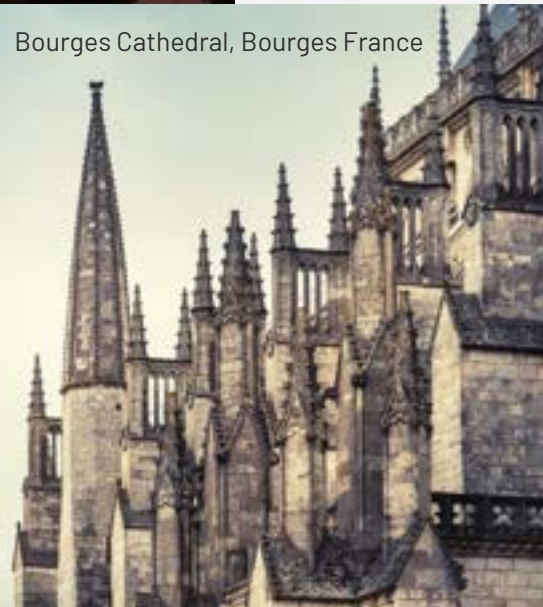
Colosseum, Italy

What's on your Bucket List?

Time is running out to join these epic adventures
Click the images to see all of the various trip details



Bourges Cathedral, Bourges France



CATHEDRALS OF FRANCE

with Dr. William Cook

Since the Christianization of Europe in the 4th century, cathedrals have served both as centers of ecclesiastical authority and marvels of architectural genius and innovation. The resurgence of the Church as a central authority and increased overall prosperity led to the active construction and reconstruction of many truly awe-inspiring cathedrals.

Join Far Horizons on a captivating 12-day tour in Northern France and experience the birthplace of this architectural evolution from robust Romanesque to soaring Gothic architecture. Led by renowned Professor William R. Cook, popular lecturer for The Great Courses (formerly The Teaching Company), we will explore stunning sites in Chartres, Bourges, Vezelay, Amiens, Reims, and, of course, picturesque Paris.

Steep yourself in the history and culture that gave rise to these monumental tributes to the heavens...

Of course, a sojourn through France must include that country's exceptional food and drink! So along the way, experience sumptuous French cuisine along with luscious regional wines including the champagne of Troyes.

"Dr. Cook was also far more engaging than we could have hoped. Not only does he love to teach, but he was genuinely interested in what our experiences were and how we perceived things. This was a wonderful trip mostly because Bill Cook is a work of art himself. The trip was stunningly good." – Jeff Koester

Egypt in East Coast Cities



FAR HORIZONS IS
THRILLED TO
ANNOUNCE DR. BOB
BRIER IS BACK FOR AN
ENCORE TOUR!

Our dear friend and renowned Egyptologist, Bob Brier, has agreed to revive this trip from our archives. Join us in July 2024 for a unique journey, as we explore the wonders of ancient Egypt here within the prestigious museums of the Eastern USA from Boston to New York City. Delve into the mysteries of the pyramids, decipher the secrets of the Sphinx, and witness the splendor of pharaohs' tombs. This encore tour promises an unforgettable encounter with Egypt's rich history, under the expert guidance of Dr. Bob Brier, ensuring an unparalleled exploration of one of the world's most fascinating civilizations.

Email us at journey@farhorizons.com to be placed on the waiting list. Please know that expressing interest does not confirm your spot, but you will be included in the first announcement when trip booking is open. Your place is only confirmed once we receive your deposit.



