



MARTIN  
RANDALL  
TRAVEL

LEADING EXPERTS IN CULTURAL TOURS

# Cultural tours in 2026



# Why travel with us?

**Leaders in the field.** Since 1988, Martin Randall Travel has been committed to providing the best planned, the best led and altogether the most fulfilling and enjoyable cultural tours available. Operating in around 40 countries, our mission is to deepen your understanding and enhance your appreciation of the achievements of civilisations around the world.

**First-rate speakers.** Expert speakers (our 'Lecturers') are a key ingredient in our tours. They are selected not only for their knowledge, but also for their ability to communicate clearly and engagingly to a lay audience.

**Original itineraries, meticulously planned.** Rooted in the knowledge of the destination and of the subject matter of the tour, the outcome of assiduous research and reconnaissance, and underpinned by many years of reflection and experience, our itineraries are second to none.

**Special arrangements are a feature of our tours** – for admission to places not generally open to travellers, for access outside public hours, for private concerts and extraordinary events.

**Travelling in comfort.** We select our hotels with great care. Not only have nearly all been inspected by our staff, but we have stayed in most. Hundreds more have been rejected. We invest similar efforts in the selection of restaurants, menus and wines, aided by staff with a specialist knowledge of these areas.

**Small groups, congenial company.** Most of our tours run with 10 to 20 participants. Travelling with MRT, you are highly likely to find yourself in congenial company, self-selected by common interests and affinity for the company's ethos.

**Travelling solo.** We welcome people travelling on their own, for whom our tours are ideal, as many of our clients testify. Half the group is usually made up of solo travellers.

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## How to book

**Please contact your local travel agent to make a booking.**

You will need to complete a booking form and pay a 15% non-refundable deposit or full balance if within 12 weeks of departure. Please read our booking conditions at [martinrandall.com/terms](https://martinrandall.com/terms) and fitness requirements under 'How strenuous' in the tour description and at [martinrandall.com/about](https://martinrandall.com/about) under 'Fitness'. Our fitness tests are a condition of booking.

*Prices listed are per person sharing, without flights. Please ask your travel agent to quote on flights, single occupancy or other options.*

Scan to view our cultural  
tours programme for 2026





# Martin Randall Travel cruises in 2026

CAMBODIA BY RIVER  
7–21 March 2026

SAILING THE DALMATIAN COAST  
30 April– 9 May & 13–23 October 2026

THE RHINE PIANO FESTIVAL  
22–29 June 2026

HISTORY & ART ON THE DANUBE  
6–13 July 2026

MUSIC ALONG THE DANUBE  
15–22 August 2026

MUSIC ALONG THE RHINE  
31 August–7 September 2026

CRUISING THE DOURO  
14–22 October 2026



Visit [martinrandall.com/cruises](https://martinrandall.com/cruises) for more information.

# Our tour themes

## *Art & Architecture*

From Classical orders to modernist innovations, we examine key protagonists and periods across civilisations, from Japan's artistic traditions to Venice's private palaces. Explore celebrated galleries like the Uffizi and Prado, and countless lesser known gems. Our architecture tours reveal great buildings as monuments, dwellings, engineering marvels and vital components of a city's mythos.



## *Archaeology*

From prehistoric cave art in the Dordogne to the Acropolis in Athens, and Pompeii to Cambodia, our archaeological tours journey through history exploring antique and Classical worlds. Getting up close to the evidence and artefacts of early civilisations, our expert tour-leaders decode the stories of the most famous archaeological sites, as well as countless lesser-known ones.



## *House & Garden*

From historical gardens to private oases, these tours offer idyllic retreat. Explore classical domestic architecture where country houses, villas and gardens act as places of refuge and self-expression, and brilliant modern public spaces designed to distance preoccupations of city life. Special access is a feature, with contributions from garden designers, homeowners and head gardeners.



## *History*

These tours focus on significant events and encounters, from castles and conquest in medieval Wales to The Making of Argentina. Examine the forces that shaped the Western Balkans and the politics of civil war Spain. Acclaimed historians provide context and analysis, including former diplomats, army officers and correspondents with first-hand experience and expert knowledge.



## *Music, Opera & Ballet*

From Munich's Nationaltheater to La Scala, our music tours offer access to the world's greatest venues and festivals. You enjoy top-category seats, fellow music-lovers' companionship and lectures by leaders in their field. Experiences range from intimate Schubertiade chamber music to spectacular opera in Verona and Glyndebourne, with world-class soloists and orchestras.



## *Gastronomy*

These tours discover a region's essential character through local people and traditions – in Provence, Sicily, the Basque Country and beyond. These tours include food, wine and cultural highlights, emphasizing local producers and intimate rustic meals alongside top restaurants. More than simply gourmet holidays, they focus equally on authentic culinary experiences across Italy, Spain and France.



## *Walking*

These tours combine countryside hikes with cultural content. We walk to English country houses, Italian villas and trek through Tuscany, following in the footsteps of pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela and Romans along Hadrian's Wall. These tours require fitness and agility. Each description includes walking distances, terrain details and our grading system for walks.



## *Literature & Drama*

What better way to gain a new perspective on the thinking of an age than through its works of literature. To see with one's own eyes the places that inspired an author or a text, can add to one's appreciation immeasurably. Exploring these literary landscapes with fellow enthusiasts and expert guides brings deeper understanding to beloved texts and their historical context.





# Civilisations of Sicily

## Mediterranean crossroads: 3000 years of creativity

**16–28 March 2026 (MM 899)**

13 days • from \$13,380

Lecturer: Dr Luca Leoncini

**7–19 April 2026 (MM 916)**

13 days • from \$14,490

Lecturer: Dr Philippa Joseph

**7–19 September 2026 (MM 161)**

13 days • from \$15,010

Lecturer: Dr Zoë Opačić

**5–17 October 2026 (MM 196)**

13 days • from \$14,490

Lecturer: Dr Mark Grahame

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All the main sights and many lesser-known ones. The whole gamut – Greek, Roman, Norman, Renaissance, Baroque and 19th century.

Several special arrangements to visit places not normally open to the public.

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### Itinerary

**Day 1: Palermo.** Fly from London to Palermo (*flights optional extra*), capital of Sicily since the Saracenic occupation in the ninth century. First of six nights in Palermo.

**Day 2: Palermo.** A walk includes the Palazzo Abatellis and Norman buildings. Lunch is at a private palace, by special arrangement. View the Greek sculpture in the Archaeological Museum. Evening out-of-hours visit to the Palatine Chapel.

**Day 3: Monreale, Cefalù.** Monreale cathedral, one of the finest Norman churches on the island. Cefalù, a charming coastal town, has another Norman cathedral with outstanding mosaics.

**Day 4: Agrigento.** The remains of the Greek colony of Akragas is one of the greatest sites bequeathed by the ancient world. From 580 BC, it

rose rapidly to riches. Its eight peripteral temples, are the most numerous group in the Greek world.

**Day 5: Segesta, Selinunte.** The fascinatingly unfinished fifth-century temple at Segesta sits in unspoiled landscape. Selinunte, founded c. 650 BC, is famous for its many temples and acropolis.

**Day 6: Palermo.** The cathedral, with grand royal and imperial tombs, then to San Giovanni degli Eremiti, a Norman church. Il Gesù boasts the grandest of Palermo's Baroque interiors.

**Day 7: Palermo, Piazza Armerina.** Visit Castello della Zisa, an Arab-Norman Palace. At Piazza Armerina are the remains of one of the finest villas of the late-Roman Empire. Continue to the east coast for the first of three nights in Taormina.

**Day 8: Taormina.** Free day in this extremely pretty town. Our hotel has shaded gardens which spill down a series of terraces, and a pool.

**Day 9: Messina, Reggio di Calabria.** Messina was one of Caravaggio's Sicilian refuges, and in the art gallery there are two paintings by him. Cross the Straits of Messina to Reggio di Calabria on mainland Italy to see the Riace Bronzes.

**Day 10: Catania, Siracusa.** Sicily's second city, Catania was largely rebuilt after the earthquake of 1693. Special arrangements to see a magnificent private *palazzo* and a Byzantine chapel. Continue to Syracuse for the first of three nights.

**Day 11: Siracusa.** Morning visit to the mainland to Santa Lucia al Sepolcro, the church for which Caravaggio painted the *Burial of Saint Lucy*. Visit the Archaeological Museum. Free afternoon.

**Day 12: Noto, Siracusa.** The hill town of Noto is one of the loveliest Baroque towns in Italy. Visit the convent of Santa Chiara, the cathedral and San Carlo, then Syracuse Archaeological Park.

**Day 13: Siracusa.** Visit the Castello Maniace, then the Palazzo Bellomo to see Antonello da Messina's *Annunciation*. Fly from Catania arriving London Gatwick c. 8.15pm.

*'So many unexpected treasures.'*



# Cornish Houses & Gardens

Landscapes, flowers, buildings and art

**21–29 April 2026 (MM 930)**

9 days • from \$8,320

Speaker: Anthony Lambert

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A highly distinctive county of beautiful scenery, rugged coastline and picturesque towns.

Country houses spanning a range of periods and styles, and several exceptional gardens, seen in their springtime glory.

A significant centre in the history of British art, as viewed in the museums and galleries.

Several special arrangements including owner-led visits and a private lunch in a stately home.

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## Itinerary

**Day 1: Port Eliot.** Depart Plymouth station at 1.30pm. Port Eliot, created from a 12th-century priory, is Grade I listed along with its park. Remodelled in the 17th and 18th centuries, notably by Sir John Soane. The adjacent church, once a Saxon Cathedral, is among Cornwall's finest, with Norman and Perpendicular and Burne-Jones windows. First of two nights in Padstow.

