

# PETER SOMMER TRAVELS

EXPERT-LED ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TOURS,  
GULET CRUISES & PRIVATE CHARTERS



TOUR OPERATOR  
OF THE YEAR 2015

— 2017 —

# WELCOME

## TO PETER SOMMER TRAVELS



Peter Sommer

For 2017 we are announcing more new destinations and the largest number of new trips we've ever added in a single year. It's an incredibly exciting time for Peter Sommer Travels - and if all the new trips in this brochure weren't enough, we have a raft of other new tours currently in preparation.

Three countries are gracing the pages of our brochure for the very first time: Croatia, Ireland and the UK. While Croatia is new for our printed brochure, we have already run three gulet cruises along the beautiful Dalmatian coast in the Autumn of 2016, garnering fabulous feedback. For 2017 we are adding two new gulet itineraries in Croatia: *Cruising the Coast of Dalmatia: from Šibenik to Zadar* explores a gorgeous and historic section of coast including two UNESCO World Heritage Sites and *Walking and Cruising the Dalmatian Coast*, which combines fabulous walks with archaeology and culture and all the pleasures of a gulet cruise.

We have wanted to put on a tour in Ireland for a very long time. Many guests who have travelled previously with Heinrich in Greece and Turkey, heard him speak passionately about this incredible country where he lived, worked and travelled for so many years. After a great deal of preparation we are delighted that you'll be able to join Heinrich on our very first *Exploring Ireland: The Heart of The Emerald Isle* tour next summer.

The UK is where I grew up and studied. Many moons ago, the gorgeous south of England is where I chose to put on a pilot tour, *A Wessex Weekend*, when I was first considering setting up a travel company. I'm so very pleased that we have returned to our roots and are now putting on a brand new tour in this magnificent region, *Exploring Wessex: From Neolithic Avebury to Georgian Bath*. Join us to discover many of Britain's most celebrated ancient and beguiling sites including Stonehenge, Avebury and Bath as well as many lesser known treasures, while staying in gorgeous hotels and enjoying fabulous food and wine.

Some of my fondest memories from my days as a University student are of walking and exploring Hadrian's Wall, that extraordinary ancient edifice which traverses one of England's most dramatic and classic landscapes, an area jam packed with history. I'm eagerly looking forward to joining guests on our new *Exploring Hadrian's Wall: Romans, Reivers and Romantics* tour next July, when we'll be using a grand medieval castle as our hotel and base to investigate the region.

“ONE OF THE WORLD’S TOP TEN EDUCATIONAL HOLIDAYS”  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

“A '100 BEST HOLIDAYS' COMPANY 2016, 2015, 2014 & 2011”  
THE SUNDAY TIMES

In addition to our new destinations, Croatia, Ireland and the UK, we are proud to announce new tours in countries we have been visiting for many years. In Greece, we have created two new gulet cruises, *Cruising the Aegean: from Kos to Patmos* and *Cruising the Aegean: A Family Adventure*, which explore some of the most wonderful Dodecanese islands, boasting ancient Greek and Roman temples, Byzantine monasteries, Crusader castles and much besides. In Italy, we are excited to launch a new gulet trip, *Cruising the Aeolian Islands*, aboard which, you'll be able to discover the enchanting islands off the north coast of Sicily – their history and archaeology, culture and superb local cuisines and wines. Also new in Italy is our *Gastronomic tour of Sicily*, which includes even more opportunities to discover the island's fabulous food and wine.

2016 was an extra special year for us. In February, we were given the Tour Operator of the Year award by AITO, the UK's Association of Independent Tour Operators, based on exceptional customer reviews. Reading your feedback makes us incredibly proud of what we have achieved so far and inspires us to continue trying to improve on everything we do.

Thank you to all our loyal guests who travel with us again and again. We look forward to welcoming you and many new faces on one (or more!) of our tours in 2017.

*S.A. Soume*

# WHY PETER SOMMER TRAVELS?



KOS CASTLE, GREECE

## Attention to Detail

We offer a select mix of escorted tours, all of which have been carefully researched and meticulously planned.

## The Personal Touch

We strive for the very best in personal service and assure you of individual care and attention. As a previous traveller told us: "The hospitality was exceptional, we felt like guests rather than customers."

## Expert Guides

Our tour leaders, archaeologists and historians, are great communicators, passionate enthusiasts and friendly hosts as well as being extremely knowledgeable.

## Beautiful Boats

We use hand-crafted traditional Turkish gulets of the highest standard: stylish and characterful, with modern conveniences and friendly and experienced crews. Alongside our scheduled trips, we offer expert-led gulet charters for private groups, large or small. We are happy to assist with any logistics you might require.

## Small Groups

We take only small groups of like minded people – typically between 10 and 14 on our gulet tours (max 18 on our 12 cabin *Cruising the Cyclades/Dodecanese* trips) and between 10 and 18 on our land tours – travelling in an easy-going informal style.

## Value for Money - No Surcharges

Our tour prices include almost everything except airfares. Customers tell us they are great value for money. The old adage 'you get what you pay for' is especially true when it comes to holidays and adventure travel. We will not levy surcharges for fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices or for any other reason. The price of the trip is the price you pay.

## Responsible Travel

We believe our tours are a positive force, holidays with a cultural purpose, bringing economic benefits to local people. We try where possible to minimise our impact on the environment. You can read our Responsible Travel policy online.

## Experience & Quality

Peter has been organising cultural tours since 1996. We aim to provide the very finest expert-led archaeological tours and gulet cruises. We want you to travel with us again and again – as a great many of our customers do.



## Croatia

June September	3 - 10 23 - 30	Cruising the Coast of Dalmatia: from Split to Dubrovnik	52
September <i>NEW</i>	16 - 23	Cruising the Coast of Dalmatia: from Šibenik to Zadar	54
September <i>NEW</i>	30 - Oct 7	Walking and Cruising Southern Dalmatia	58

## Greece

April May	17 - 29 4 - 16	Exploring Crete: Archaeology, Nature and Food	62
May	3 - 17	Exploring the Peloponnese	64
May September	20 - Jun 3 2 - 16	Cruising to the Cyclades	68
May <i>NEW</i> September	27 - Jun 3 16 - 23	Cruising the Aegean: from Kos to Patmos	70
July <i>NEW</i>	22 - 29	Cruising the Aegean: a Family Tour	72
September	23 - Oct 7	Cruising the Dodecanese	74

## Ireland

July <i>NEW</i>	17 - 27	Exploring Ireland: The Heart of the Emerald Isle	80
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## Italy

April May	23 - May 6 14 - 27	Exploring Sicily	86
June July	<i>NEW</i> 24 - Jul 1 1 - 8	Cruising the Aeolian Islands	90
September	2 - 9 9 - 16	Cruising the Amalfi Coast	94
September	23 - 30	A Gastronomic Tour of Sicily	96
October	28 - Nov 4	Exploring Rome	100

## Turkey

May	20 - 27	A Gastronomic Gulet Cruise	106
June September	3 - 10 9 - 16	Cruising to Ephesus	108
September	2 - 16	Cruising the Lycian Shore	110
September	16 - 23	Cruising the Carian Coast - from Mediterranean to Aegean	112
September	30 - Oct 14	Walking and Cruising the Lycian Shore	114

## United Kingdom

July <i>NEW</i>	2 - 8	Exploring Wessex: from Neolithic Avebury to Georgian Bath	118
July <i>NEW</i>	8 - 14	Exploring Hadrian's Wall	122

# ABOUT PETER SOMMER TRAVELS



Peter Sommer



Julie Brown



Dr. Michael Metcalfe



Heinrich Hall



Elin Sommer



Lynda Downing



Josh Maunder

We are a UK-based tour operator specialising in expert-led cultural land tours, gulet cruises and private charters.

Our expertise stems from an intimate knowledge of the countries we work in - their geography, history, people and much more. Peter Sommer led his first historical tour in Turkey in 1996. Since then we have created a rich and varied collection of escorted small group tours with a difference.

A small family-run firm, we take pride in our personal approach, treating our customers as guests with extra special care. Julie Brown is our Office and Operations Manager, at the heart of all we do and generally your first point of contact.

Dr. Michael Metcalfe, an historian and archaeologist specialising in ancient inscriptions, is the innovative and organisational force behind our tours in Italy. He is responsible for our private charters and is one of our principal tour leaders. Heinrich Hall, an archaeologist living in Athens, focuses on creative content and our marketing in continental Europe and is one of our core tour leaders. Michael and Heinrich together are responsible for developing our tours in Greece. Elin, Peter's wife, oversees general strategy and health and safety. Lynda helps with our admin and keeps our finances in order. Josh is our digital maestro, focusing on our website and media content and of course there's Peter himself.

## Our Local Partners

In Turkey, we work with Travel Atelier, a travel agency run by Murat Özgüç and his wife Pinar. We have

worked with them for many years and rate them very highly. Murat organises hotels, transfers and all other travel arrangements for our guests. He helps us both with our scheduled tours and our custom created tours. Cem Yücesoy is our logistics co-ordinator and tour manager extraordinaire. He has organised all our Turkey tours to date, from choosing minibus drivers to booking local guides.

For our tours in Greece we work with Dolphin Hellas, a travel agency of long standing offering a complete range of travel services. Our point person there, Aliko Hamosfakidou, assists us in shaping and then coordinating perfect itineraries for our cultural tours throughout Greece.

In mainland Italy, we work with Plaghia Charter, a family-run company led by Alberto Esposito, which owns a number of Turkish gulets refitted with Italian panache. In Sicily, we work with Agave Travel Creative, run by Marcello Baglioni who specialises in slow travel, an in-depth exploration of Sicily's culture and cuisine. All our Italian tour logistics are coordinated through a team of local companies committed to outstanding customer service.

For our tours in Croatia we work with Ventula Travel run by Robert Bralić. They are a relatively small company with a team of designated and experienced experts. Their specialities are tailor-made trips and highly personal service.

### Picture Acknowledgements:

In addition to our own photographs, many of the images in this brochure and on our website were very kindly sent in by our guides and guests. The full list of our contributors is available on our website. Very many thanks to you all.

# AITO QUALITY CHARTER



Peter Sommer Travels is a member of the United Kingdom's Association of Independent Tour Operators. AITO is the Association for independent and specialist holiday companies. Our member companies, usually owner-managed, strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

## Exclusive Membership

AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

## Financial Security

An AITO member is required to protect money paid by customers to the member for any holiday sold under the AITO logo. This protection applies to customers who are in the UK at the time of booking or to overseas customers who have booked directly with the member. Members have to comply with UK Government Regulations in this respect. Members submit details of their bonding or guarantee arrangements to the Association on a regular basis.

## Accurate Brochures & Web Sites

All members do their utmost to ensure that all their brochures and other publications, print or electronic, clearly and accurately describe the holidays and services offered.

## Professional Service & Continual Improvements

All members are committed to high standards of service and believe in regular and thorough training of employees. Members continually seek to review and improve their holidays. They listen to their customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

## Monitoring Standards

AITO endeavours to monitor quality standards regularly. All customers should receive a post-holiday questionnaire the results of which are scrutinised by the Association.

## Responsible Tourism

All members acknowledge the importance of AITO's Responsible Tourism guidelines, which recognise the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating. Those demonstrating their achievements beyond the pure acceptance of this principle are recognised by the award of 2 to 5 star status. Peter Sommer Travels are proud to have been awarded 3 stars for Sustainable Tourism by AITO.

## Customer Relations

All members endeavour to deal swiftly and fairly with any issues their customers may raise. In the unlikely event that a dispute between an AITO member and a customer cannot be settled amicably, AITO's low-cost Independent Dispute Settlement Service may be called upon by either side to bring the matter to a speedy and acceptable conclusion. For more information visit [www.aito.com](http://www.aito.com) or call 020 8744 9280.

# TESTIMONIALS AND PRESS



“The tour of Crete, lead by Heinrich Hall and Maria Girtzi, was incredibly well planned and executed. They were outstanding, the food remarkable and the accommodations were comfortable and often unique. Clearly, they put an unusual amount of effort into the planning and execution of the tour and the expertise of the people involved was reflected in every moment. We would not hesitate to take another tour and we have recommended Peter Sommer Travels to our friends.”

William & Marie Iams, Canada



“Exploring Sicily was another wonderful experience! This was our fourth Peter Sommer Travels trip, and we know when we choose one that we will not be disappointed - and this one was outstanding!”

Russ & Melanie Chapman, USA



“Cruising to the Cyclades was a delightful experience. We were accompanied by 2 archaeologists who ensured that their expertise informed our experience of Greek culture at every site we visited. Arriving in sun-drenched Greek harbours by gulet is a unique experience and one which we shall never forget”

Timothy King & Mary Canning, Dublin, Ireland



“Our second Peter Sommer Travels’ tour exceeded our expectations as did our first tour in Turkey. The Amalfi Coast adventure had outstanding guides, gorgeous scenery, gourmet dining and relaxing accommodation with a helpful crew.”

Jane Bokan, California, USA



“A tour leader who, for more than two decades, has honed his conversance with the cultures of ancient Lycia; an expert who delights in sharing his passion. Combine the sailing, the leadership, a seamless organization, a rich selection of explorations and the excitement of literally touching centuries of history, that is 'Cruising the Lycian Shore' with Peter Sommer of Peter Sommer Travels. Two weeks that seem too short and enough memories to last for a life time. That is cultural tourism at its very best.”

Jacqueline, Tennessee, USA



“Peter Sommers Travels manage to be both professional and very friendly. Having been on several of their trips, I can say with confidence that their priority is make sure that everyone has the best possible time and everyone's needs are catered for.”

Richard Harding, Oxfordshire, UK



“The tour of Croatia was one of our best vacations we have ever taken. The Gulet was an experience you will never forget and the crew and guides are wonderful. Croatia is like something out of a dream. My wife and I would recommend this trip to everyone. We will be using Peter Sommers Travels again. GO! GO! GO!”

Morris & Linda Dubinsky, NM, USA



“Our group of 8 chartered the Salmakis with Peter Sommer Travels. This combined a sailing trip with hiking and an archaeological learning experience. The Gulet had a crew of 4 including a chef. We had a Turkish guide/manager and an archeologist expert guide with us. From start to finish we all had a great time, and feel it was one of our best trips ever. Superb planning, co-ordination and delivery of a truly memorable holiday.”

William Simpson, Canada



“Exploring Sicily was my 6th Trip with Peter Sommer Travels - and I enjoyed it as much as my 1st! They never fail to enthuse you about ancient cultures; and then combine it with modern culture of food, wine and wonderful travelling companions. The guides are always excellent, personable, well organised and very professional.”

Elly de Gooyer, Australia



“Top Drawer Tourism, with a “Glut of Pleasure.” True Travelling Pedigree!”

Sydney Morning Herald



“The culturally focused Peter Sommer Travels, run by the archaeologist and eponymous BBC documentarian, has added a new small-ship itinerary in Croatia this fall. Guided by a university professor who specializes in art, architecture and history, the itinerary explores a Roman palace, ancient Greek colony, the region’s tallest mountain and the islands of Hvar and Korcula en route to the ancient walled city of Dubrovnik.”

The New York Times



“A Gastronomic Gulet Cruise is one of the best ways to do a blue cruise! “As you sit down to lunch with local Lydaen goat herders in the “forgotten valley”, you’ll find yourself clinging to your last few precious hours in a world still filled with ancient wonder.”

Food and Travel Magazine



“Cruising the Amalfi Coast offers top-notch history tourism in super-luxe comfort. Tick off Capri, Pompeii and Amalfi in the company of an expert and dangle your feet in the azure waters of the Med.”

National Geographic Traveller Magazine



“In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great - Peter Sommer's epic archaeological adventure - is a trip we can't wait to take.”

Wanderlust Magazine



“Cruising by gulet is a wonderful way to explore places like Croatia, Greece, Italy and Turkey. Peter Sommer Travels specializes in such adventures and offers small-group journeys aboard gulets to explore the cultural and archaeological treasures of those countries. For an even more interesting experience, the company will do custom gulet charters that can be based on its regular itineraries, or you can build your own itinerary... In addition to room and board on the gulet, tours include a specialist guide and local guides.”

The Chicago Tribune



“The list of sights covered on a Peter Sommer Travels cruise around Turkey’s Carian coast reads like a short course in ancient Greek architecture. Which it is, with gourmet meals, scenic walks, snorkelling stops and no homework... an expert guide will provide the specialist information; the remote, unspoilt landscape will do the rest”

The Sunday Times



# OUR GUIDES

The guides who lead our escorted tours are true specialists - primarily archaeologists and historians - natural enthusiasts steeped in each region's history and culture. We choose our tour guides because they are great communicators and friendly hosts - not just because they are extremely knowledgeable. They are there to bring the history and archaeological sites to life. They are also there to make your holiday as enjoyable, relaxing and inspirational as possible.

This is just a selection of our guides, for the full list please see the guides' page on our website.



## Peter Sommer

Peter studied Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham University before completing a Masters on the archaeology of Central

Asia. He has taught at Birmingham University and Istanbul's Boğaziçi University. Two years into a PhD. at University College London, on the archaeology of northwest Turkey, he was lured into television to work on *In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great* (BBC/PBS).

An award winning documentary producer/director, Peter has worked around the world for acclaimed series such as *Millennium: A thousand years of history* (BBC/CNN), *Commanding Heights: the Battle for the World Economy* (PBS/BBC) and *Tales from the Green Valley* (BBC). As a development producer he has turned books like *Guns, Germs and Steel* and *1421: The Year China Discovered the World*, into TV documentaries. Peter is also a freelance writer and speaker who gives talks about travel, history and filmmaking.

"PETER SOMMER IS INCREDIBLY KNOWLEDGEABLE, PASSIONATE ABOUT THE SUBJECT, AND A MASTER STORYTELLER."

Paul Sinclair & Mona Marshall Texas, USA



## Dr. Michael Metcalfe

Michael earned his PhD. at University College London, focusing on the ancient Greek cities of western Turkey. For

many years Michael was Assistant Professor in Ancient History at The Mediterranean Center for Arts and Sciences in Sicily, before joining Peter Sommer Travels full time in January 2009. He is currently involved in the study of Greek and Latin inscriptions from all over the Mediterranean. He co-edited the recent *Blue Guide to the Aegean Islands* and is the editor of the new edition of the *Blue Guide to Sicily*.

Michael speaks Greek, Italian and Turkish. Not only is he 'enthusiastic, charming and knowledgeable' he is also a natural born organiser.

"MICHAEL METCALFE IS A GEM...A SENSATIONAL AND ENTHUSIASTIC TEACHER...GENEROUS IN TIME AND KNOWLEDGE AND MADE EXPLORING SICILY A WONDROUS ADVENTURE."