Petroglyphs at Chaco Canyn



AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

WITH DR STEVE LEKSON

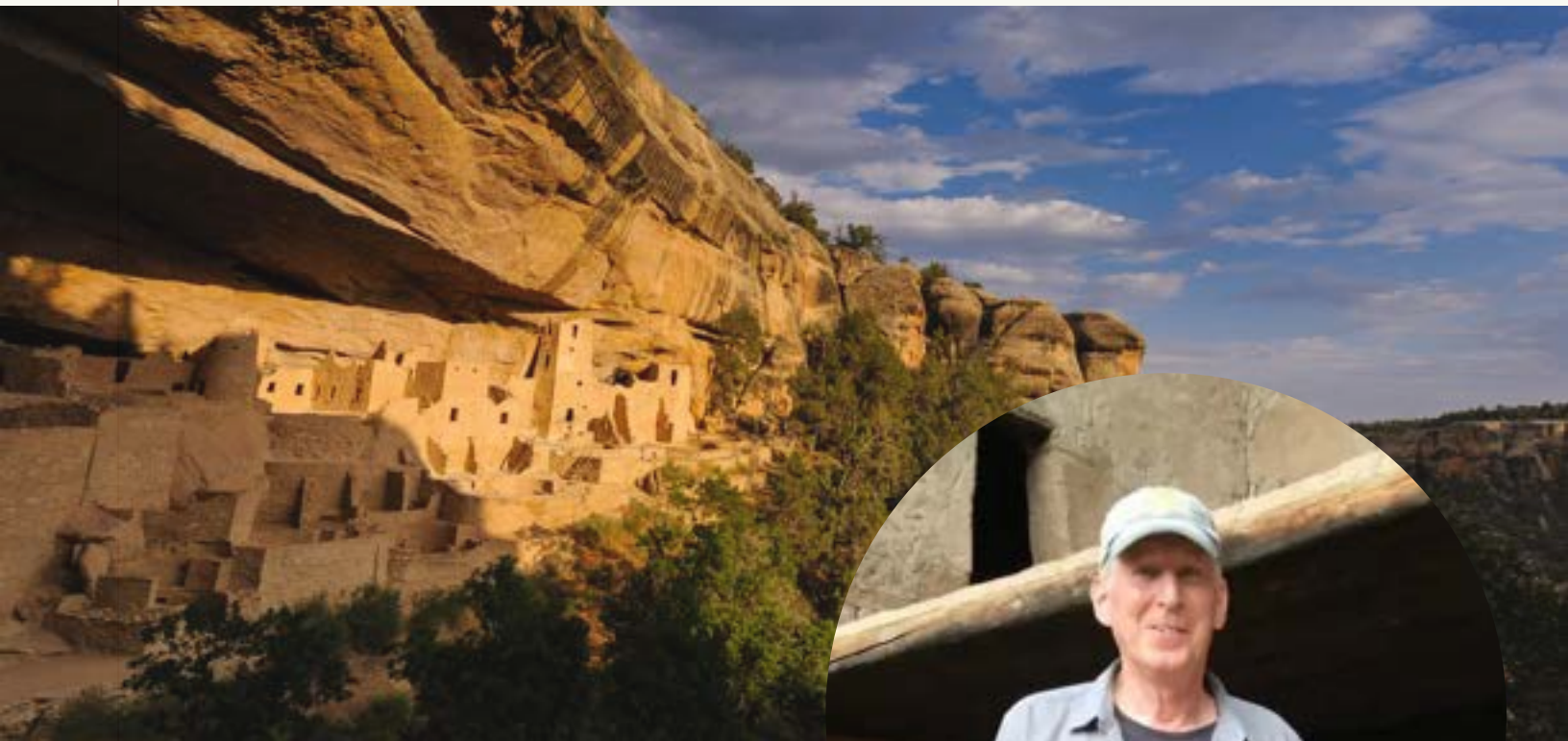
The Four Corners area of the American Southwest is one of the most breathtaking landscapes in the world. It is an enchanting land of painted deserts, verdant forests, and towering red mesas visible for miles under the brilliant sunlight. This area tells tales of ancient Anasazi, colonial Spanish settlements, and Native American pueblos, all bearing testament to a heritage deeply connected with nature and rich traditions.

Embark on an unforgettable ten-day journey with Far Horizons across the mesmerizing Four Corners, where New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, and Arizona converge. Starting and concluding in Albuquerque, New Mexico, we'll explore the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and the impressive Maxwell Museum of Anthropology at the University of New Mexico.

