



FAR HORIZONS

SPRING CATALOGUE 2025



El Jem, Tunisia

Spring 2025

Dear Friends and Fellow Travelers,

Spring has finally arrived, bringing with it renewal, growth, and exciting possibilities! As the world around us blossoms, we at Far Horizons are buzzing with new developments we can't wait to share.

On a personal note, our youngest daughter, Ada, just turned two! Watching her greet the world with unbridled curiosity and joy has been a profound reminder for all of us. In these challenging and uncertain times, Ada's approach to life—facing each day with wonder, living fully in the moment—offers wisdom we could all benefit from. Her spirit of adventure and learning aligns perfectly with what we hope to cultivate in all our journeys at Far Horizons.

Speaking of adventures, our family is embarking on a significant one this summer! We're packing up and heading to AUSTRALIA for an entire month. All five of us will be exploring the continent, immersing ourselves in its diverse landscapes, rich indigenous heritage, and unique wildlife. This isn't just a family vacation—we're actively seeking experiences and connections that will help us build out an exciting new itinerary. We look forward to sharing our discoveries with you upon our return!

We're thrilled to announce that our 2026 calendar is now live! New trips are being added with dates and prices confirmed. Our most popular destinations are already generating interest, so we encourage you to book now to secure your spot.

We have two new programs to announce this spring. First, our new Referral Program will reward you for sharing your love of Far Horizons with friends and family. When they book their first journey based on your recommendation, you will both receive benefits. Details will be announced very soon!

Second, we're introducing our Early Incentive Program—book early and save \$500! This special rate will be available until the standard price goes into effect six months from the trip departure date. This is our way of thanking our most enthusiastic travelers while helping everyone plan ahead with confidence.

Our 2025 calendar continues to fill quickly. If you've been considering joining us this year, now is the time to secure your place. And as always, we welcome your thoughts, questions, and insights. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at mary@farhorizons.com.

As we navigate this beautiful spring season, let's take a page from my daughter Ada's book—approaching each day with joy, curiosity, and an open heart.

Wishing you wonderful adventures ahead,

*Mary Collins &
Stefan Woehlke*

Chief Executive Officer & Chief Curation Officer



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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, PhD

Chief Curation Officer

Dr. Stefan Woehlke has been combining his love of archaeology, cultural heritage, and travel for over 20 years.

Stefan has traveled extensively with his wife, Mary. They realized that travel and tourism have great potential to support communities, but often, the relationship between tourism and the local economy was harmful to the livelihoods and wellbeing of the local people. Stefan enrolled in graduate school, where he helped Mary build their first company, Blue Fern Travel, whose mission is to ensure that tourist dollars get into the community.

In 2022, Stefan and Mary purchased Far Horizons to expand cross-cultural engagement, support archaeological research, and expand local benefits from the international travel industry.



Meet Your Team of Experts

We each wear many hats and have rich travel experience joining our groups. We get to know our guests on a personal level. We'd love to speak to you about our trips and about what it is like to take a trip with Far Horizons. Email us to start the conversation and we will connect to set up a time to speak on the phone.



Heather Stoeckley

Director of Operations

Heather loves sharing her expertise to provide life-changing experiences for our valued clientele. Her favorite travel quote is "Always say yes to new adventures!"

Trips: South India / Chile & Easter Island / Mexico's Yucatan / Western Türkiye / Sicily / Central Asia / Majesty of Egypt / Peru / Scotland / Jordan / Bolivia / Cambodia & Laos
heather@farhorizons.com



Catharine Pear

Director of Marketing & Communications

With over 20 years of experience in tourism and travel, Cat feels that working for Far Horizons – traveling and assisting others in exploring the world – is a dream realized!

Trips: Hidden Mexico / Chile & Easter Island / The Wonders of Tunisia / Western Türkiye / Bulgaria: Land of History / Cathedrals of England / Bolivia
cat@farhorizons.com



Scott Gilbert

Senior Destination Manager

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!

Trips: American Southwest / Capital Cities / Indonesia / Eastern Türkiye / Japan / Mound Builders of the USA / North India
scott@farhorizons.com



Judy Hoffman

Destination Assistant

As the newest member of our team, Judy loves being able to work where her passions intersect and enjoys helping people experience the joys of travel, archaeology, and history.

Trips: American Southwest
judy@farhorizons.com

Cathedrals of France

August 19- 30, 2025

with Dr. Bill Cook

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, 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, along the way, experience sumptuous French cuisine along with luscious regional wines including the champagne of Troyes.



Two Spots Remain!



MEANINGFUL DETOURS

SOUTHWEST & MOUND BUILDERS

NEW SCHOLAR!
RISING STAR ARCHAEOLOGIST
DR. ROB WEINER

Fall 2025

Human Effigy Vessel



Scholar Spotlight

DR. ROB WEINER



Join Dr. Weiner on his Debut Trip as our Far Horizons Study Leader!

Robert S. Weiner is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Dartmouth Society of Fellows and Lecturer in the Department of Religion. His research interests include the archaeology of religion, ritual movement, sacred landscapes, Indigenous North America, Chaco Canyon, Diné (Navajo) oral traditions, monumentality, sensoriality, cross-cultural comparison, and cognition and mind.

His research has been featured on the cover of American Archaeology magazine and in Science magazine. He has also been interviewed for several documentaries on PBS and the History Channel, including most recently Written on the Landscape: Mysteries Beyond Chaco Canyon. Dr. Weiner has directed an archaeological mapping project in the Four Corners since 2019. He has also been a crew member on excavations and surveys in New Mexico, Arizona, and Turkey. Dr. Weiner is the author of numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. His work has appeared in such journals as Antiquity, American Antiquity, and World Archaeology. Dr. Weiner published a recent article on the use of Lidar at Chaco Canyon which you may read [here](#).

Dr. Weiner received his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2023 and also holds an A.M. in Archaeology and the Ancient World from Brown University and an A.B. in Archaeology and the Ancient World & Anthropology from Brown University.

The American

SOUTHWEST

September 13-22, 2025

With Dr. Rob Weiner

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.



Zuni Sunset

"Rob Weiner is a rising star in Southwestern archaeology, and particularly Chaco studies. His work with Chaco roads, charting their deep cosmologies, is informed by his collaborations with Navajo and Pueblo scholars. He's a brilliant archaeologist, a top-notch educator, and a really decent fellow."

– Dr. Stephen Lekson, past Far Horizons study leader for our American Southwest trip



AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

September 13 – 22, 2025

with Dr. Rob Weiner

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 Ruins National Monument, 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. Join our intimate group to experience this magical corner of the United States.

MOUND BUILDERS

October 3 - 13, 2025

with Dr. Tim Pauketat

Centuries before the Giza pyramids of Egypt were built and long before Nero infamously fiddled while Rome burned, indigenous people of North America were constructing vast mounds. Using baskets to carry soil, clay, or stones, they shaped remarkable ceremonial and burial landscapes, mainly in the valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

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.