**Day 2: Lanhydrock, Pencarrow.** Lanhydrock, within a Jacobean shell, reveals late Victorian technical advances in country-house design. Approach is via one of Britain's most enchanting gatehouses. Pencarrow, a Palladian house in a wooded valley, has ornate the interiors and has been the Molesworth family home for 500 years. Arthur Sullivan wrote the music for *Iolanthe* here.

**Day 3: Padstow, Prideaux, Trerice, Trewithen.** Time in Padstow, a picturesque fishing port. Prideaux Place blends Elizabethan, Strawberry Hill Gothic and Georgian styles. Trerice is a modest Elizabethan mansion with Dutch gables and rich plasterwork. Trewithen's garden is renowned for rhododendrons, magnolias and rare

flowering shrubs. Three nights in Falmouth.

**Day 4: Trelissick, Falmouth.** Trelissick's garden, spectacularly overlooking the River Fal, is famed for flowering cherries, ginkgo, palms and rhododendrons. Falmouth, once a hub for trade and the Royal Navy, has a fascinating waterfront and an art gallery with works from the Pre-Raphaelites to the present.

**Day 5: Caerhays, Heligan.** Caerhays Castle is a picturesque Regency house, designed by John Nash, master of the style. The park boasts the UK's largest collection of magnolias and 600 plant varieties. Private lunch in the castle. The Lost Gardens of Heligan, once derelict, now hold National Collection status for pre-1920 camellias and rhododendrons.

**Day 6: Glendurgan, Bonython Estate Gardens, Carbis Bay.** Glendurgan, created by Quakers, spans three valleys ablaze with spring flowers. After a pub lunch, visit Bonython Estate Gardens, brimming with colour and exotic horticultural twists. First of three nights in St Ives.

**Day 7: St Ives.** St Ives, with its narrow granite streets, was a centre for 20th-century British art. Visit Barbara Hepworth's home and garden, and the Tate St Ives. Free afternoon.

**Day 8: Penzance, St Michael's Mount.** In Penzance, a harbour town full of architectural interest, see works by the Newlyn School at the Penlee Gallery. St Michael's Mount, reached by causeway, was once a monastery and later a home, with a 14th-century church and Chippendale furniture.

**Day 9: Cotehele.** Perched high above the River Tamar, Cotehele is a Tudor house with arms, old oak furniture and tapestries; unmodernised, it remains unlit by electricity. The gardens include terraces, the Valley Garden, and orchards with apples and cherries. The tour ends at Plymouth station by 3.00pm.



*'A varied and fascinating itinerary and no two days were the same.'*



# Art in Japan

## Art, craft, architecture & design

**30 March–10 April 2026 (MM 909)**

12 days • from \$19,840

Lecturer: Professor Timon Screech

**5–16 October 2026 (MM 195)**

12 days • from \$19,840

Lecturer: Dr Monika Hinkel

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Many of the finest collections of Japanese art in museums and *in situ* in temples and shrines.

World Heritage sites at Nikko, Kyoto, Nara and Horyu-ji, and the art island of Naoshima.

Outstanding museum buildings by Tadao Ando, I.M. Pei and other leading architects.

Other aspects of Japanese culture, past and present, including gastronomy and gardens.

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### Itinerary

**Day 1: Tokyo.** The tour begins in Tokyo (*flights not included*). Visit the Edo-period Korakuen Garden, one of the best preserved in the city. Three nights in Tokyo.

**Day 2: Tokyo.** Spend the morning in Tokyo National Museum, which houses some of the finest Japanese art in the world. Nezu Kaichiro's extraordinary collection of Japanese and other Asian arts is perfectly presented in the eponymous museum, with a delightful garden.

**Day 3: Nikko.** Full-day excursion to Nikko, a historically important Shinto and Buddhist pilgrimage site with breathtaking mountain vistas. The 17th-century Toshogu Shrine complex was established here by the powerful Tokugawa Shoguns. Buildings are decorated with elaborate wood-carvings and beautiful paintwork.

**Day 4: Tokyo to Kyoto.** Start at the Ota Memorial Art Museum with its collection of ukiyo-e woodblock prints. Travel by high-speed train to

Kyoto, considered the centre of Japanese culture and dense with examples of art and architecture. Five nights in Kyoto.

**Day 5: Kyoto.** Kyoto's National Museum offers an impressive display of ceramics, painting, sculpture and textiles. Visit the zen temple complex of Nanzen-ji at the foot of the Higashiyama mountains. The Kodai-ji Temple is richly decorated with maki-e lacquerwork.

**Day 6: Nara and its environs.** A full-day in Nara, first capital of Japan. Birthplace of major religious development, here are some of the oldest wooden structures in the world. Visits include the temple of Todai-ji; the statues of the Hokke-do and Horyu-ji is Japan's earliest Buddhist temple.

**Day 7: Kyoto environs.** Visit the Miho museum, designed by I.M. Pei and integrated into a forested nature reserve. The home of potter Kawai Kanjiro (d. 1966), a key figure in the folk art revival of the 1930s, is furnished with his work.

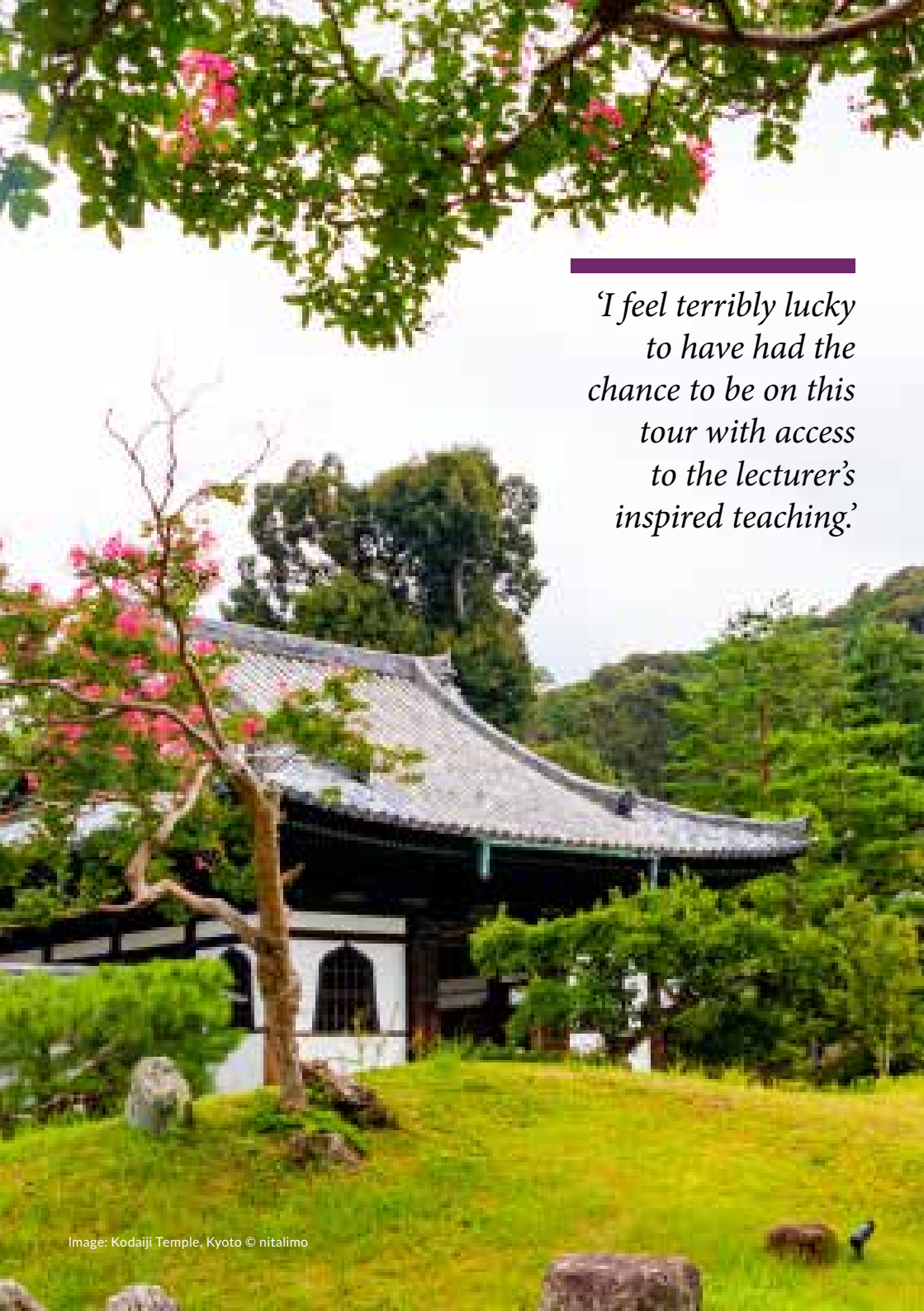
**Day 8: Kyoto.** The 14th-century temple compound of Daitoku-ji, is an important foundation of Japanese Zen. Its many sub-temples contain dry-landscape gardens. Visit the Raku Museum and Nijo Castle with its lavish interiors.

**Day 9: Kyoto to Naoshima, Uno.** Ferry to Naoshima Island, which forms part of the 'Benesse Art Site'. See the striking galleries and outdoor installations that dot the landscape. Return to Uno by ferry. Two nights in Uno.

**Day 10: Uno, Naoshima.** Ferry to Naoshima to see the Art House Project—a collection of traditional buildings that now house creative contemporary installations. The Chichu Art Museum houses several Monet paintings.