Chaco Canyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, awaits us, followed by visits to Aztec, and Mesa Verde, another World Heritage Site. In Canyon de Chelly, local Navajo guides lead us on exclusive tours to secluded spots rarely witnessed by most visitors. Notable stops also include Acoma, the US's oldest continuously inhabited town; Zuni Pueblo, known for its historic mission church; and Santa Fe, the country's oldest capital city, brimming with cultural stories.

"A+++++ The highlight of the trip. Extremely knowledgeable, approachable, down-to-earth and a good sense of humor. A gem."

– Karen Doherty



Join Dr. Lekson on his LAST TRIP as
our Far Horizons Study Leader!

Scholar Spotlight

Dr. Stephen Lekson

Stephen H. Lekson received his PhD in 1988 in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. He is Curator of Anthropology, Museum of Natural History, and Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado. A specialist in the archaeology of the North American Southwest, Dr. Lekson has worked throughout the Four Corners region, including several sites we will visit on the trip. Dr. Lekson is the author of many books and other periodicals, most notably *A History of the Ancient Southwest*, *The Architecture of Chaco Canyon*, *The Archaeology of Chaco Canyon*, and *Great Pueblo Architecture of Chaco Canyon, New Mexico*. His provocative and challenging book, *The Chaco Meridian: Centers of Power in the Ancient Southwest*, has created a storm of controversy.

He has been consultant and curator of several projects including the permanent exhibit at Chaco Canyon National Park Visitors' Center, and has presented papers throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. Dr. Lekson has been an invited speaker at many conferences and public lectures, including the Smithsonian Institution, the Archaeological Institute of America, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Arts, and was a featured speaker on Southwest archaeology on several radio and television specials including National Public Radio, the Discovery Channel, and the History Channel. Steve is a knowledgeable, personable, and a fascinating teacher. Join him on his last trip with us!

BULGARIA: THE LAND OF HISTORY

OCTOBER 7-24, 2024

By Catharine Pear



As a full time member of the Far Horizons staff, I am fortunate to be able to join our travelers and act as the tour manager on occasion. Most recently, this past October, I traveled to Bulgaria for our trip led by Dr. Vassil Tenekedjiev. We spent 17 days exploring painted churches, Thracian treasures and tombs, rock-hewn monasteries, Roman ruins, and Ottoman imprints all over this western Balkan country.

I believe one common thread among those of us interested in travel is the understanding that regardless of how many images we have seen, or how much reading we have done, there is no comparison to experiencing cultures, architecture, and history in person. Additionally, somehow still, this knowledge does not prepare us for the emotions which overcome us during our travels. No matter how many places we explore and experience, the sense of wonder and joy never seems to diminish. At least, this is my experience and I hope that you are able to relate.

The cities, sites, and places we visited throughout the country of Bulgaria were no exception. Each day, I was awestruck by the details, the history, and life breathed into the stories by our leader, Vassil. For me, the painted churches and the rock-hewn monasteries were a highlight.

Every study leader with whom I have traveled has woven an educational and historical tale throughout our journey, but having Vassil as our native Bulgarian study leader added a sense of pride to the experience. Even the pieces of history which were not necessarily favorable to the Bulgarian people were shared by Vassil with enthusiasm. For it is all the collective history that brings us to the present day and state.

One aspect of Far Horizons that makes me extremely proud is the philanthropic dedication set in place by our founder, Mary Dell Lucas. As the vast majority of you know, we ask each traveler to contribute \$150.00, separate from the trip cost, which is donated directly to a site or project which we select. What you may not know is that this direct contribution is in addition to a handful of others, which are built into the trip cost and distributed during private entreées throughout the trip.

Join our October 2024 Departure Now!





Aladzha Monastery

In Bulgaria, our direct traveler donation was designated for Aladzha Monastery, a rock-hewn monastery near Varna, which lies in the care of the Varna Museum of Archaeology, with which our beloved leader, Vassil, is connected. In the last few years, Vassil oversaw the complete renovation of the main exhibition of the museum on site, a project for which he held much passion and pride. The second phase of the renovation includes replacing informational panels within the site with newly designed, multilingual versions. The individual donations made by the travelers on the trip to Bulgaria will cover the cost of these new panels. Upon return, we received a heartfelt thank you from both Vassil and from Dr. Igor Lazarenko, the Director of the Varna Regional Museum of History.