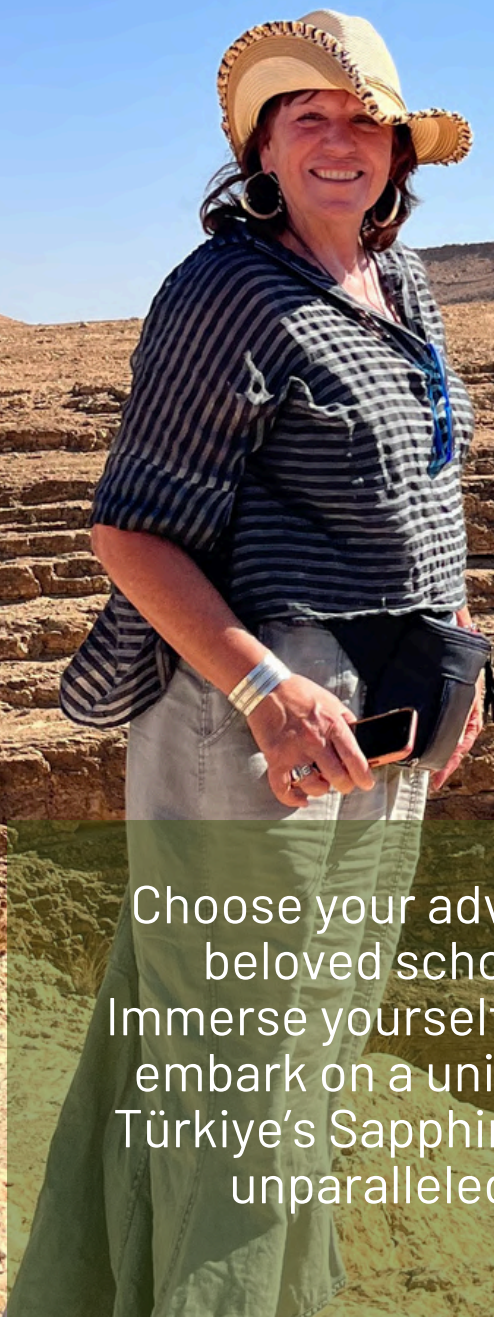
Join Dr. Timothy Pauketat, who has spent years studying Cahokia, and a select group of thirteen others on a ten-day archaeological journey to explore these captivating ancient sites.

"Tim was terrific; he gave both details and broad strokes describing the societies and the sites. He was fun to be with, easy to ask questions of and all around good fellow."
– Maggie Collins

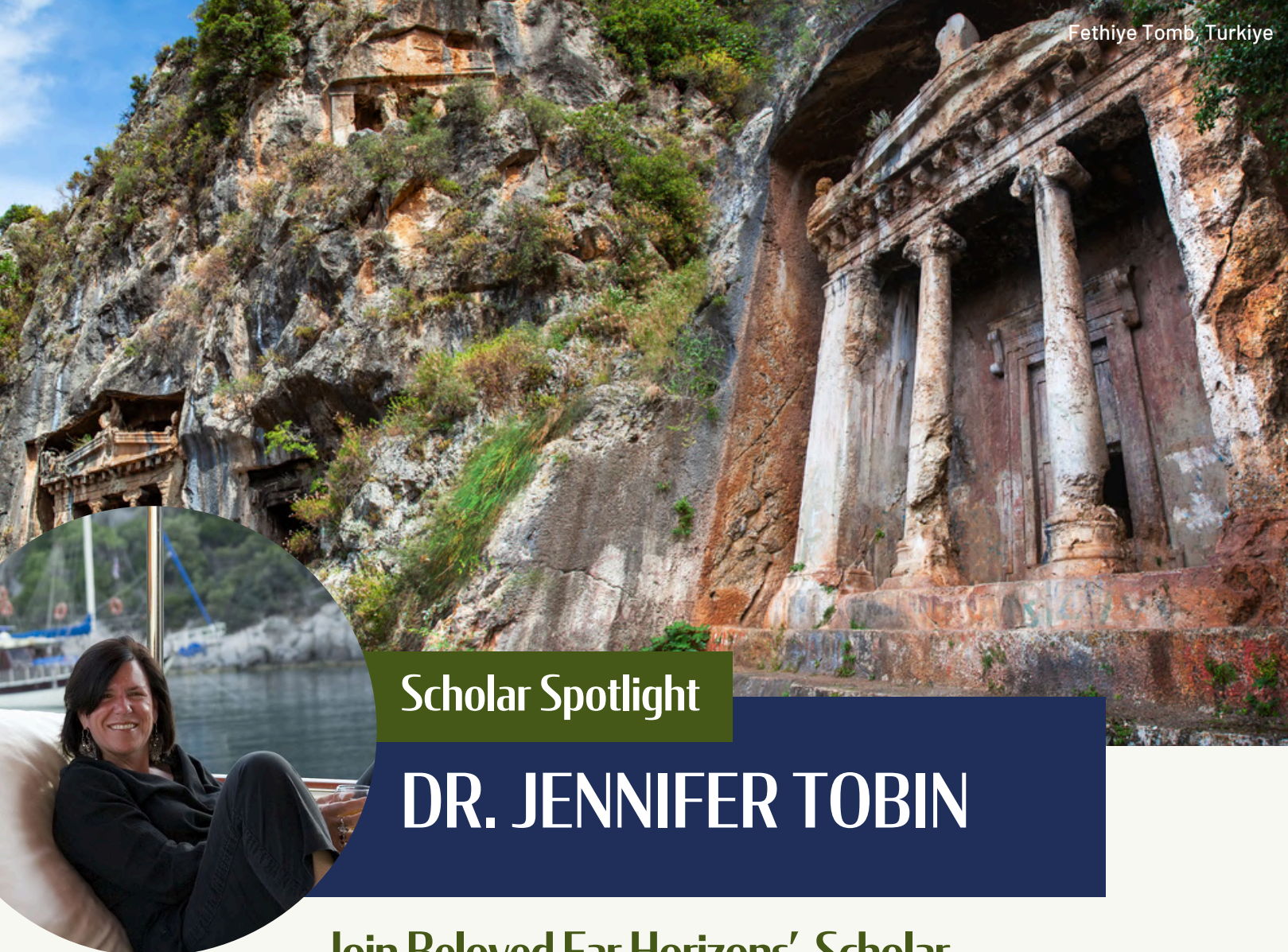


TOBIN'S COMPASS: CHART A COURSE BEYOND THE ORDINARY

October 2025



Choose your adventure with Far Horizons' beloved scholar, Dr. Jennifer Tobin. Immerse yourself in the history of Tunisia, or embark on a unique sailing journey across Türkiye's Sapphire Seas. Each trip offers an unparalleled learning experience.



Scholar Spotlight

DR. JENNIFER TOBIN

Join Beloved Far Horizons' Scholar Dr. Jennifer Tobin this fall!

Jennifer Tobin received her BA in Classical Studies from Stanford University and her PhD in Classical Archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991. From 1992-97, she was Assistant Professor at Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye. She is now Professor Emerita in the Department of Classics and Mediterranean Studies at the University of Illinois, Chicago. Professor Tobin has worked on archaeological projects in Israel, Türkiye, Jordan, Cyprus, and Greece. She speaks Modern Greek, German, French, Italian and Turkish, and has lectured widely on everything from Roman architecture in Syria to Alexander the Great.

Her books include "Black Cilicia: A Study of the Plain of Issus during the Roman and Late Roman Periods" and "Herodes Attikos and the City of Athens". Currently she has two books on the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World in press. She has been a featured teacher for The Modern Scholar series, presented by Recorded Books, featuring courses taught by university professors. Her topics include the "Glory that was Greece" and "The Grandeur that was Rome."

Twice a recipient of the University of Illinois at Chicago's Silver Circle Teaching Award, Dr. Tobin's enthusiasm, marvelous teaching skills, and appreciation of the people and archaeology of the Mediterranean World is infectious. She has been leading tours for Far Horizons for over 20 years and led over 20 trips!