**Day 11: Uno, Naoshima, Tokyo.** The Lee Ufan Museum on Naoshima houses works by the artist. Train to Tokyo for one night

**Day 12: Tokyo.** The tour ends after breakfast.



*'I feel terribly lucky  
to have had the  
chance to be on this  
tour with access  
to the lecturer's  
inspired teaching.'*

# Sailing the Dalmatian Coast

## From Split to Dubrovnik

**30 April–9 May 2026 (MM 934)**

10 days • from \$8,760

Lecturer: Dr Zoë Opačić

**1–10 October 2026 (MM 200)**

10 days • from \$8,760

Lecturer: Dr Mark Thompson

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Exclusive charter of a small ship for just 30 participants to explore the string of beautiful, unspoilt historic towns.

One of the most spectacular of Mediterranean coastlines with crystal water, islands and inlets.

Begin in Split – with 2 nights in the Old Town. End in Dubrovnik, UNESCO world heritage site.

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## Itinerary

**Day 1: Split.** Fly c. 11.30am from London Heathrow to Split with British Airways (*flights optional extra*). Stay in the Old Town for the first of two nights.

**Day 2: Split, Salona.** The core of Split consists of the vast quadrangular palace built by Emperor Diocletian (ad 295–305). Particularly well preserved are the Temple of Jupiter and Diocletian's mausoleum (the cathedral). The Roman city of Salona (now Solin) gives a unique insight into the last stages of urban life, its walls now encircling a complete ecclesiastical quarter.

**Day 3: Split, Trogir.** Visit the home and studio of Ivan Meštrović, the great Croatian sculptor (1883–1962), and the Archaeological Museum, with excellent Roman antiquities. Trogir is a delightful little island city and its Romanesque cathedral contains fine sculpture. Board the MS *Prestige* and moor overnight in Trogir.

**Day 4: Šibenik.** Sail in the early morning northwest to Šibenik. Afternoon walk in this

attractive medieval town, with its Gothic-Renaissance cathedral. Visit the Krka National Park. Moor overnight in Šibenik.

**Day 5: Hvar.** Morning sail to the island of Hvar mooring in its capital. Visit the walled old town, its narrow streets lined with Gothic palaces, the 15th-century Franciscan monastery and 17th-century arsenal. Overnight here.

**Day 6: Vis.** Short cruise to Vis, Croatia's most remote inhabited island and its oldest recorded settlement. (As Vis is the least sheltered island in the Adriatic, it can be difficult to moor in bad weather and this stop may be removed from the programme at short notice.) Continue to the island of Korčula, whose history stretches back to the Neolithic era. Moor overnight in Korčula.

**Day 7: Korčula, Slano, Ston.** The magnificent Gothic-Renaissance Cathedral of St Mark has an altarpiece by Tintoretto. Sail at lunchtime to Slano. Ston is surrounded by well-preserved 14th-century walls, built to protect the northern boundary of the Republic of Ragusa and the town's valuable saltpans, among the oldest in the Mediterranean. Moor overnight in Slano.

**Day 8: Dubrovnik.** Drive to the Trsteno Arboretum, a Renaissance landscaped garden, sown with seeds brought back by Dubrovnik's sea captains. Sail from Slano to Dubrovnik. The Venetian Baroque cathedral has an altarpiece by Titian. Moor overnight in Dubrovnik.

**Day 9: Dubrovnik.** Walk along the fortifications with views across the rooftops and out to sea. The Dominican convent has an excellent collection of Croatian and Italian Renaissance paintings. The afternoon is free for you to explore further. Moor overnight in Dubrovnik.

**Day 10. Disembark and drive to the airport.** The flight from Dubrovnik arrives at London Heathrow at c. 3.00pm.

Image: *MS Prestige*.





*'Excellent cruise, very nice  
ship with perfect cabins  
and fascinating lectures.'*

# Modern Art on the Côte d'Azur

## Picasso, Matisse, Chagall and their contemporaries

**24–30 March 2026 (MM 906)**

7 days • from \$6,890

Lecturer: Mary Lynn Riley

**2–8 October 2026 (MM 192)**

7 days • from \$7,150

Lecturer: Monica Bohm-Duchen

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Europe's greatest concentration of classic modern art in the idyllic Mediterranean setting where it was created.

Old and new collections, with outstanding work by Renoir, Bonnard, Braque, Léger, Miró, Giacometti, Cocteau, Chagall, Matisse, Picasso.

Visits to the coastal towns and villages which inspired the artists.

Stay in Nice throughout.

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### Itinerary

**Day 1: Nice, March 2026:** Fly (British Airways) at c. 11.45am from London Heathrow to Nice. **October 2026:** Fly (British Airways CityFlyer) at c. 11.00am from London City to Nice (*flights optional extra*). There is an afternoon visit to the Musée des Beaux Arts Jules Chéret, concentrating on their 19th- and early 20th-century holdings.

**Day 2: Nice.** The Musée Matisse unites a wide range of the artist's work; sculpture, ceramics, stained glass as well as painting. In the afternoon, visit the Marc Chagall Museum which has the largest collection of the artist's works: notably the 17 canvases of the Biblical Message, set in a peaceful garden in a salubrious Nice suburb.

**Day 3: Antibes, Vallauris, Cagnes-sur-Mer.** Most of the paintings Picasso produced in his studio in the Château Grimaldi in 1946 have been donated to the town of Antibes. Vallauris is a centre of

contemporary pottery revived by Picasso, whose masterpiece *War & Peace* is here. Renoir's house in Cagnes-sur-Mer is set amidst olive groves, a memorial to the only major Impressionist to settle in the south.

**Day 4: St-Tropez, Le Cannet.** Drive west to St-Tropez, which has been popular with artists since Paul Signac settled here in 1892. The Musée de l'Annonciade is one of France's finest collections of modern art (Signac, Maillol, Matisse, Bonnard, Vlaminck, Braque). Continue to Le Cannet, where the first museum dedicated to the works of Bonnard opened in 2011.

**Day 5: Villefranche-sur-Mer, St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, Nice.** In Villefranche is the small Chapelle St-Pierre, decorated by Cocteau. Continue to St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat to see the paintings, sculpture and furniture of the Villa Ephrussi de Rothschild, a mansion set in attractive gardens. The afternoon is free in Nice.

**Day 6: St-Paul-de-Vence, Vence.** The Maeght Foundation at St-Paul-de-Vence is renowned for its collections (Picasso, Hepworth, Miró, Arp, Giacometti, but not all works are shown at once) and for its architecture and setting. In the afternoon visit the Chapelle du Rosaire, a Dominican chapel designed by Matisse.

**Day 7: Biot.** The Musée National Fernand Léger was built to house the artist's works bequeathed to his wife. Fly from Nice arriving at London Heathrow at c. 3.15pm.

*Please note that the October 2026 tour departs from London City airport and returns to London Heathrow.*

*In recent years, renovation work has led to museum closures. At the moment all visits listed are possible but we cannot rule out the possibility of changes.*

Illustration: Nice, etching c. 1925 by Frederick Farrell.

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*'A terrific formula, and the  
attention to detail which  
makes all the difference.'*



# Footpaths of Umbria

Walks, art and wine between Arezzo and Assisi

**26 May–2 June 2026 (MM 972)**

8 days • from \$6,910

Lecturer: Nigel McGilchrist

**19–26 October 2026 (MM 211)**

8 days • from \$6,910

Lecturer: Dr Thomas-Leo True

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Six walks of between 5 and 7.5 km between Arezzo and Assisi through the inimitable Umbrian countryside.

Enjoy the art of Piero della Francesca, Luca Signorelli and Giotto.

Visit isolated hermitages, churches and cathedrals associated with St Francis.

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## Itinerary

**Day 1: Città di Castello.** Fly from London Heathrow at c. 8.00am to Florence (May) or Bologna (October) (*flights optional extra*). Four nights in Città di Castello.

**Day 2: Montecasale, Sansepolcro.** St Francis passed through Montecasale in 1213 en route to the Adriatic and Jerusalem. A small friary still offers pilgrim accommodation. Walk from Montecasale to La Montagna: c. 7.5 km, c. 2 hours. A high-level walk on paths, tracks and exposed ground, and through woodland with a long final descent—graded as challenging. Lunch in Sansepolcro, then visit the museum in the former town hall, home to Piero della Francesca's *Madonna della Misericordia* and *Resurrection*

**Day 3: Le Celle, Cortona.** Begin at the immaculate Eremo Le Celle, visited by Francis in 1226. Walk to Cortona c. 5 km, c. 2 hours. A moderate route, gently downhill on woodland tracks then uphill on a cobbled Roman path. Cortona is highly attractive with a fine art gallery, featuring Fra Angelico and

Signorelli.

**Day 4: Arezzo, Monterchi.** Drive to Arezzo to see Piero della Francesca's *Legend of the True Cross*, painted for the Franciscans over 20 years. After lunch, walk from Monteautello to Monterchi: c. 5.5 km, c. 1½ hours. An easy, undulating walk on farm tracks and country roads. Visit the museum housing Piero della Francesca's beautiful *Madonna del Parto*.

**Day 5: Montefalco, Bevagna, Trevi.** Montefalco, the 'Balcony of Umbria', houses 15th-century frescoes in its Medieval church; and is known for its Sagrantino wines. An easy walk on country trails and lanes to Fabbri: c. 5 km, c. 1½ hours. Drive to Bevagna, home to one of Italy's most harmonious squares. Three nights in Spoleto.

**Day 6: Assisi.** Morning walk from Pieve San Nicolò to Assisi: c. 6 km, c. 2 hours. Moderate walk on rough farm tracks, and woodland paths, predominantly descending with final uphill section through Bosco Francese. Walk ends at the city gate leading to the Basilica, with its magnificent assemblage of medieval frescoes, including *The Life of St Francis* (possibly by Giotto). Time to walk through Assisi.

**Day 7: Todi, Campanello sul Clitunno.** Walk an easy route towards Todi, c. 2 hours, then coach to Todi. Time to enjoy the peaceful town with one of Umbria's finest medieval piazzas. The 12th-century Duomo has a spectacular rose window. Campanello sul Clitunno features the enchanting Fonti del Clitunno springs and early Christian Tempio del Clitunno.

