



FAR
HORIZONS

IN SITU

EGYPT'S SOLAR ECLIPSE · THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION · ROMANESQUE FRANCE
INDIA · TÜRKIYE · BOLIVIA · CHINA · MEXICO · SCOTLAND · ALGERIA · MONGOLIA

ELEVEN THOUSAND YEARS, FROM GÖBEKLI TEPE TO INDEPENDENCE HALL

*With Alan Taylor, two-time Pulitzer winner for History,
Fred Kleiner, author of Gardner's Art Through the Ages,
Nicholas Brown of Yale, Egyptologist of Tutankhamun's tomb and the Valley of the Kings,
Jenny Rose, author of Zoroastrianism: An Introduction,
and scholars from Boston University, McMaster and the University of Illinois Chicago.*

2026 · 2027 DEPARTURES

A LETTER



A LETTER FROM MARY & STEFAN

Dear traveler,

Archaeologists say an object is in situ when it is still where it belongs. Lift it out and it keeps its shape but loses its story. People are a little the same. There are places each of us is meant to stand.

One of our guests said it best in Tunisia:

"It is such a privilege to see these sites in person. No book or documentary will ever do these justice. You just have to go."

So here is our question... At the end of 2027, what do you want to be able to say? Maybe it is the bucket-list trip, the place you have always meant to return to, or a question only the site itself can answer.

This year's answers include Mongolia, China's Maritime Silk Road, Thailand, all five 'Stans of Central Asia, our Algeria expedition, and the American Revolution with Dr. Alan Taylor, alongside new scholars Dr. Fred Kleiner, Dr. Jeremy Coltman and Dr. Thanik Lertcharnrit. India has our hearts; Mary's Notes from the Field will tell you why.

And on August 2, 2027, totality crosses Luxor. We will be on the Nile for it, aboard a private dahabiya for eighteen with our scholar, Nickolas Brown on board. It will not happen there again in our lifetimes.

Wherever you go, go small, with people who give these places the reverence they deserve rather than a crowd chasing the photograph, and help us protect them as we go.

In 2027 we mark five years of carrying on the legacy of Far Horizons' founder, and it has been a privilege every day. Eighty-five percent of you travel with us again. Thank you.

Find your in situ.

*Mary Collins &
Stefan Woehlke*

MARY COLLINS & STEFAN WOHLKE

Chief Executive Officer & Chief Curation Officer



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*Eleven thousand years of history.
Thirty journeys in 2027.
Each with the scholar who studies the ground.*



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MEET THE CEO & CCO



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 WOHLKE

CHIEF CULTURE OFFICER

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 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



HEATHER STOECKLEY

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS · 20 YEARS WITH FAR HORIZONS

Heather is thrilled to be celebrating 20 years with Far Horizons as Director of Operations. Her wanderlust began at a young age, igniting a lifelong passion for discovering the world's diverse cultures and histories, one destination at a time.

With over 40 destinations under her belt, Heather brings firsthand knowledge and genuine enthusiasm to everything she does. She especially loves collaborating with scholars to craft new and compelling itineraries.

Heather's travel philosophy, and personal credo, says it all: Always say yes to new adventures.



JUDY HOFFMAN

MARKETING & TRAVEL COORDINATOR · 3 YEARS WITH FAR HORIZONS

Judy brings a lifelong passion for archaeology and travel to her role at Far Horizons, where the two have always belonged together.

A graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County with a degree in Ancient Studies, she approaches every journey, her own and yours, with the curiosity of a scholar and the care of someone who knows that the details matter.

Whether she is researching a site, coordinating an itinerary, or helping a traveler find the trip that is right for them, Judy's goal is simple: to make the experience as rich and rewarding as possible.

LED BY THE PEOPLE WHO STUDY IT

Every Far Horizons scholar has taught, researched and published on the region they lead, and brings that work with them from the first day to the last.

THEY ARE STILL WORKING.

The archaeologist standing with you at Chaco Canyon led the LiDAR survey that found new roads there. The Egyptologist on the Nile is writing a book on burial rites in the Valley of the Kings. They are not retired from the subject. They are in the middle of an argument about it, and you get to hear which side they are on.

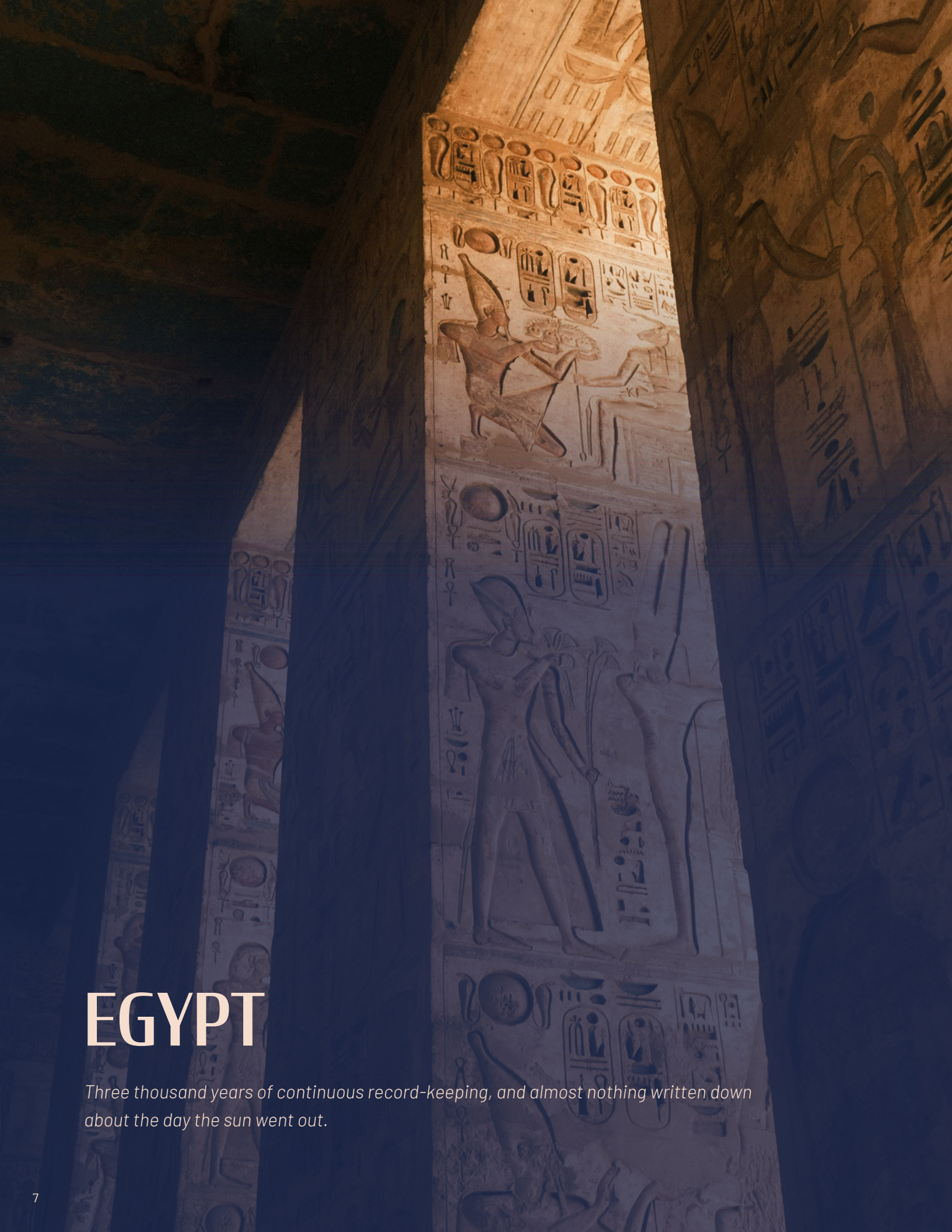
SMALL ENOUGH TO ASK.

Groups run to about fourteen, and a few to six. That is the difference between a lecture and a conversation, and it is why travelers say the best hour of the day was dinner.

THEY ANSWER HONESTLY.

Ask what is disputed at a site and you will be told what is disputed, rather than what makes a tidier story. The unfinished parts are the interesting parts.



A photograph of an ancient Egyptian temple wall, featuring large hieroglyphs and reliefs of figures in traditional attire. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source from the upper right creating a strong contrast and highlighting the intricate details of the carvings. The wall is part of a larger structure, with other columns and reliefs visible in the background.

EGYPT

Three thousand years of continuous record-keeping, and almost nothing written down about the day the sun went out.

THE MAJESTY OF EGYPT

Most visitors to Giza see the outside of the Great Pyramid. A few are let into the King's Chamber. You are going into the Queen's Chamber.

The pyramid was not a tomb in the way a modern grave is a tomb. It was built to produce a particular theological outcome, by people who had worked out in extraordinary detail what a king required in order to become something other than dead. Reading it that way turns a famous silhouette into an argument you can follow chamber by chamber, and it is the whole difference between having seen the pyramids and having understood what they were for. The same applies downriver, where the tombs were decorated not to be admired but to function.

From Giza the route runs south to Luxor and five nights on a private dahabiya, taking in the tombs of the west bank, a reception at the Chicago House library, and excavations still open on the hillside above the Valley of the Kings. There are places on this itinerary where the work is unfinished and you are watching it happen, which is a different experience from watching it explained.

"This was my first tour. I expected to see the famous sights and some great but frequently overlooked sights. I also expected a more personalized tour due to the smaller number of members and to stay at very nice hotels. The trip was so much more."
- Lewis Murphy, 2025

With Dr. Nicholas Brown of Yale, whose forthcoming book is on funerary ritual and burial rites in the Valley of the Kings.

NOVEMBER 2 TO 16, 2026. 15 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/majesty-of-ancient-egypt-tour/

THE OASES OF EGYPT

ARCHAEOLOGY BEYOND THE NILE VALLEY

West of the Nile, past the last of the green, there is a second Egypt that ran on its own terms for three thousand years.