The Wonders of TUNISIA

Oct 14-29, 2025



with Dr. Jennifer Tobin

Join us to discover the wonders of Tunisia. Forged out of the North African coastline, Tunisia is a country of tremendous variety. In the North are found lush green mountains, lakes, and rivers, and in the south, the desert of the Sahara overwhelms with powerful scenery broken only by sporadic oases. Tunisia's position beside the narrow straits of Sicily has kept it constantly at the center of the tumultuous history of the Mediterranean. For millennia, army after army has swept through this country, always leaving fascinating evidence of their passing. The Phoenicians, Romans, Vandals, Byzantines, Spanish, Turks, and French have all stamped their imprint, and we will witness the visible remains of their passing. During the excursion, see all seven of Tunisia's UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Dougga, Kairouan, the medinas of Sousse and Tunis, the Punic remains of Kerkouane, magnificent Carthage, and El Jem, the largest Roman amphitheater in North Africa.

Join Far Horizons on this very special 16-day trip to Tunisia. Explore Phoenician ruins, Roman amphitheaters and aqueducts, Byzantine fortresses, desert oases, thousand-year-old mosques, and vibrant Berber (Amazigh) fortified villages as we travel from the fertile northern mountains to the deserts of the south and the Mediterranean Sea coast of the east. Along the way, we will visit some fabulous museums, including the Bardo Museum, which boasts the world's largest collection of Roman polychrome mosaics. Don't miss this in-depth journey of the Wonders of Tunisia!



Picture yourself lounging on the teak deck of a 90-foot wooden yacht surrounded by breathtaking vistas, azure seas with an indigo sky above. Imagine watching a glorious crimson sunset and then the canopy of stars as it slowly appears overhead.

Dream of the relaxation as a smiling crewman brings you a frosty drink and serves you delectable Turkish dishes created by your personal chef. Each day presents a new discovery!

Explore the dazzling remains of former civilizations, fascinating crusader's castles, and remote fishing villages. Today, as in antiquity, these ancient cities along the Turkish Caria and Lycia coasts are most accessible to the outside world from the sea. Enjoy leisure time to hike, swim in the crystal-clear water of the Mediterranean or simply snooze on deck. And during the voyage, enjoy informal lectures on the culture, archaeology, and history of Türkiye.

Far Horizons proudly offers this 15-day trip along the Mediterranean coast of Türkiye, including eight days onboard a traditional wooden gulet, or motor-sailer. This part of the Turkish coastline is so lush, verdant, and bountiful in natural beauty and history that it takes your breath away. Won't you join only eight others for what is truly a trip of a lifetime?



SAIL THE SAPPHIRE SEAS

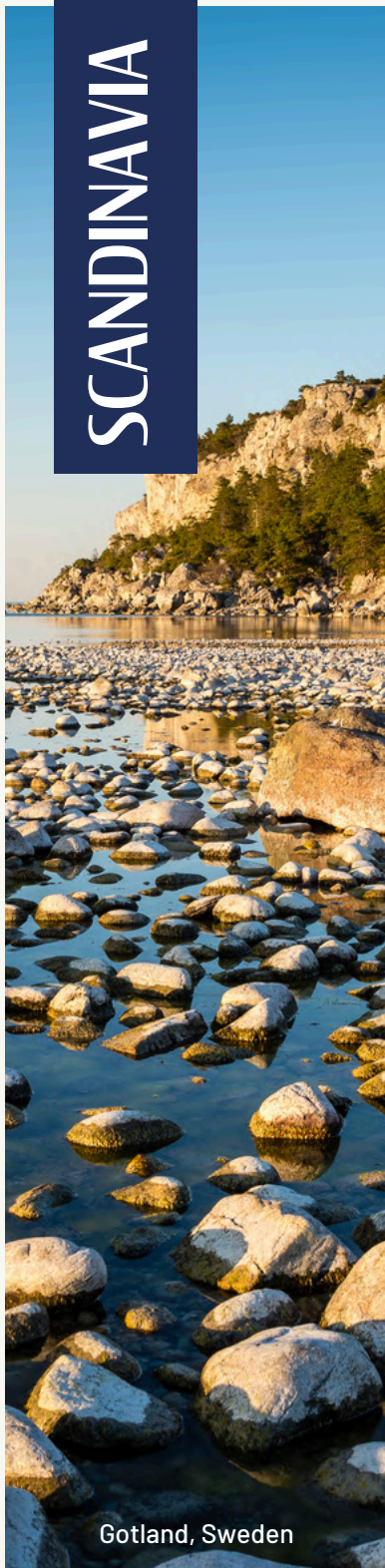
October 1 - 15, 2025

with Dr. Jennifer Tobin

IRELAND



SCANDINAVIA



SCOTLAND



INDONESIA



FINAL BOARDING CALL

Departing Soon! Adventure Awaits!

Contact Us To Secure Your Seat on These Summer Trips

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.

✦ PhD-Led Exploration ✦

Your Leader is Your Travel Companion

We place archaeology scholars at the heart of every journey, accompanying you throughout your trip. These experts transform passive tourism into immersive intellectual adventures, offering insights into ancient civilizations through narratives shared over meals, during site explorations, and in evening discussions.

✦ Exclusive Access ✦

Venture Beyond the Velvet Ropes

We negotiate entry to restricted archaeological sites, private artifact collections, and untold cultural stories, creating experiences that transcend traditional tourism and reveal hidden historical wonders.

✦ Transformative Travel ✦

Artifacts to Epiphanies

We believe the most meaningful souvenirs are invisible. Our expertly guided explorations of ancient sites catalyze deeper understandings of human ingenuity and cultural complexity, creating moments of clarity that forever change how you see past civilizations and contemporary society.

Land of History

BULGARIA

OCTOBER 6 - 23, 2025

With Dr. Vassil Tenekedjiev

Bulgaria boasts a rich array of historic landmarks spanning millennia. From the awe-inspiring artwork in the Thracian tombs to monuments of the Roman and Byzantine Empires, from medieval masterpieces to the impressive remains of nearly 500 years of Ottoman rule—there's a story around every corner.

Embark on an 18-day adventure with a Far Horizons group of just 13 fellow travelers to journey from the southwestern mountains to the Black Sea shores and up to the northern stretches of the Danube River.

Our comprehensive itinerary showcases all seven of Bulgaria's UNESCO World Heritage sites, including the carved churches of Ivanovo, the ancient city of Nessebar, the majestic Madara Rider etched on a cliff, the stunning Rila Monastery, Boyana Church's captivating murals, and the Thracian tombs of both Kazanlak and Sveshtari.

Are you ready to dive into Bulgaria's breathtaking landscapes, quaint villages, excellent cuisine, fine wine, and monumental history, all while experiencing the warmth of its people? Contact Far Horizons today!

'Dr. Tenekedjiev was outstanding, personable (approachable) and very knowledgeable. His English is perfect. He was always willing to answer any question.'

– Nancy Gregory



Bread-making in Kyulevcha Village

Sofia, Bulgaria

Our travelers come together to enjoy most meals as a group, including enjoying traditional fare.



SPAIN

OCTOBER 12 - 26, 2025

WITH DR. STANLEY GUENTER



The kingdom of Spain has had one of the greatest impacts on world history and civilization. Five hundred 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. But the Spanish were not always conquistadors; eight hundred years before they created their New World, it was they who were the conquered. In 711, Arab and Berber Muslim forces crossed the Strait of Gibraltar to defeat and take over almost the entire kingdom of the Visigoths, a Germanic group that had taken the Iberian Peninsula from the Romans, Byzantines, and other invading Germanic groups. The mindset of the Spanish conquistadors was born over the long period of the Reconquista, during which Spain was contested between the Islamic Moors of fabled Al-Andalus in the south, 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.