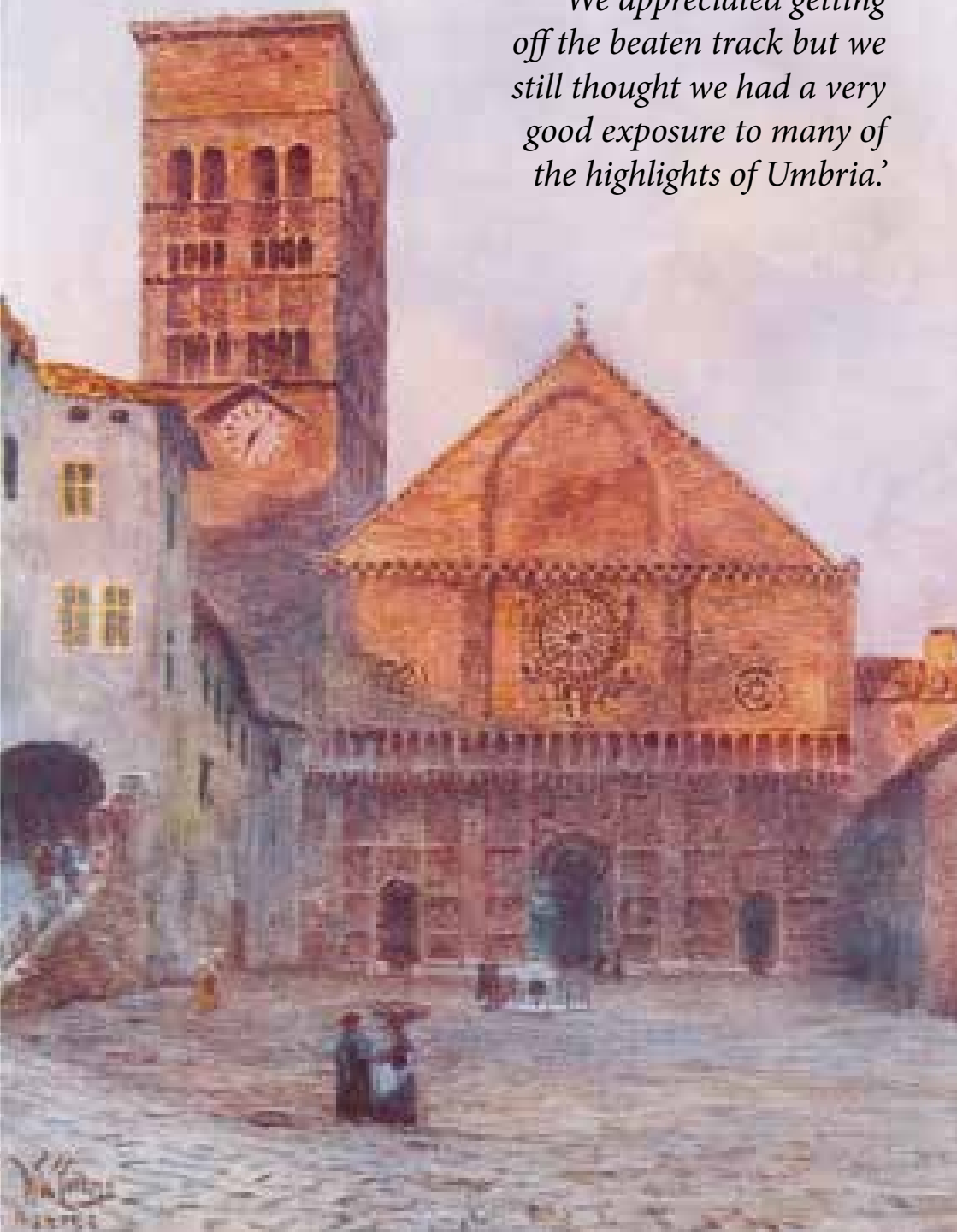
**Day 8: Spoleto.** Morning in Spoleto then drive to Rome. Fly from Rome Fiumicino to Heathrow, landing c. 6.30pm (June) and c. 7.00pm (October).

Illustration: Assisi, St Francis, watercolour by W.W. Collins, publ. 1911.



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*'We appreciated getting off the beaten track but we still thought we had a very good exposure to many of the highlights of Umbria.'*



# Savonlinna Opera

The annual summer festival in lakeland Finland

**12–20 June 2026 (MM 989)**

5 days • from \$7,160

Lecturer: Simon Rees

Three operas at the renowned Savonlinna Opera Festival: Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Verdi's *Nabucco*, and Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*.

Productions here are musically and dramatically first-rate, in the incomparable setting of a medieval castle on an island.

Savonlinna is a pleasant, small town amidst the unassertive beauty of lakeland Finland.

## Itinerary

**Day 1.** Fly at c. 10.15am from London Heathrow to Helsinki with Finnair (*flights optional extra*) and drive on to Savonlinna. The 200-mile journey is broken up by dinner in a manor house.

**Day 2.** After a morning lecture, the rest of morning is spent on a boat cruising through beautiful lakeland scenery. *Evening opera: **The Marriage of Figaro** (Mozart) (sung in Italian).* Andrea Sanguineti (conductor); Henning Von Schulman or Kristian Lindroos (*Figaro*), Lucrezia Drei or Iris Candelaria (*Susana*), Walteri Torikka or Jérôme Boutillier (*Conte di Almaviva*), Sonja Herranen (*Contessa di Almaviva*). Full cast to be confirmed.

**Day 3.** Visit the castle of St Olaf at Savonlinna for a guided tour. The afternoon is free before an early dinner. *Evening opera: **Nabucco** (Verdi) (sung in Italian).* Ivan Lopez Reynoso (conductor), Rodula Gaitanou (director); Marigona Qerkezi (*Abigaille*), Giorgio Berrugi (*Ismaele*), Petri Lindroos or Timo Riihonen (*Zaccaria*). Full cast to be confirmed.

**Day 4.** Visit the Punkaharju nature reserve and the Finnish Forest Museum. Lunch is included here before driving to Kerimäki, the largest

wooden church in the world (1840s). Return to Savonlinna for some free time. *Evening opera: **Madame Butterfly** (Puccini) (sung in Italian).* Piergiorgio Morandi (conductor); Silja Aalto (*Cio-Cio-San*), Antony Ciaramitaro (*Benjamin Pinkerton*), Emilia Rukavina (*Suzuki*), Tuomas Miettola (*Goro*). Full cast to be confirmed.