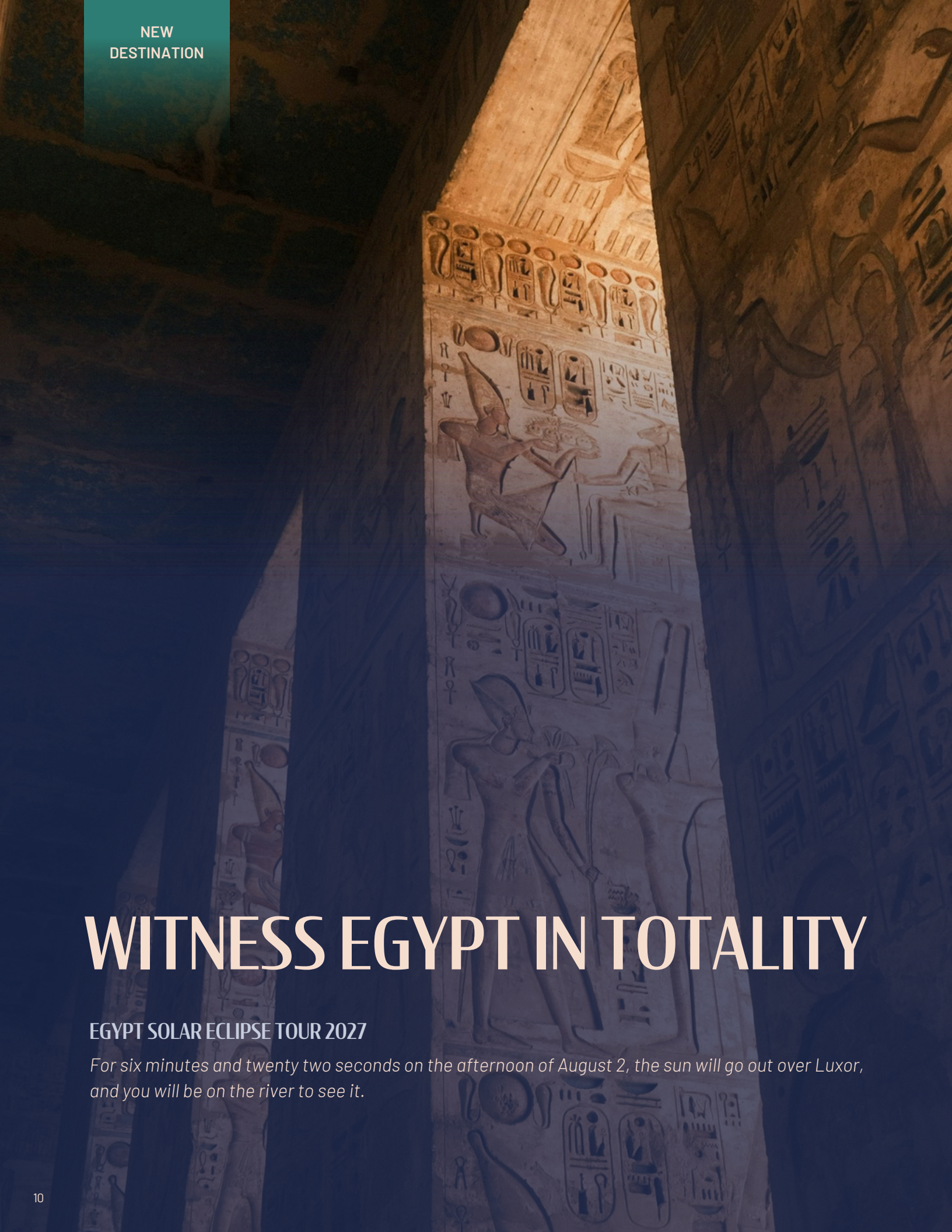
With Dr. Nicholas Brown of Yale, who studies what the ancient Egyptians believed happened after death.



The Western Desert oases were never a backwater of the Nile valley. They were a chain of separate worlds strung across the Sahara, watered by springs, fed by caravans, rich enough to bury their dead in gold, and consequential enough that Alexander crossed the sand to Siwa to ask the oracle whether he was a god. He was told what he wanted to hear, and it shaped the rest of his short life. Almost none of this appears on a standard Egypt itinerary.

At Bahariya, the Roman cemetery found in the sand in 1996, its mummies still gilded, the excavation still producing. At Kharga, the temple of Hibis, the only Persian period temple in Egypt left standing. At Dakhla, the mud brick town of Al Qasr, lived in continuously since the middle ages and still lived in now. Between them, the White Desert, where wind has cut the chalk into shapes that look deliberate and are not.

An optional extension runs on to Siwa itself, the most remote of them, close enough to the Libyan border that the oracle Alexander consulted still feels like a long way to go for an answer.



NEW
DESTINATION

WITNESS EGYPT IN TOTALITY

EGYPT SOLAR ECLIPSE TOUR 2027

For six minutes and twenty two seconds on the afternoon of August 2, the sun will go out over Luxor, and you will be on the river to see it.

NEW
DESTINATION

Luxor, Egypt

WITNESS EGYPT IN TOTALITY

EGYPT SOLAR ECLIPSE TOUR 2027

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With Dr. Nicholas Brown of Yale, who co directs the excavations at the royal palace of Deir el-Ballas.



Egypt wrote everything down. Grain, cattle, the reign of every king to the day, three thousand years of the most complete record any ancient civilization has left us. And on the subject of the sun going out, almost nothing. No pharaonic account of a total eclipse survives. What survives instead is one line from Tutankhamun's reign about seeing darkness in the daytime, and a silence that Egyptologists read as awe, or as something nearer to dread.

Our journey begins in Cairo, with a visit to the Grand Egyptian Museum. From there we journey south along the Nile corridor that sustained one of history's most enduring civilizations for more than three millennia.

At Aswan, we step aboard a dahabiya, a traditional private wooden sailing yacht, and drift through a stretch of the Nile largely unchanged since antiquity.

The journey reaches its crescendo at Luxor — ancient Thebes, seat of the empire and city of the dead — where the moon's shadow will sweep across the Valley of the Kings in a total solar eclipse. To witness totality from within the sacred precinct of one of the world's greatest concentrations of temples and tombs is an experience without parallel: the sky darkening over Karnak, the stars emerging above the Theban hills in the middle of the day, the corona blazing around the darkened sun just as it once blazed in the iconography of Ra himself.

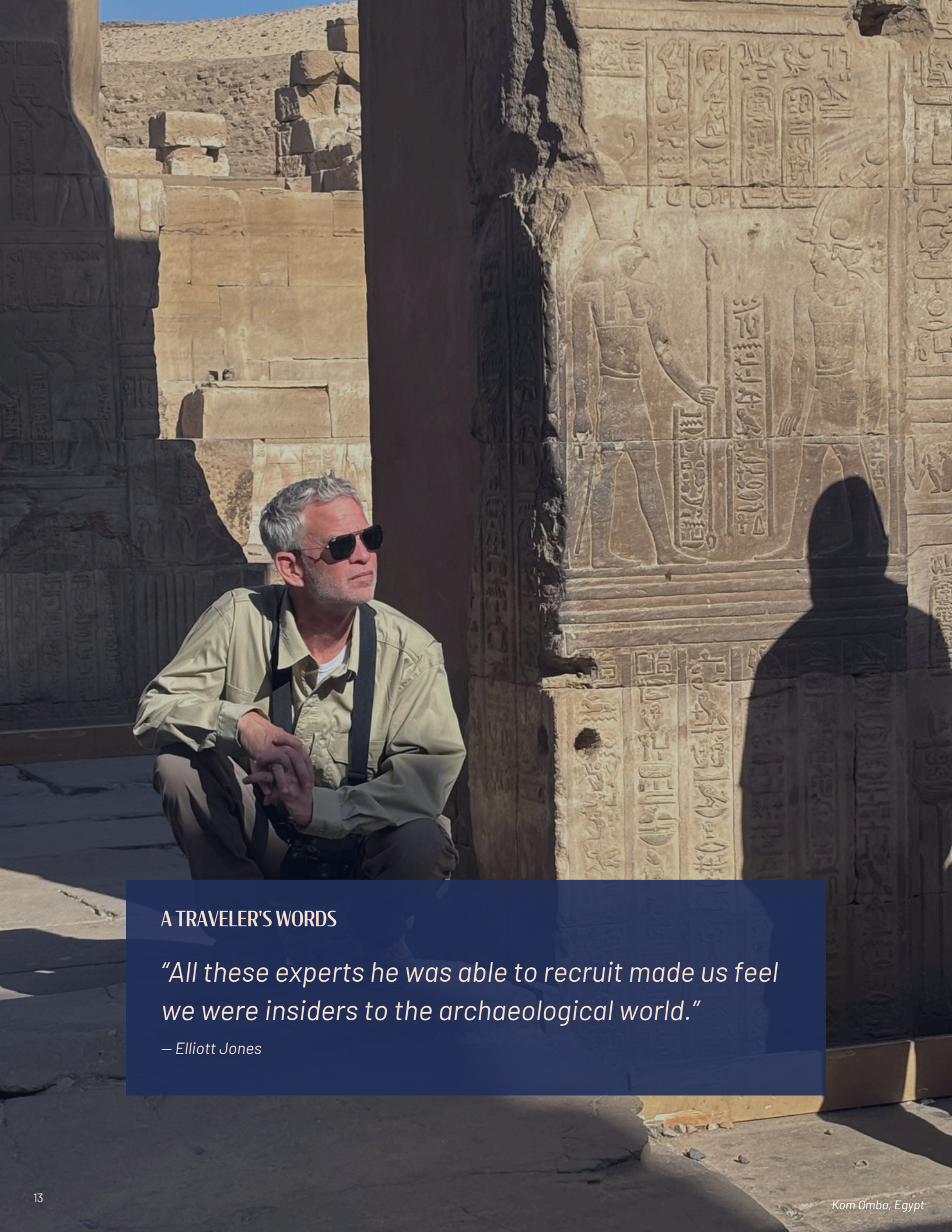
JULY 26 TO AUGUST 6, 2027. 12 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/egypt-eclipse-tour/

A serene tropical sunset scene. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a vibrant orange and yellow near the horizon. Silhouettes of palm trees and other tropical vegetation are visible against the bright sunset. In the foreground, a body of water with gentle ripples reflects the colors of the sky. A dense line of white flowers or reeds separates the water from the land.

*"I am not the same, having seen the moon
shine on the other side of the world."*

— Mary Anne Radmacher



A TRAVELER'S WORDS

"All these experts he was able to recruit made us feel we were insiders to the archaeological world."

— Elliott Jones

INDIA & THE HIMALAYAS

Empires that argued with each other in stone, and two kingdoms above the snowline that declined to join in.



NORTH INDIA

GODS, TEMPLES & ARCHAEOLOGY

At Ellora, one temple was not built. It was carved downward out of a single mountain of rock, from the top, by hand, with no possibility of correction.

India - no other country has layered more religious traditions on top of one another and kept all of them running at once. The array of extraordinary sites and landscapes renders this tour of the north among the most intricate and fulfilling experiences we have available. Home to a sixth of the global population and the largest democracy, India showcases an extensive cultural diversity and a history that is both intricate and captivating. Buddhist, Hindu and Jain builders worked the same cliffs in the same centuries, and at Ajanta twenty eight cave shrines were cut into a horseshoe of rock and then abandoned so completely that they were not seen again until a British hunting party stumbled on them in 1819.

The route continues to the Ganges at Varanasi, where the evening fire ceremony is watched from a private boat. By that point the argument the trip has been making about how these traditions coexist is no longer an argument you are being shown. It is one you are sitting inside.

The array of extraordinary sites and landscapes renders this tour of the north among the most intricate and fulfilling experiences we have available.

"I knew we would see wonderful monuments in India but they were more impressive than I expected. I also found the trips very well Organized, but I expected that."
- Jennifer Tobin, 2025

With Dr. Jenny Rose of Claremont Graduate University, whose subject explores how religions travel and change.

OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 13, 2026 . 14 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/north-india-gods-temples-and-archaeology/



Ellora Caves, India

EASTERN INDIA

FROM BODH GAYA TO KOLKATA TO PURI

Roughly two and a half thousand years ago a man sat down under a tree in Bihar. The tree growing there now is held to descend from it, and people still arrive every morning to sit where he did.

Bodh Gaya is where Buddhism begins, and the country around it is where it first became an institution. Ashoka raised the Mahabodhi Temple about two centuries after the Buddha, and it stands among the oldest brick buildings in eastern India. At Rajgir the teaching was given on Vulture Peak. At Nalanda, from the fifth century, a monastic university drew scholars from Tibet, China and Korea and kept drawing them for seven hundred years.

Then the route turns to Odisha, where excavation at Ratnagiri brought up two dozen colossal Buddha heads, where Jain monks cut the two-story caves of Rani Gumpha in the first century BC, and where the gateway at Mukteswar is Hindu and Buddhist at once. Konark's Sun Temple, a thirteenth-century chariot in stone on twelve pairs of wheels, closes the arc on the coast. Kolkata, where the Indian Museum has been collecting since 1814 and the Danes and the French each kept a town upriver, is where the trip ends.

"We have been to India several times so we were on this trip to get a broader view of the whole country, and this trip certainly delivered. David Eckel is a first-rate leader!"
- Far Horizons traveler, 2024

with Dr. David Eckel of Boston University, author of *To See the Buddha*.

JANUARY 19 TO FEBRUARY 2, 2027. 15 DAYS.

<https://www.farhorizons.com/tour/eastern-india-from-bodh-gaya-to-kolkata-to-puri/>



GUJARAT & RAJASTHAN

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF DEVOTION

Four and a half thousand years separate the first stop on this route from the last, and both of them are about water.

With Dr. Jenny Rose of Claremont Graduate University, who works on the meeting points between India's religious traditions.



Lothal was a planned city of the Indus Valley with a brick dockyard, laid out on a grid while Egypt was still building pyramids, and abandoned long before anyone recorded why. Three thousand years later and a few hundred miles north, a widowed queen commissioned Rani ki Vav, a stepwell descending seven stories into the ground with every wall of it carved, built as a memorial to her husband and then lost under river silt for eight centuries until it was dug out again in the twentieth.

Between them stand the Jain temples of Gujarat, mathematical to the point of obsession, and the sun temple at Modhera, set so that the equinox light runs the length of the hall and into the sanctuary. The route ends among the desert forts of Rajasthan, where the same instinct for building permanently was turned to defense rather than devotion.

Ten UNESCO World Heritage Sites across seventeen days, and a through line connecting all of them that only becomes obvious once somebody points it out.

"This trip was remarkably interesting, and one of the most unique travel experiences we have ever had. Our scholar leaders enhanced the trip immeasurably with their wealth of knowledge and insights. We loved being off the beaten track on this rich, fulfilling adventure."

- Teddy and Fong Wei, 2019

LADAKH & BHUTAN

HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS AND THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ROOF OF THE WORLD

There are ceremonies in Bhutan performed once a year on the understanding that witnessing them is itself enough to remove sin. You do not have to believe it for the moment to work on you.

with Dr. Malcolm David Eckel, Professor Emeritus of Religion at Boston University, who has spent a career on Buddhist philosophy.



Two Buddhist kingdoms on opposite sides of the Himalaya, both of which spent centuries under the political authority of far larger neighbors, and neither of which surrendered its own account of how the universe is arranged. At Alchi in Ladakh the wall paintings are close to a thousand years old, made by artists working in a manner that has not survived anywhere else, and preserved largely because the monastery was left alone rather than restored.

Our journey includes monasteries at altitude, the cave where Milarepa is said to have meditated, and in Bhutan the temple of the Divine Madman, whose approach to teaching would not have been tolerated anywhere else in the Buddhist world. Eighteen days across the roof of it, at a pace that allows for the altitude and for the fact that a good deal of what matters here happens slowly.

"Dr. Eckel has an encyclopaedic knowledge, relaxed and friendly demeanor, great sense of humor." –Eran Metzger, 2024

OCTOBER 1 TO 18, 2027. 18 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/himalayan-kingdoms-ladakh-bhutan-tour-2/





NOTES FROM THE FIELD

India gives back what you give it. An afternoon with Sachin, pictured above, at the Jain temple of Ranakpur, Rajasthan.

-Mary Collins, September 2026.

I had an afternoon on my own at Ranakpur, the fifteenth-century Jain temple whose marble hall stands on 1,444 carved pillars. I had an audio guide, and it was doing its job. I wandered, and it was epic.

Then one of the temple's priests, a man named Sachin, came over and asked, very softly, whether I was with a group or by myself. By myself, I said. Would I like him to walk me through? The whole temple is beautiful, he said, but these are the most beautiful things.

He began at the Tree of Life carved beside the door. He showed me which stair to stand on, directly beneath it, facing the statue, and told me to make a wish for my future and then look toward the temple. I did. Then we walked, and he stopped at the carvings that matter most and told me why.

Several times he chanted Om, and the sound reverberated through the entire hall. I meditate and practice yoga, and I have heard Om many times, but never like this: deep and soulful, from someone who has clearly been making that sound for a very long time.

As we walked, he asked about me, and about Far Horizons and how we travel. He wants to share all of this with anyone who comes, he told me. It doesn't matter what we worship. We are all here together, and we are here to serve one another.

Before I left, he said a prayer for me. He asked my husband's name and my children's names, and in the middle of words I couldn't follow, I heard all of ours, and a blessing of peace and prosperity for my family.

That afternoon was the whole trip in miniature. I was traveling with women who know India well, one of whom has been more than twenty times in twenty years. "India gives back to you what you give it," she told me. I came with an open heart and an open mind, and I was met everywhere with warmth and generosity.

Again and again I thought of our travelers: those who have been before and will see it with new eyes, and those who will see it for the first time. This will be the first of many visits for me. I hope it inspires one of yours.

THE AMERICAS

Cities larger than London while London was still small, and the roads between them.

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BELIZE

The kings of Altun Ha used a title of their own, carved into their monuments. Establishing which glyph it was, and so who they believed they were, is the kind of problem your study leader solves.

Belize spent decades being treated as the quiet edge of the Maya world, which becomes difficult to maintain once you know that Caracol defeated Tikal in the sixth century and said so publicly, in stone, or that Lamanai was occupied continuously for close to three thousand years and was still going when the Spanish arrived. The country holds some of the longest and least interrupted records in the Maya lowlands, and comparatively few people go looking at them.

Nine days through jungle cities and river approaches, and into the limestone caves the Maya used for ritual rather than shelter, reading the inscriptions where they were cut rather than in translation afterwards. Join us to discover the lost Maya ceremonial centers concealed by jungle shadows and meet people from the country's varied ethnic groups while seeing spectacular wildlife that is considered "endangered" in other countries.

"Outstanding; excellent overall. His knowledge, preparation, and presentation were exceptional. He was patient in answering questions, and never failed to address any. His knowledge of not only the Maya, but of other Mesoamerican and foreign cultures was useful and relevant. He was fun, humble and attentive and always helpful. He made the tour an overall wonderful experience!"
- Keith Lanier, 2023

with Dr. Stanley Guenter, an epigrapher whose dissertation was on the Classic Maya collapse and who reads the glyphs directly.

MARCH 13 TO 21, 2027. 9 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/archaeology-of-belize-tour/



ANCIENT MEXICO & THE OLMECS

THE MESOAMERICAN ORIGIN STORY

Every Mesoamerican civilization that followed inherited something from these people, and we still do not know what they called themselves.

with Dr. Jeremy Coltman of UC Riverside, who works on Mesoamerican religion and the imagery these civilizations borrowed from one another.



The Olmec came first. The calendar, the ballgame, the rain deity, the idea that a ruler could be depicted as something more than a man: the seeds of all of it are here in the Gulf lowlands, fifteen hundred years before the Maya built anything you have heard of. What survives is monumental and strange. Colossal basalt heads, each one an individual portrait with its own face and its own expression, quarried in mountains fifty miles away and moved across swamp and river without wheels, without draft animals, and without any explanation that entirely satisfies. Yet the Olmec reach extended far beyond their Gulf Coast heartland.

On this nine-day journey, Far Horizons invites you to trace that influence through some of Mexico's most compelling, and least-visited, archaeological sites. Begin at Chalcatzingo, where reliefs were cut into the side of a mountain that later peoples appear to have regarded as the place creation itself began. Cantona, a city of ninety thousand people with no fewer than twenty four ball courts. Continue on to Cholula, by volume the largest pyramid ever built anywhere on earth. The route finishes at Xalapa, whose museum holds nine of the colossal heads, which means the trip ends with the objects lined up in one room after you have stood in the landscape that produced them.

MARCH 20 TO 28, 2027. 9 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/in-the-path-of-the-ancient-olmec-tour/

CAPITAL CITIES OF THE ANCIENT MAYA

The Maya wrote their own political history down, named their kings, dated their wars, and left it carved in public. Most visitors walk straight past it because nobody reads it aloud.

The hieroglyphic stairway at Copan is the longest Maya inscription in existence, more than two thousand glyphs, and it took the better part of a century to decipher. It is a dynastic record, and it is not flattering throughout. Tikal and Palenque hold their own versions of the same thing: alliances, defeats, successions and the occasional beheading, all of it stated by the people it happened to.

Read side by side, the inscriptions stop being local history. Palenque was sacked twice by Calakmul, Tikal's great rival, and Tikal itself spent more than a century in eclipse after a defeat by that same alliance. Copan's own king was captured and beheaded by a former vassal at nearby Quiriguá, and the hieroglyphic stairway, finished a generation later, is partly the dynasty's reply. Each city kept its own account, and the accounts name one another.

Three countries in twelve days, following one political story across them rather than visiting three separate sets of ruins. The distinction matters more than it sounds, because the cities were talking about each other.

"It was an excellent trip. I learned a lot. High quality accommodations and food, good logistics, good travel companions, complete tours of archaeological sites, keep active and engaged in learning activities."