“BULGARIA HAS LEFT A LASTING IMPRESSION ON MY HEART.”

The ability we have to not only explore and appreciate, but also to contribute and support the places and cultures that Far Horizons visits is something that I treasure. It is something that I hope and believe that you, our valued travelers, value as well. Stepping back from my temporary role as tour manager, to my more permanent fixture in Communications and Marketing, this is a feature of the company which I hope to further develop and dedicate more time towards. As travelers who are privileged enough to venture so far and experience so much, I hope we also share the desire and obligation to give back and to nurture the places we see for the next generations to appreciate as well.

Bulgaria has left a lasting impression on my heart. I hope those of you who traveled with me agree. My wish for those who will join us in the future is that you will be as inspired as I was by the varied landscapes, the deep rooted history, the imprint of the various empires, the lasting pieces of history which you can see and experience first hand.



Kyulevtcha Village

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.



Personalized Service: We love knowing our guests and helping with the decision process. We are 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.

Dambulla Temple, Sri Lanka





Cahokia, East Saint Louis

MOUND BUILDERS

DR. TIMOTHY PAUKETAT

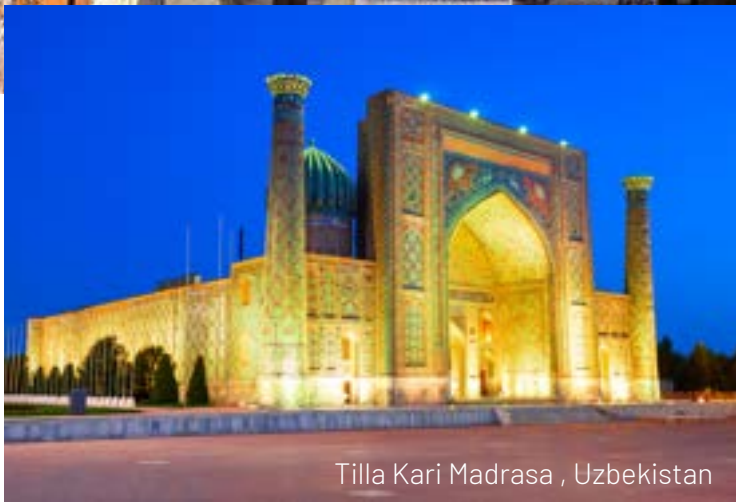
OCTOBER 2-12, 2024

Early archaeologists coined the term 'Mound Builders' for the ancient cultures behind these earthworks. Recent research reveals that these sites were the product of diverse cultures—such as the Woodland, Adena, Hopewell, and Mississippian—evolving over thousands of years by the fertile riverbanks.

In this region, several major centers rose to prominence. We'll focus on the most significant ones, including three UNESCO World Heritage sites: Poverty Point, Cahokia, and Hopewell. Join Dr. Timothy Pauketat, who has spent years studying Cahokia, and a select group of thirteen others on a ten-day archaeological journey to explore these captivating ancient sites. Join this confirmed departure today!