**Day 5.** Drive from Savonlinna to Helsinki for the flight to London, arriving at Heathrow at c. 5.00pm.

## Opera tours in 2026

**Mozart in Salzburg**, 26 January–1 February  
Richard Wigmore

**Opera in Paris**, 23–28 February  
Dr Michael Downes OBE

**Opera in Vienna**, 10–15 March  
Dr John Allison

**Opera & Ballet in Copenhagen**, 9–13 April  
Dr John Allison

**Music in Berlin**, 15–20 April  
Professor Jan Smaczny

**Hamburg: Opera & 'Elphi'**, 26–30 April  
Dr John Allison

**Prague Spring Festival**, 12–18 May  
Dr Michael Downes OBE

*Register interest:*

**Opera in Munich & Bregenz**, July

**Verona Opera**, July

**Drottningholm & Confidencen**, August

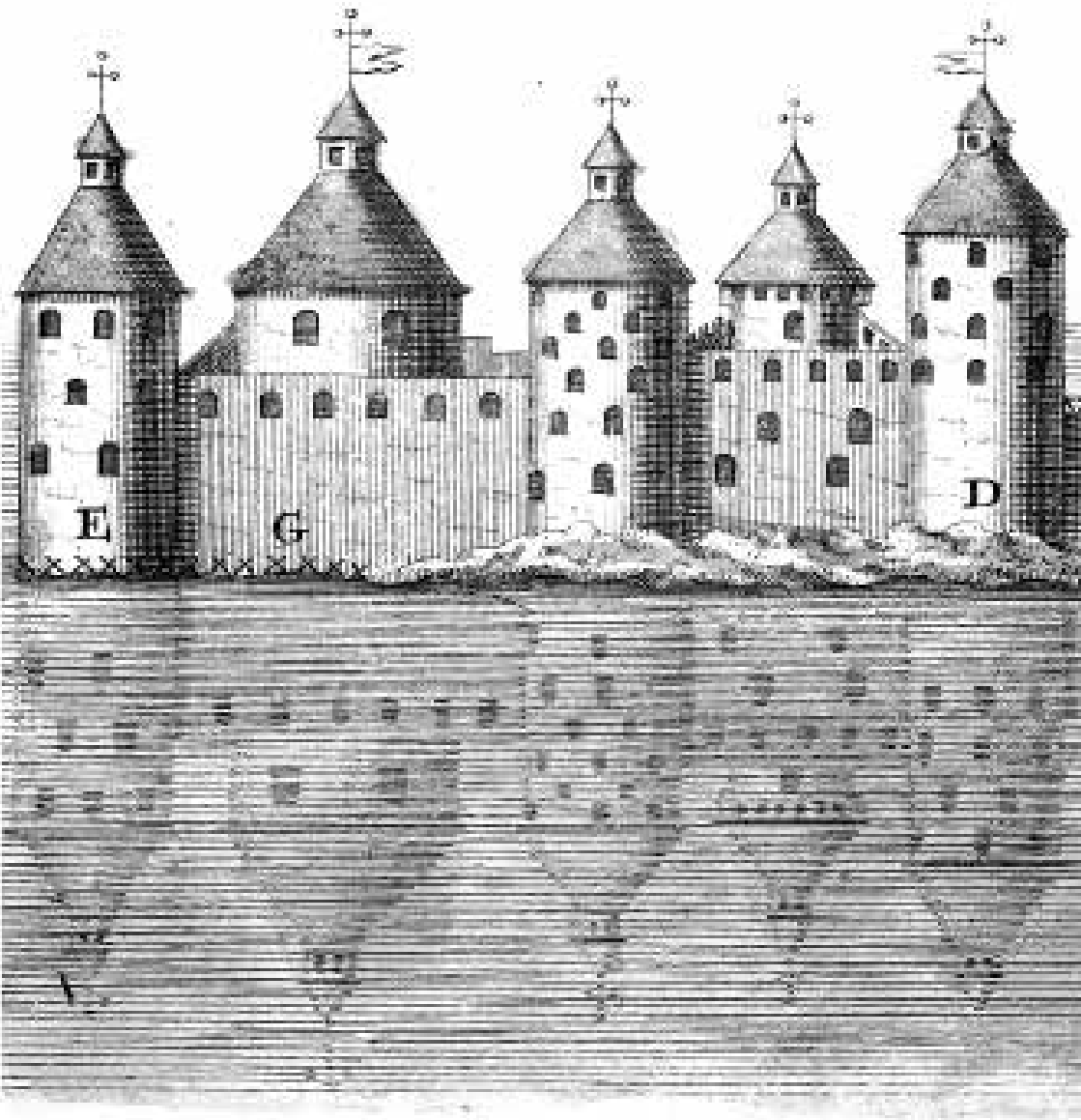
**Wexford Opera**, October

**Opera in Paris**, November

Illustration: Savonlinna, Castle of St Olav, 18th-century engraving.

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*‘The seats we had for the opera performances  
were spectacular.’*



# Great Irish Houses

Country houses both sides of the border

**12–20 June 2026 (MM 989)**

9 days • from \$12,130

Lecturer: Anthony Lambert

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Many of the finest country houses in Ireland, north and south of the border, with a Georgian bias.

Outstanding architecture and decoration, pictures and furniture, fine gardens and fascinating history.

Exceptional countryside accommodation including two nights at a stately home.

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## Itinerary

**Day 1: Marino Casino.** Leave Dublin Airport by coach at 2.15pm. Designed by Sir William Chambers in 1757, the Casino at Marino is one of the most intriguing houses of its time in Europe. The hotel for the first three nights is Cliff at Lyons, a refurbished estate village in rural Co. Kildare.

**Day 2: Russborough, Emo Court.** Russborough is among the finest Palladian houses in the British Isles. It is encrusted internally with magnificent stucco sculpture and well stocked with excellent furniture and paintings. Emo Court, a Neo-Classical masterpiece by James Gandon and Lewis Vulliamy, has a spectacular circular salon.

**Day 3: Leixlip Castle, Kilruddery.** Leixlip Castle, has Norman roots and was restored in the 1950s by Desmond and Mariga Guinness, founders of the Irish Georgian Society. Set in an 800-acre estate, Killruddery House has been home to the Earls of Meath since 1618. The house was enlarged in the 19th century, with a striking orangery added in 1852. The extensive formal gardens remain in their original 17th-century form.

**Day 4: Newbridge, Beaulieu.** Built in 1747, Newbridge is the only example of a James Gibbs house in Ireland; excellent stucco work and an important art collection. Beaulieu is an utterly

charming early 18th-century house with carved red brick window surrounds and walled garden running down to the fields by the Boyne estuary. Cross into Northern Ireland for three nights at Belle Isle Castle, Co. Fermanagh.

**Day 5: Baronscourt.** Deep in County Tyrone, Baronscourt is still occupied by the commissioning family from 1779. Our visit, by kind permission of the Duke of Abercorn, includes a tour and lunch in the mansion house. The superb rooms were brilliantly redecorated by David Hicks in the 1970s, and the picture collection is one of Ireland's finest.

**Day 6: Castle Coole, Crom.** Castle Coole is James Wyatt's 1790s Neo-Classical masterpiece, scarcely changed since completion for a royal visit in 1821. Free time at Belle Isle, then dinner at Crom Castle. Splendidly sited overlooking Lough Erne, Crom was begun in 1834 in Gothic Revival style by Edward Blore with cathedral-like stair hall.

**Day 7: Hillsborough, Ballywalter.** Hillsborough Castle is the Northern Ireland base for the Secretary of State and visiting royalty. The fine 18th-century L-plan building has pictures from the Royal Collection and 96 acres of magnificent gardens. Continue to Ballywalter Park for tea. Stay here two nights as guests of Lord and Lady Dunleath. Ballywalter has a 1730s core enlarged in grand Italianate classicism in the 1840s.

**Day 8: Mount Stewart, Castle Ward.** Mount Stewart is an early 19th-century mansion amply furnished with good paintings and extensive formal gardens. Castle Ward, begun 1762, is distinguished by being Classical one side and Gothic the other; marital disagreement resolved by innovative compromise.

**Day 9: Grey Abbey.** Grey Abbey House, built in 1762, remains in the family which has owned the estate since 1607. Early lunch here before driving to Belfast City Airport, by 2.00pm, then Belfast International Airport by 2.45pm.



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*‘Anthony Lambert is almost perfect: learned, well-prepared, witty, articulate, thoughtful, respectful, friendly with everyone and quietly helpful, as needed.’*

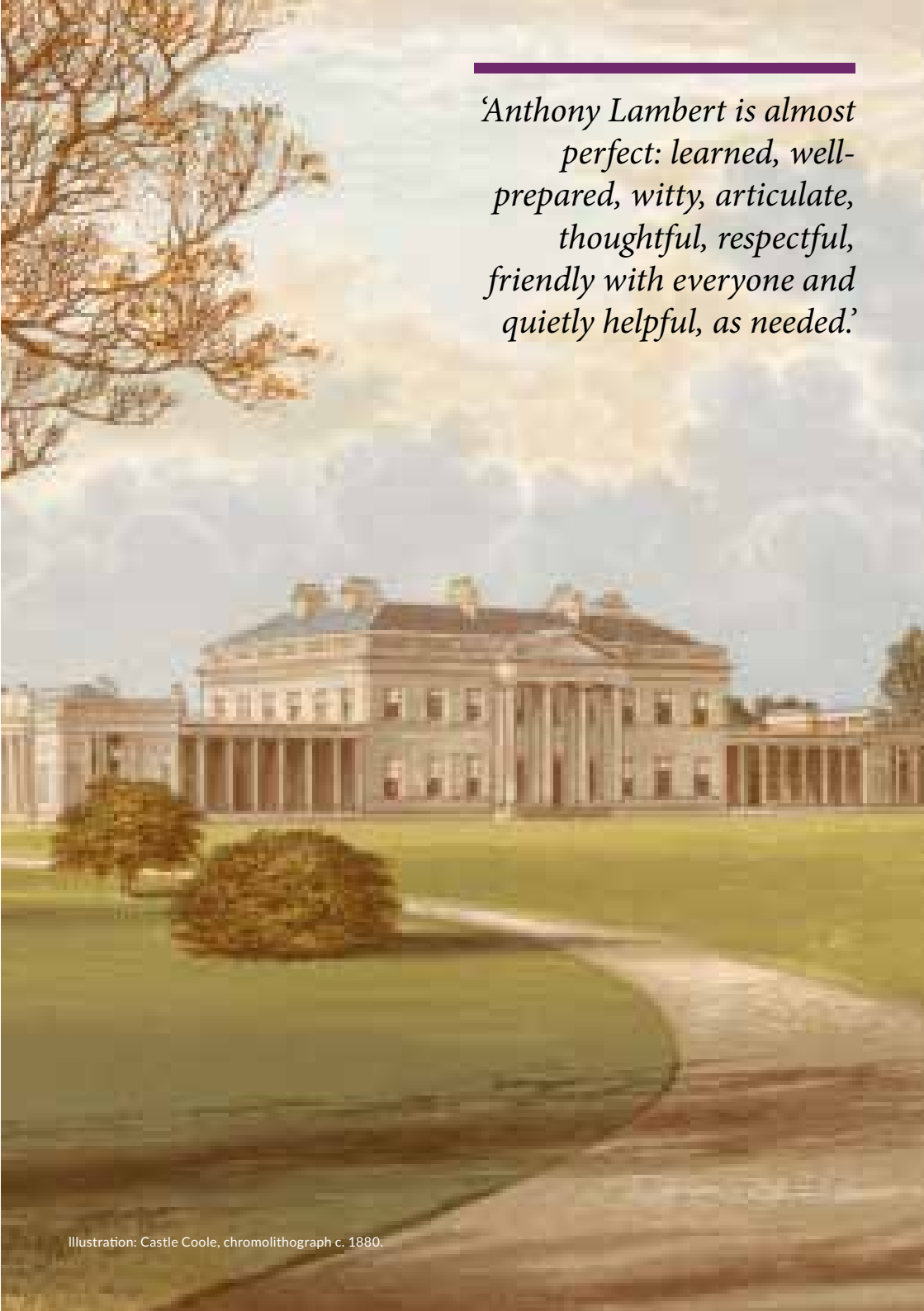


Illustration: Castle Coole, chromolithograph c. 1880.

# Gastronomic Navarra

## Spain's kitchen garden

**26 September–4 October 2026**

**(MM 183)**

9 days • from \$10,350

Lecturer: Gijs van Hensbergen

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The small, special, lesser-visited region of Navarra is the source of some of Spain's finest produce notably vegetables highly prized across Spain.

Rustic lunches in hilltop villages, Michelin-starred meals, visits to olive oil and wine producers.

Special access to a private Pamplona dining club, and a leading chef's kitchen.

Beautiful landscapes from the arid Bardenas desert to forests of the Pyrenean foothills, balanced with outstanding Romanesque and Gothic architecture.