Join Far Horizons on a truly unique exploration of the lands that shaped the Spanish Conquistadors. Our journey will take us to the heart of the fabled Al-Andalus, including its stunning capitals of Córdoba and Granada, to the famed lands of Castile and its many castle-topped hills. We will also visit Extremadura, where Cortés and Pizarro and so many other conquistadors came from. Our trip will conclude with visits to the wonderfully preserved medieval cities of Salamanca and Avila and a special tour of the castle of Zorita de los Canes, which perfectly exemplifies the diverse ethnic history of medieval Spain.



"I enjoy Stanley's information very much and especially his enthusiasm about all things archaeology. He is always ready to go deeper into the glyphs and the history." – Ann Higgins



THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF GREECE

October 24 - November 9, 2025



with Dr. Robert Garland

It's difficult to imagine a more special journey than an archaeological tour of Greece. With its rugged beauty, Greece has long been a crossroads of history and a battleground of warring cultures. Its early history is utterly fascinating, from the internal struggles between the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations to the rise of city-states three millennia ago.

Under the leadership of Alexander the Great, these fragmented states united. Subsequently, they were designated a province by the Romans, flourished as a beacon of the Eastern Orthodox Christian world with the Byzantines, and became an integral part of the Ottoman Empire for four centuries.

Join Far Horizons on an immersive 16-day educational trip across Greece, exploring northern Greece and the Peloponnese Peninsula. Dive deep into both renowned and hidden archaeological treasures. Begin your cultural tour in Greece with three enriching days in Athens. Throughout this adventure, indulge in delectable regional dishes, unwind in quaint boutique hotels, savor exquisite wines, and experience the warm hospitality of the Greek locals. Marvel at the grandeur of Byzantine monasteries in Meteora and Mystras. Traverse the iconic cities of Olympia, Delphi, Messini, and historic Thessaloniki, a city echoing over 2,000 years of civilization. Visit the awe-inspiring Sanctuary of Epidauros and the ancient cities of Corinth, Mycenae, and Tiryns.



Macedonian Gold Wreath from Vergina



Meteora, Greece

Santorini is calling...

Continue your Greek odyssey with an archaeological post-trip extension to Santorini. Witness the dramatic impact of volcanic forces at Akrotiri, a Minoan city frozen in time, and extend your understanding of the ancient Aegean's powerful history.



MEXICO:

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 6, 2025

with Dr. Travis Stanton

Join Far Horizons and a small group of just 13 others on an unforgettable twelve-day journey through Mexico's most fascinating cultural and archaeological treasures. From the ancient ruins of Teotenango and Chalcatzingo to the vibrant traditions of Día de los Muertos, this tour is designed for the curious traveler eager to delve into Mexico's rich history and living culture.

Begin your journey in Cuernavaca and explore picturesque Malinalco, before visiting the charming town of Tepotzlan and its ancient pyramids that tell the stories of civilizations long gone. As we move to Puebla, you'll immerse yourself in the city's colonial beauty, exploring Cholula's grand pyramid and participating in the sacred Día de los Muertos festival at Huaquechula, where cemeteries come alive with color and remembrance. Continue to Mexico City for a thrilling exploration of the ancient metropolis of Teotihuacan, wander through the world-renowned National Museum of Anthropology, and visit Frida Kahlo's famous blue house in Coyoacán. Along the way, savor authentic Mexican cuisine and enjoy accommodations at boutique hotels that reflect the unique character of each region.

Day of the Dead Celebration



Led by Mesoamerican specialist, Dr. Travis Stanton, this exclusive tour offers you special access to some of Mexico's most significant archaeological sites, providing insights that will deepen your understanding of this vibrant country. Perfect for travelers who value education, culture, and authentic experiences, this once-in-a-lifetime journey promises to leave you with cherished memories and a profound appreciation for Mexico's past and present. Secure your place today and prepare to embark on an adventure like no other!

Experience the Day of the Dead through the insightful perspective of Dr. Travis Stanton. His passion for Mesoamerican culture will guide you on a journey of discovery, revealing the heart of this ancient and deeply personal tradition.



What Traveling with Far Horizons Says About You

With over 40 years in business, we've noticed a few traits our guests share. A desire to connect with cultures, and a passion for meaningful journeys.

✦ Intellectual Adventurer ✦

Curiosity as your Compass

You seek depth beyond superficial tourism, driven by an insatiable curiosity that transforms each journey into a profound exploration where knowledge becomes your most treasured souvenir.

✦ Cultural Sophisticate ✦

Beyond the Tourist Trail

You've outgrown mass tourism in favor of authentic cultural immersion, selecting travel experiences that reflect your commitment to genuine understanding rather than surface-level encounters.

✦ Access Connoisseur ✦

Transformative over Transactional

You recognize the incomparable value of rare, behind-the-scenes access, choosing journeys that reflect your discerning taste for experiences beyond the reach of conventional tourism.

TOUR INDIA'S GUJARAT & RAJASTHAN

November 2-19, 2025

with Dr. Cynthia Packert


The states of Gujarat and Rajasthan, located on India's western border, are rich in tribal arts, resplendent architecture, and ancient remains of many civilizations. Along with diverse and interesting cultures, a multitude of religions call this area home.

Far Horizon's trip includes ten breathtaking UNESCO World Heritage sites: Victoria Terminus, Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble, and Elephanta Cave in Mumbai; the ancient walled city of Ahmedabad; the dazzling Rani Ki Vav stepwell in Patan; magnificent Jaisalmer Fort; Amber Fort and the Jantar Mantar Observatory in the Pink City of Jaipur; and the imposing Red Fort and beautiful Tomb of Humayun in Delhi.

See Gujarat's prehistoric Lothal, more than 4,000 years old. View Jain sanctuaries, Hindu temples, Sufi shrines, and glorious mosques. Walk through stunning royal palaces, and impressive fortresses towering over the countryside. Travel by bus, 4x4, and camel through the Great Thar Desert to see small traditional villages. Enjoy the vibrant local markets bursting with hand-woven carpets, tie-dye fabrics, embroideries, appliqué work, and so much more.

Join Dr. Cynthia Packert on an unforgettable tour of India's Gujarat and Rajasthan States: Ahmedabad, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Khimsar, Pushkar, Jaipur, and ten UNESCO World Heritage Sites.





**"THE PURPOSE OF LIFE,
AFTER ALL,
IS TO LIVE IT,
TO TASTE EXPERIENCE
TO THE UTMOST,
TO REACH OUT EAGERLY
AND WITHOUT FEAR
FOR NEWER AND
RICHER EXPERIENCE."**

-Eleanor Roosevelt



JAPAN IN AUTUMN BLOOM

November 7 - 20, 2025



JAPAN

IN AUTUMN BLOOM

NOVEMBER 7 - 20, 2025

With Dr. David Eckel




Shinto Shrine Offerings



Great Buddha Statue, Kamakura

Join Far Horizons, and only 13 others on an unforgettable 14-day journey through the enchanting landscapes and rich cultural tapestry of Japan, designed exclusively for those seeking the perfect blend of adventure and enlightenment. Our meticulously-curated tour will take you on a captivating exploration of three iconic cities: Tokyo, Kyoto, and Osaka, along with their charming surrounding towns.

In Tokyo, you'll be dazzled by the juxtaposition of traditional temples and towering skyscrapers, and you'll have the chance to delve into Japan's rich history at the Meiji Shrine. In Kyoto, our serene homebase for most of the trip, your senses will come alive as you stroll through the peaceful gardens of Kinkakuji (the Golden Pavilion), ascend the iconic Fushimi Inari Shrine's thousand vermilion torii gates, and experience the tranquility of Koyasan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site nestled in the mountains. We will also have the opportunity to savor the elegance of Japanese culture through an exclusive private geisha dinner, a rare insight into this ancient tradition.