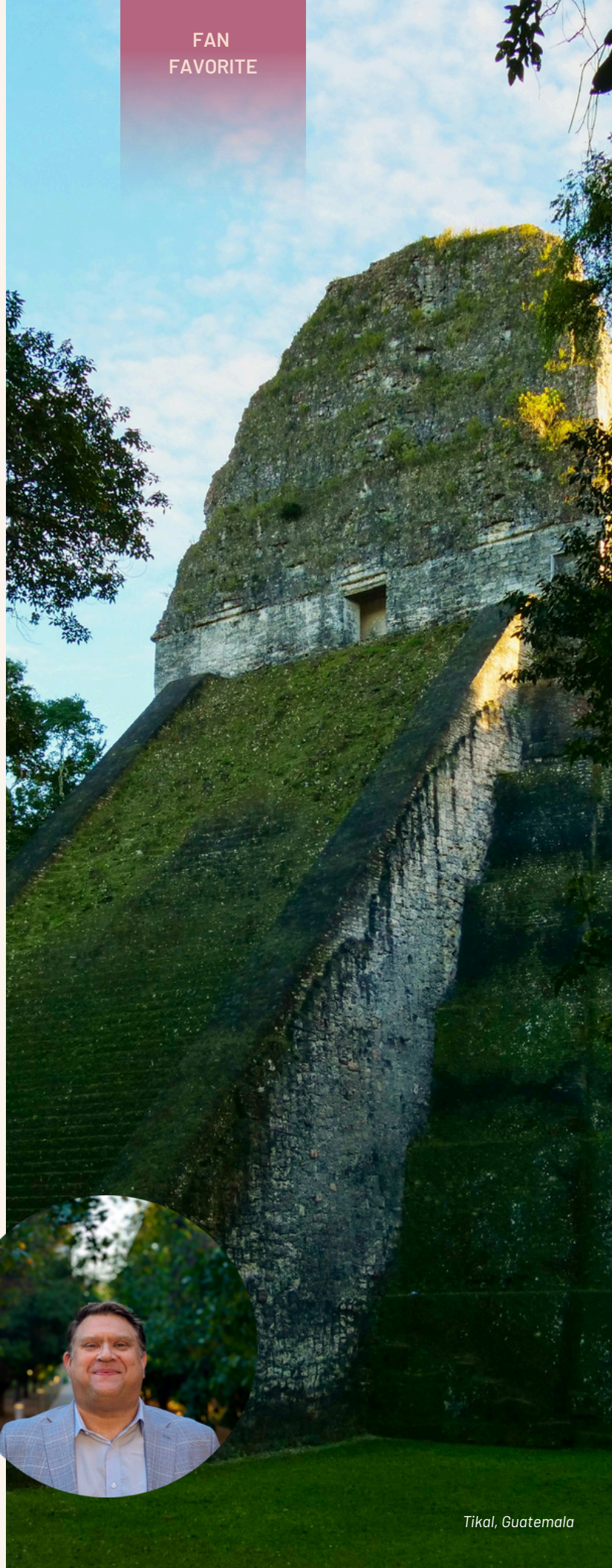
- Ed Cuellar, 2020

with Dr. Jeremy Coltman of UC Riverside, who studies Maya religion and the way its imagery encoded power.

OCTOBER 25 TO NOVEMBER 5, 2027. 12 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/capital-cities-of-the-ancient-maya-honduras-guatemala-mexico-tour/

FAN
FAVORITE



Tikal, Guatemala

THE MAYA OF THE YUCATÁN

SACRED CITIES OF AN UNFINISHED CIVILIZATION

In the seventh century a queen of Coba had a stone causeway driven sixty miles west across flat jungle, dead straight, to make a point about who was in charge.

with Dr. Travis Stanton of UC Riverside, who has been excavating in the Yucatan since 1995.



That road still runs, and the pattern of settlement along it is how archaeologists now trace the reach of Coba's dynasty into the middle of the peninsula.

Work of this kind is why the Yucatan keeps changing shape. LiDAR and excavation together have redrawn a great deal of what was assumed about who controlled what, and most of the redrawing has happened within the last fifteen years, which is recent enough that the guidebooks have not caught up. In 2024 researchers reworking LiDAR data that had been collected for forest monitoring found a city of more than six thousand structures in Campeche that no one had recorded.

Eleven days deliberately off the Chichen Itza circuit, at Yaxuna, Ek Balam and the cities of the Snake Kingdom, several of which are being excavated while you are standing in them. At Ek Balam a king's tomb was found sealed inside the acropolis in the late 1990s, its stucco façade so well preserved that paint still clings to the winged figures around the doorway. Unfinished is the accurate word for this civilization and for the study of it.

"Far Horizons provides a very deep and rich learning experience for curious travelers. Be prepared for full active days and insights that will challenge your mind. The Yucatan trip is a full immersion in the extraordinary world of the Yucatec Maya."
- Cynda Tipple, 2026

NOVEMBER 6 TO 16, 2027. 11 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/mexicos-yucatan-tour-off-the-beaten-path/



Ek Balam, Mexico

Rapa Nui (Easter Island), Chile

STONE, SAND, AND SEA

EASTER ISLAND'S MOAI AND CHILE'S ATACAMA DESERT

Nearly four hundred moai were left in the quarry, some barely begun, one of them seventy feet long and still attached to the rock. Nobody has satisfactorily explained why the work stopped.

with Dr. Sidsel Millerstrom, who has documented some seven thousand Polynesian petroglyphs across the Pacific.



The story most people know about Rapa Nui is a parable about a society that destroyed itself. The archaeology is considerably less tidy than the parable, and the questions still open are a great deal more interesting than the version that became popular. Five of the fifteen days of our journey are on the island itself, which is roughly what it takes to get past the photographs and into the argument, and to notice that the moai face inland.

At Orongo, the clifftop petroglyph field where the birdman competition was settled each year. At Rano Raraku, the quarry where the unfinished giants are still lying where they were left.

But this trip begins long before you set foot on Rapa Nui. In northern Chile, soaring volcanoes, stark lava fields, and rolling, trackless sand dunes give startling contrast to a seemingly endless desert. Our adventure takes us across to the Atacama, the driest desert on earth, where the same dryness that preserved the oldest deliberately mummified bodies anywhere now produces the clearest night sky on the planet.

The early artists who lived here perhaps thousands of years ago left behind spectacular pictographs and geoglyphs — huge ground drawings akin to the Nazca Lines of southern Peru.

"Experiencing the Atacama Desert with brainy leadership has opened my world." – Meg Anderson, 2023

FEBRUARY 14 TO 28, 2027. 15 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/easter-island-tour-and-santiago-chile/





Chichen Itza, Mexico

SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

DR. JEREMY COLTMAN

Lecturer, University of California, Riverside · Department of Anthropology

LEADS THE ANCIENT OLMEC, PAGE 22 · MAYA CAPITAL CITIES, PAGE 23

Jeremy Coltman works on what Mesoamerican people believed, and on how they turned belief into images. His subject is religion and iconography: the rituals the Maya performed in caves, the solar cult at Chichen Itza, and the long argument about how much each civilization here borrowed from the one before it. It is the part of the record that does not explain itself, and the part most tours walk straight past.

He leads two journeys in this catalogue, and together they make a single argument. In the Gulf lowlands you stand where it began, among colossal heads carved by people who left no name for themselves. In the Maya capitals you stand where it arrived, in front of inscriptions that name kings and date their wars. Fifteen hundred years apart, one thread, and he is the reason you see it as one thing rather than two.

DOORS THAT ARE NOT USUALLY OPEN

Some of what is in this catalogue cannot be bought at the gate.

EXCAVATIONS STILL IN PROGRESS.

Several itineraries visit sites where the work is unfinished and you are watching it happen, which is a different experience from watching it explained afterwards.

AFTER HOURS, AND BEHIND THE ROPE.

A museum director bringing out material that is not on display. A chamber entered by flashlight with nobody else inside. These are arranged one at a time, by people who have known the site directors for years.

FORTY FIVE YEARS OF ASKING.

Far Horizons has been running archaeological travel since 1982. Access of this kind is not a product you can buy. It is a relationship, and it takes about that long.

BOLIVIA'S SACRED HIGHLANDS

WHERE THE INCA STORY BEGAN

At twelve and a half thousand feet, on a plain where a single night of frost can take the whole crop, Tiwanaku fed a city by rebuilding the ground itself.

The raised field system worked because the water in the channels between the beds held the day's heat and gave it back overnight, keeping the frost off the roots. It sustained one of the most powerful states in the Americas for five hundred years, and it had been abandoned so long before the Inka arrived that the Inka themselves treated the ruins as the place where the world began, which is a remarkable thing for one empire to concede about another.

Join Far Horizons on a captivating 14-day journey through Bolivia, a country where indigenous roots run deep and traditional dress remains a vibrant part of daily life. Our itinerary unfolds against a backdrop of breathtaking Andean landscapes, tracing the striking colonial legacy left by Spanish conquest even as it moves through the older, deeper history that legacy was built upon, including Lake Titicaca and the Islands of the Sun and Moon. Join the optional extension to the salt flat at Uyuni, four thousand square miles of white crust with a lithium sea beneath it.

"I enjoyed [Dr. Roddick's] lectures and comments. He knows the Andean region well and was an excellent choice for a study leader. He was always approachable and willing to answer questions."
- Far Horizons traveler, 2025

with Dr. Andrew Roddick of McMaster University, who has spent fifteen years excavating in the Tiwanaku heartland.

MAY 4 TO 18, 2027. 14 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/bolivia-archaeology-tour-2/





AMERICAN SOUTHWEST

BEYOND THE CANYON WALLS

The Chacoans built roads thirty feet wide. They had no wheeled vehicles and no pack animals. The roads were not built to carry anything.

with Dr. Robert Weiner of Dartmouth, whose research is on the Chacoan road system and what it was for.



They were cut straight into the sandstone, they ignore the terrain rather than following it, and they run for miles to arrive at places of no obvious practical use. Some segments are thirty feet wide, which is far more than people walking without wheels or draft animals would ever need. The current reading is that they were made to be walked ceremonially, which is a different proposition from a road, and it reframes Chaco from a settlement with unusual infrastructure into something closer to a landscape designed to be processed through.

In 2025 a LiDAR survey revealed further stretches nobody knew were there, including a road aligned to the winter solstice. Your study leader led that work and published it.

Our journey around the four corners includes Chaco Canyon, Mesa Verde and Canyon de Chelly, and then Acoma, all lived in since the twelfth century on a mesa three hundred and sixty seven feet above the valley floor, and lived in still.

That last stop rearranges the previous ones, because it makes plain that this is not a story about a people who vanished. It is a story about people who are still here and whose ancestors built the things you have spent the week walking through.

"The exhilaration of meeting and sharing experiences with new people and learning so much about a fascinating and under reported culture, the original people of the USA [were the highlights of this trip]."
- Naomi Lerner, 2024

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

FROM REBELLION TO REPUBLIC

Battlefields make claims that the documents do not, and documents make claims the ground quietly contradicts.

Thirteen days from Lexington to Yorktown, through the forts, the taverns where the arguing actually happened, and the archives, with a historian who has built a career on what the evidence will support rather than what the story requires. Williamsburg comes first, the colonial capital still laid out as it was when these arguments were only arguments, and Boston's Freedom Trail runs sixteen stops through the city where the trouble started, past Bunker Hill.

Fort Ticonderoga, taken by Ethan Allen in May 1775, and Fort Stanwix, which held the Mohawk Valley frontier through the summer of 1777 while Saratoga turned the war to the east. Saratoga itself, where the American victory of October 1777 was the turning point, and Brandywine, still farmland largely as it was on the September day in 1777 when the British took the field. Valley Forge held the army through the winter that nearly ended it, in 1777 and 1778, and at Constitution Island a sixty-five-ton iron chain was stretched across the Hudson in 1778.