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## Itinerary

**Day 1: Zaragoza.** Fly at c. 9.15am with Iberia from Heathrow to Madrid (*flights optional extra*). Two nights in Zaragoza.

**Day 2: Zaragoza.** Capital of Aragón, Zaragoza lies 50 km from Navarra's border. From here, trade, and people flowed along the Ebro valley during the Middle Ages. Roman, Arab and Christian monuments offer a snapshot of Spanish history. Lunch includes recipes inspired by Juan Altamiras, an Aragonese friar and the '18th-century Ferran Adrià'. His 1745 recipe book revolutionised Spanish gastronomy and remains relevant today.

**Day 3: Tudela, Pamplona.** Navarra is Spain's most northerly olive oil growing region, with exceptional quality. Visit an organic olive oil farm. Tudela's floodplains produce Spain's finest vegetables, celebrated above all else in Navarrese cuisine. Chef Luis Salcedo leads a visit of his vegetable garden, before an exquisite lunch at his restaurant, Remigio. Continue to Pamplona for six nights. Evening walk via bustling pintxos bars

**Day 4: Pamplona.** Morning exploring the Navarrese capital, and walking the streets of the famous San Fermín bull-running route. Pamplona cathedral has a cloister constituting perhaps Spain's finest High Gothic architecture, while the Museum of Navarra houses an eclectic collection of archaeological finds and artworks. Lunch at Europa (1 Michelin star), Navarra's most classic restaurant, Michelin-starred since 1993.

**Day 5: San Martín de Unx, Ujué, Olite.** Visit spectacularly-sited hilltop villages and medieval towns south of Pamplona. First to Máximo Abete, a family winery revitalising abandoned vineyards around San Martín de Unx. Rustic lunch in Ujué, with sweeping views over surrounding hills and valleys. Afternoon visit to Olite, where the royal palace served as the seat of Navarra's Kings Castilian conquest in the 16th century.

**Day 6: Otazu, Estella, Eunate.** Otazu winery combines striking architecture, an art collection, and superb wines with prestigious pago classification. Free time in Estella. Return via Eunate, where a mysterious round chapel rises from a cornfield. Dinner with privileged access to a historic gastronomic societies.

**Day 7: Roncesvalles, Selva de Irati.** Scenic drive into Pyrenean foothills. The mountain pass above Roncesvalles (the traditional Camino starting point) offers views into France. The Selva de Irati is Europe's second largest fir and beech forest, home to deer, wild boar, vultures and golden eagles. Gentle forest walk observing mushroom varieties before tasting them at a casa rural.

**Day 8: Urdániz.** The Jorge Oteiza Museum houses works by the renowned 20th-century sculptor. Final lunch at El Molino de Urdániz, Navarra's only two Michelin star restaurant. Chef David Yáñez showcases local produce while leading Navarrese culinary innovation.

**Day 9.** Fly from Bilbao to London Heathrow (Vueling), arriving at c. 2.45pm.

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*'I particularly appreciated the lecturer combining history, culture and food and so many aspects that create a 'people.'*



Image: Vineyard in Navarra © Turismo de Navarra, .

# Ancient & Islamic Tunisia

## Carthaginian, Roman and Arabian North Africa

**7–14 November 2026 (MM 226)**

8 days • from \$6,690

Lecturer: Dr Zena Kamash

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Exceptionally preserved Punic and Roman remains; some of the best in North Africa.

Varied and striking landscapes; less-visited sites.

Outstanding Roman mosaics throughout, both in museums and on archaeological sites.

Important Islamic sites of Kairouan, Tunis and Testour.

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### Itinerary

**Day 1: Tunis.** Fly from London Heathrow to Tunis with Tunisair (*flights optional extra*), departing at c. 4.50pm. Three nights in Tunis.

**Day 2: Tunis, Carthage.** A former palace, the Bardo Museum houses the finest collection of Roman mosaics in the world. Afternoon visit to the principal sites of Carthage, capital of the Punic (Carthaginian) world and later the second city in the western Roman Empire after Rome.

**Day 3: Dougga, Testour.** Full-day excursion to the superb site of Dougga, UNESCO World-Heritage-listed, and one of the best-preserved Roman cities in North Africa. Grand Roman buildings have evidently been added to a pre-Roman city plan with no regular street layout. Remains include Roman temples, baths, a theatre and circus, a spectacular 2nd-century BC tomb monument and a Byzantine (6th-century AD) fortification surrounding the Roman forum. Testour, founded in the 17th century by Andalusian immigrants, has a unique mosque.

**Day 4: Oudna (Uthina), Thuburbo Majus, Zaghouan, Kairouan.** Visit the Roman site of Uthina with several good quality mosaics in situ. The amphitheatre has underground

vaulted cells intact. Thuburbo Majus is a major Roman city, with a colonnaded forum, fine temples, houses and baths and, by contrast with Dougga, streets laid out on a rectilinear grid. At 51 km long, the Zaghouan–Carthage aqueduct was one of the longest in the Roman world and its remains are breathtaking. Its source at Zaghouan was beautifully embellished with a water temple, set in a courtyard in a hillside terrace. Two nights in Kairouan.

**Day 5: Kairouan, El Djem.** Morning in Kairouan, with visits to the Medina and the Great Mosque (8th/9th century) and other examples of local traditional architecture. The immense colosseum at El Djem could hold 30,000 and is a remarkable sight, towering over its modern surroundings. The small museum nearby contains exquisite mosaics.

**Day 6: Sousse, Sidi Bou Said.** Founded in the 9th century BC, Sousse fell to Carthage three centuries later. Hannibal's base during the Second Punic War, it subsequently took on a Roman allegiance. In the 7th century AD it fell to the Arabs. Visit the archaeological museum located within the Kasbah of the old city, renowned for its mosaic collection. Continue Free time and first of two nights in Sidi Bou Said.

**Day 7: Tunis.** The Medina, the vibrant old town, is a maze of alleys crammed with ancient buildings, covered markets and beautiful doorways. At its heart lies the Great Mosque of 9th-century AD origin, one of North Africa's most significant Islamic buildings. The rest of the day is free. A private evening visit to the Ennejma Ezzahra (Splendid Star), built by master craftspeople in the 1900s as a home for the Baron Rodolphe d'Erlanger, in homage to his passion for the Middle East. It is now a museum and the Centre for Arab and Mediterranean Music.

**Day 8.** Fly from Tunis to London Heathrow (Tunisair), arriving c. 4.00pm.

Image: Roman baths Dougga © Mahdi Arfa



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*‘Full of amazing  
discoveries. The local  
guide and lecturer  
were outstanding.’*





MARTIN  
RANDALL

FESTIVALS

# CELEBRATING MUSIC AND PLACE

Martin Randall Festivals create musical pilgrimages where world-class artists perform exclusively for our audiences in places profoundly connected to the music. Behind doors closed to many, experience Bach at an organ he played, Haydn in Schloss Esterházy where he composed, or private opera in historic theatres. With every detail arranged, participants journey together through curated performances in extraordinary venues, immersed in the magical intimacy of hearing music where it belongs. The result is a week “cut out from normal life” creating an experience that becomes woven permanently into memory.

## EARLY MUSIC IN YORKSHIRE

6–11 May 2026

## PIANO ALONG THE RHINE

22–29 June 2026

## MUSIC ALONG THE DANUBE

15–22 August 2026

## MUSIC ALONG THE RHINE

31 August–7 September 2026

## THE J. S. BACH JOURNEY

28 September–4 October 2026

## MONTEVERDI IN VENICE

11–17 November 2026

Contact us for more information  
or visit [martinrandall.com/festivals](https://martinrandall.com/festivals)

# The Bach Journey

A JOURNEY THROUGH THE MUSIC OF J.S. BACH IN  
THE PLACES HE LIVED AND WORKED

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28 September–4 October 2026

Journeying to the places where Johann Sebastian Bach lived and worked is an experience as near to pilgrimage as the history of music offers.

For this tenth *Bach Journey*, we have assembled artists from Britain and Europe who are world leaders in this repertoire.

The superb Dunedin Consort play the dazzling Brandenburg Concertos in Köthen, the very place they were likely written, and a sonata programme in Mühlhausen.

Vox Luminis perform in the Georgenkirche in Eisenach where Bach was a chorister, and present the deeply emotive St John Passion in Weimar. We hear keyboard works by harpsichordist Mahan Esfahani and on an organ from Bach's time in Sangerhausen.

The Marian Consort join period instrument ensemble Spiritato; and Solomon's Knot complete the festival with the monumental B-minor Mass in Leipzig's Nikolaikirche.

There are talks on the music by Bach authorities, Professor John Butt and Sir Nicholas Kenyon.



The festival is emphatically a journey. It starts, as did Bach, in the little towns and cities of the principality of Thuringia and finishes, again like Bach, in the free city of Leipzig. The entire audience stays in hotels in three places: Eisenach or Mühlhausen, Weimar and then Leipzig, and the concerts take place here and in other towns.

Hearing his works in buildings which he frequented, performed by some of the finest international interpreters, must rank among the highest delights available to music lovers. This unique festival provides the opportunity.

*Pre-festival tour: Organs of Bach's Time,*  
23–26 September 2026

Image (left): Music in Bologna, © Benjamin Ealovega.  
Illustration (above): JS Bach woodcut c. 1930.