Lee Coleman & John Pandolfini, Victoria, AUS



## Heinrich Hall

Fluent in four languages (including Greek), Heinrich has lectured at Trinity College Dublin and was for many years the Assistant Director

of the Irish Institute at Athens. A resident of Athens, he is active as a journalist, reporting archaeological and cultural developments in print, online as well as on radio and TV.

Heinrich has excavated throughout the Eastern Mediterranean and has an infectious enthusiasm for the history, traditions, cuisine, music and modern culture of the area. He is especially interested in the Neolithic period and in the dynamic interaction between natural landscape and human culture. An experienced and popular tour guide, he is currently finishing his PhD. for University College Dublin and is Co-editor of the *Blue Guide to the Aegean Islands*.

"HEINRICH HALL IS A SUPERB GUIDE WHO BALANCES DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF GREEK HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY WITH A WRY SENSE OF HUMOUR AND GOOD LOGISTICAL SKILLS."

Elizabeth & Michael Nigro, Virginia, USA



## Serdar Akerdem

Peter first worked with Serdar in 1999, when he was the arrangements specialist on a BBC/CNN series Peter was filming around Antalya in

Turkey. Serdar is a genteel and knowledgeable archaeologist, as well as a highly experienced location manager and tour guide.

He has lectured at a number of Turkish universities and excavated and surveyed widely along Turkey's south coast, at sites including Patara, Tlos and Kaunos. His major passions are Roman architecture and maritime archaeology. Serdar is a very valued member of our team of tour leaders.

"SERDAR, WHAT AN AMAZING MAN WITH A LIFETIME OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANCIENT HISTORY IN THE AREA, KIND, HELPFUL AND GREAT COMPANY, WE ALL ADMIRE HIM TREMENDOUSLY."

Malcolm & Elizabeth Prince,  
South Australia



## Marcello Baglioni

Marcello first began his love affair with Italian food and wine as an 8-year-old sous-chef in

the kitchen of his father's Italian restaurant. He has lived in Sicily for the last ten years, immersing himself in the island's history, food and culture. Marcello worked for many years as a Program Director at The Mediterranean

Center for Arts and Sciences in Syracuse. Since then, Marcello has focused on cultural travel in Sicily, focusing on 'Slow Food' and 'Slow Travel'. He's been selected as Sicily's top travel specialist by Condé Nast Traveller magazine and one of their World's Top 126 Travel Specialists.

"THE TOUR WAS EXCEPTIONALLY WELL PLANNED AND EXECUTED ALL THANKS TO MARCELLO, HE HAD SUCH A GOOD IDEA OF HOW TO GIVE US A SENSE OF SICILIAN LIFE AND CULTURE."

Wendy & Matthew Lincoln, Kent, UK



## Dr. Richard Bayliss

After a degree in archaeology Richard lived in Turkey working at the British Institute in Ankara as a resident

archaeologist. He has travelled widely around the country over many years, surveying and excavating many celebrated sites, from a church with its mosaics falling into the sea at Sinop, to the hidden rock-cut villages of Cappadocia and the Byzantine palaces, fortifications and aqueducts of Constantinople.

His PhD. focused on the rise of Christianity in the Roman cities of Asia Minor (modern Turkey). After lecturing at Newcastle University, Richard has gone on to work in building design and heritage conservation. An experienced tour leader, he has led a wide

range of groups on our tours in Turkey. Noted for his knowledge and enthusiasm we are thrilled to have him as one of our specialist guides.

"RICHARD'S ABILITY TO DESCRIBE WAS REALLY MAGNIFICENT - HIS DETAILED EXPERTISE REALLY ADDED TO OUR EXPERIENCE."

David Blank, Ohio, USA



## Prof. Julian Bennett

Julian studied Archaeology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and has

excavated in Britain, Germany, Romania and Turkey. He has taught at Bilkent University in Ankara since 1995 and has a particular interest in the history, archaeology and architecture of Roman and Byzantine Anatolia.

Julian has appeared in TV documentaries for the BBC, The History Channel and National Geographic. A well-travelled and experienced tour leader, he has escorted groups throughout the Mediterranean for institutions such as the Smithsonian and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"JULIAN BENNETT, OUR ARCHAEOLOGICAL GUIDE, WAS HIGHLY PERSONABLE AND IMMENSELY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE SITES WE VISITED AND THE CULTURES THAT HAD INHABITED THEM."

David & Deborah Diamond, California, USA

# OUR GUIDES

GROUP, CARIAN COAST, TURKEY



## Paul Beston

Inspired by finding a musket-ball in Gibraltar, Paul spent his childhood drawing Spartans, watching historical documentaries and

devouring archaeology books. Certain that life ought to revolve around his passion for the ancient world he studied Ancient History at King's College, London, gaining a first and then earned a distinction in his Masters. His PhD. research on Hellenistic history was paused when children intervened.

Alongside lecturing posts at King's and Royal Holloway in London, he has acted as an historical adviser for TV including HBO's *Fire from Heaven*. He is currently teaching Classics in Hertfordshire and working with Michael Metcalfe, our Italian tour expert, on the publication of some notebooks of early travellers to Greece. He has a lively interest in all periods and regions, but a particular passion for Late Antiquity, Roman Britain and the Near East. We are very glad Paul is on our team of guides.



## Prof. Jim Crow

Jim is Professor of Classical Archaeology at Edinburgh University with special interests in Byzantine archaeology and Roman frontiers.

A graduate of Birmingham and Newcastle Universities he has worked in Turkey for over twenty years and recently completed a major research project on Constantinople's Byzantine water supply and its hinterland fortification system 'the Anastasian Wall'.

Jim is an experienced tour leader who led our first *Exploring Istanbul* tour, earning rave reviews. He is a true enthusiast and marvellous travelling companion. We are delighted he is on our team of expert guides.

"JIM MADE THIS TOUR OUTSTANDING. I HAD STUDIED BYZANTINE ART AND ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT ISTANBUL. NOW I LOOK FORWARD TO RETURNING FOR FURTHER EXPLORATION."

Liz Eastmond, Auckland, New Zealand



## Dr. Sophy Downes

Sophy gained her BA from Oxford, her MPhil from Cambridge and her PhD from the Institute of

Archaeology, at University College London. In 2014 she was appointed temporary Teaching Fellow in Classical Archaeology, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, at the University of Edinburgh. She has also been Visiting Lecturer at the American University of Rome, Visiting Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology, at University College London and Residential Postdoctoral Fellow at the British Institute of Persian Studies in Tehran.

Sophy's research and teaching interests include the Art and architecture of Classical Greece and Achaemenid Persia and the reception of archaeology in Romantic literature. We are delighted that Sophy will be leading our gulet cruises in Italy and sharing her passion and interest with our guests.



## Dr. Cathie Draycott

Before moving into archaeology, Cathie first trained as an artist with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Her Doctorate in Classical Archaeology at Oxford University focused on Greek and Roman sculpture and the art and archaeology of Anatolia (ancient Turkey).

Cathie has worked as a researcher and lecturer at the University of Oxford. She is also working on a number of books that focus on the imagery on ancient monumental tombs. Cathie likes nothing better than exploring Turkey's ancient sites in fine company. We are very pleased to welcome her to our team.

**"CATHIE'S KNOWLEDGE AND STORY-TELLING ABILITY BROUGHT THE SITES TO LIFE FOR US. HER JOVIAL AND EASY GOING PERSONALITY BROUGHT TOGETHER EVERYONE ON THE BOAT. THANKS CATHIE FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE WEEK!"**

Talitha & Christian Vezeau, ON, Canada



## Dr. Maria Girtzi

Born in Thessaloniki, Maria is an Archaeologist and professional tour guide. She studied Archaeology and Art at the Aristotle University

of Thessaloniki and did her postgraduate studies on Greek Archaeology (MA and PhD.) at the University of Birmingham in the UK. She has taught History, Archaeology and Art history at the Universities of Thrace, Birmingham (UK), Cornell (USA), the Hellenic Open University and the Open University of Cyprus as well as working

as a field archaeologist on excavations in Macedonia, Thrace and on Crete. Maria is the author of the book "Historical Topography of Ancient Macedonia".

A great believer in "lifelong learning" she is involved in the design and implementation of educational programs that appeal to a wide range of ages (primary-secondary education and adults) and is an expert of the Institute of Educational Policy in Educational Programs. We are delighted to welcome her as part of our team.



## Dr. Alan Greaves

Senior lecturer in Archaeology and Head of Dept. at the University of Liverpool. In 2005 Alan was one of 50

British university lecturers to win a National Teaching Fellowship for their inspiring teaching. There can't be many archaeologists that have acted as tour guide to American Presidents. Alan Greaves is one of them, having escorted Bill Clinton around Ephesus in Turkey.

He has spent many years excavating sites right across Europe – in France, the UK (at Hadrian's Wall) and especially in Turkey. He knows western Turkey intimately, having spent 9 summer seasons digging at Miletos and has written one of the definitive books on the history of this most influential of ancient Greek metropolises.

**"ALAN IS AN EXCELLENT TOUR GUIDE WITH EXACTLY THE RIGHT COMBINATION OF SKILLS AND EXPERT KNOWLEDGE. HE ADDED AN EXTRA DIMENSION TO WHAT WAS A SUPERB TOUR."**

Dave Rogerson, UK



## Dr. Olivier Henry

Olivier holds a degree in ancient history, two masters degrees in ancient history and classical archaeology and a PhD. from the University of Bordeaux focusing on the region of Caria in south-west Turkey. Fluent in French, English and Turkish he is a specialist on ancient (Karian) funerary architecture and published extensively. He now works at the French Institute for Anatolian Studies, coordinating all French archaeological activities in Turkey.

Olivier has excavated in Turkey since 1998, and has been the Excavation Director at Labraunda since 2012.

**"OLIVIER HENRY WAS PASSIONATE, INTELLIGENT, AND CURIOUS ABOUT HIS FELLOW-PASSENGERS, A WONDERFUL CONVERSATIONALIST - I CAN'T IMAGINE A BETTER GUIDE FOR THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES."**

Craig, Texas, USA



## Lucia Iacono

Born and bred in Siracusa (Sicily), Lucia studied for a BA in foreign languages and literature at the University of Catania.

She is a qualified tourist guide, specialising initially in the South-Eastern provinces of Ragusa and Siracusa.

Lucia has over 20 years' experience in this field, but still works with the same passion and enthusiasm with which she began. She loves introducing people to the unbelievable wealth of art, archaeology and culture that Sicily has to offer and is always on the lookout for something new, exciting and interesting that reveals the true quirks of Sicilian culture.

# OUR GUIDES



## Dr. Ivana Jevtic

Growing up in the former Yugoslavia, Ivana nurtured a passion for art and developed a particular interest for the history of the Balkans.

She studied art history at the University of Belgrade before receiving her Ph. D. at the University of Paris I-Panthéon Sorbonne. A specialist in Byzantine art, architecture and history, Ivana has been teaching in Istanbul at Koç University since 2010.

Ivana has escorted many of our guests in Istanbul over the years and received high praise. Not only has she led numerous tours in Turkey, she is internationally accomplished having led tours throughout Greece, across the Balkans including Serbia, Kosovo and Macedonia, as well as Rome and Ravenna. Ivana has a deep love for the Dodecanese Islands and knows them intimately.

"IVANA WAS MAGICAL. SHE BROUGHT ISTANBUL TO LIFE. HER PASSION WAS CONTAGIOUS. HER EXPERTISE IN ART, HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE WAS TRULY IMPRESSIVE."

JJ, Auckland, New Zealand



## Nota Karamaouna

Born and bred in Athens, Nota has been travelling to Turkey, especially Cappadocia, for many years, captivated by its multicultural history, the spectacular landscape and the warm local hospitality. With a degree in Archaeology and Art History and a Masters in Byzantine Archaeology, she is currently finishing her PhD. at the École Pratique des Hautes Etudes in Paris, focusing on the Byzantine churches of Cappadocia.

Nota has excavated and surveyed at a number of sites in Cappadocia and elsewhere in Turkey and at sites in Greece, ranging from the island of Kos to central Athens. Alongside her academic studies she has worked for a specialist Byzantine photolibrary and the Byzantine Museum of Athens. We are very pleased Nota will be sharing her passion and expertise with our guests.

"NOTA WAS TERRIFIC. WE ALL LOVED HER. HAVING SUCH A KNOWLEDGEABLE GUIDE ADDED DEPTH TO THE EXPERIENCE WHICH WAS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR ME."

Barbara Sutherland, MA, USA



## Robert Pitt

Robert Pitt is an historian specialising in ancient Greek inscriptions. After studying for a degree and Masters in Ancient History, he is in the process of completing his PhD. from Royal Holloway, University of London. His principle research focuses on Greek Building Inscriptions. He was Assistant Director of the British School of Archaeology at Athens from 2007-2014 and is a lecturer and faculty member at College Year in Athens.

Robert has participated in excavations in Greece, Turkey and Albania, worked as Special Assistant in the Greek and Roman Department of The British Museum and led tours around Greece and Turkey. He is currently publishing inscriptions from various excavations including Aphrodisias in Caria, and in Greece at the BSA excavations at the Sparta Theatre. He is fluent in Ancient Greek and Latin; Modern Greek, Turkish, French and German. A keen walker and sailor he has a passion for travel and exploring the ancient sites and cultures of the Mediterranean. We are delighted that Robert can share his knowledge and enthusiasm with our guests.



## Dr. Spencer Pope

Spencer received his PhD. in Classical Archaeology from Brown University, after studying and living in both Greece

and Italy he is now Associate Professor in the Department of Classics at McMaster University in Ontario (Canada). A specialist in Greek architecture, urbanization and the development of the built environment, his research focuses on the expansion of the Greek world and the establishment of overseas settlements in Sicily and Southern Italy.

Spencer has excavated extensively in Italy and spends several months a year in Rome, Sicily and Athens. The author of several articles on Greek and Indigenous Sicily as well as Greek financial inscriptions, he is completing a monograph on the frontiers of the Greek cities of Sicily in the Archaic and Classical Periods. We are delighted that Spencer is able to lead some of our Italian tours.

"SPENCER, OUR GUIDE, WAS MAGNIFICENT, HIS KNOWLEDGE MIND BOGGLING AND HIS VERY SHY, DRY SENSE OF HUMOR, SO VERY APPEALING. HE THOROUGHLY SPOILT US."

Anna Gunther, USA



## Prof. Tony Spawforth

Tony Spawforth is professor of Ancient History at Newcastle University, UK, Visiting Fellow at the British

School at Athens (2015) and a former fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. A freelance writer, lecturer and broadcaster he is well known for presenting

documentaries for the BBC such as *Alexander The God King*, *Flightpaths to the Gods* and *Egypt's Lost City*.

His published books include *Greece: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*, *The Complete Greek Temples*, *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* and the bestselling *Versailles: A Biography of a Palace*. Tony has excavated on Crete and Sicily and has considerable experience as a tour leader across the Mediterranean. We are extremely pleased that he will be sharing his enthusiasm and expertise with our guests.

"FROM THE READINGS OF PREVIOUS TESTIMONIALS, I HAD HIGH EXPECTATIONS OF A GOOD TOUR OF SICILY AND THOSE EXPECTATIONS WERE NOT MET - THEY WERE EXCEEDED!! THE EXPERT, ANTHONY SPAWFORTH RESURRECTED THE ANCIENT WORLD AND MADE HISTORY SEXY."

Jit Lim & Yoke Lee, Malaysia



## Dr. Nigel Spivey

Nigel is a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, where he teaches Classical Art and Archaeology. His

research interests cover the breadth of the Greek and Roman world and he has excavated at several Etruscan sites.

His books include *The Ancient Olympics*, *Greek Art* and *Panorama of the Classical World*. Nigel is a renowned TV presenter, whose credits include the BBC's *How Art Made the World*, *Kings and Queens* and *Heroes of World War II*. Nigel has been leading tours for us for many years and his knowledge and passion make him an ideal guide in bringing the ancient world to life.



## Dr. Helena Tomas

After graduating in Archaeology and Ancient Greek language and literature at the University of Zagreb, Croatia,

Helena gained a D.Phil. degree at the University of Oxford. In 2006 she was appointed as a Lecturer in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Zagreb. Since then she has been promoted to Associate Professor and appointed Head of Department. She has been granted a variety of fellowships in the US, Germany and Greece and won a number of awards including the Michael Ventris Memorial Award from the University of London. We are delighted she will be sharing her expertise and passion with our guests.

"A WONDERFUL TRIP AND OUR GUIDE HELENA TOMAS SHOWED US ALL THE HERITAGE OF CROATIA THAT IS HER PASSION.."