Newburgh was the army's last base, in 1782 and 1783, and Independence Hall is where the arguing ended up. The route closes with a boat crossing of Lake Champlain, with nights at the Fairmont Copley Plaza in Boston, the Thayer Hotel at West Point, and the Adelphi in Saratoga Springs. Fourteen travelers only, departing June 2027.

*with Dr. Alan Taylor of the University of Virginia,
twice awarded the Pulitzer Prize for History.*

JUNE 7 TO 19, 2027. 13 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/the-american-revolution-from-rebellion-to-republic/



Lexington, Massachusetts, USA



SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

DR. ALAN TAYLOR

Professor Emeritus, University of Virginia · Thomas Jefferson Foundation Chair

LEADS THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION · JUNE 7 TO 19, 2027 · PAGE 31

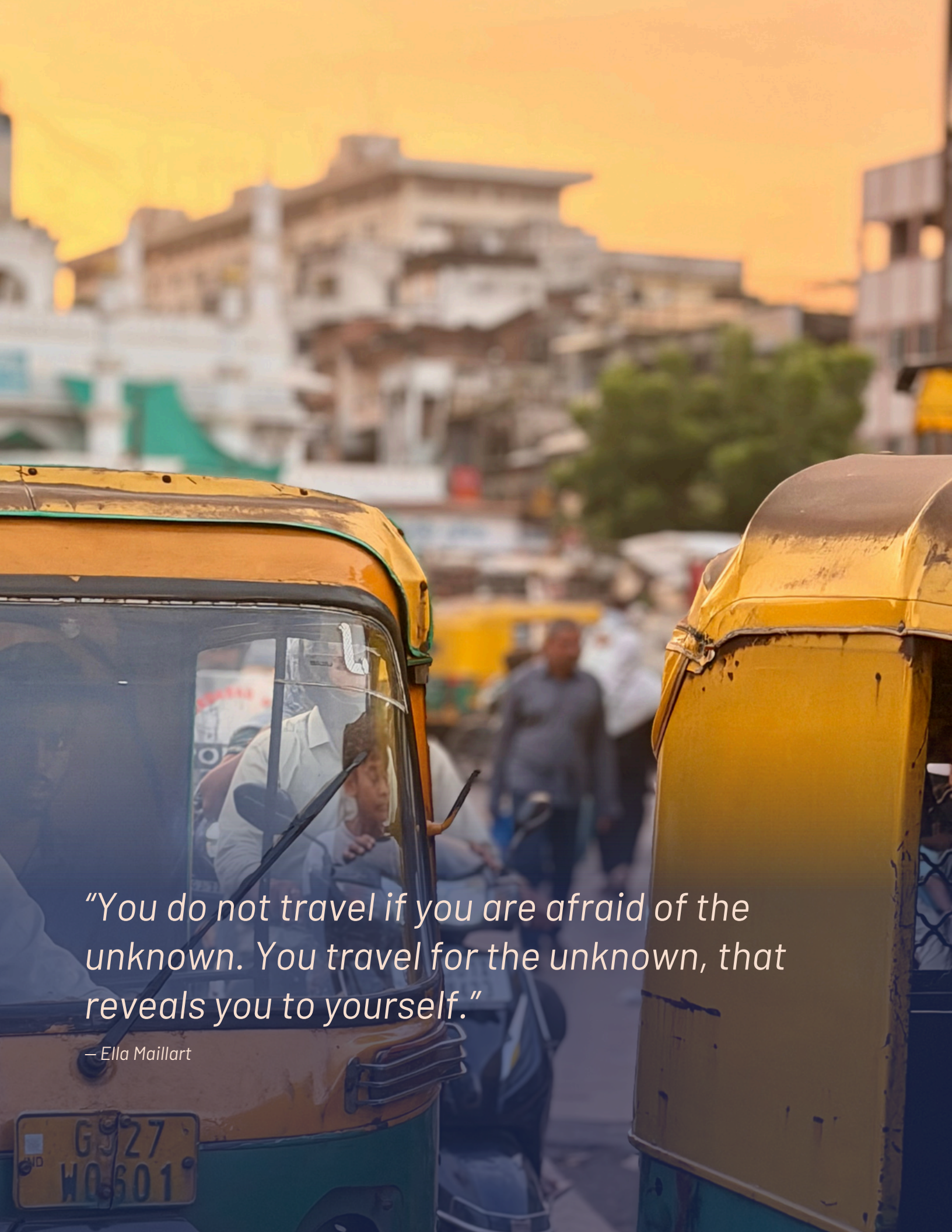
Alan Taylor has spent a career arguing that the American Revolution was not one event with one meaning, and that the further you get from Philadelphia the less tidy it looks. He has won the Pulitzer Prize for History twice, and the books that did it are not celebrations. They are careful accounts of what independence cost the people who were not asked.

The first came in 1996 for *William Cooper's Town*, on the land speculation and frontier politics that followed the war in upstate New York. The second, in 2014, was for *The Internal Enemy*, about enslaved Virginians who used the next war with Britain to escape. Between them he wrote *The Divided Ground*, on how the Revolution split the Iroquois and redrew the border country of northern New York, and *American Revolutions*, a continental history in which Loyalists, Native nations and the enslaved take part in the story instead of standing behind it. He held the Thomas Jefferson Foundation chair in history at the University of Virginia.

On this trip that shows up as a matter of route. You stand at Saratoga, where the American victory of October 1777 turned the war, at Fort Ticonderoga, taken by Ethan Allen in 1775, and at Independence Hall. The ground makes an argument the documents soften.

"The colonists were reluctant nationalists, and the revolution began, rather than culminated, a long, slow, and incomplete process of creating an American identity and nation."

— Alan Taylor, *American Revolutions: A Continental History, 1750–1804* (W. W. Norton, 2016)

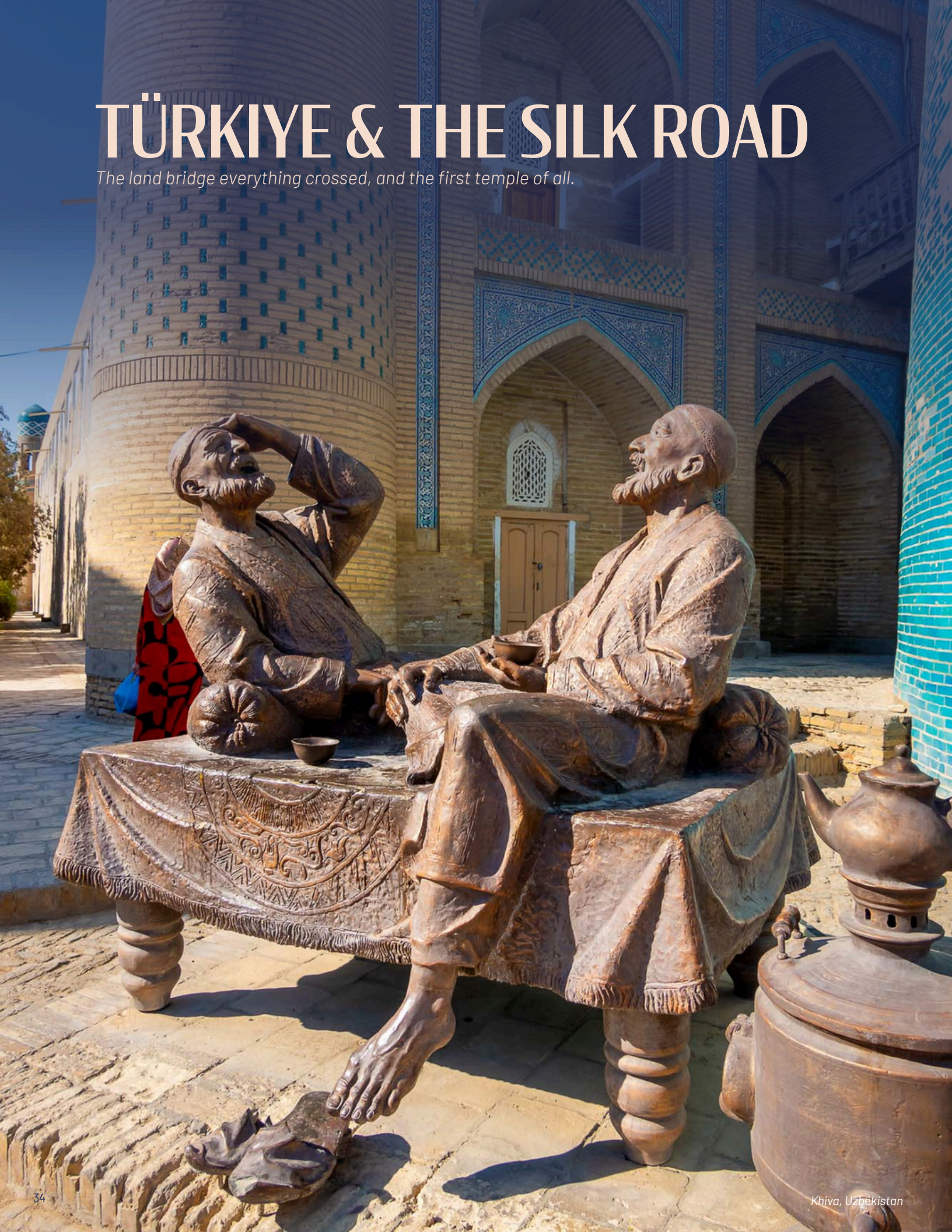
A photograph of a busy street in India, likely in a city like Mumbai. In the foreground, two yellow and green auto-rickshaws are visible. The one on the left has a license plate that reads 'GJ 27 WQ 601'. The background shows a hilly area with many buildings, some of which are white and have balconies. The sky is a warm orange color, suggesting sunset or sunrise. The overall scene is a vibrant and busy urban environment.

"You do not travel if you are afraid of the unknown. You travel for the unknown, that reveals you to yourself."

— Ella Maillart

TÜRKIYE & THE SILK ROAD

The land bridge everything crossed, and the first temple of all.



WESTERN TÜRKİYE

THE CROSSROADS OF CIVILIZATIONS FROM ÇATALHÖYÜK TO THE AEGEAN COAST

Troy is not a city. It is nine cities, built on top of one another over three thousand years, and the argument about which layer Homer meant is not finished.

This coast has been the meeting point of Europe and Asia for as long as either has had a name, and everyone who mattered left something behind. Hittites, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and Ottomans all built here, frequently on the same foundations. The peace treaty that ended the battle of Kadesh, agreed between the Hittites and Egypt in the thirteenth century BC, is the oldest surviving international treaty in the world, and a copy of it hangs at the United Nations.

Before any of them, and well inland on the Konya plain, the people of Çatalhöyük were living in a town of several thousand around nine thousand years ago. They came and went through their roofs and buried their dead beneath the floors, four thousand years before anyone in the region could write it down.