# Calendar | 2026

## January 2026

- 3–14 **Pharaonic Egypt** (MM 870)  
*Rev. Prof. Lloyd-Llewellyn-Jones*
- 17–30 **Kingdoms of Southern India** (MM 874)  
*Dr Peter Webb*
- 20–27 **Early Christian & Medieval Rome** (MM 875)  
*Dr Hugh Doherty*
- 23–2 **Oman: Landscapes & Peoples** (MM 877)  
*Dr Zena Kamash*
- 24–29 **String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam**  
(MM 876) *Leo Samama*
- 26–1 **Mozart in Salzburg** (MM 879)  
*Richard Wigmore*
- 28–1 **Florentine Palaces** (MM 878)  
*Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*

## February 2026

- 2–8 **Pompeii & Herculaneum** (MM 881)  
*Konogan Beaufay*
- 3–7 **Venetian Palaces** (MM 883)  
*Antonio Mazzotta*
- 3–14 **Empire Architecture** (MM 880)  
*Anthony Peers*
- 9–15 **The Art of Florence** (MM 882)  
*Desmond Shawe-Taylor*
- 9–16 **Granada & Córdoba** (MM 884)  
*Gijs van Hensbergen*
- 22–6 **Vietnam: History, People, Food** (MM 886)  
*Dr Dana Healy*
- 23–28 **Connoisseur's Rome** (MM 885)  
*Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*
- 23–28 **Opera in Paris** (MM 873)  
*Dr Michael Downes OBE*
- 24–2 **Essential Rome** (MM 887)  
*Dr Thomas-Leo True*
- 25–7 **Art in Texas** (MM 888) *Gijs van Hensbergen*
- 28–8 **The Ring at La Scala** (MM 889)  
*Barry Millington, Dr R.T. Cobiانchi*

## March 2026

- 2–8 **Ancient Rome** (MM 890) *Dr Mark Grahame*
- 2–12 **Essential Andalucia** (MM 891)  
*Dr Philippa Joseph*

- 5–8 **Ancien Régime Paris** (MM 902)  
*Prof. Glenn Richardson*
- 7–12 **Gardens of Madeira** (MM 892)  
*Dr Gerald Luckhurst*
- 7–21 **Cambodia by River** (MM 893)  
*Freddie Matthews*
- 9–13 **Ravenna & Urbino** (MM 894)  
*Canon Nicholas Cranfield*
- 9–16 **The Ring at La Scala** (MM 895)  
*Barry Millington*
- 10–14 **Venetian Palaces** (MM 896)  
*Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*
- 10–15 **Opera in Vienna** (MM 900) *Dr John Allison*
- 11–19 **Spain 1492** (MM 897) *Giles Tremlett*
- 14–19 **Essential Venice** (MM 898) *Dr Susan Steer*
- 16–28 **Civilisations of Sicily** (MM 899)  
*Dr Luca Leoncini*
- 18–1 **Great Cities of Italy** (MM 901)  
*Desmond Shawe-Taylor, Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*
- 19–22 **After the Rain: Indigenous art in Canberra**  
(MM 910) *Dr Sally Butler*
- 20–22 **Barbican Quartet** (MM 940)  
*Dr Katy Hamilton*
- 23–27 **Viennese Modernism** (MM 905)  
*Gavin Plumley*
- 23–30 **Gastronomic Valencia** (MM 947)  
*Gijs van Hensbergen*
- 24–30 **Modern Art on the Côte d'Azur** (MM 906)  
*Mary Lynn Riley*
- 25–1 **Romans & Carolingians** (MM 917)  
*Dr Hugh Doherty*
- 26–4 **Classical Greece** (MM 903) *Dr Peter Haarer*
- 27–4 **Minoan Crete** (MM 907)  
*Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley*
- 27–7 **Morocco** (MM 908) *Dr Iain Shearer*
- 30–10 **Art in Japan** (MM 909) *Prof. Timon Screech*

## April 2026

- 7–13 **Lucca & vicinity** (MM 913) *Dr Flavio Boggi*
- 7–19 **Civilisations of Sicily** (MM 916)  
*Dr Philippa Joseph*
- 8–17 **Albania: Crossroads of Antiquity** (MM 918)  
*Carolyn Metkola*

- 9–13 **Opera & Ballet in Copenhagen** (MM 912)  
*Dr John Allison*
- 9–18 **Extremadura** (MM 919) *Chris Moss*
- 10–16 **Val d'Orcia and the Sienese Hills** (MM 938)  
*Prof. Fabrizio Nevola*
- 12–19 **Dark Age Brilliance** (MM 914)  
*Dr Meg Boulton*
- 13–18 **Pompeii & Herculaneum** (MM 920)  
*Dr Mark Grahame*
- 13–19 **World Heritage Malta** (MM 915) *Juliet Rix*
- 13–22 **The Duero River: from Source to Sea**  
(MM 924) *Gijs van Hensbergen*
- 15–19 **Art in Madrid** (MM 939)  
*Prof. Claudia Hopkins*
- 15–20 **Music in Berlin** (MM 921) *Prof. Jan Smaczny*
- 16–23 **Gastronomic Provence** (MM 935)  
*Victoria Daskal*
- 16–28 **Samarkand & Silk Road Cities**  
(MM 922) *Dr Peter Webb*
- 17–20 **Chamber Music Event: A Schubertiade**  
**with Ensemble 360** *Richard Wigmore*
- 17–28 **Baroque Music in the Bolivian Missions**  
(MM 927) *Dr Barbara Hoos de Jokisch*
- 18–24 **Genoa & Turin** (MM 925) *Dr Luca Leoncini*
- 19–24 **Monet & Impressionism** (MM 926)  
*Prof. Frances Fowle*
- 20–27 **The Heart of Italy** (MM 928)  
*Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*
- 21–27 **Gardens & Villas of the Veneto** (MM 929)  
*Amanda Patton*
- 21–29 **Cornish Houses & Gardens** (MM 930)  
*Anthony Lambert*
- 21–29 **Normans in the South** (MM 931)  
*Dr Richard Plant*
- 23–27 **Tom Abbott's Berlin** (MM 937) *Tom Abbott*
- 24–1 **Madrid & Toledo** (MM 936)  
*Gijs van Hensbergen*
- 24–3 **Classical Turkey** (MM 933)  
*Rev. Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones*
- 26–30 **Hamburg: Opera & 'Elphi'** (MM 904)  
*Dr John Allison*
- 30–9 **Sailing the Dalmatian Coast** (MM 934)  
*Dr Zoe Opacic*

## May 2026

- 3–10 **Istanbul Revealed** (MM 943) *Jeremy Seal*
- 5–12 **Great Houses of the South West** (MM 944)  
*Anthony Lambert*
- 6–11 **EARLY MUSIC IN YORKSHIRE** (MM 945)  
*Prof. John Bryan*
- 6–13 **Gastronomic Veneto** (MM 949)  
*Cynthia Chaplin*
- 6–14 **The Cathedrals of England** (MM 948)
- 7–17 **The Medieval Pyrenees** (MM 951)  
*Dr Richard Plant*
- 8–15 **Courts of Northern Italy** (MM 950)  
*Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*
- 8–17 **Scotland: History & Heritage** (MM 952)  
*David Forsyth*
- 11–16 **Tuscan Gardens** (MM 964)  
*Dr Katie Campbell*
- 11–17 **Yorkshire Houses & Gardens** (MM 953)  
*Christopher Garibaldi*
- 11–17 **Walking Hadrian's Wall** (MM 954)  
*Dr Matthew Symonds*
- 11–18 **Gastronomic Le Marche** (MM 958)  
*Marc Millon, Dr R. T. Cobianchi*
- 12–18 **Gardens of Sicily** (MM 957)  
*Helena Attlee*
- 12–18 **Prague Spring** (MM 956)  
*Dr Michael Downes OBE*
- 14–26 **Samarkand & Silk Road Cities** (MM 955)  
*Dr Peter Webb*
- 15–22 **Art in Scotland** (MM 965)  
*Desmond Shawe-Taylor*
- 16–22 **The Ligurian Coast** (MM 959)  
*Dr Luca Leoncini*
- 18–23 **Arts & Crafts in the Cotswolds** (MM 961)  
*Janet Sinclair*
- 18–31 **The Western Balkans** (MM 962)  
*Professor Cathie Carmichael*
- 19–24 **Venice: Scarpa & Others** (MM 960)  
*Prof. Harry Charrington*
- 21–31 **Moldavia & Transylvania** (MM 963)  
*Dr Shona Kallestrup*
- 22–29 **Franconia** (MM 968) *Dr Ulrike Ziegler*
- 26–2 **Footpaths of Umbria** (MM 972)  
*Nigel McGilchrist*



- 26–5 **Ireland: History & Heritage** (MM 973)  
*John Brady*  
**Versailles: Seat of the Sun King**

## June 2026

- 1–10 **Venetian Land Empire** (MM 977)  
*Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*  
 1–16 **Eastern Turkey** (MM 975) *Ian Colvin*  
 2–6 **Ravenna & Urbino** (MM 976)  
*Dr Luca Leoncini*  
 2–7 **Palladian Villas** (MM 946) *Dr Sarah Pearson*  
 3–10 **Gastronomic Belgium & the Netherlands**  
 (MM 978) *Gijs van Hensbergen*  
 3–10 **Great Gardens of Southern England**  
 (MM 979) *Louisa Allen*  
 5–13 **Medieval Burgundy** (MM 980)  
*Dr Hugh Doherty*  
 8–14 **Gastronomic Friuli Venezia Giulia**  
 (MM 982) *Cynthia Chaplin*  
 11–18 **Leipzig Bach Festival** *Prof. John Butt OBE*  
 12–20 **Great Irish Houses** (MM 989)  
*Anthony Lambert*  
 16–22 **Art in the Netherlands** (MM 990)  
*Desmond Shawe-Taylor*  
 16–22 **Leipzig Bach Festival** (MM 987)  
*Dr Ruth Tatlow*  
 22–26 **Lincolnshire Churches** (MM 996)  
*Dr James Alexander Cameron*  
 22–29 **THE RHINE PIANO FESTIVAL** (MM 100)  
*Dr Katy Hamilton*  
 24–2 **Gardens in the Highlands** (MM 998)  
*Colin Crosbie*  
 25–30 **Walking to Derbyshire Houses** (MM 999)  
*Christopher Garibaldi*  
 25–3 **Finland: Aalto & Others** (MM 101)  
*Prof. Harry Charrington*  
 30–5 **Flemish Painting** (MM 104) *Dr Sue Jones*  
 30–9 **Medieval Anjou & Poitou** (MM 103)  
*Dr Hugh Doherty*