George & Cindy Boulds, NJ, USA



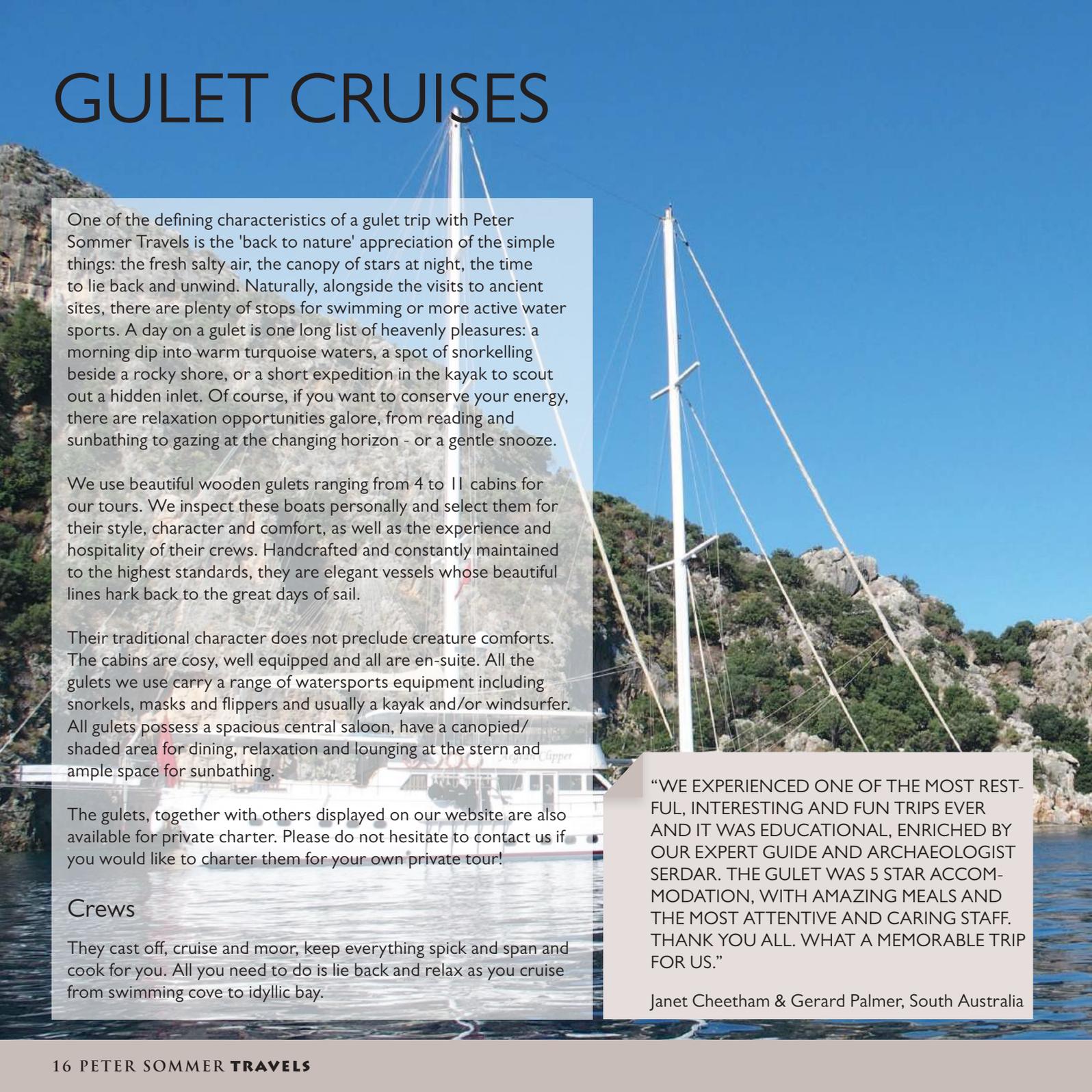
## Francesca Del Vecchio

Francesca is an art historian and tour guide who also specialises in museum education and art communication in

the Campania region of Italy. Francesca has been working with us for several years on our Cruising the Amalfi Coast tours and we are delighted to have her as part of the Peter Sommer Travels team.

Fluent in English and French, she also speaks basic German and Spanish and is an excellent communicator able to provide an enlightening commentary about the ancient and modern landscape of the region.

# GULET CRUISES



One of the defining characteristics of a gulet trip with Peter Sommer Travels is the 'back to nature' appreciation of the simple things: the fresh salty air, the canopy of stars at night, the time to lie back and unwind. Naturally, alongside the visits to ancient sites, there are plenty of stops for swimming or more active water sports. A day on a gulet is one long list of heavenly pleasures: a morning dip into warm turquoise waters, a spot of snorkelling beside a rocky shore, or a short expedition in the kayak to scout out a hidden inlet. Of course, if you want to conserve your energy, there are relaxation opportunities galore, from reading and sunbathing to gazing at the changing horizon - or a gentle snooze.

We use beautiful wooden gulets ranging from 4 to 11 cabins for our tours. We inspect these boats personally and select them for their style, character and comfort, as well as the experience and hospitality of their crews. Handcrafted and constantly maintained to the highest standards, they are elegant vessels whose beautiful lines hark back to the great days of sail.

Their traditional character does not preclude creature comforts. The cabins are cosy, well equipped and all are en-suite. All the gulets we use carry a range of watersports equipment including snorkels, masks and flippers and usually a kayak and/or windsurfer. All gulets possess a spacious central saloon, have a canopied/shaded area for dining, relaxation and lounging at the stern and ample space for sunbathing.

The gulets, together with others displayed on our website are also available for private charter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to charter them for your own private tour!

## Crews

They cast off, cruise and moor, keep everything spick and span and cook for you. All you need to do is lie back and relax as you cruise from swimming cove to idyllic bay.

“WE EXPERIENCED ONE OF THE MOST RESTFUL, INTERESTING AND FUN TRIPS EVER AND IT WAS EDUCATIONAL, ENRICHED BY OUR EXPERT GUIDE AND ARCHAEOLOGIST SERDAR. THE GULET WAS 5 STAR ACCOMMODATION, WITH AMAZING MEALS AND THE MOST ATTENTIVE AND CARING STAFF. THANK YOU ALL. WHAT A MEMORABLE TRIP FOR US.”

Janet Cheetham & Gerard Palmer, South Australia

# CRUISING THROUGH HISTORY

The shores we travel along offer some of the most spectacular cruising in the Mediterranean, Aegean and Adriatic, replete with stunning views and beautiful coves. Studded with antiquities, large stretches of these coastlines, (especially along Turkey's south coast), remain largely undeveloped, still lapped by the clear waters on which the great names of the classical world once sailed: Mark Antony, Julius Caesar, St. Paul...

As we cruise on Homer's "wine-dark sea", or set off to explore the stunning interior, we enter a forgotten land and discover a lost world of temples, tombs and theatres. In many places you can literally stroll through an olive grove, stumble upon a Roman temple still standing proud and have the place all to yourself.

On our expert-led gulet tours we usually cruise for about three to four hours a day. Generally we motor to keep to schedule. If wind, weather conditions and itinerary permit, we like to sail. Throughout, the friendly and experienced captain and crew will look after you with characteristic and traditional hospitality.

"OUR GULET CRUISE IN TURKEY WAS THE LOVELIEST AND MOST MEMORABLE OF VACATIONS. ANYONE DRAWN BY ECHOES OF ANTIQUITY, THE RISE AND FALL OF EMPIRES, THE SPIRITUAL QUEST, SALT AIR, SUNSHINE AND A BEAUTIFUL BOAT WOULD FIND IT SO."

Patty Auchincloss, Connecticut, USA



# LAND TOURS

ERECHTHEION, ATHENS, GREECE



“There is no better way to enjoy glorious ancient ruins and excellent modern dining than by joining a Peter Sommer Travels’ tour.”

Jane Atkins, Florida, USA

HADRIAN'S WALL, UK



## A SENSE OF PLACE - A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Our land tours and city tours are carefully crafted to offer an in-depth experience, an intimate exploration of a region's history and culture. They are based on extensive research, painstaking preparation and - most importantly - on the profound and detailed knowledge of our tour experts and local guides.

On a Peter Sommer Travels' land based trip you'll be personally escorted by a specialist guide, typically an archaeologist intimately familiar with the place. Through expert eyes you'll discover an area's fascinating archaeology and history, its special nature and its vibrant traditions and culture.

To achieve this, we present the key highlights and also give you access to those hidden-away treasures that only the true connoisseur knows. This applies to the ancient or more recent sights as well as to the handpicked restaurants representing the area's culinary achievements. Moreover, it determines the accommodation we use; where you rest and relax. We favour the best: highly memorable experiences, such as grand city hotels in great locations or lovingly renovated traditional village houses, full of unique character.

On our land-based tours, you get to experience the very spirit of a place or region, to share in its cultural wealth, to explore the rich tapestry of its history and tradition, always accompanied by real experts.



STATUE OF THE BOXER AT REST, NATIONAL ROMAN MUSEUM



# FAMILY TOURS

Our family holidays are designed to be relaxing and stimulating, fascinating and fun for all ages.

What could be more fun for your family than to experience an unforgettable real-life adventure, exploring ancient mysteries and glorious landscapes, playing and relaxing, while travelling on a wooden boat? And what could be a better holiday for you than to share all that fun in a perfectly stress-free setting?

We started organising expert-led cultural gulet cruises for families a number of years ago, as many of our guests had asked us to create tours they could enjoy together with their children and grandchildren. Since then, they have become a regular feature of our yearly tours – and one of our favourites!

Like our other escorted tours, Peter Sommer Travels' family holidays are cultural gulet cruises, led by an expert guide. Visits to ancient sites will take you and your children deep into the past and offer you a vivid and hands-on glimpse of antiquity.



"THIS TRIP WAS MY FAVORITE TRIP I HAVE EVER TAKEN, MY FAVORITE PART WAS SWIMMING IN THE OCEAN AND JUST HANGING OUT AND RELAXING ALSO THE FOOD WAS AMAZING LIKE HAVING STUFF I HAD NEVER HAD AND THEN IT WAS JUST MELT IN YOUR MOUTH, IT FELT LIKE I WAS IN HEAVEN OR AN AMAZING DREAM."

Matt Lautze - aged 11



"I LOVED THE FRENCH TOAST AND ALL THE FOOD. I LOVED THE ANCIENT CITIES, ESPECIALLY THE CREEPY PARTS. I LOVED THE ROCKING OF THE BOAT, I SUPER LOVED THE UNDERWATER MUSEUM. I LIKED DRIVING THE GULET, OUR GUIDE BECAME MY BEST FRIEND IN TURKEY, AND THE CREW WAS REALLY NICE TO ME EVERYDAY. THE BEST PART WAS CLIMBING THROUGH THE HATCHES TO GET IN AND OUT OF THE BOAT—IT WAS MY SECRET WAY TO GET IN AND OUT. THE KAYAK AND BEACHES WERE REALLY COOL. WHEN I GROW UP I'M GOING TO BE AN UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGIST AND CARRY MY OWN SPEAR GUN TO PROTECT ALL THE RUINS."

Ben Roesler - aged 6

“ONE OF THE 3 BEST FAMILY HOLIDAYS OF A LIFETIME” - CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER

“ONE OF THE 20 BEST FAMILY HOLIDAYS” - THE TIMES



You'll explore the world of the Greeks and Romans in colourful detail, from the grand scale of culture and history to the nitty-gritty of daily life: what they ate, how they built temples or homes, what their toilets were like, how they were treated at the doctor's and lots of fun facts. All this and more in places boasting some of the era's finest artistic and architectural achievements.

Alongside our archaeological adventures, there is the sheer joy of the cruise itself, gliding across the sea aboard a beautiful traditional Turkish gulet. Our gulet holidays offer plenty of opportunities for guests of all ages to swim, kayak or snorkel in azure waters, to lie back and read as the world goes by, to observe the perfectly clear sky at night (perhaps even some shooting stars) and to enjoy the delicious home-cooked food freshly prepared on board. When we hike off into the hills, we're almost certain to encounter goats, tortoises and various creepy crawlies and while at sea there is always the chance we'll see dolphins and turtles!

Our scheduled family tour for 2017 is *Cruising the Aegean: A Family Adventure*, a fabulous tour that offers a complete panorama of the ancient world as well as time to play, swim, snorkel, read, sunbathe, nap, or simply enjoy the beautiful boat and the wonderful scenery in the company of friends and loved ones - the holiday of a lifetime.

“AFTER 2 WONDERFUL FAMILY GULET CRUISES IN TURKEY WITH PETER SOMMER TRAVELS WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HARD TO REPEAT THE MAGIC - WE NEEDN'T HAVE WORRIED. SAILING TO EPHEBUS WAS THE BEST OF THEM ALL. THE 5 KIDS WITH US LOVED IT AND STILL TALK ABOUT IT AS ONE BIG ADVENTURE. HATS OFF AGAIN TO PETER WHO MANAGES EFFORTLESSLY TO HOLD ADULTS AND CHILDREN ENTRANCED WITH HIS EVOCATIVE NARRATIVES.”

Andy Wilson, London, UK



WE TAKE FOOD  
VERY SERIOUSLY



Along with the sites and itineraries, good food plays a key role in the design of our tours and cruises. For us, meals are much more than a practical necessity: they are a pleasure to be shared with our guests and moreover a central aspect in experiencing the local culture and the area's gastronomic wealth. In that sense, each of our itineraries is a culinary exploration.

On our gulet cruises, the on-board cooks freshly prepare a wonderful variety of dishes in the ship's galley using fine local ingredients. These daily delights are complemented by shore meals in excellent and atmospheric restaurants and tavernas along the itinerary.

On our land and city tours, you'll enjoy meals at a range of carefully selected venues, usually our guides' personal favourites, based on in-depth local knowledge. They represent the full scope of the region's culinary achievements and specialities, ranging from authentic "home cooking" to truly gourmet food, always rooted in local tradition and based on the strengths of the area's produce.

There are countless delights you will taste on our tours: succulent fish, freshly grilled or barbecued, accompanied by a whole array of



refreshing dips and salads; stuffed roast lamb prepared especially for us on a small Greek island; original pizza served in a tiny Neapolitan restaurant; fresh pomegranates, cherries or peaches just picked from the tree; subtly seasoned Turkish meatballs on a rooftop terrace overlooking Old Istanbul; delicate stuffed zucchini flowers in a Cretan mountain village; traditional Sicilian cheeses at a local dairy farm; organic olives and their aromatic oil; handmade Turkish baklava; the sweet baby tomatoes of Santorini or the whole range of handmade Italian pasta...

If gastronomy is a special interest of yours, you should join one of our designated culinary itineraries - but every one of our tours is a pleasure for all the senses!

**"AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE LEAVING ME THIRSTING FOR MORE. A WONDERFULLY BALANCED EXPERIENCE OF FOOD, WINE, HISTORY, WALKING AND PLACES, ALL DONE AT AN UNHURRIED PACE."**

Marcella Steinbauer, Cape Town, South Africa



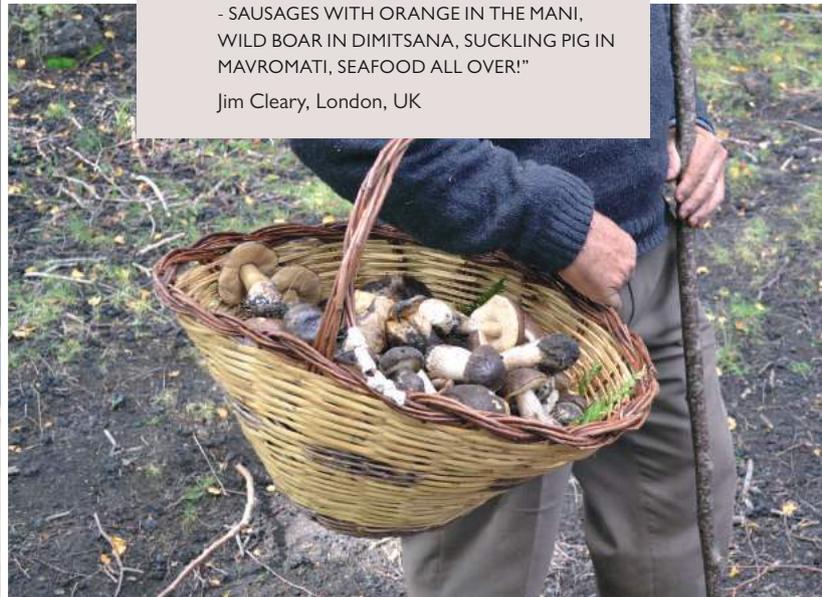


## Designated Gastronomic Tours

For the “foodies” among our guests, we offer a growing range of special gastronomy-themed tours and cruises. Like all our trips, they are centred on expert-guided visits to important and beautiful ancient sites. At the same time, they offer you a deeper understanding of the local culinary tradition. By exploring local markets, picking wild foods, visiting traditional producers and participating in the preparation of delicious meals, you will gain a profound insight and specific knowledge of a region's culinary culture.

“EVERYWHERE WE HAD GREAT LOCAL FOOD  
- SAUSAGES WITH ORANGE IN THE MANI,  
WILD BOAR IN DIMITSANA, SUCKLING PIG IN  
MAVROMATI, SEAFOOD ALL OVER!”

Jim Cleary, London, UK





## Wine: Ancient Tradition and Local Culture

Mediterranean wine culture goes back to the Bronze Age and was a central aspect of Greek and Roman life, society and culture. Today, wine still holds a distinctive and evocative role in the areas we travel. Italy is famed for its venerable vintages; Greece has recently rediscovered and redeveloped its ancient tradition of advanced viticulture; Turkey has a fledgling but dynamic wine industry.

On all our tours, we serve a select range of wines representing the products of the country we travel. When we visit wine-producing regions, we also organise wine tastings at hand-picked estates, for example in Cappadocia, on Santorini, in Northern Greece and in Sicily. It is our firm conviction that savouring and enjoying the local wines is a key way to appreciate a region's culture - an experience we love to share with our guests.



# PRIVATE TOURS

Are you looking for a very special holiday - a uniquely memorable experience to share with your loved ones, your family, your friends, or your colleagues? If so, a Peter Sommer Travels' private tour is your ideal choice!

Peter Sommer Travels' tailor-made trips are renowned for their carefully crafted itineraries and the superlative knowledge and skills of the guides who lead them. They are crafted by people who have devoted their lives to travelling as extensively as possible through the cities and regions of Greece and Italy, Turkey and Croatia, the UK and Ireland. They have explored the numerous archaeological sites and museums, strolled through the many towns and villages, walked the country lanes and hiking routes and have sought out the very best food and wine on offer in each and every season.

If you and your family or friends would like to take advantage of this experience we would be delighted to create a specially arranged expert-led tour, perfectly suited to your precise interests and desires. You can choose a land tour or a private gulet charter or a combination of the two.

Working closely with you to determine the perfect length of your trip, we will craft an itinerary that contains everything that you wish for, together with experiences and sights that you would never otherwise have known existed. Our expert guides and local guides look forward to welcoming you.

"MY WIFE AND I CHARTERED THE GEMIBASI FOR TWO WEEKS ALONG THE CARIAN COAST OF TURKEY. THE TRIP EXCEEDED OUR HIGH EXPECTATIONS. THE SCENERY WAS SPECTACULAR. WE ENJOYED KAYAKING AROUND THE BEAUTIFUL BAYS WE ANCHORED IN. OUR ARCHEOLOGIST GUIDE SERDAR AKERDEM WAS A SUPERB COMPANION; LEADING US ON HIKES, EXPLORING ANCIENT RUINS AND TAKING US TO A FEW OF HIS FAVORITE EATING PLACES. I SAY A FEW BECAUSE MOST OF THE TIME WE ATE ON THE BOAT AND THE FOOD WAS OUTSTANDING. MY WIFE (A REAL FOODIE) WAS ESPECIALLY IMPRESSED AT THE VARIETY AND QUALITY OF THE MEALS (AND AFTERNOON SNACKS) THE CHEF PREPARED. THE CREW WAS OBVIOUSLY HIGHLY COMPETENT PLUS THEIR FRIENDLINESS AND SMILES MADE IT A JOY TO BE ABOARD. WE HAD ONLY POSITIVE EXPERIENCES WORKING WITH PETER SOMMER AND HIS STAFF FOR THIS TRIP. IT BEGAN WELL OVER A YEAR AGO, EXPLORING OPTIONS AND GETTING ADVICE, DEVELOPING AN ITINERARY, AND FINALLY PROVIDING A FIRST CLASS BOAT (WITH WIFI), CREW AND GUIDE."