Led by Buddhist specialist and The Great Courses lecturer, Professor Malcolm David Eckel, our memorable tour will explore Japan's profound history, art, and traditions while relishing its modern vibrancy. Won't you join us on this voyage of discovery, where every day promises new insights and cherished memories? Secure your spot today and let Japan's magic unfold before your eyes!

Following the main journey, we invite you to extend your experience by exploring Naoshima Art Island, renowned for its breathtaking contemporary public art installations, galleries, and museums.

JAPAN IN AUTUMN BLOOM

November 7 - 20, 2025

with Dr. David Eckel

A photograph of three Japanese women in traditional kimonos, smiling and holding a small object together. The woman on the left is wearing a striped kimono, the woman in the middle is wearing a blue kimono, and the woman on the right is wearing a dark blue kimono. They are all smiling and looking at the object they are holding. The background is a wooden fence.

Invest in Understanding: The Far Horizons Difference

Your time is precious. Let our decades of experience handle the complexities, ensuring a richer, more accessible, and truly unforgettable journey.

✦ Investment, Not Expense ✦

Premium value, unparalleled returns

Our journeys represent intellectual investments rather than mere travel costs, offering specialized access and expert-led experiences that far exceed standard tours in meaning and lasting value.

✦ Curated Companionship ✦

Like minds, shared discoveries

Our small-group approach unites curious travelers who enhance each other's experiences, creating a supportive community where meaningful connections form naturally through shared wonder and intellectual engagement.

✦ Inclusive Scholarship ✦

Curiosity is the only Prerequisite

Our scholars excel at making complex topics engaging and accessible in a supportive environment where questions are celebrated and understanding deepens naturally through shared exploration.

EGYPT

*Experience the Majesty
this December*

Majesty of Ancient

EGYPT

December 5 - 20 2025

With Dr. Peter Lacovara



Embark on an unforgettable journey through the heart of ancient Egypt, a civilization that blossomed along the fertile banks of the Nile over 3,000 years. Our Egypt tour starts in Cairo and leads you to Luxor, Aswan, and the majestic Abu Simbel, offering exclusive access to some of Egypt's most renowned temples and tombs.

Far Horizons offers a remarkable 16-day archaeological tour of Egypt, filled with unique experiences and insights. Gain exclusive entry into the Queen's Chamber of the Great Pyramid and enjoy a special evening hosted by the Director of the Chicago House, a prominent center for Egyptian studies, complete with cocktails and a tour of their extensive library.



Minya, Tuna-El-Gebel

Join Dr. Peter
Lacovara on this
unforgettable
journey through
Egypt



As we traverse the paths from Cairo to Luxor to Aswan, we'll follow in the footsteps of pharaohs and immerse ourselves in the grandeur of these ancient monuments, standing as timeless testaments to a bygone era. Near Luxor, we will board a dahabiya, a beautifully crafted private wooden yacht, for a cruise along the Nile River, and dock at our leisure to examine several remarkable sanctuaries: the Temple of Horus, the falcon-headed god, Edfu, and the Temple of Kom Ombo, dedicated to the crocodile god Sobek.

Our cultural tour of Egypt provides a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the rich tapestry of Egypt's past, a privilege seldom experienced by ordinary tourists. Join us with just 17 others for an extraordinary exploration into the heart of Egypt's illustrious history.

THE MAJESTY OF EGYPT

December 5 - 20, 2025
with Dr. Peter Lacovara



A Personal Referral for Dr. Peter Lacovara From Dr. Bob Brier

Dear Far Horizons Friends,

As many of you know, Pat and I have guided Egypt tours for Far Horizons for more than 20 years. It has been great fun, full of adventures, and we have made many friends on these trips, but it is time for us to retire. (Each year it is getting more difficult to get in and out of the Bent Pyramid!) A dear friend of ours, Dr. Peter Lacovara will be taking our place, and I want to introduce him to you.

Peter received his Ph.D. in Egyptology at the University of Chicago. We have known and worked with Peter for more than 30 years -- when he was curator at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and when he was Head of the Egyptian Department at the Michael C. Carlos Museum in Atlanta. Peter also directs his own excavation at Deir el-Ballas and heads the Ancient Egyptian Heritage and Archaeology Fund. Peter knows Egypt, very, very well. Perhaps even more important, he is a wonderful human being. He has a great sense of humor, and is a very kind person. We are sure that when you visit Egypt with Peter and Far Horizons, you will have all kinds of wonderful adventures.

Happy travels to you.

Bob & Pat



Sphinx and Great Pyramid, Cairo, Egypt

2026



your world awaits.



RING IN THE NEW YEAR IN INCREDIBLE INDIA

January 2026



Mahabodhi Temple



Mukteshwar Mahadev Temple, Bhubaneswar



Udayagiri Caves

EAST INDIA:

FROM BODH GAYA TO KOLKATA TO PURI
JANUARY 20 - FEBRUARY 3, 2026



with Dr. Malcolm David Eckel

Discover the Spiritual
Heart of the
Subcontinent: An
Unforgettable Eastern
India Tour Through Sacred
Sites and Cultural
Wonders

Eastern India, a less-traveled region, is a treasure trove of spiritual heritage, the birthplace of Jainism nearly 3,000 years ago and the cradle of Buddhism under the Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gaya. Join Dr. David Eckel and a small group on a historical tour through Eastern India's sacred heartlands, beginning in Bodh Gaya, the site of Buddha's enlightenment, and continuing through Patna, with its Buddhist relics, to the vibrant city of Kolkata.

Our journey will reveal the peaceful Buddhist Golden Triangle, and the intricate Jain caves of Udayagiri and Khandagiri. This expedition delves into the subcontinent's spiritual epicenter, featuring visits to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the revered Mahabodhi Temple, the ancient Nalanda University, a center of Buddhist learning, and the majestic Konârak Temple.

Discover the unforgettable cultural and spiritual wonders of Eastern India with us.

'David was one of the reasons I took your tour since I enjoyed his Great Courses lectures on Buddhism. He was friendly and approachable.' –

Susan Bezman

SOUTH INDIA

JANUARY 5 - 20, 2026

with Dr. Paula Richman &
Dr. Michael H. Fisher

Explore the Heritage and
Natural Beauty of South
India: A Cultural Tour
Through Ancient Temples
and Tranquil Backwaters

South India, a cradle of formidable dynasties with a history spanning over two millennia, offers a uniquely rewarding travel experience brimming with diverse history, culture, and natural beauty. This curated tour provides an unparalleled exploration of India's rich past, from the archaeological marvels of Hampi and Mahabalipuram to the magnificent Great Living Chola Temples.

Beyond historical sites, this journey is a sensory feast, featuring delicious local cuisine throughout our itinerary. Our remarkable accommodations, including a century-old Visalam mansion and the acclaimed Coconut Lagoon in Kerala's Backwaters (recognized by Condé Nast Traveler and National Geographic Traveler), further enhance this unforgettable adventure. From aromatic tea plantations to vibrant spice markets and dazzling temple façades, prepare for constant wonder and fascination as you discover this seemingly enchanted land.

'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



boat on Kerala Backwaters



Far Horizons traveler, Leah, with locals



Great Living Chola Temple

EASTER ISLAND & SANTIAGO CHILE

February 9 – 19, 2026

With Dr. Sidsel Millerström

Easter Island, or Rapa Nui, a remote Polynesian island, is a unique open-air museum. This small volcanic land, surrounded by the vast Pacific, houses nearly a thousand towering moai statues and intricate petroglyphs, offering an unparalleled exploration of its deep mysteries. Far Horizons provides immersive tours designed to uncover the enigmatic history and rich culture of this fascinating destination.