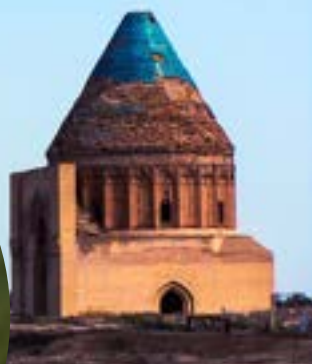


Registan Square, Uzbekistan



Tilla Kari Madrasa , Uzbekistan

Konye Urgench, Turkmenistan

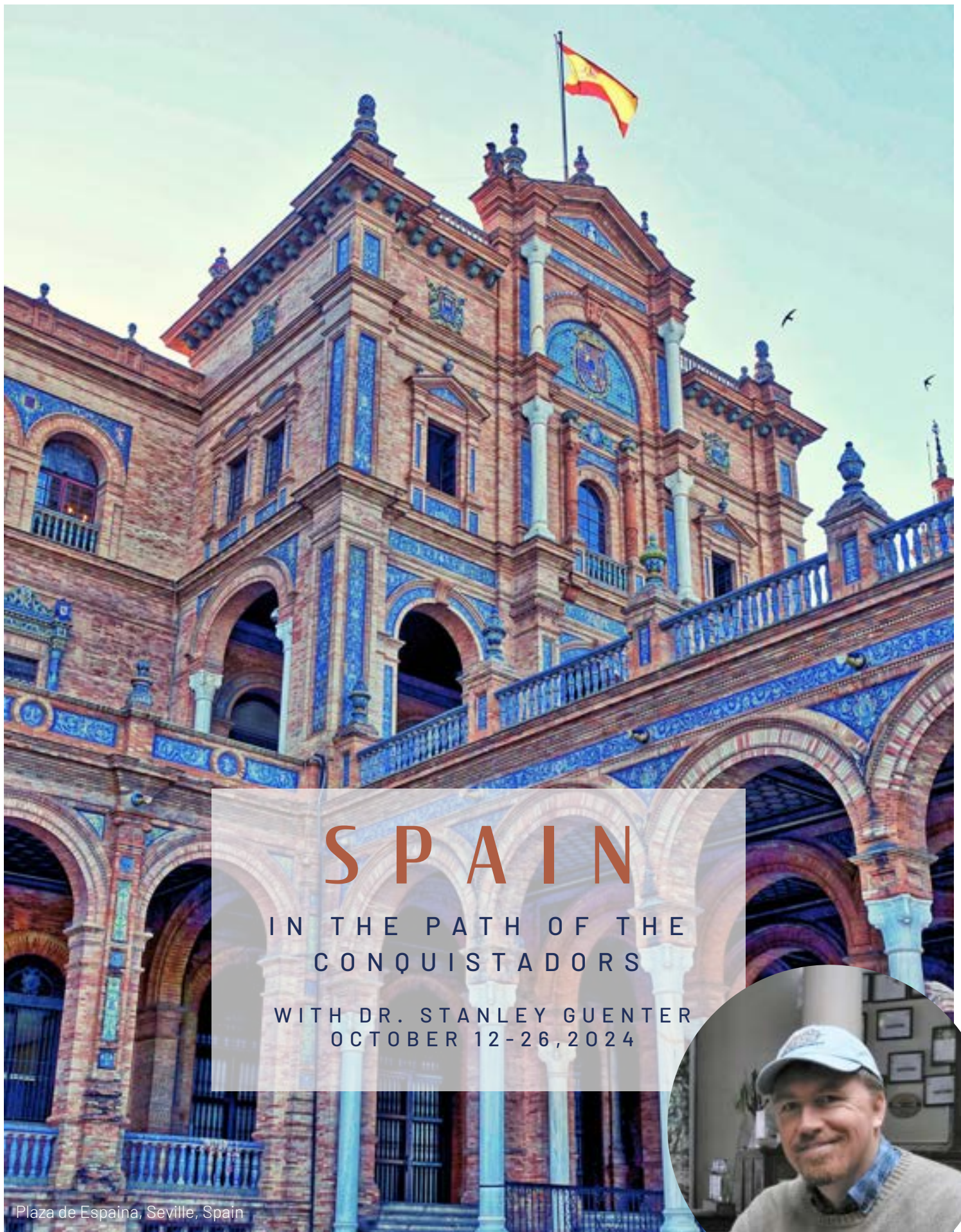


JOIN DR. JENNY ROSE ON

Central Asia Silk Road

‘Silk Road’ – the very phrase conjures up images of camel caravans heavily laden with precious goods, slowly moving along barely-visible tracks through an endless desert. Conquered by names engraved in history books – Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, Tamerlane – Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan are where empires were born. But the merchants, missionaries, and warriors who traversed these paths also carried the major religions of Zoroastrianism (one of the world’s oldest religions), Buddhism, Christianity, Manicheism, and Islam over the course of time. And the architectural remains of these great belief systems are as breathtaking as they are grand.