Dr T. G. Virginia, USA



## BY LAND

Our tailor-made expert-led land tours can focus on a single region or city, or we can create an itinerary for you that weaves together several different regions within one country e.g. Athens and Crete in Greece, Istanbul and Cappadocia in Turkey, Sicily and Rome in Italy, Zagreb or Dubrovnik in Croatia and many of the regional centres across the United Kingdom and Ireland. Maybe you'd like to combine the highlights of several different countries, such as a tour of the classical capitals of Europe, combining Rome with Athens and London.

From boutique hotels and country houses to 5-star hotels, we will find the accommodation that suits your needs. We pride ourselves on our flexibility and capacity to arrange all aspects of your journey so you can sit back and relax knowing everything is taken care of. Whatever your interests, we can create a tour to suit your tastes and desires.



## BY SEA

Our private charters feature the same qualities that distinguish our scheduled gulet cruises: comfortable and stylish boats, painstakingly prepared itineraries, a perfectly balanced mix of relaxation and activity and of course – delicious food, all accompanied by our expert guides and local guides. Our charters are available from late spring (April/May) to early autumn (September/October). Charter prices vary according to the season. Since the best boats book up well in advance we recommend you get in touch as early as you can.

We provide a range of fully crewed boats, maintained to the highest safety standards, ranging from 4 to 12 cabins (6 to 22 guests). You can follow one of our established itineraries, modify it to suit your personal interests, or ask us to design your dream tour from scratch. We will then organise everything: the fully-crewed boat, airport transfers, access and transport to the sites, and of course meals onboard and ashore.



# PRIVATE CHARTERS IN CROATIA

Croatia's Adriatic Coast is a superb area for boating, due to the country's complex geography and many islands (there are over 1,000 islands, islets and reefs), Croatia's coastline is the third longest on the entire Mediterranean (after Greece and Italy). Encompassing three of the country's historical regions, Istria, Croatia Proper and Dalmatia, the area offers an extraordinarily rich variety of experiences. Remote coves and popular beaches, tranquil historical towns and upmarket resorts, rocky slopes and lush forests: there is much to discover for any traveller, no matter what their tastes and interests might be. Croatia's geographic diversity is complemented by its unusually varied history, making this stretch of shore a meeting place and melting pot of many peoples and cultures throughout time, scattering the coast with a treasure trove of historical and archaeological heritage.

Are you dreaming of a trip that allows you to experience and explore a fascinating historical region, but also to relax and simply enjoy yourself? In that case, you should consider a private gulet charter with Peter Sommer Travels in Croatia. While our scheduled tours in Croatia follow set itineraries, a private charter is designed according to your very own wishes and ideas, making it an immensely personal high-quality option, your very own trip. We provide a lovely gulet with a seasoned crew as well as Peter Sommer Travels' trademark team of expert guides. We make you aware of what options, routes and site visits are available, and in a process of careful preparation we create your dream holiday.



"EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS TRIP WAS FLAWLESS  
- COMMUNICATION WITH MICHAEL, THE GULET,  
THE FOOD AND MOST OF ALL THE PEOPLE.  
THE WARMTH OF THE CREW AND GUIDE,  
PARTICULARLY IN THEIR INTERACTIONS WITH  
OUR CHILDREN (9 AND 14) MADE THE TRIP.  
THANK YOU."

Jill Horwitz, California, USA



# PRIVATE CHARTERS IN GREECE



The Greek islands are justly famed for their fresh and healthy cuisine, their relaxed pace of life and the beautiful seas that surround them. A prime destination for sailing holidays and gulet cruises, their lively harbour towns, evocative ruins and beautiful museums provide something for everyone.

The Dodecanese islands, stretching in a languid arc around the Turkish coast, are a true delight to visit and these islands retain much of their traditional character and friendly welcome. Their wonderful cuisine, with a sprinkling of unique dishes, is perfectly offset by the magnificent scenery that segues from verdant greenery to a still-rumbling volcano in just a few nautical miles. With one or two weeks to hand, a cruise through these islands is an ever-changing feast for the senses that can be indulged in from late May to early October.

The Cycladic islands are the iconic image of island-Greece, with their blue and white painted churches and houses, beautiful sandy beaches and world-renowned archaeological sites. They can be difficult to navigate during the high-summer months when a strong prevailing wind blows through the central Aegean, but are a perfect destination in May, June and September.

Only a handful of gulets operate from Greek ports, leaving most of the market to the larger, more flexible and cost-effective Turkish gulet fleet. However, all Turkish gulets that cruise through the Greek islands must by law pass through Turkish customs during the cruise. As the main Dodecanese islands are all located within a few hours cruise of a Turkish port, it is easy to cruise among them for nearly all of a one or two week trip. In fact, they are so close that we often visit one or two of them on private cruises that are otherwise focused entirely on the delights of the Turkish coastline!

“A WEEK ABOARD THE KAYA GUNERI V, EXPLORING THE DODECANESE ISLANDS, RANKS AMONG THE BEST FAMILY TRIPS WE HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED. A PERFECT COMBINATION OF LEARNING ABOUT THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF THE ISLANDS, EXPLORING ASHORE AND RELAXING ABOARD. OUR GUIDES WERE EXTRAORDINARILY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ENGAGING, AS WELL AS FLEXIBLE. THE CAPTAIN WAS A CONSUMMATE PROFESSIONAL AND THE CREW WERE TOPNOTCH - WE FELT VERY PAMPERED. FOOD AND WINE WERE SUPERB. WE ARE VERY ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECOMMENDING SUCH A TRIP TO ALL OF OUR FRIENDS.”

Leslie Puth, New York, USA



# PRIVATE CHARTERS IN ITALY

The names of the famous Italian coastlines, islands and towns exude an air of extravagant indulgence that has been carefully nurtured by countless films and novels: Capri, Ischia, the Amalfi Coast, the Pontine islands, the Costa Esmeralda, the Tuscan Riviera, Panarea, Stromboli, Lipari...

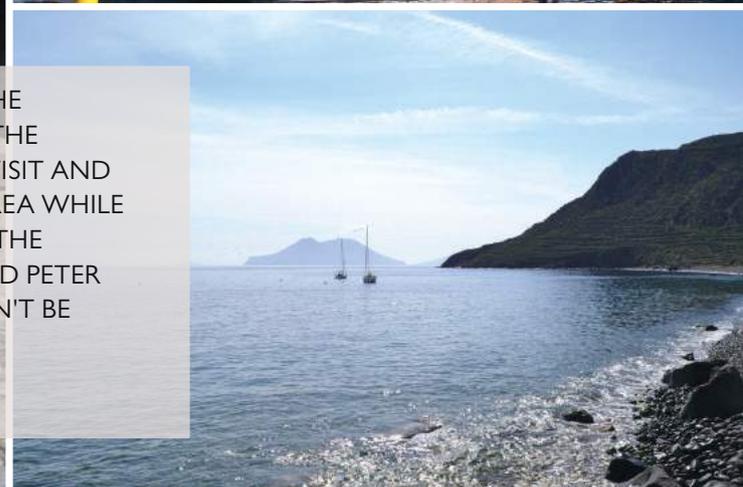
They are the epitome of everything that we imagine about Italy – beautiful art houses, filled with delicate treasures; narrow lanes negotiated with unaffected nonchalance by a vespa-riding, stylishly-dressed population at consummate ease with itself; and a beautifully rich cuisine prepared with love and devotion to recipes passed down through the generations. All this, set against a clear blue sky, a verdant landscape bursting with agricultural riches and an ever-changing emerald sea.

Cruising along these coastlines and through islands on your own private gulet allows you to offset the occasionally frenetic pace of life ashore with a relaxed and peaceful time afloat, enjoying the waters in coves and bays that are far from the jet-set crowd.

A week-long cruise will allow you to explore any of the principle cruising areas at leisure, be it northern Sicily, the Aeolian islands, the Bay of Naples and Amalfi coast, or the Pontine islands. Two weeks will allow you to combine some of them together to create a unique voyage, allowing you to discover two very different parts of this uniquely varied country.

Our gulet fleet in Italy is small, but consists of the three best gulets currently available for charter in the entire country, giving you the opportunity to enjoy a uniquely stylish and cultural experience.





“TRAVELING FOR A MONTH IN ITALY, THE HIGHLIGHT WAS OUR GULET TRIP ON THE AMALFI COAST. A FABULOUS WAY TO VISIT AND LEARN ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE AREA WHILE LIVING AND EATING GREAT FOOD ON THE DERIYA DENIZ. THIS BEING OUR SECOND PETER SOMMER TRAVELS TRIP, I'M SURE IT WON'T BE OUR LAST.”

Linda & Del Coolidge, Montana, USA

# PRIVATE CHARTERS IN TURKEY

The coastal waters of south-western Turkey are renowned for their gentle waves and predictable seasonal winds. They have rightly become a haven for water-borne vacations and the growing gulet industry has led to the development of new marinas and harbours to complement the small coastal towns and villages that have dotted this coastline from time immemorial.

The choice of gulets in Turkey is unrivalled in scope and quality, as are the number of cruising itineraries that can be tailor-made for you. The principal cruising area stretches from Kuşadası (the modern port for ancient Ephesus) located half-way up the western coast, to the bustling city of Antalya near the mid-point of the southern shore.

The famously clean and clear waters of the Turquoise coast from Bodrum to Antalya provide the perfect conditions for swimming, kayaking and snorkelling and this opportunity is gratefully taken advantage of on all of our tours.

The Carian coast of Turkey is an untouched and verdant delight to the senses, perfect for a relaxing cruise visiting spectacular sites such as grandiose Knidos, or off-the-beaten track gems such as the seaside fortress of Loryma, to which no road has yet been created.

The Lycian shore, home to iconic funerary monuments set in glorious isolation, has a wealth of beautiful coves and bays in which your gulet can drop anchor for the night, together with some lively harbour towns for those interested in indulging in some evening entertainment ashore.

On the western coast you can visit a string of world-famous ancient cities including Ephesus, Priene and Miletus, enjoying the greatest highlights of the ancient world from the relaxed comfort of your gulet.

A 1 or 2 week gulet cruise along any of these coastlines can easily be combined with a visit to one or more of the Greek islands that lie tantalisingly off-shore, giving you the opportunity to experience two of the most timeless cultures of the Mediterranean.





“SUPERB, AMAZING, WE HAD A GREAT TIME AND ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE, THE BOAT, THE SUPERB TURKISH COAST WITH ITS LOVELY PROTECTED BAYS, THE CREW WHO WE JUST COULDN'T FAULT, THEY WERE ALWAYS JUST THERE UNOBTRUSIVE YET READY TO OFFER ASSISTANCE WHENEVER NEEDED AND EVEN WHEN YOU DIDN'T NEED IT. THE FOOD WAS SUPERB, TURKISH FOOD AT ITS BEST, HEALTHY, ROBUST FLAVOURS AND HOW THE CHEF MANAGED TO TURN OUT THESE MEALS ONE AFTER THE OTHER EVERY DAY IN THAT GALLEY WAS JUST AMAZING.”

Malcolm & Elizabeth Prince, South Australia

# GULETS IN CROATIA



PERLA

## PERLA

### - 7 CABINS

- 5 double, 2 triple
- Up to 12 guests
- Refit 2007
- Length: 30m (94ft)

The Perla is an elegant 7-cabin gulet, with a beautiful teak deck and mahogany hull, she is sleek and comfortable with 5 doubles and 2 twin cabins accommodating up to 12 guests. She is spacious, full of character and is fitted out with all standard mod cons.



PERLA



LINDA

# LINDA

## - 7 CABINS

- 7 double (2 can convert into twins)
- Up to 12 guests
- Refit 2015
- Length: 30m (94ft)

A beautiful traditional gulet decked throughout in teak and mahogany, she offers comfortable accommodation for up to 12 guests in seven double cabins, two of which can be converted into twin cabins. All cabins are air conditioned with ensuite bathrooms.



LINDA



KADENA

# KADENA

## - 6 CABINS

- 1 master, 1 double, 2 twin, 2 triple
- Up to 10 guests
- Refit 2008
- Length: 32m (105ft)

Kadena is a gorgeous gulet and one of the largest in Croatia. With 6 elegant and well appointed cabins, she can accommodate up to 10 guests in comfort and style. She provides ample space above and below decks so you can relax in splendour as you cruise along the Adriatic coast.



KADENA





DOLCE VITA

# DOLCE VITA

## - 5 CABINS

- 2 master, 2 double, 1 triple
- Up to 10 guests
- Refit 2015
- Length: 34m (110ft)

A luxury class gulet offering spacious accommodation and great style. Her 2 master, 3 double and 1 triple (double & single bed) cabins are beautifully crafted from mahogany and come equipped with TV, DVD player and minibar. She even has a jacuzzi on deck.



DOLCE VITA



ANĐEO

# ANĐEO

## - 5 CABINS

- 5 double
- Up to 10 guests
- Built 2000
- Length: 27m (89ft)

The Anđeo is a luxury-class gulet in Croatia, with 5 extremely well appointed cabins. She can accommodate up to 10 guests in superb style, perfectly balancing all the latest modern conveniences with the effortless elegance of a classic gulet.



ANĐEO

# GULETS IN GREECE & TURKEY



## AEGEAN CLIPPER

### - 11 CABINS

- 1 master cabin, 4 double, 6 twin
- Up to 22 guests
- Built 1999
- Length: 41m (134ft)

The largest gulet we regularly use (she has a 33m long deck and a spacious flybridge), she is truly magnificent and is kept in gleaming condition by her Owner/ Captain Ergün, who has a vast wealth of experience of cruising in Turkey, Greece and beyond.





# OĞUZ BEY

## - 10 CABINS

- 4 double, 6 twin
- Up to 23 guests
- Refit 2014
- Length: 39m (128 feet)

A classical, traditional gulet beautifully refitted in 2014 with elegant interiors, stylish decor and comfortable cabins. She is spacious with plenty of room for relaxing on deck and on her upper flybridge and is ideal for exploring the Greek Islands or coast of Turkey.



OĞUZ BEY



# KAYHAN II

## - 10 CABINS

- 6 double, 4 twin
- Up to 20 guests
- Built 2002
- Length: 34m (110ft)

Retaining the elegant lines and character of a traditional gulet, while providing ample space for a large group of guests (a maximum of 20) to relax and enjoy the seas in comfort, the Kayhan II is one of our most requested vessels.



KAYHAN II



SUNWORLD IX

# SUNWORLD IX

## - 8 CABINS

- 4 double, 4 triple (double & single bed)
- Up to 20 guests
- Built 1999
- Length: 30m (98.5ft)

A gorgeous gulet that is perfectly suited to host large or small groups on all of our Turkish and Greek tours. She is elegant, spacious and of classic design with beautiful mahogany fittings and stylish furnishings.



SULTAN A

# SULTAN A

## - 8 CABINS

- 4 double, 4 twin
- Up to 16 guests
- Built 1995
- Length: 28m (92ft)

Handcrafted from mulberry, mahogany and teak, this beautiful gulet unites traditional character with modern conveniences. One of our most popular gulets for private charters, she is requested by name by guests who return year after year.



SUNWORLD IX



SULTAN A



# SUNWORLD 8

## - 8 CABINS

- 5 double, 2 twin, 1 triple (double & single bed)
- Up to 17 guests
- Built 1997
- Length: 30m (98.5ft)

Virtually identical to her sister ship (the Sunworld IX) this is a splendid gulet with gorgeous mahogany woodwork. She provides ample space above and below decks in which you can relax in comfort while cruising along the coast.

# SUNWORLD 6

## - 7 CABINS

- 3 double, 4 triple (double & single bed)
- Up to 18 guests
- Built 1995
- Length: 30m (98.5ft)

A lovely, spacious gulet with a beautiful honey coloured pine interior. Elegant and full of character, she is perfectly designed for private charters.





KAYA GÜNERI V

# KAYA GÜNERI V

## - 6 CABINS

- 2 master, 2 double, 2 twin
- Up to 12 guests
- Built 2009
- Length: 39.5m (130ft)

A high class gulet, the Kaya Güneri V is elegant and very stylish. She is beautifully crafted with spacious cabins made from mahogany and her crew will ensure that your time on board is truly memorable.



KAYA GÜNERI V



KAYA GÜNERI II

# KAYA GÜNERI II

## - 6 CABINS

- 4 triple (double & single bed), 2 twin
- Up to 12 guests
- Built 2002
- Length: 28.5m (98.4ft)

Kaya Güneri II offers comfortable yet stylishly traditional accommodation. Built from beautiful oak, black pine and teak she is bright, light and has generous sunbathing, dining and deck space. Perfect for private charters.



KAYA GÜNERI II



DURAMAZ

# DURAMAZ

## - 6 CABINS

- 2 master, 2 double, 2 twin
- Up to 12 guests
- Built 2005
- Length: 30m (98.5ft)

A sister ship of Kayhan II, Duramaz offers very comfortable accommodation with a large saloon and lots of deck space. She is perfect for families and medium sized groups looking for a private charter.



SALMAKIS

# SALMAKIS

## - 6 CABINS

- 1 master, 3 double, 2 twin
- Up to 12 guests
- Built 1997
- Length: 30m (98.5ft)

A large, elegant and very spacious gulet, with beautiful woodwork and a lovely honey coloured pine interior. Stylish and characterful she is perfect for private charters for smaller groups and families.



DURAMAZ



SALMAKIS





ATALANTE

# ATALANTE

## - 4 CABINS

- 2 double, 2 twin (convertible into a double)
- Up to 8 guests
- Built 2009
- Length: 24m (78ft)

A wonderfully pretty and elegant gulet with high class facilities, Atalante makes for a wonderful home for small groups as she cruises and explores the coast of Turkey or Greek Islands.



ATALANTE



GEMIBAŞI

# GEMIBAŞI

## - 4 CABINS

- 1 master, 3 double
- Up to 8 guests
- Built 2008
- Length: 23m (75.5ft)

An excellent smaller gulet, she is stylish, characterful and perfect for a smaller group seeking a relaxing gulet cruise. The owners of the Gemibaşı also run what we consider to be the best seafood restaurant in Bodrum and the food on board is predictably superb.



GEMIBAŞI

# GULETS IN ITALY



DERIYA DENIZ

## DERIYA DENIZ

### - 6 CABINS

- 4 double, 2 twin
- Up to 12 guests
- Built 2002
- Length: 27m (89ft)

A beautiful and spacious Turkish gulet with elegant mahogany woodwork, she has been refitted with great style by her Italian owners. We are delighted we can use such a lovely boat for our scheduled tours in Italy.