Ephesus, Pergamon, Aphrodisias and Troy, with private access at excavations still running. Sixteen days along a shoreline where the layers sit close enough together to see the joins.

"Jennifer is an excellent study leader. She is very knowledgeable and enthused about her topics. She is very kind and personable."

- Carolyn Dunlap, 2025

with Dr. Jennifer Tobin of the University of Illinois at Chicago, who excavated at Zeugma.

APRIL 19 TO MAY 4, 2027. 16 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/western-turkey-tour/



EASTERN TÜRKIYE

GÖBEKLI TEPE, MT. NEMRUD & THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ANCIENT NEAR EAST

Gobekli Tepe is eleven thousand years old. It was built before farming, before pottery, before the wheel, and before anyone had any business building anything like it.

with Dr. Jennifer Tobin of the University of Illinois at Chicago, who excavated at Zeugma.



The accepted sequence used to be straightforward. People settled down, agriculture produced a surplus, the surplus produced cities, and cities eventually produced religion and monumental architecture. Gobekli Tepe arrives in the wrong order. Hunter gatherers quarried multi ton pillars, carved them with animals, arranged them in circles, and then deliberately buried the whole thing. Nobody has explained that convincingly either, and at nearby Karahan Tepe the excavations now under way may be older still.

Beyond it, the east opens out. The colossal stone heads on the summit at Nemrut, put there by a king who wanted to be counted among gods and whose kingdom lasted barely a century. The Armenian capital at Ani, abandoned on the border, its cathedral standing alone in open grassland with the frontier fence in view. The rock reliefs at Arsameia, and the Euphrates running through country that has been the edge of somebody's empire continuously for four thousand years. Sixteen days across a landscape most itineraries of Türkiye never reach.

"Excellent. I value the handouts. Her bus presentations (and other presentations) were informative and understandable. She readily responded to questions (even those asked three times). She was a cheerful meal companion, with a good sense of humor. When I had balance difficulties at a site she cheerfully offered to help me. I now have her Greece and Western Turkey trips on my wish list."

- Ed Gramlich, 2026

THE SILK ROAD THROUGH ALL FIVE STANS

SAMARKAND, BUKHARA & THE CROSSROADS OF EMPIRES

Silk was the least interesting thing on the Silk Road. The route's real cargo was religion, and it traveled in both directions.

Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, Manichaeism and eventually Islam all moved along these roads, carried by merchants and soldiers as much as by missionaries, and the Sogdians who actually ran the trade were fluent in the practical business of living among all of them. At Panjakent, their city in Tajikistan, you walk the excavation with a member of the team digging it.

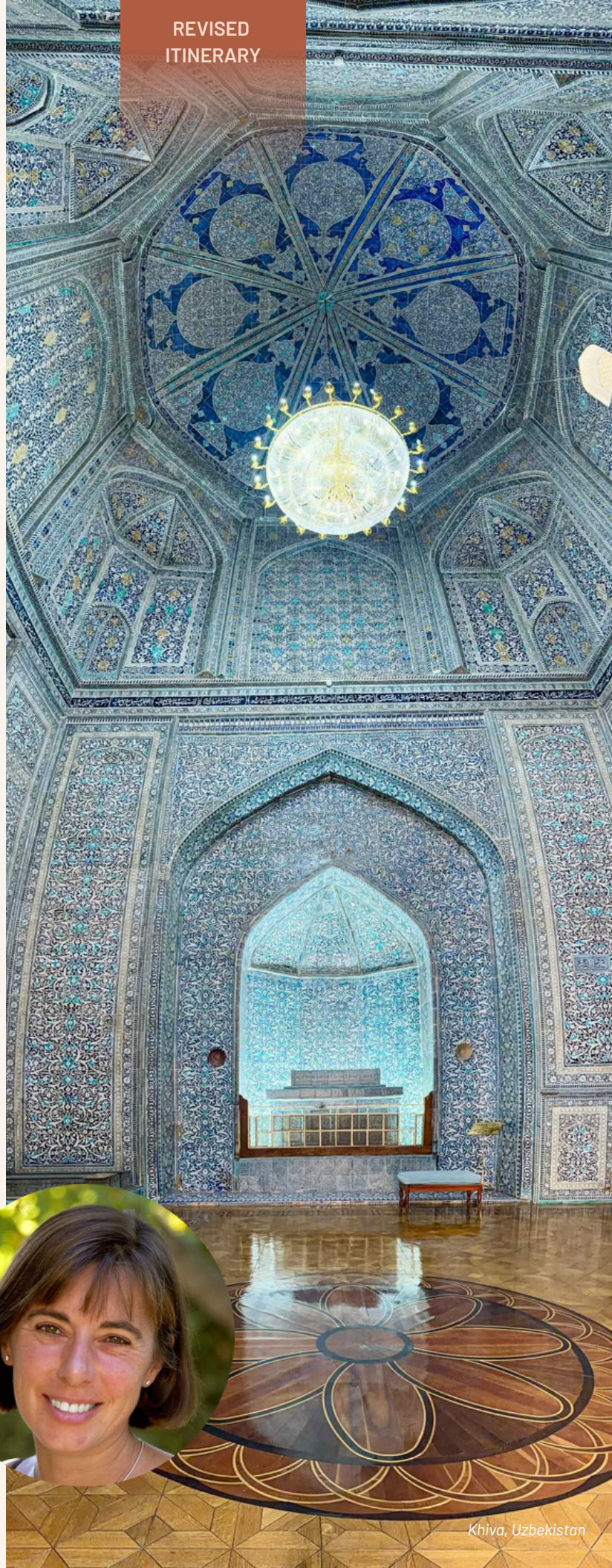
Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand on Navruz, the Persian New Year. A Zoroastrian tower of silence in the Khorezm desert, where the dead were exposed rather than buried because earth and fire were each too sacred to be polluted by a corpse. The gold-clad Saka warrior of Issyk on the Kazakh steppe, and the Burana Tower under the Tian Shan in Kyrgyzstan. Eighteen days across five countries that were the center of the world for a thousand years and then, quite suddenly, were not.

"Jenny was a great study leader. She took questions seriously and provided many fulsome answers. Her specialty is clearly religion, in particular Zoroastrianism and Islam, but she also provided much history and entertaining tales. Enjoyed her company."
- Dan Massey, 2026

with Dr. Jenny Rose of Claremont Graduate University, who works on Zoroastrianism and the religions of the Silk Road.

MARCH 14 TO 31, 2027. 18 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/central-asia-silk-road-tour-of-turkmenistan-uzbekistan-tajikistan/



CHINA'S MARITIME SILK ROAD

SHANGHAI TO HONG KONG

For a thousand years the coast of southeast China faced outward, toward the sea. This is the China of harbors and merchants, told port by port from Shanghai to Hong Kong.

Tang porcelain left the harbor at Qinglong Town for Korea and Japan twelve centuries ago; the port is excavated now. At Quanzhou, the Zaytun of Marco Polo, Arab, Persian and Tamil merchants built a mosque in 1009 and a Hindu temple whose carved columns still stand inside a Buddhist monastery, beside the hull of a Song ship raised from the bay in 1974. The Luoyang Bridge, finished in 1059, is the oldest stone-beam sea bridge in China, its piers bound together by beds of cultivated oysters.

The route follows the money home: the Grand Canal at Hangzhou, capital of the Southern Song; the merchant villages of Xidi and Hongcun, with two nights inside Hongcun after the day visitors have gone; the earthen roundhouses of the Fujian Tulou, each built for a whole clan; and the fortified towers of Kaiping, raised by emigrants sending their fortunes home. It ends at Guangzhou and Macau. From 1757 Guangzhou was the only Chinese port open to Western traders, and Macau, held by the Portuguese since 1557, was where they waited out the months between trading seasons. Your study leader, Eric Tagliacozzo, teaches history at Cornell, and his book *In Asian Waters* follows this trade across the whole of maritime Asia, from Yemen to Yokohama.

Ten UNESCO World Heritage Sites; a maximum of fourteen travelers.

*with Dr. Eric Tagliacozzo, John Stambaugh Professor of History at Cornell University, author of *In Asian Waters: Oceanic Worlds from Yemen to Yokohama*.*

JULY 3 TO 19, 2027. 17 DAYS.

<https://www.farhorizons.com/tour/china-maritime-silk-road/>



MONGOLIA & THE EMPIRE OF GENGHIS KHAN

KARAKORUM, THE ORKHON VALLEY & THE GOBI

August 2027, with Dr. Jenny Rose of Claremont Graduate University. Full itinerary to follow.

Lamu Island, Kenya

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF KENYA & TANZANIA

ZANZIBAR, STONE TOWN AND THE ANCIENT SPICE TRADE OF EAST AFRICA

Not African, not Arab, not Persian, and never a colony of any of them. The Swahili coast was a civilization entirely its own, and it was running the Indian Ocean while Europe was still working out the Atlantic.

with Dr. Stephanie Wynne-Jones, who co-directed the excavations at Songo Mnara.



For a thousand years the stone towns of this coast were the western end of the largest trade system in the world. Ibn Battuta, who had seen most of the fourteenth-century world by the time he arrived, called Kilwa one of the most beautiful cities in it. Kilwa minted its own copper coins and controlled the gold coming up the coast from Sofala, and in 1944 a handful of those coins turned up on an island off northern Australia.

Sixteen days along a coastline whose achievements are routinely attributed to everyone except the people who actually made them.

You walk Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, with the Great Mosque's coral vaulting and the ruined palaces, and Stone Town on Zanzibar, where the Anglican cathedral was deliberately built over the slave market. The building material itself makes the argument: these towns were raised from coral rag and mangrove poles, local everything, by people trading with China. Colonial-era scholars credited them to Arab and Persian settlers, and fifty years of excavation have taken that apart. Swahili itself tells the same story: its grammar is Bantu, and its trading vocabulary comes from Arabic, Persian, Hindi and Portuguese.





THE VIKING WORLD

A people remembered for the one thing their victims bothered to write down.

OARS & ALTARS

FOLLOWING THE VIKINGS

ACROSS SCANDINAVIA

The Vikings reached North America and they reached Baghdad. The raiding is the part that got remembered because it is the part that was written down by the people being raided.

What the archaeology shows is a trading network of extraordinary reach, run by people who were also farmers, shipwrights, poets and lawyers. Arab silver turns up in Swedish soil in quantity. The Spillings hoard, found on a Gotland farm in 1999, weighed about sixty-seven kilograms, much of it in coins struck in Baghdad and Central Asia. At Birka and Hedeby the warehouses and workshops of that system are still legible in the ground, and the longest Viking warship yet found is thirty-seven metres of evidence that they could build whatever the route required. Disputes went to the thing, an open-air assembly where a lawspeaker recited the law aloud from memory, and the rune stones along the roads record who inherited what, who died abroad, and who paid for the bridge.