## July 2026

- 2–6 **Budapest** *Gavin Plumley*  
 2–10 **Lancashire Houses** *Anthony Lambert*

- 3–9 **Vanbrugh's Greatest Houses** (MM 107)  
*Charles Saumarez-Smith*  
 6–12 **French Gothic** (MM 108) *Dr Jana Gajdošová*  
 6–12 **Gastronomic Devon & Cornwall** (MM 109)  
*Marc Millon*  
 6–13 **History & Art on the Danube** (MM 110)  
*Simon Winder, Gavin Plumley*  
 12–16 **Savonlinna Opera** (MM 112)  
*Simon Rees*  
 13–19 **Lusatia: Germany's Eastern Borderlands**  
*Dr Jarl Kremerer*  
 30–6 **The Hanseatic League** (MM 122)  
*Andreas Puth*

## August 2026

- 3–10 **Gdańsk & Eastern Pomerania** (MM 125)  
 5–13 **Baroque & Rococo** (MM 127) *Tom Abbott*  
 6–12 **Orkney: 5,000 years of culture**  
*Richard Wigmore*  
 15–21 **Walking the Danube** (MM 134)  
*Richard Wigmore*  
 15–22 **MUSIC ALONG THE DANUBE** (MM 135)  
*Dr Paul Max Edlin*  
 17–21 **The Age of Bede** (MM 136)  
*Imogen Corrigan*  
 20–1 **Silk Roads of Central Asia** (MM 140)  
*Dr Peter Webb*  
 22–27 **The Schubertiade** *Richard Wigmore*  
 27–31 **Art in Switzerland** (MM 142)  
*Mary Lynn Riley*  
 31–7 **MUSIC ALONG THE RHINE** (MM 144)  
*Dr Katy Hamilton*  
**Estonia**  
**The Lucerne Festival**

## September 2026

- 2–10 **The Cathedrals of England** (MM 150)  
*Dr Hugh Doherty*  
 3–15 **Samarkand & Silk Road Cities** (MM 153)  
*Dr Richard McClary*  
 4–11 **Courts of Northern Italy** (MM 155)  
*Prof. Fabrizio Nevola*  
 4–12 **Sardinia** (MM 156) *Dr R. T. Cobianchi*  
 4–14 **Frank Lloyd Wright** (MM 154)  
*Prof. Harry Charrington*

- 5–14 **Classical Greece** (MM 164)  
*Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley*
- 5–16 **Armenia & Georgia** (MM 165) *Ian Colvin*
- 6–10 **Châteaux of the Loire** *Dr Sarah Pearson*
- 7–13 **Cave Art in Spain** (MM 159) *Dr Paul Bahn*
- 7–13 **The Imperial Riviera** (MM 167)  
*Dr Mark Thompson*
- 7–14 **Gastronomic Basque Country** (MM 157)  
*Gijs van Hensbergen*
- 7–19 **Civilisations of Sicily** (MM 161)  
*Dr Zoe Opacic*
- 7–23 **Peru** (MM 160) *Dr David Beresford-Jones*
- 8–15 **Trecento Frescoes** (MM 163)  
*Prof. Donal Cooper*
- 9–18 **Scottish Houses and Castles** (MM 162)  
*Alastair Learmont*
- 11–17 **Piero della Francesca** (MM 169)  
*Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*
- 12–18 **Gastronomic Emilia-Romagna** (MM 172)  
*Cynthia Chaplin*
- 14–19 **The Etruscans** (MM 166) *Dr Nigel Spivey*
- 14–19 **Vienna's Masterpieces** *Tom Abbott*
- 16–25 **Albania: Crossroads of Antiquity** (MM 168)  
*Carolyn Metkola*
- 18–27 **Scotland: History and Heritage** (MM 170)  
*David Forsyth*
- 18–30 **The Road to Santiago** (MM 171)  
*Dr Richard Plant*
- 20–27 **German Gothic** *Dr Ulrike Ziegler*
- 21–26 **Pompeii & Herculaneum** (MM 179)  
*Dr Nigel Spivey*
- 21–27 **Walking a Royal River** (MM 180)  
*Sophie Campbell*
- 23–28 **Organs of Bach's Time**
- 26–4 **Gastronomic Navarra** (MM 183)  
*Gijs van Hensbergen*
- 28–2 **Ravenna & Urbino** (MM 187)  
*Dr Luca Leoncini*
- 28–4 **THE J.S. BACH JOURNEY**
- 28–5 **The Heart of Italy** (MM 185) *Leslie Primo*
- 29–7 **Normans in the South** (MM 188)  
*Canon Nicholas Cranfield*

**Gardens of Normandy**  
**Gastronomic Loire Valley**  
**Gastronomic Campania**  
**Mr Turner**  
**Norman Conquest & Plantagenet Power**  
**North of England**  
**Tudor England**

## October 2026

- 1–8 **Courts of Northern Italy** (MM 190)  
*Dr Sarah Pearson*
- 1–10 **Sailing the Dalmatian Coast** (MM 200)  
*Dr Mark Thompson*
- 2–8 **Modern Art on the Côte d'Azur** (MM 192)  
*Monica Bohm-Duchen*
- 2–12 **Bulgaria** (MM 191) *Dr Nikola Theodossiev*
- 5–11 **Connoisseur's Prague**  
*Martina Hinks-Edwards*
- 5–16 **Art in Japan** (MM 195) *Dr Monika Hinkel*
- 5–17 **Civilisations of Sicily** (MM 196)  
*Dr Mark Grahame*
- 8–16 **Berlin, Potsdam, Dresden** (MM 197)  
*Dr Jarl Kremer*
- 8–20 **Central Anatolia** (MM 198) *Jeremy Seal*
- 12–18 **Raphael** (MM 199) *Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*
- 13–19 **Essential Rome** (MM 202)  
*Christopher Garibaldi*
- 14–20 **Art in the Netherlands** (MM 202)  
*Desmond Shawe-Taylor*
- 14–22 **Cruising the Douro**
- 14–22 **Two Spains** *Giles Tremlett*
- 16–22 **Roman & Medieval Provence** (MM 214)  
*Dr Alexandra Gajewski*
- 17–23 **Gastronomic Piedmont** (MM 203)  
*Cynthia Chaplin*
- 18–23 **Monet & Impressionism** (MM 219)  
*Prof. Frances Fowle*
- 19–25 **World Heritage Malta** (MM 204) *Juliet Rix*
- 19–26 **Footpaths of Umbria** (MM 211)  
*Dr Thomas-Leo True*
- 19–26 **Masters of Milan** (MM 216)  
*Dr Luca Leoncini*
- 19–27 **Cyprus: stepping stone of history** (MM 212)  
*Ian Colvin*

# Calendar | 2026

- 19–28 **Castile & León** (MM 205)  
*Gijs van Hensbergen*
- 19–29 **Essential Andalucía** (MM 215)  
*Dr Philippa Joseph*
- 19–31 **Traditions of Japan** (MM 206)  
*Prof. Timon Screech*
- 20–27 **The Douro** (MM 207) *Martin Symington*
- 22–29 **Istanbul Revealed** (MM 208) *Jeremy Seal*
- 22–3 **Samarkand & Silk Road Cities** (MM 213)  
*Dr Iain Shearer*
- 23–2 **Oman: Landscapes & Peoples** (MM 209)  
*Dr Peter Webb*
- 26–31 **Palladian Villas** (MM 210)  
*Dr Michael Douglas-Scott*
- 29–9 **Pharaonic Egypt** (MM 217)  
*Prof. Lloyd Llewellyn-Jones*
- Eastern Turkey**  
**Martin Randall's London**  
**Opera at Wexford**  
**Walking in Southern Tuscany**

## November 2026

- 3–8 **Palermo Revealed** (MM 221)  
*Christopher Newall*
- 3–10 **Connoisseur's New York** (MM 222)  
*Gijs van Hensbergen*
- 4–6 **Autumn Symposium**
- 4–8 **Art in Madrid** (MM 225)  
*Dr Xavier Bray*
- 4–9 **Music of the Czech Lands**  
*Prof. Jan Smaczny*

- 5–16 **Japanese Gardens** (MM 224)  
*Yoko Kawaguchi*
- 7–14 **Ancient & Islamic Tunisia** (MM 226)  
*Dr Zena Kamash*
- 11–17 **MONTEVERDI IN VENICE** (MM 230)
- 16–23 **Caravaggio** (MM 231)  
*Dr Lucy Davis Winckler*
- 17–2 **Patagonia** *Chris Moss*
- 18–1 **Essential India** (MM 232)  
*Dr Giles Tillotson*
- 20–22 **Chamber Music Event: William Howard & the Carducci Quartet** *William Howard*
- 23–29 **Pompeii & Herculaneum**  
(MM 235) *Dr Mark Grahame*
- 23–30 **The Art of Florence** (MM 236)  
*Dr Flavio Boggi*
- Early Music in Cremona & Milan**  
**Gaudi in Spain**  
**The Renaissance in Paris**  
**Titian, Tintoretto, Veronese**  
**Treasures of Buddhist India**  
**Venetian Palaces**  
**Venice Revisited**

## December 2026

We usually offer around seven tours over Christmas and New Year. Please contact your local travel agent to register your interest.

For further information and to book,  
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