DERIYA DENIZ



MARIA GIOVANNA

# MARIA GIOVANNA

## - 6 CABINS

- 2 double, 4 twin
- Up to 12 guests
- Built 1997
- Length: 24m (79ft)

A beautiful and traditional Turkish gulet, the Maria Giovanna has been extensively modified, restyled and refitted by her Italian owners. She is an ideal vessel for larger groups looking for a private charter in Italian waters.



SILVER STAR II

# SILVER STAR II

## - 4 CABINS

- 1 master, 2 double, 1 twin
- Up to 8 guests
- Built 2006
- Length: 24m (79ft)

A luxury-class gulet, the Silver Star II offers spacious and stylish accommodation in her well-equipped cabins. Crafted from beautiful mahogany wood, this is the most elegant gulet available for small-group private charters in Italy.



MARIA GIOVANNA



SILVER STAR II

# ABOUT CROATIA

Croatia, with its long Adriatic shoreline and countless islands, historic harbour towns, remote coves and ever-changing scenery, is ideal terrain for a gulet cruise.

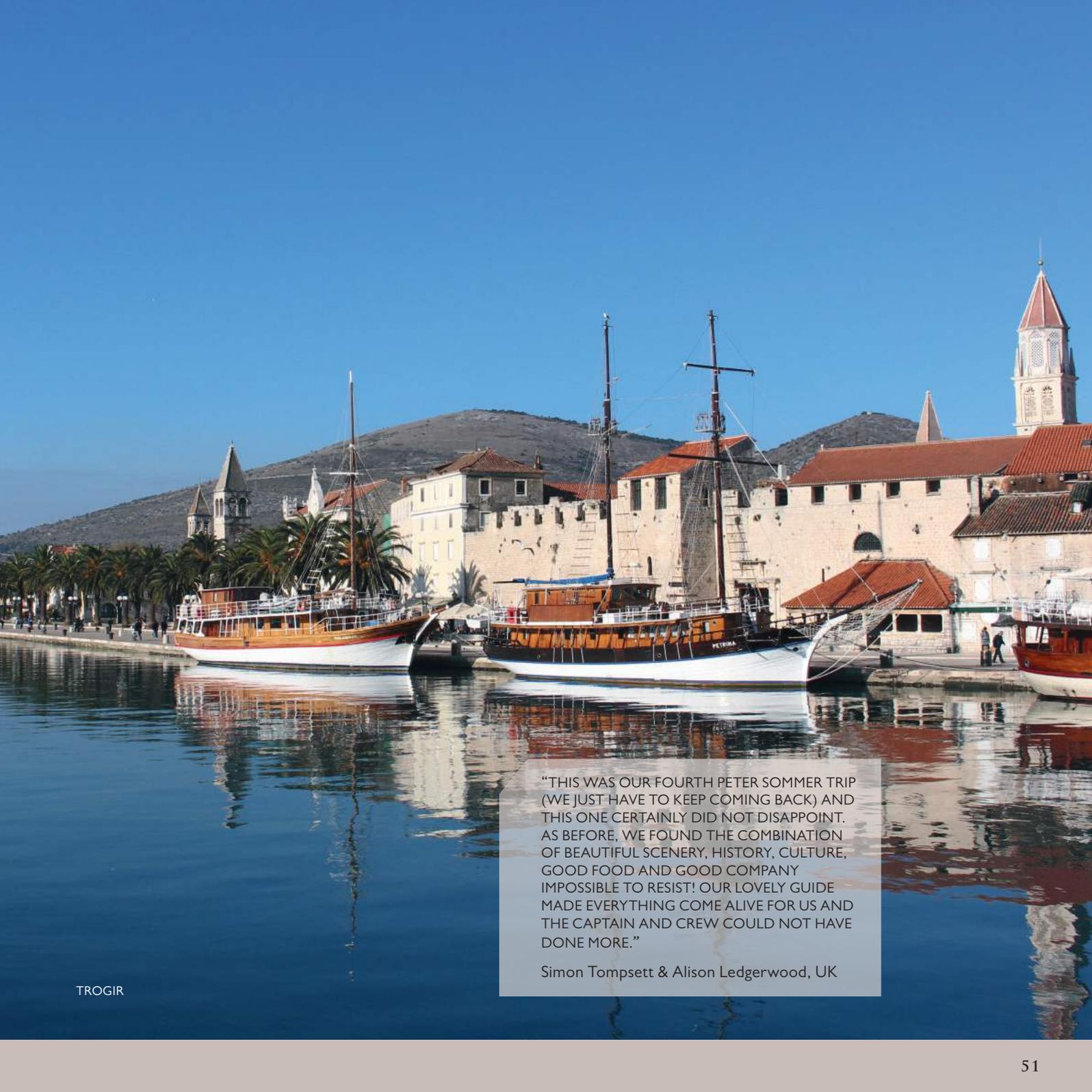
Although Croatia has a long tradition and much expertise as a travel destination, its visibility had been languishing at rather low levels in recent decades. All this is now changing, and this beautiful country – a crossroads of cultures and a rich panorama of experiences – is re-entering the horizon, going from strength to strength. No wonder: Croatia has very much to offer to travellers, and it does so in a way that combines unflinching quality with a distinctively friendly, personal and relaxed style.

The country's unique position within Europe and the Balkans – neither East nor West, neither North nor South – has imbued it with a unique mix of geographic features and cultural influences, making it a place of great diversity in every regard. Over the millennia, it has been a home or a frequent destination for Illyrian and Dalmatian tribes, Greek colonists, Roman legionaries (and emperors!), Byzantine bishops, Croatian (Slavic) warriors, Ottoman and Venetian traders, Italian artists and Austrian engineers, to name but a few. Each of those cultures

has left its own distinctive imprint, making Croatia a wonderful country to discover and enjoy.

Croatia's attractions are too many to list. The country has superb landscapes, from snow-capped mountains via lush forests and placid lakes to an intricate coastline with thousands of islands. The archaeological and cultural heritage includes prehistoric strongholds, traces of Greek settlements, vast Roman monuments, the charming churches of the first Christian Croats, the grand edifices of the Venetian-influenced Republic of Ragusa (modern Dubrovnik) and innumerable medieval and post-medieval cities of great interest and prettiness, each with its own character and beauty, be it inland, on the coast or even on an island.





“THIS WAS OUR FOURTH PETER SOMMER TRIP (WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP COMING BACK) AND THIS ONE CERTAINLY DID NOT DISAPPOINT. AS BEFORE, WE FOUND THE COMBINATION OF BEAUTIFUL SCENERY, HISTORY, CULTURE, GOOD FOOD AND GOOD COMPANY IMPOSSIBLE TO RESIST! OUR LOVELY GUIDE MADE EVERYTHING COME ALIVE FOR US AND THE CAPTAIN AND CREW COULD NOT HAVE DONE MORE.”

Simon Tompsett & Alison Ledgerwood, UK

# CRUISING THE DALMATIAN COAST: FROM SPLIT TO DUBROVNIK

Dalmatia, the southern part of Croatia's Adriatic Coast, is a region of immense natural beauty and historical significance, an area where many fascinating strands in the story of human struggle and achievement are woven together into an extraordinary tapestry of culture.

Even a casual glance at the map reveals much about this unusual place: while Croatia as a whole is set between the Mediterranean, the Balkans and Central Europe, Dalmatia itself is a country of mountains, sea and islands – important for ancient travellers and traders and perfect for a gulet cruise!

It is almost impossible to describe the splendour of the miraculously well-preserved Palace of the Roman Emperor Diocletian at Split, repurposed as a medieval city centre, or the grandeur of Dubrovnik, heart of the thriving Renaissance trading republic of Ragusa, with her broad streets, fine monuments and mighty walls. Both are listed by UNESCO as World Heritage and the tiny and intimate walled town of Korčula on the island of that name, a true Adriatic gem, is on the tentative list for World Heritage status.

All of these joys await you, along with many opportunities to swim in azure waters, to relax on your elegant gulet, to sample the delicious Croatian cuisine – uniting all the cultural influences that have affected the region with the high-quality meats and fish it produces – and to try the islands' fine wines. *Cruising the Coast of Dalmatia* is an unforgettable experience, a holiday of great beauty and a voyage of discovery.

"FEW THINGS IN LIFE FAR SURPASS EXPECTATIONS... SAILING THE DALMATIAN COAST IN A VESSEL OF ANCIENT ORIGIN WAS BEYOND OUR LONG HELD DREAM...WHEN SEASONED TRAVELERS CAN FEEL THEY HAVE HAD AN EXPERIENCE THAT IS TRULY UNIQUE AND EVOKES EXPRESSIONS OF WONDER AND DELIGHT...IT DOESN'T GET BETTER THEN THIS..."

George & Cynthia Boult, New Jersey, USA



DUBROVNIK HARBOUR

SAT JUNE 3 - SAT JUNE 10, 2017

Tour Guide: Dr. Helena Tomas

SAT SEPT 23 - SAT SEPT 30, 2017

Tour Guide: Dr. Ivana Jevtic

8 DAYS - £3,335 (limited to 10 guests) / Single Supplement: £850



ENERGETIC

Day 1: Our gulet is about 20 minutes from Split Airport at the Marina Baotic near Trogir. Welcome drinks and dinner on board.

Day 2: In the morning, we enter the harbour of Split. The medieval heart of this lively city sits within the towering remains of the Palace of Diocletian, built for the Roman emperor's retirement in AD 305 and the best-preserved structure of its kind. We explore its underground vaults, its walls and gates, the wonderful domed cathedral – originally built as Diocletian's mausoleum. After lunch, we cruise to the fjord-like bay of Pučišća on the island of Brač.

Day 3: We begin the day with a visit to the stonemasonry school of Pučišća, where the island's ancient tradition of working and producing high-quality stonework continues to this day. Brač stone was used not only in the construction of the Palace of Diocletian, but also in Berlin's Reichstag and Washington's White House. After a visit to the archaeological museum in the charming village of Škrip, we ascend

the summit of Vidova Gora, the tallest Mountain in the Adriatic islands, to enjoy the splendid view over the Dalmatian coast and islands we'll be exploring over the coming week. After rejoining our gulet we cruise to the island of Hvar.

Day 4: We explore Hvar town, a labyrinth of stone houses set between slopes and sea, including the archaeological collections housed in the castle overlooking the port and in the seaside Franciscan monastery, which reveal the island's past identity as the ancient Greek city of Pharos. Later, we cross to the remotest island on our itinerary, beautiful Vis, where we'll sample some of the famous Vis wines, first grown in the 4th century BC.

Day 5: After a morning visit to the excellent archaeological museum and the remains of the ancient Greek colony of Issa, we cruise east along the lovely island of Korčula towards Korčula town, one of the prettiest in the Adriatic and a candidate for UNESCO World Heritage status. The afternoon brings great vistas of Korčula, Hvar and the nearby mainland.

Day 6: We explore the picturesque lanes and squares of Korčula Town and visit its beautiful cathedral, followed by the ecclesiastical museum, a veritable cabinet of curiosities and the city museum with its archaeological exhibit. After a delicious lunch we'll cruise east for a swim off the verdant island of Mljet. We spend the evening in a pretty cove.

Day 7: Time for the tour's final highlight. After a leisurely morning and a final swim, we visit Dubrovnik, once better known as Ragusa, Venice's chief rival in the Adriatic. We tour its remarkable walls, which protected the city from attack for many centuries, explore the grand streets and elaborate monuments of its historic centre and pay a visit to the superb maritime museum. There is also time to take in the place's unique atmosphere – and perhaps engage in a little shopping. Farewell dinner on the gulet.

Day 8: Departure transfers to Dubrovnik airport, about 40 minutes away.

# CRUISING THE DALMATIAN COAST: FROM ŠIBENIK TO ZADAR





ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, NIN



SAT SEPT 16 - SAT SEPT 23, 2017

Tour Guide: Dr. Helena Tomas

8 DAYS - £3,395 (limited to 10 guests) / Single Supplement: £850

*Cruising the Dalmatian Coast: from Šibenik to Zadar* offers an astonishing historical and cultural tour of one of Croatia's most diverse coastal regions, an area rich in verdant landscapes and sparkling seascapes, delicious culinary delights and breathtaking architecture.

The cruise features a wealth of unique natural vistas. From Šibenik's towers, the view opens upon a forested coastline mirrored by serried tiers of islands, seemingly stretching beyond the horizon. In the Krka Valley, a river has spent eons eating its way through horizontal layers of limestone, forming a series of great waterfalls: an amazing sight. The same can be said for the Kornati archipelago, a surreal panorama of countless tiny rock islets piercing through the shimmering surface of the Adriatic.

Quieter and less frequented than the south, the region offers a dazzling mosaic of cultural and historical attractions. Beautiful Šibenik is graced with a truly magnificent cathedral and a trio of mighty fortresses. Zadar's Venetian walls protect a most unusual heritage of Eastern and Western architectures as well as one of the most outstanding collections of ancient glass in Europe. In Nin, a tiny island hosts one of Croatia's medieval capitals. Magnificent Trogir offers a near-fully preserved medieval cityscape, recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage site.

*Cruising the Dalmatian Coast: from Šibenik to Zadar* brings you to all these experiences in style and comfort, aboard a beautiful Turkish-built gulet, approaching the islands, coast and towns on the glittering Adriatic.

# CRUISING THE DALMATIAN COAST: FROM ŠIBENIK TO ZADAR



THE KRKA RIVER



Day 1: Arrivals. Your gulet awaits you in historical Šibenik, about an hour from Split airport. Welcome drinks and dinner on board.

Day 2: In the morning, we enter the vast estuary of the river Krka, mooring at the beautiful riverside town of Skradin. From there, we set out for the historic citadel of Bribir, ancient Varvaria, where a mighty Roman fortification wall surrounds the remains of many eras, including the early Middle Ages. Later, we admire the magnificent waterfalls near Skradin, before cruising through the Šibenik archipelago for a delightful swim and a quiet bay.

Day 3: In the morning, we visit the delightful little archaeological museum in the seaside town of Biograd na Moru. Its exhibits include parts of the extraordinary cargo of the Gnalčić shipwreck, discovered only a few miles away. This Renaissance merchant ship, named Gagjana, sank in 1583 on a voyage from Venice to Constantinople, the cultural beacons of the era, carrying an unbelievably rich cargo of manufactured goods from all over Europe. We then cruise to Zadar, a

city where history abounds. We explore the Venetian fortifications, Roman walls, fascinating church of St. Donatus with its strong Byzantine and Carolingian influences and the excellent archaeological museum.

Day 4: In the morning, we visit the incredibly beautiful museum of ancient glass at Zadar, witnessing a presentation of the millennia old art of glass-blowing. We then head inland on an excursion to Nin, one of Croatia's first medieval capitals, set on a tiny island in a serene lagoon. The local archaeological museum sets the scene for a place of immense historic depth. In the afternoon, we cruise out to a cove on one of the neighbouring islands.

Day 5: We cruise out to the fabled Kornati Islands, a fairytale scattering of innumerable rock islets set in one of the most striking maritime landscapes in the entire Mediterranean. In this National Park of crystal clear waters, glorious swim spots abound. Conditions permitting, we visit Tureta, a Byzantine beacon fortress forming part of a long string of such sites along the Dalmatian shore.

Day 6: A morning cruise south through island clusters to explore the impressive and beautiful city of Šibenik, with its crooked lanes, quaint squares and superb cathedral, a masterpiece bridging the Gothic and Renaissance styles, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. High above are grand medieval fortresses, built to secure this valuable and strategic town, which offer vast and epic views out to sea. The city's archaeological museum is one of the best in Croatia.

Day 7: We cruise along the beautiful shores of Šibenik County, passing by countless islands, before finally making our way to Trogir. The medieval city, set on a little island, preserves its Romanesque and Gothic streetscape nearly completely. We explore its labyrinthine lanes, delightful piazzas, charming sea front and the cathedral of St. Lawrence with its magnificent portal, one of the finest works of Romanesque Art in Europe. Farewell dinner on board.

Day 8: Departures from Marina Baotić to Split airport, about 20 minutes away.

# WALKING AND CRUISING SOUTHERN DALMATIA

We are thrilled to be able to present our first "Walking and Cruising" tour in Croatia.

*Walking and Cruising Southern Dalmatia* is an enticing combination of a gulet cruise with walks through some of the region's most beautiful landscapes. Ancient forts, beautiful towns, great castles and churches line the trail, and our guides will use them to bring the country's rich and turbulent history to vibrant life.

A series of highlights await. At Ston, you'll walk atop the 5 km wall built in the 14th and 15th centuries to protect a landscape of prime agricultural land and precious salt pans in one of the Adriatic's most important wine-growing regions. On Mljet, a network of paths and tracks will offer you an ever-changing set of vistas, taking in sea and lake, hill and valley, and a string of sites ranging from prehistory via the Romans to the Middle Ages. On Hvar, you will explore the Stari Grad Plain, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where local farmers are using the same tracks and maintaining the same field boundaries that their ancient Greek forebears laid out when they colonised the island 100 generations ago: a living archaeological landscape.

You will also experience this magnificent stretch of Croatia's coast through its delicious local produce: a cornucopia of delights await: fresh seafood, fine wines and superb meat and cheese dishes. Travelling aboard a traditional and elegant gulet, you'll have the pleasure of anchoring in beautiful bays and coves and picturesque harbours, the perfect way to discover the Dalmatian coast.

"I LEARNED SO MUCH FROM OUR GUIDES. HELENA, THE ARCHAEOLOGIST, BROUGHT HISTORY ALIVE FOR US."

Phyllis Meichel, New Jersey, USA

VIEW OUT TO KORČULA ISLAND



THE WALLS OF STON



BLACA MONASTERY



SAT SEPT 30 - SAT OCT 7, 2017

Tour Guide: Dr. Helena Tomas

8 DAYS - £3,395 (limited to 10 guests) / Single Supplement: £850

Day 1: We embark at the little harbour of Slano, about an hour from Dubrovnik airport. In the late afternoon, we cruise through the Elaphite Islands to the Pelješac Peninsula. Welcome drinks and dinner on board.

Day 2: In the morning, we walk the "Great Wall of Ston", one of the most unusual historical fortifications in Europe. Erected in the 14th and 15th centuries to protect the precious salt pans, and the peninsula itself, the wall stretches for 5.5 km from Ston to Mali Ston. In the afternoon, we make the short crossing to the verdant island of Mljet.

Day 3: On Mljet, we explore an important nature reserve on foot on romantic forest tracks, passing a Roman palace, an Illyrian stronghold, a great

pair of lakes and a beautiful medieval monastery set on a lake island. Later, we cruise to the Straits between Korčula and Orebić.