Travel with Far Horizons on the Silk Road Tour to these Central Asia countries that echo with history and along the way explore the legendary cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Nisa, Merv and Dushanbe, to name only a few, as we piece together the remnants of this ancient trade route.



SPAIN

IN THE PATH OF THE
CONQUISTADORS

WITH DR. STANLEY GUENTER
OCTOBER 12-26, 2024

Plaza de España, Seville, Spain





The kingdom of Spain has had one of the greatest impacts on world history and civilization. 500 years ago the Conquistadors had just conquered the Aztec Empire of Mexico and were about to start their conquest of the Maya kingdoms. Within a decade they would conquer the Inca of Peru and the wealth in gold and silver that they seized would help make 16th century Spain the richest kingdom and most powerful empire on earth. Who were these Conquistadors who took on indigenous American empires many times larger than their own kingdom and, in the face of enormous odds, conquered them for “gold, God, and glory” and ended up creating the first empire in history “on which the sun never set”?

The Spanish were not always Conquistadors and, eight hundred years before they created their American and world empire in the 16th century, it was they who were the conquered. In 711, Arab and Berber Muslim forces crossed the Strait of Gibraltar and quickly defeated almost the entire kingdom of the Visigoths, a Germanic group that had themselves conquered the Iberian Peninsula. The culture and mindset of the Spanish Conquistadors were born over the long period of the Reconquista of the next eight centuries, during which Spain was contested between the Islamic Moors of fabled al-Andalus and the Christians of the north, whose kingdoms of Asturias, Leon, Castile, and Aragon would eventually merge to become the powerful Spanish kingdom and empire of the 16th century.

One cannot understand the Conquistadors without understanding the Reconquista. On this trip we will visit the famed lands of Castile and its many castle-topped hills, lands over which proto-conquistadors contended with Moorish armies over many centuries, and where Don Quixote would chase their ghosts as he tilted at windmills. We will also visit Extremadura, the parched land of western Castile where Cortes and Pizarro and so many of the other fearsome Conquistadors came from. Toledo is located in the very center of Spain and was the capital of the Visigothic kingdom and its archbishop is still the head of the Catholic church in all of Spain. Toledo is a wonderfully preserved medieval city and its major sites include churches, mosques, and synagogues, attesting to the remarkable religious tolerance of the Moorish emirs and caliphs of al-Andalus.

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.

SICILY:

ART & ARCHAEOLOGY

with Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble
October 4 - 18, 2024

From Phoenicians to Greeks, Romans to Spaniards, Arabs to Crusaders, and the U.S. forces in World War II, each left their indelible marks on this island. Our Sicily tour explores the island's UNESCO World Heritage sites, such as the Valley of the Temples in Agrigento, the Villa Romana del Casale, and five enchanting Late Baroque towns of the Val di Noto: Catania, Caltagirone, Modica, Ragusa, and Noto. We will also visit historic Syracuse and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica, capped by a breathtaking view of the majestic Mt. Etna.

Traveling in a small, intimate group, delight in traditional Sicilian cuisine in charming, authentic restaurants, and trattorias that serve dishes steeped in centuries of tradition. This is a Sicily educational tour packed with local delights and cultural gems.

Our tour also showcases the artistic side of Italy, making it perfect for those interested in art history. Experience the stunning Greek temples at Segesta and Selinunte and the impressive Greek and Roman Amphitheaters in Syracuse and Taormina. Marvel at magnificent Norman Cathedrals in Cefalù, Palermo, and Monreale, offering a peek into the island's religious history. Embrace the rich, layered history of Sicily and experience the blend of cultures that shaped its unique identity.