Four countries - Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Norway - in fifteen days, taking in the Tanum rock carvings from three thousand years before the Viking age, and a stone showing Sigurd killing the dragon, carved by people who plainly expected passers-by to recognise the story without being told it. Ships, silver, law and poetry, in a part of the world that produced all four at once.

"Traveling with Carol was always a pleasure and her knowledge of iconography made our visits to churches much more informative."

- Elizabeth Christianson, 2025

with Dr. Carol Symes of the University of Illinois, who directs its programme in medieval studies.

JUNE 5 TO 19, 2027. 15 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/scandinavian-tour-the-vikings-of-denmark-germany-norway-sweden-2/



VIKINGS IN ENGLAND

RAIDERS, SETTLERS, AND THE DANELAW

In 793 a fleet appeared off Lindisfarne and the monks fled. Within a century, Danes ruled England from the Humber to the Thames.

with Dr. Steven Ashby, Reader in Medieval Archaeology at the University of York and author of A Viking Way of Life.



The raid is the part everyone remembers. What followed was settlement, and it changed England's language, law, place names and political map. In 873 the Great Heathen Army wintered at Repton, inside an earthwork built around a church, and excavation there found a warrior buried with a sword and a Thor's hammer pendant. At Torksey on the Trent, surveys over the past decade have identified one of the largest Viking camps ever found in Europe.

Thirteen days from Newcastle to London. Across the tidal causeway to Holy Island, and a private meeting with the archaeologists who have been excavating beneath Bamburgh Castle since 1996.

Two full days in Jórvík, the Viking capital built on a Roman fortress at York, where the Coppergate dig recovered whole timber houses and workshops. Lincoln and the Danelaw, the ship burial at Sutton Hoo, the Vale of York Hoard and the Lewis Chessmen at the British Museum, and Winchester, where Alfred the Great's peace with Guthrum in 878 set the terms on which the island would be shared. An optional extension continues to the Isle of Man, whose parliament still carries a Norse name.

"Dr. Steven Ashby did a fabulous job! He provided interesting talks on the bus, at the sites, museums and during meals. Steve was approachable, enthusiastic and a great teacher!"

- Far Horizons traveler, 2023

CRUSADERS, CASTLES & BALTIC SHORES

LITHUANIA, LATVIA & ESTONIA

The crusades you were taught about went south. These ones went north, lasted two centuries, and ended with the last pagan state in Europe.

The Teutonic Knights spent two hundred years converting the Baltic by force, and the record of it is still in the landscape rather than in a museum. Kernave, now a UNESCO site, was a hill fort city until the knights burned it in 1390 and it was never rebuilt.

Castles on the Russian border that have watched eight hundred years of military history from both banks, wooden grave markers still carved in pre Christian forms well into the modern period, and the dunes of the Curonian Spit, which are quietly burying archaeology faster than anyone can dig it out. Fourteen days through three countries that were the last part of Europe to be conquered in the name of a religion.

Riga began in 1201 as Bishop Albert's forward base for the crusade, and the Sword Brothers he founded there a year later were broken at the Battle of Saule in 1236, folded soon after into the Teutonic Order itself. Trakai's island castle, red brick rising straight out of Lake Galve, was built to outlast exactly that kind of siege, and Grand Duke Vytautas was still ruling from it when he died there in 1430. Lithuania held out until 1387, when Vilnius was baptized, the last pagan state in Europe to give up its gods, and it did so by treaty rather than by conquest.

with Dr. Carol Symes of the University of Illinois, who studies how cultures record their own destruction.

FALL 2027. DATES TO BE ANNOUNCED. 14 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/tour-the-baltics-in-the-path-of-the-northern-crusades/



Trakai Island Castle, Lithuania

BRITISH ISLES

Five thousand years at the edge of the known world, contested by people who kept declining to concede it.



SCOTLAND'S ANCIENT WORLD

WHERE THE PICTS CARVED AND THE CLANS FELL

Skara Brae was a working village on Orkney five thousand years ago, with stone furniture still standing in the rooms. A storm uncovered it in 1850, having buried it in the first place.

It is older than Stonehenge and older than the pyramids at Giza, and because the sand sealed it, the interiors survive in a way almost nothing else from that period does. A short walk from Skara Brae, the passage tomb at Maeshowe is built so precisely that the midwinter sunset lights its inner chamber for a few minutes each year, and has for five thousand years. From there the record runs more or less unbroken: brochs, Pictish stones carved with symbols nobody has decoded, the rock at Dunadd where the kings of Dalriada were inaugurated, and eventually the Jacobite defeats that get most of the attention.

Fourteen days from the Borders to Orkney, reading the country itself rather than a numbered sequence of monuments, and noticing how often a later people chose to build on a site precisely because an earlier one had. Six guests at most, and the whole thing can be run privately on dates of your own choosing.

"Impeccable planning and execution by the Far Horizons team; an extremely kind, considerate, and knowledgeable trip leader in Dr. Brian Buchanan; and an amazing array of carefully selected sites and cultural experiences made for an outstanding trip that I will never forget, and will recommend, without reservation, to anyone considering a trip to Scotland."

- Tom McCoppin, 2025

with Dr. Brian Buchanan of Durham University, who works on the archaeology of medieval Britain.

JULY 11 TO 24, 2027. 14 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/scotland-tour-scottish-highlands-lowlands-3/



IRELAND

WHERE THE ANCIENT LAND STILL SPEAKS

Newgrange has stood in the Boyne Valley since roughly 3200 BC, already more than two thousand years old by the time Rome was founded, and ancient long before Tutankhamun took the Egyptian throne.

Ireland holds Europe's highest concentration of field monuments, a nine-thousand-year record that runs from Mesolithic hunter-gatherers through the Bronze Age, the early Christian period, and the Anglo-Norman castles that came later. Fifteen days move from Dublin Castle to the Rock of Cashel, the megalithic tombs of the Burren, and Newgrange, Knowth, and Dowth at Brú na Bóinne, one of the island's two UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Private tours with the director of Grassroots Archaeology open St. Doulagh's Church, an Anglo-Norman castle, and a Martello Tower, none of them on the public circuit.

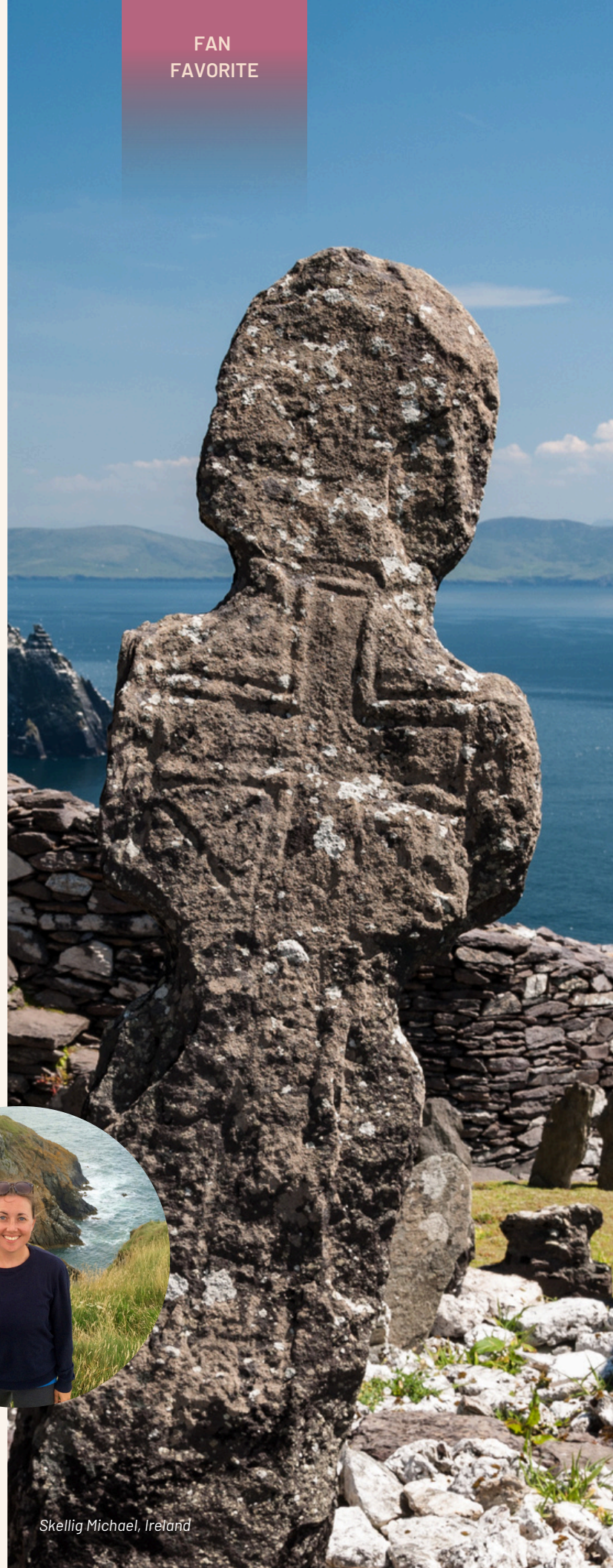
A day on Inis Mór, the largest of the Aran Islands, takes in Dun Aengus, a cliff-edge stone fort whose builders left no record of why they built it above a sheer drop into the Atlantic. Skellig Michael, the island's second UNESCO site, holds a monastery built into a rock spire eight miles off the Kerry coast. Six travelers at most, and the same fifteen days can be run as a private tour on dates of your own choosing with five friends.

"Erin was outstanding. She was knowledgeable, resourceful, energetic, always helpful and with a willing hand, funny, firm with leadership."

- Jose Francisco Gutierrez-Galatas, 2026

with Dr. Erin Crowley-Champoux,
Lecturer in the History and Art History
department at McDaniel College.

JUNE 27 TO JULY 11, 2027. 15 DAYS.



Skellig Michael, Ireland

FAN
FAVORITE



Roman Baths, Bath, England

WALES & ROMAN ENGLAND

4,000 YEARS OF RESISTANCE

Rome held Britain for nearly four centuries and never entirely finished the job in the west. The frontier is the subject of this trip, and your study leader's research.

with Dr. James Bruhn, whose doctoral work at Durham was on the Roman frontiers of northern Britain.



Before Rome arrived, the Great Orme copper mine had already been worked for centuries, on a scale that supplied a great deal of Bronze Age Europe from a headland in north Wales. Four miles of prehistoric tunnels run under it, some narrow enough that only children can have dug them.

When the legions came, they built Caerleon for the Second Augustan Legion, with an amphitheatre cut into the ground that held the entire garrison, and they built it as a statement about permanence to people who had been organised long before Rome had heard of them.

Then the Neolithic tombs of Anglesey, older than everything else here and built so that the midsummer sun would reach down a passage into the chamber, and finally Edward I's ring of castles, which is what conquest looks like when somebody has decided to make it permanent.

Fourteen days on a frontier that spent four thousand years being contested by people who kept declining to concede it. Six guests at most. It can also be taken as a private tour on dates you set yourself.