Day 4: Morning cruise through the Korčula channel to the island of Hvar. In the afternoon, we make our way from the serene little port of Stari Grad to the adjacent Stari Grad Plain. Here, we have a detailed look at Croatia's most unusual World Heritage site: the field system laid out by the Greek settlers of Pharos 24 centuries ago, and still in use.

Day 5: We cross to the wonderful island of Brač. Here, in the foothills of Vidova Gora, the highest peak of all the Adriatic Islands, we scale the heights above Murvica and Bol to admire wonderful views of the Dalmatian Islands and to

discover the mysterious Dragon Cave with its fantastic rock-carved reliefs.

Day 6: A trail through a tree-shaped gorge takes us to the monastery of Blaca with its striking white-washed roofs. In the evening, we cruise to the northern coast of Brač.

Day 7: After a final morning at sea, we go ashore near Split to visit the stunning fortress of Klis. Set on a rocky promontory, inaccessible from three sides and with stunning views all around this monumental fortification was once the gateway to Dalmatia.

Day 8: Transfers to Split airport about 30 minutes away.

# ABOUT GREECE

Greece is a land irrevocably connected in our imagination with the glories of the ancient world: the magnificent temples of Delphi and Olympia; the military might of Athens and Sparta; the land that gave birth to democracy, philosophy, theatre, beautiful art and history.

Greece lives up to this billing, but goes far beyond it. It is a land of deep blue seas; long, sandy beaches; and strings of beautiful islands. It has a wonderful cuisine, with the emphasis firmly placed on fresh produce simply cooked, best sampled in a family run taverna.

Athens, the capital, is a magnificent place to begin exploring the country and sample the juxtaposition of old and new. Its modern cityscape, filled with lively tavernas, is lorded over by the brooding mass of the Acropolis, crowned by the Parthenon. Other equally splendid ruins rear up throughout the city centre and are well worth investigating.

The strategic location of the Cyclades and Dodecanese Islands, between the Greek and Turkish mainlands, has endowed them with a series of first-rate archaeological sites and museums. Many of the islands are crowned by magnificent Crusader castles or fortifications dating back to ancient Greek or



Byzantine times. Hidden in their interior, away from the gaze of pirates, lies a wealth of holy sites: ancient shrines, medieval monasteries and even Ottoman mosques.

These historical riches are embellished by the natural wonders that abound in these islands: barely-active volcanoes, natural saunas, rugged mountains, beautiful coves and, in the spring, abundant wildflowers. From crystal waters to delicious food, golden sunshine to abundant antiquities, Greece has all the ingredients for a wonderful cultural holiday.



"I HAVE TRAVELLED A LOT (THINKING OF MYSELF AS A TRAVELLER NOT AS A TOURIST, SO EXPECT MY TRIPS TO BE OUT OF THE ORDINARY.) THE CRUISE TO THE GREEK ISLANDS HAS BEEN UP THERE WITH THE BEST TOURS I HAVE DONE. I WOULD RECOMMEND IT TO ANYONE WHO IS LOOKING FOR EXCELLENCE."

Roberta Wiseman, NSW, Australia

# EXPLORING CRETE:

## ARCHAEOLOGY, NATURE AND FOOD

MINOAN PALACE, KNOSSOS

"ANOTHER BRILLIANT TRIP WITH PETER SOMMER TRAVELS, WHO REALLY KNOW HOW TO ORGANISE A COMPREHENSIVE TOUR, TAKING IN NOT JUST ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES BUT FANTASTIC CRETAN FOOD AND WINE, VENETIAN ARCHITECTURE AND EVEN THE STORY OF THE CRETAN WORLD WAR II RESISTANCE AND THE WAR CEMETERY. GIVEN THE BRILLIANT ITINERARY AND THE EQUALLY BRILLIANT GUIDING SKILLS, WHAT MORE COULD ONE ASK FOR?"

Valerie Mulder, UK

### A spectacular land tour of the legendary island of Crete.

Crete is the largest of the Greek islands and its historical significance is second to none. The island's renowned Classical cities and the rich remains of the Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman cultures, lead us right through to its turbulent 20th century history.

As well as its historical and archaeological riches, the island is a place of extraordinary natural beauty and diversity. Its inhabitants are fiercely proud of their homeland and maintain its many traditions, including the fabled Cretan hospitality.

To take full advantage of the island's extraordinary beauty our tour includes a vast variety of different landscapes and ancient sites, bringing you into direct contact with its coasts, mountains, gorges and fertile plains, as well as its historical villages and towns.

The tour is complemented by excellent meals in carefully selected restaurants and tavernas, as well as wine tastings from regional vineyards. At night, you will be staying in beautiful surroundings, ranging from elegant Venetian palazzos to traditional inns and agriturismos in serene mountain villages.

MON APR 17 - SAT APR 29, 2017

Tour Guides: Heinrich Hall and Dr. Maria Girtzi

13 DAYS - £3,595 / Single Supplement: £595

THU MAY 4 - TUE MAY 16, 2017

Tour Guides: Dr. Michael Metcalfe and Dr. Maria Girtzi

13 DAYS - £3,695 / Single Supplement: £625

Day 1: Arrival in Iraklio (Heraklion). Transfer from airport about 15 minutes away. Welcome drinks and dinner in a traditional taverna.

Day 2: We drive eastwards to the extensive remains of the Minoan Palace at Malia and its surrounding town, founded over 4,000 years ago – a perfect introduction to Minoan archaeology. We drive up into the Dykti mountains to the celebrated Lasithi Plateau. In the afternoon we take a panoramic walk to one of the regions sacred caves, before returning to Iraklio. Before dinner, we stroll through the Venetian heart of the city, once known as Candia.



Day 3: We begin exploring East Crete by visiting the scenic Hellenistic city of Lato. We stop by the Byzantine/Venetian church of Panayia Kera and continue to the incredibly well-preserved Minoan town of Gournia. Our village hotel to the east is situated in a picturesque mountain village.

Day 4: This day is devoted to three archaeological highlights: the museum of Siteia with the famous gold-and-ivory Palaikastro Kouros, the Minoan town of Palaikastro itself, and the town and Palace of Zakros. After a beachside lunch, we return to our hotel.

Day 5: We return westwards for a highlight of the tour: we explore Crete's most famous archaeological site, the great Minoan palace of Knossos, followed by lunch and a wine tasting in the lush Peza region. We continue south into the Asterousia Mountains, towering above the rugged southern coast.

Day 6: A morning visit to the beautifully located Minoan town of Agia Triada, and to the Minoan palace at Phaistos, in a panoramic setting overlooking the huge Mesara Plain and the snow-topped peaks of Mt. Ida. In the afternoon, there is time to relax and enjoy great views.

Day 7: We investigate the island's Roman capital, Gortyn, with an array of excavated buildings and other largely unexcavated ruins. We continue into the western half of Crete, to enjoy lunch and a tasting at a famous winery. We end the day at a lovely seafront hotel in the beautiful Venetian city of Chania.

Day 8: Free day, yours to relax or explore the lanes and vistas of Chania. You are free to choose your own options for lunch and dinner.

Day 9: A stunning drive along the edge of the White Mountains to Souyia on the south coast. We take a short boat ride to rarely visited Lissos, one of the loveliest ancient cities in Crete, set in a cove only reachable by boat or on foot.

Day 10: A morning drive to the Akrotiri peninsula to visit the monastery of Agia Triada. We drive by the magnificent Bay of Souda to the vast Classical and Roman city of Aptaera, followed by a village lunch. We end the day in the grand Venetian city of Rethymno, where we stay in a 16th century palazzo.

Day 11: In the morning, we visit Eleftherna, set in the beautiful Amari valley and still undergoing excavation. Later, we explore the highlights of Rethymno: its Venetian castle, Ottoman mosques and fascinating architectural details.

Day 12: We return to Iraklio to visit the Archaeological Museum, one of the world's most important exhibits of prehistoric art and artefacts, a magnificent showcase of the Minoan culture. After a relaxing afternoon, we conclude with a final gourmet dinner.

Day 13: Transfer to Heraklion airport about 15 minutes away.

# EXPLORING THE PELOPONNESE

An aerial photograph of the town of Monemvasia, Greece. The town is built on a steep, rocky cliffside that juts out into the deep blue Mediterranean Sea. The buildings are mostly constructed from light-colored stone and have terracotta roofs. Some buildings have domes. In the distance, a small boat is visible on the water. The sky is clear and blue. The overall scene is a beautiful coastal landscape.

“HEINRICH HALL IS A GUIDE IN THE VERY FINEST SENSE OF THE WORD!”

Briar O’Bryant, California, USA

VIEW OF MONEMVASIA

The Peloponnese conjures up images of ancient glories, epic struggles, valiant heroes and majestic vistas. The mere mention of names like Arcadia or Corinth, Sparta or Olympia, Nemea or Mycenae awakens our imagination, reminding us of fascinating legends and dramatic historical scenes reaching far across the ages.

The fame of this large peninsula that forms the southern part of the Greek Mainland rests on its long and often spectacular history, making it a veritable heartland of European and Western culture. From the first farmers of the Neolithic to the Bronze Age Mycenaeans, via the glories of Classical Greece and Rome and the splendours of the Byzantine Empire, all the way up to the Ottoman Empire and the Greek War of Independence, the Peloponnese has often been centre-stage to key historical events. The region is also central in Greek myth - home to the heroes of Homer’s Iliad like King Agamemnon and Nestor, the deeds of Herakles (Hercules) and a place often frequented by the Gods themselves, be it in love or wrath.

Join us in bringing these fascinating places and their history to life. You’ll journey through stunningly beautiful scenery, from small fertile plains to rough and rugged mountains and rocky peninsulas jutting out into the blue waters of the Mediterranean. You’ll discover many of the area’s most famous highlights, including no less than six UNESCO World Heritage sites, such as the gargantuan Bronze Age fortifications of Tiryns and Mycenae, the Classical splendours of Olympia, famous for the games that still bear its name, Epidaurus with its beautiful theatre and beautiful Byzantine Mystras.

WED MAY 3 - WED MAY 17, 2017



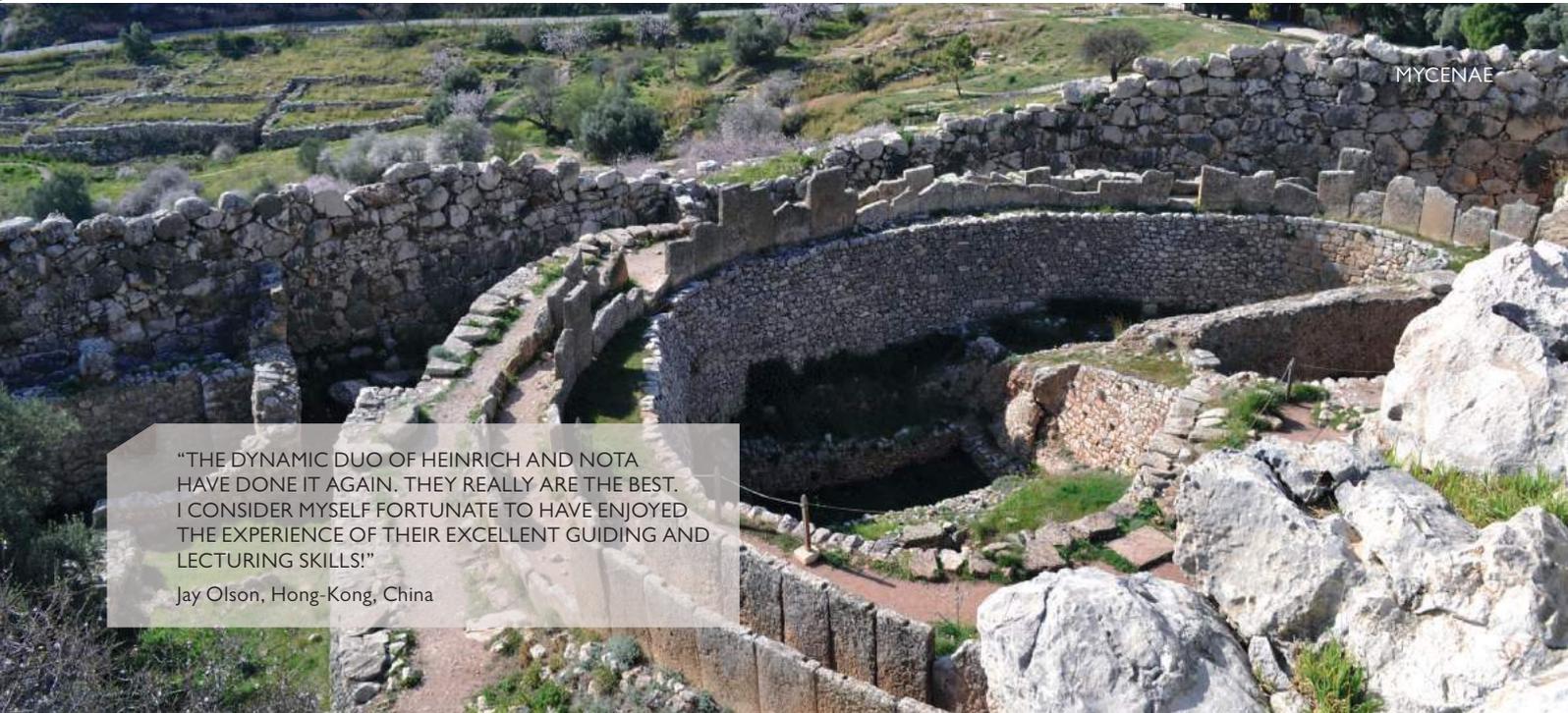
Tour Guides: Heinrich Hall & Nota Karamaouna  
15 DAYS - £4,045 / Single Supplement: £730

We use elegant hotels of 3-5 stars

Includes all meals except one lunch and two dinners

You'll also discover wonders off the beaten track, like mountainous Arcadia with its perched villages and gorge-side monasteries and the majestic Mani Peninsula, where a romantically wild landscape is perfectly matched by its traditional architecture.

Naturally you'll savour some of the region's best traditional cuisine, sample many of the fine wines that have been cultivated here for millennia and stay in delightful accommodations and locations. Led by Heinrich and Maria, a team of archaeologist guides with many years' knowledge and experience of the region, this tour will introduce you to the splendours of one of the ancient Mediterranean's most significant regions. As you explore its historical and cultural majesty as well as its natural beauty and living traditions you'll gain a true and unforgettable sense and understanding of what the Peloponnese was and is.



"THE DYNAMIC DUO OF HEINRICH AND NOTA HAVE DONE IT AGAIN. THEY REALLY ARE THE BEST. I CONSIDER MYSELF FORTUNATE TO HAVE ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE OF THEIR EXCELLENT GUIDING AND LECTURING SKILLS!"

Jay Olson, Hong-Kong, China

# EXPLORING THE PELOPONNESE



BYZANTINE CHURCH, MYSTRAS

Day 1: Arrival in Athens. Transfer from airport, about 40 minutes away, to our hotel in the centre of the city. Welcome dinner.

Day 2: Passing Corinth, the gateway to the Peloponnese, we ascend the mighty rock of Acrocorinth, the ancient city's citadel. In the afternoon, we enter the Argolid to visit the vast Bronze Age citadel of Mycenae. We spend our first Peloponnesian night in Nafplio, one of Greece's most attractive towns.

Day 3: A morning visit to Nafplio's superb archaeological museum. Afterwards we travel southwards along the coast, crossing into Laconia, the ancient land of the Spartans stopping at the beautiful village of Geraki, with its Mycenaean and Byzantine remains, before reaching our destination, the medieval walled town of Monemvasia.

Day 4: We explore the history and architecture of Monemvasia, starting with the picturesque Venetian Lower Town before ascending the heavily fortified plateau above, crowned by the 12th century Byzantine church of

Agia Sophia. As Monemvasia gave its name to Malmsey Wine, exported all over Europe in Venetian times, we visit an excellent local winery after lunch to taste the region's produce, followed by an easy-going afternoon and evening to dine at a restaurant of your choice.

Day 5: Westwards into the heart of Laconia: legendary Sparta, to visit the ancient acropolis, well-preserved Roman theatre and archaeological museum. In the afternoon we explore Mystras, the capital of the medieval Despotate of the Morea, among the most important of all Byzantine sites, comprising a castle, city walls, churches and monasteries. We finish the day in the Mani peninsula.

Day 6: A day devoted to exploring the legendary Mani Peninsula, the wild and rugged southern tip of Mainland Greece, with its rugged villages and hidden-away medieval churches. After lunch at Areopolis, a picturesque village of stone-built tower houses built to defend the famously independent-spirited inhabitants of Mani, we explore some of the Byzantine riches of the area, before finally returning to our hotel.

Day 7: We take a boat ride in the breathtaking cave of Diros and visit the local museum with its important Neolithic finds. Later, we drive along the scenic west coast of Mani to Kalamata where we stroll through the lovely old town.

Day 8: Western Messenia, the homeland of Homer's King Nestor, stretching alongside the Ionian Sea. We visit the important Mycenaean collection from the "Palace of Nestor" at Chora and the well-preserved Venetian castle of Methoni, built on the tip of a peninsula. A free evening to relax and dine in Kalamata.

Day 9: To ancient Messene. Ongoing excavations are revealing the unusually well-preserved remains of the city, set on a plateau overlooking the sea far below. Later, we traverse the lush countryside to ancient Elis, spending the night at Olympia.

Day 10: Olympia. The vast site, set amongst olive trees and between two rivers, includes temples and sanctuaries, training grounds and gymnasias and the venerable stadium, according to legend founded by the hero Hercules himself. The excellent site museum contains the Hermes of Praxiteles, one of the very few surviving works by one of antiquity's greatest sculptors. We spend the night in the striking mountain village of Dimitsana.

Day 11: We explore the wild and mountainous beauty of Arcadia. We visit the mysterious Sanctuary of Apollo at Bassai, stop by the 17th century monastery of Filosofofu above the Lousos Gorge and visit Dimitsana's open-air Water Power Museum, devoted to the traditional water-mills of the region.

Day 12: Eastwards to Nemea, a famed sanctuary of Zeus. Its interesting museum, impressive temple and splendid stadium are set in the fertile hills of Greece's best-

known wine region. At a winery lunch, we sample the region's signature Agiorgitiko wine. Afterwards we visit the Bronze Age fortification of Tiryns, before making our way to Nafplio.

Day 13: A free morning to explore and enjoy lunch. In the afternoon, we set out for the eastern Argolid, stopping to admire one of the area's extraordinarily fine Byzantine chapels and to cross the world's oldest standing bridge before reaching the Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurous. The site, set in peaceful scenery, features the best-preserved ancient theatre in Greece renowned for its perfect proportions.