[Interested in traveling elsewhere with Dr. Noble?](#)
[He will also led Archaeology of Greece: June 2 - 17](#)



"I'm so glad that Tom is the leader for the trip to Sicily. He was a great wealth of information and it was a pleasure to travel with him. Whoever signs up for this trip will be very pleased."
- Gail Gitman



Mt. Etna, Sicily



Ragusa, Sicily



Ceramic Dishes, Syracuse, Sicily



Two if by Sea:

Far Horizons is thrilled to offer two coastal adventures in 2024

Greek Isles with
Dr. Robert Garland
June 17-30, 2024

Sail the Sapphire Seas
with Dr. Jennifer Tobin
Oct 1-15, 2024



Aphaia Temple, Angina Island

Picture yourself lounging on the teak deck of a 90-foot wooden yacht surrounded by breathless vistas, azure seas with an indigo sky above. Explore the dazzling remains of former civilizations, fascinating crusader's castles, and remote fishing villages. Enjoy the leisure time to hike, swim in the crystal-clear water of the Eastern Mediterranean, or simply relax on deck. And during the voyage, enjoy informal lectures on the culture, archaeology, and history of Türkiye.

Join Far Horizons and Dr. Jennifer Tobin for a 15-day trip along the Mediterranean coast of Türkiye that includes eight days onboard a traditional wooden gulet.

Confirmed Departure with Very Limited Space!

The islands of the Aegean offer travelers a unique perspective of Greece, ancient and modern. Join Far Horizons and Dr. Robert Garland as we travel across the sparkling Aegean Sea by ferry from island to island, exploring the Cycladic Isles of Tinos, Mykonos, Delos, Paros, and Naxos, along with Santorini and Aegina. Visit Delos, the birthplace of Apollo. But more than history awaits! Wander cobblestone village streets lined with gleaming whitewashed houses, enjoy traditional tavernas, nights in charming boutique hotels, and luscious wines produced on the islands, while you immerse yourself in the pastoral life that inspired the legends that have been passed down through the ages.



Kaunos, Türkiye



2024 Schedule of Trips

Click the Tour to Review Full Itinerary & Booking Details

JANUARY (2024 TRIPS CLOSED)

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

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

FEBRUARY (2024 TRIPS CLOSED)

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 (2024 TRIP CLOSED)

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

APRIL

Japan In Bloom **New Tour! 3 Spots Left!**
April 6–19, 2024

Jordan & Stunning Petra
April 14 – 27, 2024

MAY

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

Italy's Tuscany & Umbria
May 19 – 31, 2024

Rome and Southern Italy
May 24 – June 3, 2024

Western Türkiye's Tour: **CONFIRMED!**
May 27 – June 12, 2024

JUNE

England: An Archaeological Pub Crawl: **SOLD OUT!**
June 2 – 14, 2024

The Archaeology of Greece: **CONFIRMED!**
June 2 – 17, 2024

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





2024 Schedule of Trips

Click the Tour to Review Full Itinerary & Booking Details

JUNE CONTINUED...

Greek Isles: Cyclades, Santorini & Aegina
June 17 – 30, 2024

Scandinavia: In the Path of The Vikings
June 21 – July 5, 2024

JULY

Egypt in East Coast Cities
July 2024: Dates TBA!

Scotland: Highlands and Lowlands
July 12 – 26, 2024

Archaeology of Ireland
July 13 – 28, 2024

Cathedrals of England: **CONFIRMED!**
July 20 – August 3, 2024

AUGUST

Swahili Coast: Kenya, Tanzania and
Zanzibar **New Tour!**
July 30 – August 11, 2024

Sri Lanka: Resplendent Land
August 10 – 27, 2024

SEPTEMBER

France: Architectural Cathedrals
September 17 – 28, 2024

Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan: Silk Road
September 17 – October 3, 2024

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

American Southwest
September 22 – October 1, 2024

OCTOBER

Türkiye: Sail the Sapphire Seas: **CONFIRMED!**
October 1 – October 15, 2024

Mound Builders of the USA
October 2 – 15, 2024

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 12 – 27, 2024 **New Tour!**

Bulgaria: Land of History
October 7 – 24, 2024



Ready to Travel?

Get in touch!

journey@farhorizons.com



FAR HORIZONS