Our thoughtfully planned journey to Easter Island is timed to coincide with the vibrant Tapati Festival, a cultural celebration showcasing the traditions of the Rapanui people. During this time, guests will witness thrilling competitions, captivating Polynesian music and dance under the stars, and traditional performances like the mesmerizing cat's cradle chant, preserving ancestral lore.



This comprehensive tour, limited to a small group, also includes an exploration of Santiago, Chile, and Viña del Mar. The Tapati Festival itself is a colorful island-wide event in February, featuring statue carving contests, art displays, spirited evening performances, traditional Kai-kai presentations, and community-wide participation in races, parades, and musical events, culminating in a moonlit crowning ceremony at Tahai. Our itinerary is flexible to fully embrace these unique Rapanui festivities.



Hanga Roa, Easter Island

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.

✦ Kindred Community ✦

Small Groups, Lasting Bonds

We foster intimate interactions where archaeological passion creates unexpected connections. Through shared discoveries at remote ruins, animated discussions over local cuisine, and collective moments of wonder, our travelers forge friendships that extend far beyond the journey's end.

✦ Bespoke Journeys ✦

Crafted, Never Common

We architect each trip as a masterwork of scholarly travel, balancing intellectual depth with comfort and discovery. Our itineraries reflect research, planning, and refinement to ensure every moment offers something meaningful for the curious mind that standard tours simply cannot deliver.

✦ Legacy of Excellence ✦

Countless Returning Travelers

Our 40+ years of archaeological exploration have fostered deeply personal relationships, resulting in an exceptionally high return rate that speaks to our individualized attention, and the lasting connections we create with each member of our archaeological family.



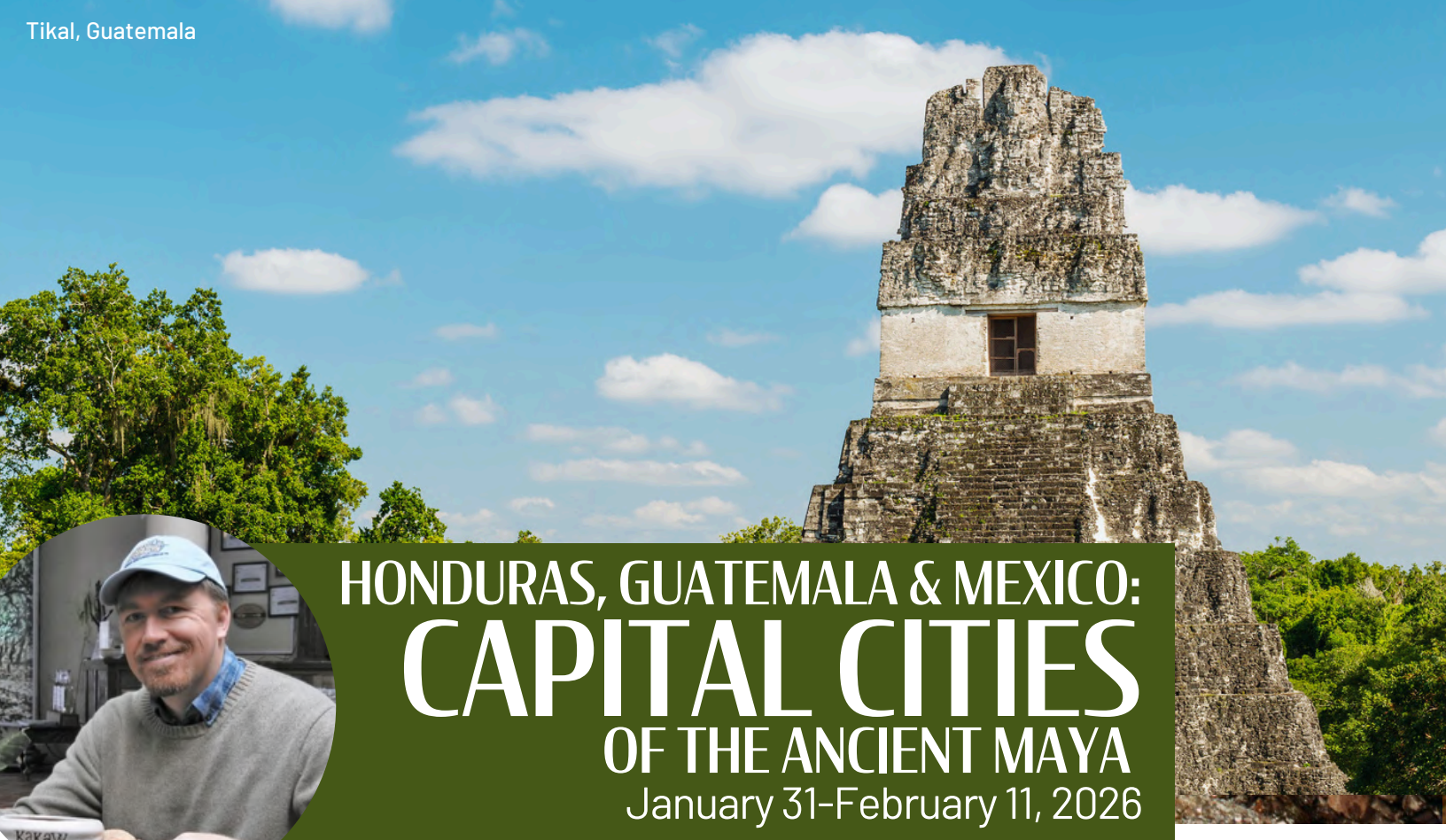
TRACING ANCIENT FOOTSTEPS

THREE SPRING EXPLORATIONS IN MEXICO & BEYOND

Uncover the rich history and vibrant cultures of various ancient civilizations, from the unique heritage of Central Mexico to the magnificent Mayan empires extending into Guatemala

Spring 2026

Mask of K'uhunlich



HONDURAS, GUATEMALA & MEXICO: CAPITAL CITIES OF THE ANCIENT MAYA

January 31-February 11, 2026

with Dr. Stanley Guenter

Join a select group of just 13 other adventurers on a unique journey through Central America and the state of Chiapas in Mexico. Dive deep into the heartlands of the Ancient Maya with visits to four UNESCO World Heritage Sites - Copán, Quiriguá, Tikal, and Palenque - on an adventure that offers more than archaeology.

Our expedition starts in Copán and Quiriguá, which have fascinated explorers and researchers for over a century. Then, we will immerse ourselves in the sprawling Maya center of Tikal. As you wander amidst its canopy-shadowed trails, the serene natural landscape will surround you.

Our journey in Guatemala continues with a quick stop in Guatemala City where we visit the newly-renovated National Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology. Then, we fly to Mexico and travel to San Cristóbal de las Casas, a colonial jewel in the Chiapas highlands. This city offers a window into contemporary Maya life, as neighboring villages are home to indigenous communities with distinct languages, customs, and attire.

The tour culminates at Palenque, an alluring gem among the ancient Mesoamerican cities. Many believe Palenque witnessed the pinnacle of Mayan artistic excellence, as evidenced by its preserved frescoes and detailed stucco friezes.





MEXICO'S YUCATAN TOUR

FEBRUARY 12-22, 2026

Dr. Stanley Guenter



Venture into the secluded southern regions of Mexico, bordering Guatemala, where recent excavations have unveiled the remnants of pyramids and cities that were once nearly inaccessible. The discoveries made here, including transformative hieroglyphic texts, reshape our understanding of the Maya, revealing a history concealed for over a millennium.

This compelling Yucatán tour offers visits to four UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Calakmul, now recognized as the capital of the Kaan (or Snake) Kingdom. This mighty realm once rivaled Tikal for dominance. Marvel at Uxmal's intricately adorned structures and Chichén Itzá's impressive Great Ballcourt, Mesoamerica's largest.