Day 14: Northwards for Corinth, where we wander through the remains of that fabulously wealthy ancient city, including the grand Archaic Temple of Apollo and its marble-paved Roman high street, lined by colonnades. We return to Athens, where we visit the National Archaeological Museum to see the fabled gold treasures from Mycenae, including the so-called Mask of Agamemnon.

Day 15: Transfers for Athens airport, about 40 minutes away.

**"WE LOVED THE EXPLORING THE PELOPONNESE TOUR. WE SAW AMAZING SIGHTS AND LEARNED SO MUCH ABOUT THEM FROM HEINRICH. THIS IS OUR SECOND PETER SOMMERS TOUR AND WE'LL DEFINITELY BE SIGNING UP FOR MORE!"**

Linda & John Ujifusa, USA

THE DENDRA PANOPLY, NAFPLIO MUSEUM



# CRUISING TO THE CYCLADES



"CLEARLY ONE OF THE BEST AND MOST INFORMATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS YOU CAN UNDERTAKE. THE COMBINATION OF CRUISING THE CYCLADES, VISITING EXCEPTIONAL SITES WITH OUTSTANDING EXPERTS AND HAVING FUN IS UNBEATABLE!"

Michael & Sue Davies, Victoria, Australia

Join us for the ultimate Greek island adventure, as we explore the history and natural beauty of the Aegean Sea.

Clear blue waters, vast island-dotted horizons and a wide range of ancient and medieval treasures combine to make *Cruising to the Cyclades* the quintessential Greek island experience. This 2-week tour through the Dodecanese and Cyclades includes over a dozen islands - a carefully chosen mix of the world-famous (such as glorious Santorini, mountainous Naxos and laid-back Kos) and rarely visited secrets of the Aegean (such as Amorgos, remote Astypalaia and picturesque Nisyros), each one with its own distinctive character and beauty.

This region has been a crucible of history from the very earliest times. Its archaeological sites range from Bronze Age cities to Classical temples, Byzantine monasteries to Crusader castles. Your expert guides will bring them all to life and as the islands glide by you will travel through the pages of history. You'll also experience glorious landscapes, traditional villages and bustling harbour towns.

Why not join us for a unique experience of exploration and relaxation, a perfect mix of culture and nature, in a truly epic maritime setting?

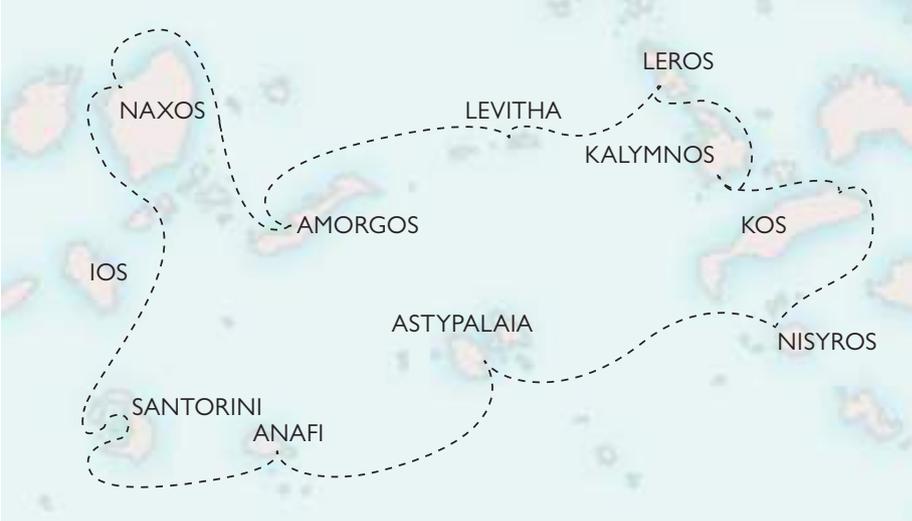
Day 1: Our gulet is about 30 minutes from Kos Airport in Kos Harbour. Welcome drinks and dinner.

Day 2: An early crossing to Pothia, where we visit the Early Christian church of "Christ in Jerusalem" and the archaeological museum's extraordinary collection of Classical Greek sculpture. In the afternoon, we drop by the Turkish harbour of Turgutreis before returning to a cove off Kalymnos.

Day 3: Wonderful maritime scenery abounds as we make the long crossing to the harbour of Katapola on the rugged island of Amorgos.

Day 4: On Amorgos, we visit the ancient hilltop city of Minoa, the striking Chora, and the Chozoviotissa monastery. We continue our cruise towards the famous island of Mykonos.

Day 5: We make an early morning crossing to Delos. As the birthplace of Apollo, Delos was a place of great sanctity, which attracted the wealth that made it a major commercial centre. In the afternoon, we continue to Naxos, the largest of the Cycladic islands.



**SAT MAY 20 - SAT JUN 3, 2017**

15 DAYS - £3,945 / Single Supplement: £1,075

**SAT SEPT 2 - SAT SEPT 16, 2017**

15 DAYS - £4,175 / Single Supplement: £1,125

Tour Guides: Heinrich Hall & Dr. Maria Girtzi



Day 6: In the morning, we explore Naxos town and castle, including its superb collection of prehistoric Cycladic figurines. Later, we head inland to visit the church of the Panagia Drosiani and the ancient marble quarries at Flerio. Back in the harbour, there is a chance for a sunset visit to the Portara, the huge marble gateway to a long-lost temple.

Day 7: We cross to Paroikia on the island of Paros. Here, we visit the stunning Ekatonpyliani Church and the local archaeological museum.

Day 8: Onwards to Santorini, where we anchor within the enormous volcanic caldera. In its glamorous capital, Fira, we visit

two museums dedicated to the island's extraordinary Bronze Age civilisation.

Day 9: An excursion to the miraculously-preserved Bronze Age town at Akrotiri, the Pompeii of the Aegean, followed by a visit to a traditional winery. In the afternoon, we have time to relax in the stunningly pretty village of Oia.

Day 10: Conditions permitting, we drop anchor at the small, rarely visited and unspoiled island of Anafi, with its single village and a Byzantine monastery built over an imposing ancient temple of Apollo, before continuing to a beautiful cove on the island of Astypalaia.

Day 11: On Astypalaia, we take a leisurely walk through the stunning chora, one of the most beautiful in the Aegean, with its grand Venetian castle offering breath-taking views across the blue sea.

Day 12: We make an early crossing to Nisyros. After exploring the labyrinthine port town of Mandraki with its excellent archaeological museum, we have lunch in the tiny village of Emporio, perched dramatically on the rim of the volcanic caldera, before visiting the awe-inspiring volcanic crater of Stefanos. In the late afternoon, we admire the superb ancient fortification of Paliokastro.

Day 13: We return to Kos harbour. Here we visit the Crusader Castle and stroll through Kos Town, a beautiful and beguiling mix of ancient, medieval and modern.

Day 14: In the morning, we visit the Casa Romana, one of the best-preserved Roman private homes in Greece, and the island's excellent archaeological museum. In the afternoon, we complete our tour by exploring Asklepios, one of the most famous healing centres of the ancient world. There is a final chance to shop or relax in the bustling town square.

Day 15: Transfer to Kos airport about 30 minutes away.

# CRUISING THE AEGEAN: FROM KOS TO PATMOS

The Dodecanese islands are perhaps the most ethereally beautiful part of the Aegean.

Set in a sparkling topaz-blue sea, they have a rich and intricate history stretching back millennia, and a distinctive culture. From the deck of our gulet, you will cruise in comfort as the islands come to you, each with its own distinctive silhouette and story: mountainous Kalymnos; Nisyros with its brooding volcanic cone; Patmos crowned by its extraordinary monastery - a World Heritage Site; and serene, secluded Pserimos. Anchoring in coves of the bluest shimmering water and harbours with bright white houses rising above you, you can relax as you wish before dining on meals freshly-prepared on board or go to specially selected tavernas on the islands themselves. In a tranquil and unhurried way, you can drink in the vistas of picturesque villages, rocky backdrops and volcanic cones as verdant headlands and glittering bays slide by.

The islands have a long history as a place where cultures met and learned from each other, or came into conflict. Our expert guides will introduce you to some of the finest traces of this long past. From the food, sounds and atmosphere of the welcoming tavernas, to the unique local craft of sponge-diving, you will come away feeling truly immersed in this varied archipelago's many delights.

"WE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED OUR CRUISE. OUR CREATURE COMFORTS WERE CONSIDERED AT ALL TIMES AND IT WAS A WONDERFUL MIX OF VISITS TO AMAZING SIGHTS AND PURE RELAXATION. OUR GUIDES COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE PROFESSIONAL AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR CHOSEN FIELDS ENSURED THAT EACH VISIT WAS ENJOYABLE AS WELL AS EDUCATIONAL. WE COULDN'T RECOMMEND IT MORE HIGHLY."

Jennifer Bowman, Victoria, Australia

THE VOLCANIC CRATER, NISYROS



**SAT MAY 27 - SAT JUNE 3, 2017**

8 DAYS - £2,525 / Single Supplement: £665

Tour Guides: Prof. Tony Spawforth & Nota Karamaouna

**SAT SEPT 16 - SAT SEPT 23, 2017**

8 DAYS - £2,575 / Single Supplement: £675

Day 1: We embark on our gulet, 35 minutes from the airport, in the harbour of Kos. Welcome drink and dinner on board.

Day 2: We begin our adventure by exploring some of the archaeological riches of Kos Town. In the afternoon, after a beautiful first swim in the Aegean, we continue to the picturesque and labyrinthine port village of Mandraki on the volcanic island of Nisyros.

Day 3: This morning we head off on an exciting adventure to the atmospheric steam crater of Stephanos, where we see, hear and smell the true nature of Nisyros: the whole island is a volcano. We walk across the surface of the crater where hot water bubbles up and steam rises from beneath, leaving mounds of crystallized sulphur, before heading off to enjoy a well-earned lunch. Later, we make the long and scenic crossing to a bay off rocky Kalymnos.

Day 4: In the morning, we cross over to the sacred island of Patmos. After ample time for swimming and relaxing in one of its many coves, we go ashore to discover the Cave of the Apocalypse and the great Monastery of Saint John. The setting, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, is stunning and reveals a thousand years of life in a small and remote island.

Day 5: On the little-visited island of Leros, we make our way to the stupendous Castle of Panteli. This is the perfect site to learn about the many conflicts and struggles that have shaped the area. From the castle we take a stroll around the town at Lakki before making our way to a beautiful cove off Kalymnos for a relaxing evening.

Day 6: In the morning, we visit the extraordinary archaeological museum of Kalymnos with its rich collection of ancient Greek sculpture. In the afternoon, following a short stay in the Turkish port of Turgutreis for customs formalities, we moor by the barely inhabited islet of Pserimos – a secluded spot, far apart from the busy world.

Day 7: Back on Kos, we explore the Casa Romana, the partially restored house of a Roman bigwig. Here we have the chance to walk in the very footsteps of its past inhabitants by visiting their dining rooms, reception halls, courtyards, kitchens and bedrooms. Afterwards, we go to the beautifully set Asklepieion, the most important sacred site of ancient Kos. We conclude their story in the superb archaeological museum. Farewell dinner on the gulet.

Day 8: Transfer to Kos airport, about 35 minutes away.

# CRUISING THE AEGEAN: A FAMILY TOUR

This cruise among the timeless Islands of the Dodecanese archipelago is a perfect and entertaining introduction to the varied history of the Aegean Sea and its inhabitants.

It is also the fabulous setting for our family cruise in Greece. Every day on *Cruising the Aegean: A Family Adventure* brings new discoveries, new things to learn, and new places to enjoy together. The spirit of discovery and the joy of engaging with the many stories the region has to tell goes hand-in-hand with ample time to relax, swim, snorkel, kayak, or simply gaze at the scenery - the perfect way to truly enjoy this famously beautiful area in an unforgettable way.

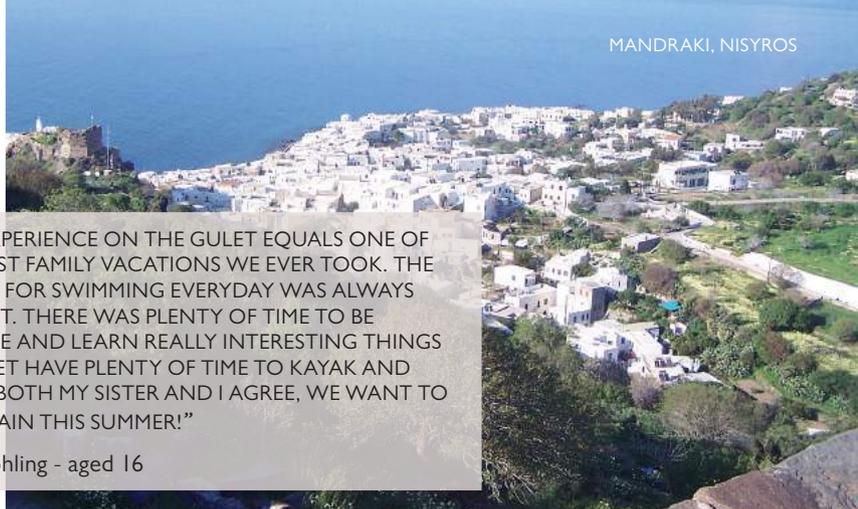
As always, wonderful food will complete the days, from breakfast on deck in the morning sunshine to lively bustling tavernas providing dishes of glorious salads, slow roasted meats and freshly caught seafood. The experience, is unique, exciting and most of all fun!





"MY EXPERIENCE ON THE GULET EQUALS ONE OF THE BEST FAMILY VACATIONS WE EVER TOOK. THE WATER FOR SWIMMING EVERYDAY WAS ALWAYS PERFECT. THERE WAS PLENTY OF TIME TO BE ASHORE AND LEARN REALLY INTERESTING THINGS AND YET HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO KAYAK AND SWIM. BOTH MY SISTER AND I AGREE, WE WANT TO GO AGAIN THIS SUMMER!"

Trip Rohling - aged 16



## SAT JULY 22 – SAT JULY 29 2017



Tour Guides: Dr. Helena Tomas & Dr. Maria Girtzi

8 DAYS - £2,695 (children up to 12, £2,550) / Single Supplement: £695

Day 1: We embark on our gulet, 35 minutes from the airport, in the harbour of Kos. Welcome drink and dinner on board.

Day 2: We begin our adventure by exploring some of the archaeological riches of Kos Town. In the afternoon, after a beautiful first swim in the Aegean, we continue to the picturesque and labyrinthine port village of Mandraki on the volcanic island of Nisyros.

Day 3: This morning we head off on an exciting adventure to the atmospheric steam crater of Stephanos, where we see, hear and smell the true nature of Nisyros: the whole island is a volcano. We walk across the surface of the crater where hot water bubbles up and steam rises from beneath, leaving mounds of crystallized sulphur, before heading off to enjoy a well-earned lunch. Later, we make the long and scenic crossing to a bay off rocky Kalymnos.

Day 4: In the morning, we cross over to the sacred island of Patmos. After ample time for swimming and relaxing in one of its many coves, we go ashore to discover the Cave of the Apocalypse and the great Monastery of Saint John. The setting, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage site, is stunning and reveals a thousand years of life in a small and remote island.

Day 5: On the little-visited island of Leros, we make our way to the stupendous Castle of Panteli. This is the perfect site to learn about the many conflicts and struggles that have shaped the area. From the castle we take a stroll around the town at Lakki before making our way to a beautiful cove off Kalymnos for a relaxing evening.

Day 6: In the morning, we visit the extraordinary archaeological museum of Kalymnos with its rich collection of ancient Greek sculpture. In the afternoon, following a short stay in the Turkish port of Turgutreis for customs formalities, we moor by the barely inhabited islet of Pserimos – a secluded spot, far apart from the busy world.

Day 7: Back on Kos, we explore the Casa Romana, the partially restored house of a Roman bigwig. Here we have the chance to walk in the very footsteps of its past inhabitants by visiting their dining rooms, reception halls, courtyards, kitchens and bedrooms. Afterwards, we go to the beautifully set Asklepieion, the most important sacred site of ancient Kos. We conclude their story in the superb archaeological museum. Farewell dinner on the gulet.

Day 8: Transfer to Kos airport, about 35 minutes away.

# CRUISING THE DODECANESE

An aerial photograph of a vibrant Greek coastal town, likely Symi, built on a steep, rocky hillside. The buildings are densely packed and feature a variety of colors, including white, yellow, orange, and blue, with prominent red-tiled roofs. A deep blue harbor is nestled at the base of the town, filled with numerous sailboats and yachts. The surrounding landscape is rugged and rocky, with sparse greenery.

“WE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED OUR DODECANESE CRUISE. OUR CREATURE COMFORTS WERE CONSIDERED AT ALL TIMES AND IT WAS A WONDERFUL MIX OF VISITS TO AMAZING SIGHTS AND PURE RELAXATION. OUR GUIDES COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE PROFESSIONAL AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR CHOSEN FIELDS ENSURED THAT EACH VISIT WAS ENJOYABLE AS WELL AS EDUCATIONAL. WE COULDN'T RECOMMEND IT MORE HIGHLY AND HOPE TO RETURN TO TAKE ANOTHER TOUR.”

Jennifer Bowman, Victoria, Australia

THE MAIN HARBOUR, SYMI

CASTLE OF PANDELI, LEROS



ENERGETIC

SAT SEP 23 - SAT OCT 7, 2017

Tour Guides: Heinrich Hall & Dr. Maria Girtzi

15 DAYS - £4,125 / Single Supplement: £1,125

This spectacular gulet cruise takes you from the famous island of Samos southwards through the entire Dodecanese chain, including eleven of the most beautiful and evocative of the Greek islands and no less than three UNESCO-listed World Heritage sites.

The islands' strategic location, between the open Aegean and the mainland of Asia Minor, has made them a well-connected cultural interface throughout history. Carians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, the Crusader Knights of St. John, Ottomans and Italians visited or settled there, leaving behind a rich legacy of grandiose ancient sanctuaries, mighty castles, serene monasteries and traditional villages, all set within an ever-changing maritime scenery.

The sites you see on this itinerary include world-famous relics, like the Asklepieion of Kos, the extraordinary archaeological museum of Samos, or the medieval fortifications of Rhodes, each

among the best of their kind. On the smaller, off-the-beaten-track islands you gain a more intimate view of traditional Greek island life, with their picturesque harbours, village squares adorned with pebble mosaics and beautiful domestic architecture. These islands are also rich in diverse landscapes: craggy hilltops, strange volcanic formations and of course coastlines featuring a succession of bays and islets. Another highlight of the cruise is the series of meals you will enjoy at selected venues throughout the islands, ranging from homecooked local cuisine in family-run tavernas to real gourmet food, the finest the region has to offer.