*"Wonderful - a genius. Very generous with his information and passionate about the subject matter."
- Valerie Howell, 2023*

JUNE 1 TO 14, 2027. 14 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/wales-and-roman-england-tour/

WHERE THE FARE GOES

Travel moves a great deal of money and very little of it usually stays.

INTO THE GROUND.

Far Horizons was bought in 2022 by two people who came to it from archaeology and community development rather than from the travel trade, with the stated purpose of supporting archaeological research and widening the local benefit of international travel.

INTO THE TOWN.

Local guides, local restaurants, locally owned hotels wherever the itinerary allows. The test is simple: does the money stay after the coach leaves.

BACK AGAIN.

Most people on any given departure have traveled with us before. That is the number we watch, because it is the only review that costs something to give.



ROME & THE CLASSICAL WORLD

What Rome built, and what the people who came after made of the ruins.

GREECE THROUGH THE AGES

FROM MYCENAE TO METEORA

The tomb of Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander, was found intact in 1977 and only opened to the public in 2018. Very few people have stood in it.

Greece was never only Athens. Mycenae was a fortified power four hundred years before the classical period, and the gold Schliemann pulled out of its shaft graves is still the largest such find from the Bronze Age Aegean. Olympia ran for a millennium. The route follows the whole arc rather than the highlights reel, from the Bronze Age through the city states to Byzantium and the monasteries at Meteora.

The route follows the whole arc rather than the highlights reel: Mycenae and Tiryns, Olympia, Delphi where the oracle was consulted before anything important was decided, Corinth, and finally the monasteries at Meteora, balanced on rock towers by men who wanted to be difficult to reach. Sixteen days with private access at sites where excavation is ongoing, which tends to be exactly where the interesting disagreements are still happening.

"I had high expectations but Professor Noble's ability to clarify and elucidate the island's layers of history was truly remarkable. He possesses a rare gift for synthesis - weaving together the disparate threads of Greek, Arab, Muslim, Roman, Byzantine and Norman influence into a clear and compelling portrait... He transformed an archaeological adventure into a trip of a lifetime. I feel the need to add that Professor Tom Noble is fun and a joy to travel with. Thank you Far Horizons for choosing Professor Noble!"
- Stanley Walker, MD, 2026

with Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble of the University of Notre Dame.

SEPTEMBER 1 TO 16, 2027. 16 DAYS.

farhorizons.com/tour/the-archaeology-of-greece-tour-2/



Roman Theatre, Orange, France

FRANCE

BUILT TO LAST – ROMAN & ROMANESQUE ARCHITECTURE

Before France was France it was Gaul, and the Romans built there as though they were never leaving. A good deal of it is still standing, and still working.

with Dr. Fred Kleiner, Professor Emeritus at Boston University and author of Gardner's Art Through the Ages.



The Pont du Gard carried water across a valley on three tiers of stone laid without mortar, at a gradient of one in three thousand, and it is still there. The amphitheatre at Arles is still there and still in use. In the Middle Ages it held a fortified town of some two hundred houses and two chapels, and it was only cleared out in the nineteenth century.

What makes southern France unusual is not that it has Roman remains but that the Romanesque builders who came a thousand years later were looking directly at them, learning from them, and quite consciously trying to match them. You can watch the idea travel. The round arch at Nîmes, where the Maison Carrée survived because somebody kept finding new uses for it, and the round arch at Saint Sernin in Toulouse nine hundred years later.

In its time the Maison Carrée has been a council hall, a private house, a stable and a church. At Saint-Trophime in Arles the twelfth-century portal is laid out like a Roman triumphal arch, a few streets from the amphitheatre its builders were learning from.

Roman columns holding up church naves because they were already there and already worked. The tympanum at Moissac, where twelfth century sculptors handled stone with a confidence they had inherited rather than invented, and Vézelay at the end of it.

Fourteen days from Toulouse to Burgundy with the art historian who wrote the textbook most of the English speaking world learned this from.

ALGERIA

THE BEST-PRESERVED ROME YOU'VE NEVER SEEN

The best preserved Roman city in the world is not in Italy, and almost nobody has stood in it.

Timgad was laid out in AD 100 on a perfect grid, a colony for retired legionaries at the edge of the Aures mountains, and the chariot ruts are still cut into its paving stones. Someone scratched a game board into the paving of the forum along with a line of Latin: to hunt, to bathe, to play, to laugh, that is living. Djemila sits in a fold of the hills a few hours away, largely undisturbed. Rome's African provinces were never an outpost. They were the granary, and the wealth is legible in what was built here. Augustine wrote the *Confessions* in this province.

There is also the tomb of the Numidian kings, and at Cherchell the seat of Cleopatra Selene, daughter of Cleopatra and Mark Antony, who ruled this coast as queen. She and her husband, Juba II, are thought to lie in the great round mausoleum on the ridge above Tipasa, still known locally as the Tomb of the Christian Woman. Algeria receives very few visitors. The ordinary experience at these sites is to have them to yourself.

"Jennifer was an excellent Study Leader who shared a wealth of information at every site that we visited... her enthusiasm for the archeological sites was contagious. I especially appreciated her daily handouts, providing detailed notes on the background of each site that we visited."

- John Decker, 2024

with Dr. Jennifer Tobin, Professor Emerita of History and Classics at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

OCTOBER 2 TO 15, 2027. 13 DAYS.



Notre-Dame d'Afrique, Algiers, Algeria



IN PREPARATION

Itineraries being built now. Dates and scholars go to our mailing list first.



ASIA THAILAND

Bronze Age burial grounds at Ban Chiang, the ruined Buddhist capitals of Sukhothai and Ayutthaya, and the Khmer-built temple mountains of Isaan: fourteen days across a kingdom that absorbed and rewrote every empire that reached it, with an archaeologist who has spent his career excavating its prehistoric past.

with Thanik Lertcharnrit

DECEMBER 2027 · 14 DAYS



ASIA CAMBODIA & LAOS

Angkor Wat and Angkor Thom's carved towers, the sandstone reliefs of Banteay Srei, and Laos's Plain of Jars, thousands of stone vessels whose purpose is still debated: sixteen days across the Khmer Empire's heartland and the river capitals of Laos, with an archaeologist who has excavated Angkor itself.

with Miriam Stark

JANUARY 2028 · 16 DAYS

To hear first, join the list at farhorizons.com

THE QUESTIONS PEOPLE ACTUALLY ASK

AM I FIT ENOUGH?

Most trips involve several hours of walking a day, often on uneven ground, sometimes at altitude. We publish the physical demands honestly for each trip, and we would rather talk you out of the wrong one than have you on it.

WILL I BE THE ONLY ONE TRAVELING ALONE?

No. A substantial share of every group travels solo, and single accommodation is available on every trip.

DO I NEED A BACKGROUND IN ARCHAEOLOGY?

No. Curiosity is the whole prerequisite. The scholars pitch to an intelligent adult, not to a specialist.

WILL THE SCHOLAR BE WITH US THE WHOLE TIME?

Yes. Your study leader travels with the group from the first day to the last, not only for the lectures and site visits.

IS IT VERY STRUCTURED?

There is free time, and the itineraries say where. What is not negotiable is the time given to each site, which is longer than a general tour would allow.

WHAT IF I HAVE TO CANCEL?

Terms are set out in full at farhorizons.com. Read them before you book, not after.

WHAT ABOUT TRAVEL INSURANCE?

We strongly recommend it, and you can purchase comprehensive coverage through Trawick International during the registration process. Emergency evacuation insurance is already included in the trip price.

HOW CAN I DONATE TO THE ONGOING WORK?

Each trip includes a separate donation of \$150 per person to a designated project, paid on its own rather than in the trip price. Ask us which project your trip supports.

BOOK EARLY

Far Horizons trips are small, and a good number of them fill from the previous year's travelers before they are advertised at all. If a trip in this catalogue is the one you want, the useful thing to do is say so early.



EVERY 2026 & 2027 DEPARTURE

November 2 to 16, 2026. 15 days	Majesty of Egypt	Dr. Nicholas Brown	8
March 14 to 25, 2027. 12 days	Oases of Egypt	Dr. Nicholas Brown	9
July 26 to August 6, 2027. 12 days	Egypt Solar Eclipse	Dr. Nicholas Brown	10
October 31 to November 13, 2026. 14 days	North India	Dr. Jenny Rose	15
January 19 to February 2, 2027. 15 days	Eastern India	Dr. David Eckel	16
November 2 to 18, 2027. 17 days	Gujarat and Rajasthan	Dr. Jenny Rose	17
October 1 to 18, 2027. 18 days	Himalayan Kingdoms	Dr. David Eckel	18
March 2027. 9 days	Archaeology of Belize	Dr. Stanley Guenter	21
March 20 to 28, 2027. 9 days	Ancient Mexico and the Olmecs	Dr. Jeremy Coltman	22
October 25 to November 5, 2027. 12 days	Maya Capital Cities	Dr. Jeremy Coltman	23
November 6 to 16, 2027. 11 days	Mexico's Yucatán	Dr. Travis Stanton	24
February 14 to 28, 2027. 15 days	Chile and Easter Island	Dr. Sidsel Millerstrom	25
May 4 to 18, 2027. 14 days	Archaeology of Bolivia	Dr. Andrew Roddick	29
May 22 to 31, 2027. 10 days	American Southwest	Dr. Robert Weiner	30
June 7 to 19, 2027. 13 days	The American Revolution	Dr. Alan Taylor	31
April 19 to May 4, 2027. 16 days	Western Türkiye	Dr. Jennifer Tobin	35
May 4 to 19, 2027. 16 days	Eastern Türkiye	Dr. Jennifer Tobin	36
March 14 to 31, 2027. 18 days	Central Asia Silk Road	Dr. Jenny Rose	37
July 3 to 19, 2027. 17 days	China's Maritime Silk Road	Dr. Eric Tagliacozzo	38
August 2027	Mongolia	Dr. Jenny Rose	39
June 5 to 20, 2027. 16 days	Kenya and Tanzania	Dr. Stephanie Wynne-Jones	40
June 5 to 19, 2027. 15 days	Scandinavia	Dr. Carol Symes	43
June 15 to 27, 2027. 13 days	Vikings in England	Dr. Steven Ashby	44
August 2027. 14 days	The Baltics	Dr. Carol Symes	45
July 11 to 24, 2027. 14 days	Scotland	Dr. Brian Buchanan	47
June 27 to July 11, 2027. 15 days	Ireland	Dr. Erin Crowley-Champoux	48
June 1 to 14, 2027. 14 days	Wales and Roman England	Dr. James Bruhn	49
September 1 to 16, 2027. 16 days	The Archaeology of Greece	Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble	52
September 17 to 30, 2027. 14 days	France	Dr. Fred Kleiner	53
October 2 to 15, 2027. 13 days	Algeria	Dr. Jennifer Tobin	54

A TRAVELER'S WORDS

"Thank you for providing an experience we will remember forever. This was an outstanding itinerary."

— Eran Metzger

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