Continue to Campeche, a city established in 1540 and fortified against pirates in the 17th century. Dzibanché showcases fragments of vividly painted stucco and graffiti, hinting at the influential family glyphs of Kaan. This location might have once been a powerful center, predating Calakmul. Meanwhile, Balamkú boasts striking stucco murals that retain their original polychrome paint.

Journey with Dr. Stanley Guenter, a renowned archaeologist, and Maya hieroglyph expert. Gain insights into the intense struggles for supremacy among the Maya rulers, as depicted on their monumental edifices. This is no ordinary Yucatán tour: it's an immersive Mexico educational tour into the heart of the Maya civilization.

"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



Merida, Mexico

San Miguel de Allende



HIDDEN MEXICO

CANTONA & EL TAJIN TO GUANAJUATO

March 14-28, 2026



with Dr. Travis Stanton

Explore Mexico's lesser-known treasures with Far Horizons on a captivating 15-day journey that unveils the hidden remnants of ancient civilizations and the beauty of its colonial cities. Guided by a distinguished Mesoamerican expert, our expedition starts from the Gulf Coast lowlands and weaves its way to Mexico's Central Plateau.

The adventure includes visits to seven UNESCO World Heritage sites: El Tajin, renowned for its Pyramid of the Niches; the revered Sanctuary of Atotonilco; El Camino Real Tierra Adentro, the historic 1,590-mile Royal Road connecting Mexico City to New Mexico; and the timeless colonial cities of Puebla, Querétaro, San Miguel de Allende, and Mexico City.

In addition to these impressive sites, we will marvel at Cantona, among the grandest urban discoveries in Mesoamerica, and the vibrant prehistoric murals at Arroyo Seco cave, only recently opened to the public. Further enriching the trip are visits to recently uncovered archaeological wonders of the Baja region - including El Cerrito, Plazuelas, Peralta, and Barajas - and four nights in the colorful city of Guanajuato.

With limited spots for just 14 participants, join us on this exclusive exploration of Mexico's concealed wonders before it is too late!



CENTRAL ASIA:

TURKMENISTAN, UZBEKISTAN & TAJIKISTAN

MARCH 21-APRIL 6, 2026

With Dr. Jenny Rose



Great Kyz Kala



Afrasiab Mural

‘Silk Road’ – this evocative phrase paints a vivid picture of camel caravans laden with luxurious goods traversing the arid expanses along barely visible trails. These lands (modern-day Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan) are etched into the annals of history through the conquests of famous historical figures like Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan, and Tamerlane; they are the bedrock upon which empires were once forged.

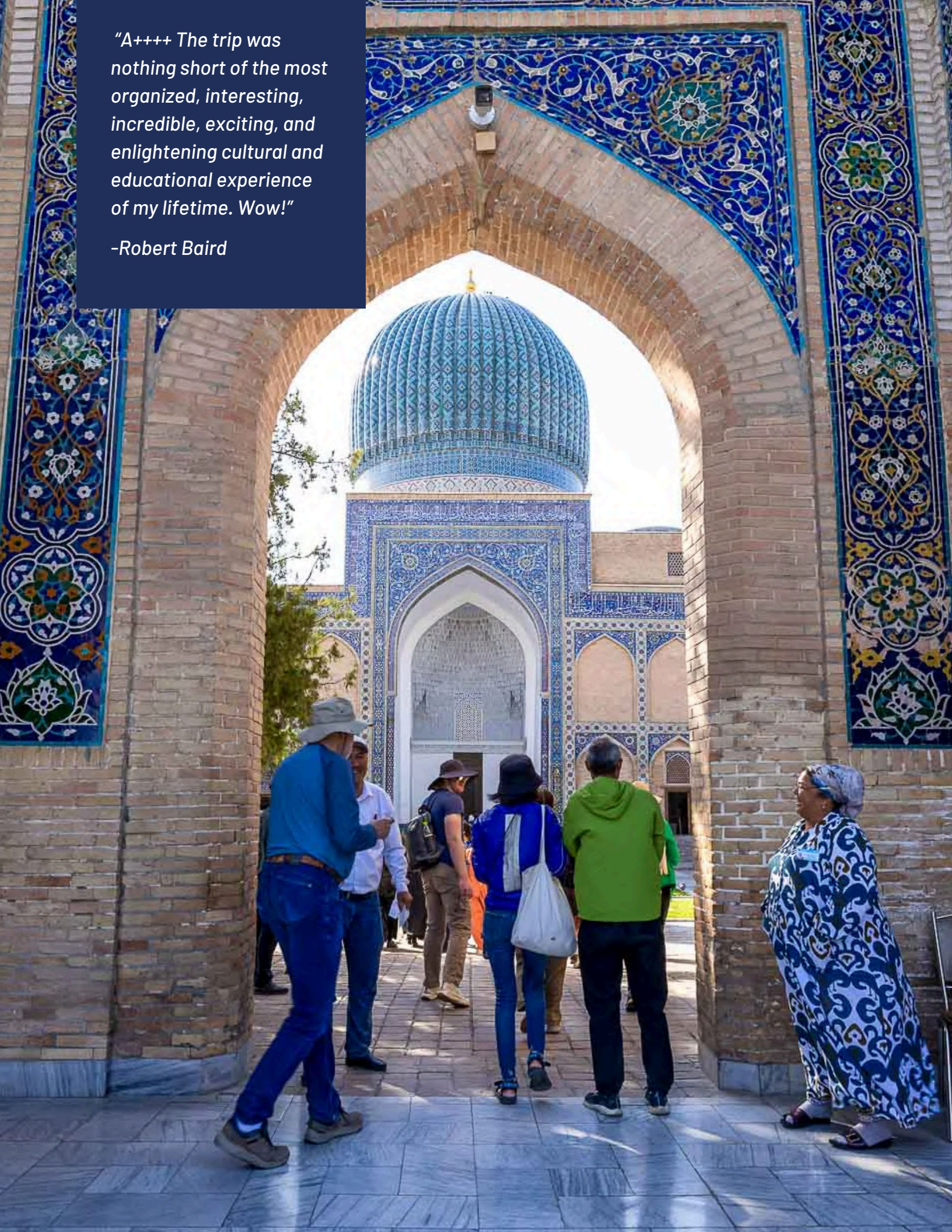
But the Silk Road was not only a strategically important trade route but a cultural superhighway. Along this path, merchants, missionaries, and warriors exchanged goods and spread the major religions of the era – Zoroastrianism, one of the world’s most ancient faiths, Buddhism, Christianity, Manicheism, and Islam.

Join Far Horizons for an enchanting Silk Road tour, journeying through Central Asian countries still shaped by a storied past stretching back millennia. As we navigate this historic route, you’ll visit the legendary cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, Khiva, Nisa, Merv, and Dushanbe, each a testament to the grandeur of bygone eras.

This Central Asia tour explores the history, religion, and culture that combined to form the legendary Silk Road. Join Far Horizons’ expert-led journey through Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to piece together the history of this ancient trade route, and enjoy the architectural marvels that stand as grand tributes to the profound belief systems the travelers of the past once held.

"A++++ The trip was nothing short of the most organized, interesting, incredible, exciting, and enlightening cultural and educational experience of my lifetime. Wow!"

-Robert Baird





The Art & Archaeology of SICILY

April 13-26, 2026



with Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble

Looking for the ultimate art vacation in Italy? Embark on a captivating and educational tour with Far Horizons as we present our uniquely curated trip focused on Sicily's art and archaeology. This immersive 15-day tour around Sicily, one of the crown jewels of Italy, promises to be a magnificent voyage through ancient history. Sicily's diverse landscape is dotted with grand monuments – a testament to the waves of conquering armies that once claimed this strategic island as their launching pad for imperial aspirations.

From Phoenicians to Greeks, Romans to Spaniards, Arabs to Crusaders, and the U.S. forces in World War II, each left their indelible marks. This Sicily tour includes exploration of 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 historical Syracuse and the majestic Mt. Etna.

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



Jordan & Petra

April 13-25, 2026 with Dr. Yorke Rowan

Why tour Jordan? The Royal Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a charming land that has preserved a remarkable character unlike any other in the Middle East. Ruled by King Abdullah, the people have an unparalleled reputation for hospitality, from the office worker in the city to the Bedouin in his desert camp.

The country's archaeological richness transports you back thousands of years. Marvel at the wonders of Petra, the ancient city of Jerash, and the elegant Umayyad fortresses. Jordan's landscapes present breathtaking vistas beyond historical sites, ancient cities, castles, Christian churches, and mosaic masterpieces.

Our 13-day Jordan history tour is meticulously crafted to appreciate Jordan's compelling past. Highlights include two full days in Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site showcasing the Nabataean culture; explorations in the eastern desert; uncovering Bronze Age shrines in Wadi Rum; and a unique private tour of Petra's Temple of the Winged Lions.

Enhance your experience with a cooking class, dining on your creations, and an exclusive evening at ACOR (the American Center of Research), featuring cocktails with the director and a private viewing of their collections, including the intriguing Petra Scrolls.



Petra, Jordan

Join Dr. Yorke Rowan on an unforgettable tour of Jordan and Petra!



2025 Schedule of Trips

Click the Tour to Review Full Itinerary & Booking Details

JUNE 2025

Indonesia: Bali & the Spice Islands

June 27 - July 13, 2025

JULY 2025

Scandinavia: Denmark, Germany, Norway & Sweden

June 29 - July 13, 2025

Scotland

July 11 - 25, 2025

Ireland

July 13 - 28, 2025

AUGUST 2025

Cathedrals of France

August 19 - 30, 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

American Southwest

September 13 - 22, 2025

OCTOBER 2025

Türkiye: Sail the Sapphire Seas by Gulet

October 1 - 15, 2025

Mound Builders of the USA

October 3 - 13, 2025

OCTOBER 2025 CONT.

Bulgaria: Land of History

October 6 - 23, 2025

Spain: In the Path of the Conquistadors

October 12 - 26, 2025

The Wonders of Tunisia

October 14 - 29, 2025

The Archaeology of Greece

October 24 - November 9, 2025

NOVEMBER 2025

Mexico's Día de los Muertos

October 26 - November 6, 2025

India's Gujarat & Rajasthan

November 2 - 19, 2025

Japan in Autumn Bloom

November 7 - 20, 2025

DECEMBER 2025

The Majesty of Egypt

December 5 - 20, 2025



2026 Schedule of Trips

Click the Tour to Review Full Itinerary & Booking Details

JANUARY 2026

South India: Temples and Traditions

January 5 - 20, 2026

East India: Bodh Gaya to Kolkata to Puri

January 20 - February 3, 2026

FEBRUARY 2026

Easter Island & Chile

February 9 - 19, 2026

Capital Cities of the Ancient Maya

January 31 - February 11, 2026

Mexico's Yucatan: Off the Beaten Path

February 12 - 22, 2026

MARCH 2026

Hidden Mexico: El Tajin to Cantona to Guanajuato

March 14 - 28, 2026

Central Asia Silk Road

March 21 - April 6, 2026

APRIL 2026

Sicily Tour: Art & Archaeology

April 13 - 26, 2026

Jordan and Stunning Petra

April 13 - 25, 2026

MAY 2026

Bolivia

May 2026

Eastern Türkiye

May 10 - 25, 2026

JUNE 2026

England: An Archaeological Pub Crawl

May 30 - June 10, 2026

Peru: Sacred Valley, Cuzco, Machu Picchu

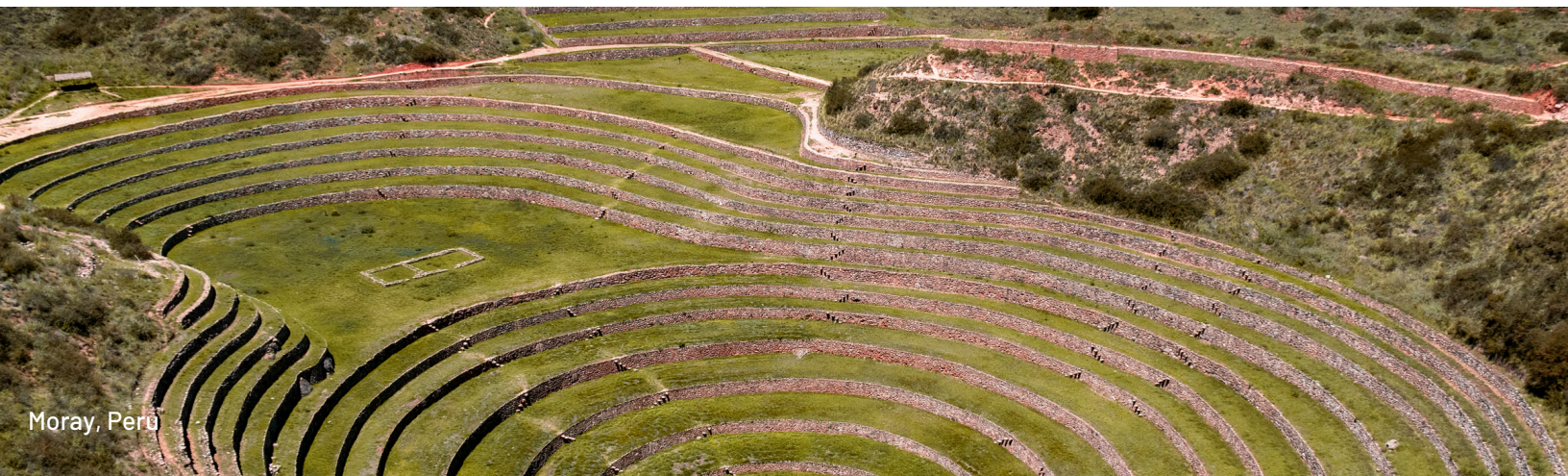
May 31 - June 10, 2026

Peru's North Coast: Inka and The Ancestors

June 9 - 18, 2026

Kenya & Tanzania: The Swahili Coast

June 27 - July 12, 2026



Moray, Peru

2026 Schedule of Trips

Click the Tour to Review Full Itinerary & Booking Details

JULY 2026

Italy: In the Path of the Etruscans

June 30 - July 10, 2026

Scotland Tour: Highlands and Lowlands

July 11 - 24, 2026

The Archaeology of Ireland

July 12 - 26, 2026

Sri Lanka: Resplendent Land

July 21 - Aug 6, 2026

AUGUST 2026

Iceland: In the Path of the Vikings

August 2026

SEPTEMBER 2026

Greek Isles: Cyclades, Santorini, and Aegina

September 2026

American Southwest

September 2026

Archaeology of Greece

September 12 - 27, 2026

Himalayan Kingdoms: Ladakh & Bhutan

September 2026

OCTOBER 2026

Türkiye: Sail the Sapphire Seas by Gulet

September 30 - October 13, 2026

Mexico's Dia de los Muertos

October 26 - November 6, 2026

NOVEMBER 2026

India's Gujarat & Rajasthan

November 2026

Keep an eye on our 2026 trip calendar. New trips are continuing to be added, as well as dates and prices.



Patmos Island, Greece



FAR HORIZONS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS



READY TO TRAVEL?

Get in Touch!

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