Sightseeing aside, your stylish gulet will moor in secluded coves, allowing you to bathe in azure seas, admire the pristine scenery, or simply relax. From fabulous food to epic history, this is a fascinating journey through Greek culture, past and present. Don't miss it!

# CRUISING THE DODECANESE

MONASTERY OF ST JOHN, PATMOS

Day 1: Our gulet is in Kos harbour, about 30 minutes from Kos airport. Welcome drinks and dinner on board.

Day 2: We make an early crossing to Kalymnos. We visit to the incredible collection of ancient sculpture in the museum at Pothia, the capital of Kalymnos, and make an excursion to the early Christian basilica of Christ in Jerusalem inland.

Day 3: We make the scenic crossing to the sacred island of Patmos, where we explore the ancient Acropolis.

Day 4: In the morning, we visit the Cave of the Apocalypse and the mighty Byzantine monastery of St. John, a World Heritage Site, set in the attractive town of Chora. In the afternoon, we cruise for a couple of hours to Samos Island.

Day 5: The charming port village of Pythagoreio was built on the ruins of the ancient island capital. We visit the great sanctuary of Hera, the excellent archaeological museum at Vathi and in the afternoon we cross to the island of Leros.

Day 6: On Leros. Where we visit the Castle of Panteli,

commanding great views and used as a citadel by the Byzantines, the Knights of St. John and the Ottomans, before strolling through the unusual Italian military town of Lakki. In the afternoon, we pass via the Turkish port of Turgutreis on the way to the great island of Kos.

Day 7: On Kos, we visit the Crusader Castle and stroll through the island's bustling main town, where 1930's Italian architecture rubs shoulders with the remains of the ancient Greek and Roman past. We enjoy dinner in a traditional taverna.

Day 8: After a morning visit to the Asklepieion, one of the most important healing sanctuaries of antiquity, we continue onwards to a cove near to the Island of Nisyros. An afternoon at leisure for swimming.

Day 9: We make the short crossing to the small but beautiful island of Nisyros, where we visit the small but excellent archaeological museum before heading up to the town of Emborio, set dramatically on the caldera rim and explore the active volcanic crater at Stephanos.

Day 10: After a morning walk to the mighty ancient fortification of Palaiokastro, we travel onwards to a bay off the green and remote island of Tilos.

Day 11: In the morning, we tour Tilos, to visit the monastery of St. Panteleimon and the tiny museum devoted to the island's extinct species of pigmy elephant. Afterwards, we make the crossing to Chalki (weather permitting), a small island not far from Rhodes. There we ascend the medieval castle and ancient acropolis as the sun sets.

Day 12: We continue to the beautiful island of Symi with its lovely neoclassical port town, one of the prettiest sights in the Mediterranean. We spend the afternoon wandering its winding streets, visiting the Acropolis and savouring the magnificent local architecture. In the evening a chance to enjoy a drink and dinner at a local taverna.

Day 13: We continue to Rhodes, the chief island of the Dodecanese. Here, we visit the extraordinarily complete medieval Old Town with its enormous ramparts, crowned by the Palace of the Grand Masters, former headquarters of the Order of the Knights of Saint John (or Knights Hospitaller).

Day 14: After visiting the ancient city's acropolis with its shrines and sanctuaries, we explore the rich collections of the excellent archaeological museum, housed in the medieval Hospital of the Knights. Farewell dinner on board.

Day 15: Transfers to Rhodes Airport, about 30 minutes from Rhodes Harbour.



THE GREAT KOUROS, SAMOS MUSEUM

# ABOUT IRELAND

KNOWTH



MONASTERBOICE



THE BOOK OF KELLS, DUBLIN



For years, it has been our dream to offer tours in Ireland - and we are thrilled to see that dream become reality. In recent years, the Peter Sommer Travels approach to travel, accommodation, gastronomy and - last but not least - narrative has made our Mediterranean tours a unique and premium experience. The decision to apply the same approach to the United Kingdom has made it a logical step to also include its smaller island neighbour in our agenda. Heinrich, our resident expert in Greece, has spent more than a decade of his life in Ireland and harbours not just a fascination, but a deep and personal affection for the country, its people and its culture. Paired with his profound knowledge of Irish archaeology, that affection has become the foundation for our Irish itineraries.

The same ideas that have established our acclaimed Exploring Tours as some of the best-prepared and most carefully crafted cultural travel offerings in regions of Greece and Italy are the background for our Irish tours. They include: painstaking attention to detail based on intimate knowledge of a region, a holistic view of land and culture, bold "outside the box" thinking and a passionate ambition to present our guests with the best, the most interesting, the most real experience of an area and its history. Based on these principles, our tours in Ireland will be of equal interest to the first-time visitor and to the seasoned connoisseur of the "Emerald Isle".

Why not join us in discovering the beauties of Ireland, from the urban vistas of Dublin via the rich heritage of the country's Eastern province, Leinster, to the wild and rugged Atlantic Shores of Connaught?



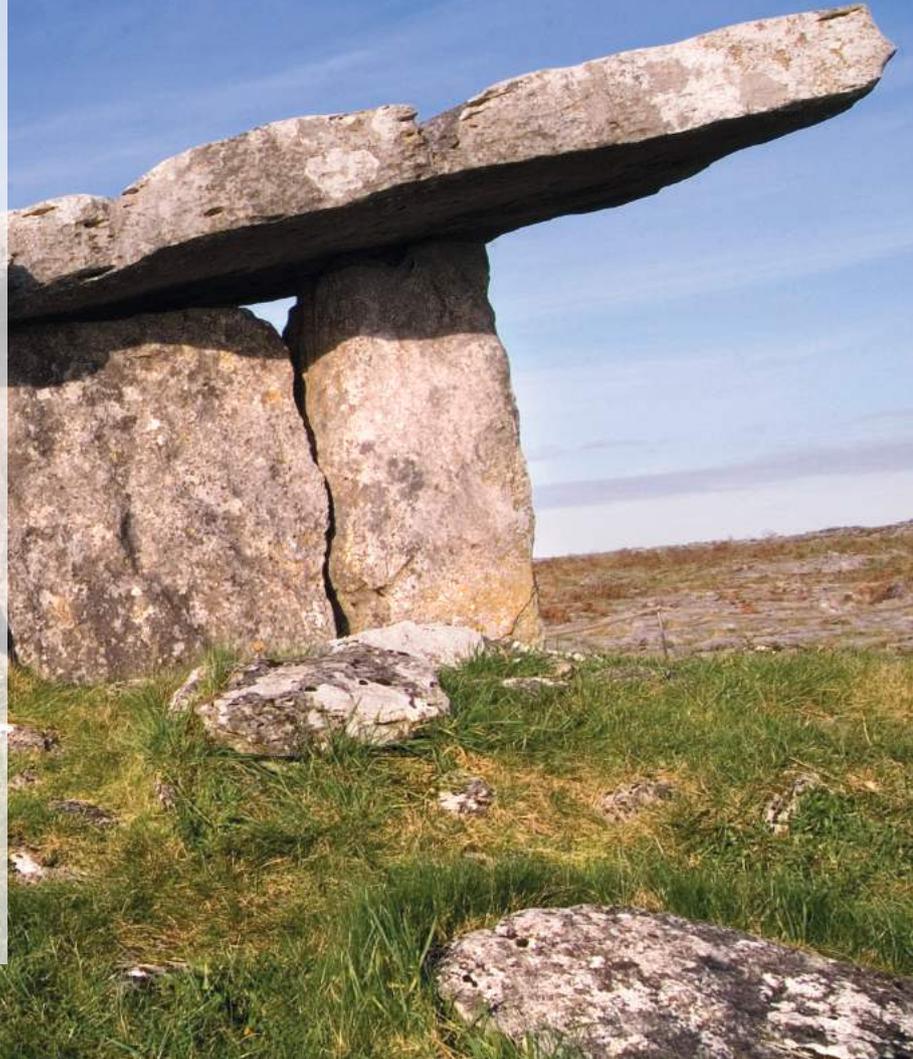
# EXPLORING IRELAND:

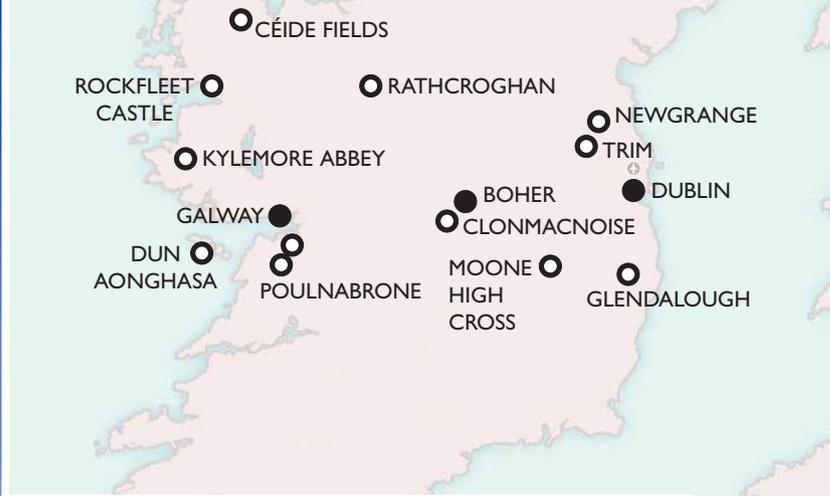
## THE HEART OF THE EMERALD ISLE

“The Emerald Isle”, “the Island of Saints and Scholars”, “the Home of the Rainbow”

So many clichés have been used to describe Ireland, all of them based on some element of truth and none of them sufficient to capture the enormous fascination of this most unusual island. At Peter Sommer Travels, we are excited to present “*Exploring Ireland: The Heart of the Emerald Isle*”, our first tour in a country that is spectacularly rich in beauty, in history, in character, in hospitality and – most of all – in stories.

In the Irish countryside, layers of history are often situated not – as one would expect – one above the other, or one superseding the other, but side-by-side. A Neolithic tomb may share a field with a Celtic fort, remnants of an Early Christian monastery may stand in the grounds of an 18th century “Great House”, a medieval Round Tower may overlook a traditional fishing village. Each monument with its own legends, stories or myths attached to it, but all are embedded in the peaceful beauty of the Irish landscape and its many shades of green. Likewise, Ireland’s towns and cities and their architectural and cultural heritage reflect the turbulent history of a country that has contributed so much to this world’s music and literature and to our shared human imagination.





TRIM CASTLE



## MON JULY 17 - THU JULY 27, 2017

Tour Guides: Heinrich Hall & Dr. Siobhán Hargis  
 11 DAYS - £4,295 / Single Supplement: £695  
 Includes all breakfasts, 8 lunches and 7 dinners

“Exploring Ireland” is a unique tour, created on the basis of an intimate acquaintance with the country and a passionate love for it, gained through many years of living and travelling there. Designed to present a rich and insightful panorama of Ireland’s heritage, tradition and culture, it takes in some of the famous “must-see” sights, such as the Megalithic tombs of Newgrange and Knowth, the stupendous “Celtic” cliffside fort at Dun Aonghasa in the Aran Islands, the great monastic centre of Clonmacnoise, the pristine Norman castle at Trim and, of course, the dazzling heart of Dublin with its excellent museums. These are matched and complemented by places more “off-the-beaten-track”: stone-carved crosses, windswept tower houses, mysterious “royal” sites of Gaelic mythology, plus a never-ending array of extraordinary scenery, ranging from the heart-achingly lovely to the stark, lonely and wild. Another central aspect of the tour is the range of carefully-selected hotels, among them renovated castles, manors and town houses. Each of them evokes

the country’s history and exemplifies the remarkable Irish hospitality. The experience will be rounded off by enjoying the many fine qualities of Irish gastronomy, including some of Europe’s best seafood and meats, as well as local cheeses and the island’s famous beers and whiskeys. The surprising originality and excellent craftsmanship of modern Irish cooking are an attraction in themselves.

“Exploring Ireland” aims to offer the perfect introduction for travellers newly discovering the country, but also a new and deep insight for those already in love with Ireland.

“HEINRICH OUR TOUR GUIDE WAS SUPREMELY COMPETENT IN EVERY WAY, INTERESTING AND INTERESTED, CHARMING AND A TRUE GENTLEMAN. A PLEASURE TO TRAVEL WITH...”

Patricia Kartiganer, Boston, USA

# EXPLORING IRELAND:

## THE HEART OF THE EMERALD ISLE



NEWGRANGE

Day 1: Arrivals. Transfer from Dublin Airport about 20 minutes away and check in at the hotel, a 19th century castle on much older foundations, just outside Dublin.

Day 2: In the morning, we head for the Wicklow Mountains to visit the breathtakingly beautiful valley of Glendalough with its important Early Medieval monastery, founded by Saint Kevin. Its Round Tower, pre-Romanesque chapels and early High Cross, complemented by a fine archaeological exhibit, offer a splendid introduction to this important aspect of Ireland's history. Later, we stop by the 9th century High Cross of Moone, one of the finest in the country. On the way back to Dublin, we visit Russborough House, built in the mid-18th century by Richard Cassels, Ireland's most famous Palladian architect.

Day 3: We set out into Ireland's midlands, for the tiny village of Boher in County Offaly. Its parish church contains one of the most remarkable treasures of Irish Early Medieval metalwork: the Shrine of Saint Manchan, a superb mixture of Celtic and Viking styles. Next, we explore Clonmacnoise, set on the banks of the broad majestic Shannon, with its towers, churches and magnificently carved High Crosses. Later we stop at Galway to have a look at the centre of this tiny but lively and attractive city and its excellent historical museum before reaching our hotel, in a renovated 18th century manor house in the Burren.

Day 4: Today is devoted to the Burren, the extraordinary limestone landscape that makes up the Northern part of County Clare. Beyond its sheer and outlandish beauty, the area contains monuments from all periods of Ireland's history: dozens of Neolithic or Bronze

Age tombs, the most famous of them the dolmen of Poul nabrone, countless fortified Celtic farmsteads, medieval castles and ruined monasteries. At the wonderfully restored Castle of Dysart O'Dea, we visit the medieval Tower House with its archaeological exhibits before returning to our hotel and a free evening to dine at your leisure.

Day 5: We take the ferry to Inishmore, the largest of the Aran Islands. Aran holds a special place in Irish culture, preserving the language and a traditional lifestyle that reaches back through centuries and beyond. The island provides the dramatic setting for a whole series of monuments, including the vastly impressive and stupendously atmospheric fort of Dun Aonghasa, set on the very edge of a tall vertical cliff overlooking the Atlantic and dating to the Early Iron Age. The rocky island's landscape is a monument in itself: criss-crossed by thousands of kilometres of drystone walls. After returning to the mainland, we make our way to our hotel, a 19th century country mansion overlooking the quintessential Connemara seascape of Roundstone Bay.

Day 6: In the morning we explore the fabled beauty of Connemara. We visit the 19th century "folly" that is Kylemore Abbey, in a majestically wild setting, surrounded by wondrous Victorian gardens. On the shores of Ireland's only fjord, Killary Harbour, we explore the history of sheep-farming and wool, before continuing to pretty Westport. After a visit to Rockfleet Castle we continue to our hotel in a 19th century estate outside Ballina, County Mayo. An evening free to dine at leisure.



THE ARDAGH CHALICE, DUBLIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM



DUN AONGHASA, INISHMORE

Day 7: We spend the day exploring this extraordinary landscape of immense wetlands with sheer sea cliffs, the unique Neolithic Céide Fields, as well as series of beautiful and romantic medieval monasteries and much more. Our leisurely itinerary permits us to experience this wild and remote corner of Ireland and of Europe properly, giving us deep insights into a region apparently forgotten by time. Eventually, we return to our estate near Ballina.

Day 8: We leave the West Coast behind and make our way eastwards. At Tulsk in County Roscommon, we visit Rathcroghan, one of the four Celtic "Royal Sites", the Iron Age capital of Connaught and the mythical home of Queen Maeve (or Medb). Its mysterious mounds and earthworks are the living green theatre of ancient Irish myth and lore, evoking the great heroes and heroines of old Irish epics. Continuing eastwards, we reach the County of Meath, one of the heartlands of medieval Ireland. The superb Anglo-Norman castle of Trim, with its exquisitely preserved keep by the banks of the Boyne River, opens a whole new narrative on the English conquest of Ireland, starting in the late 12th century AD, and beginning centuries of conflict, but also of cultural contact, all of which contributed to making Ireland what it is. We spend the night at an 18th century manor house with many connections to this region's history.

Day 9: Our day starts with a detailed tour of Brú na Bóinne, the great complex of Megalithic Passage Tombs at "the Bend of the Boyne". At Knowth, we admire a gallery of Megalithic art, arguably the most significant such ensemble in the world, lining the perimeter

of the enormous burial mound. At Newgrange, we enter the most celebrated of all Passage Tombs and witness a demonstration of the annual winter solstice phenomenon that makes the tomb one of the world's oldest sun observatories. A truly memorable experience putting us in touch one again with the ancient past. Later, we have a look at the superb 10th century High Crosses at Monasterboice before continuing to our final hotel, set in a wonderful location overlooking a park and in the very heart of Dublin. An evening free to dine at leisure.

Day 10: Our last day is dedicated to Dublin itself. We engage with the city's many pasts, Celtic and Viking, Anglo-Irish and Neoclassical, Georgian and Victorian, Joycean, Wildean and modern. Our tour includes the extraordinary Book of Kells, a superb illuminated manuscript from about 800 AD and arguably the most splendid book in the world, as well as the wonderful Long Room of Trinity College's library. At the National Museum's archaeological section, we draw the strands of our journey together and revisit much of Ireland's early history, including an incredible collection of Bronze Age gold and a stunning selection of Early Christian metalwork, objects of sheer unbelievable intricacy. Lunch and the afternoon is free time for those who want to explore – or shop – by themselves before our final farewell dinner.

Day 11: Departures. Check out from the hotel and transfer to Dublin Airport about 30 minutes away.

# ABOUT ITALY

Italy is the quintessential holiday destination offering something for everyone and it does so with the unique style and panache that keeps the legend of *La Dolce Vita* alive.

Good food and wine, slow-cooked regional specialities, abundant fresh local produce, fine wines and interesting liqueurs make Italy a gourmet heaven. Its renowned opera houses, unrivalled architectural heritage, millennia of archaeological riches and stunning galleries of renaissance art cannot fail to impress and fascinate. If you prefer an active holiday, then Italy's varied terrain provides plentiful opportunities for walking, hiking, climbing, swimming and scuba-diving. Or, if it's the quiet life that attracts you, the glorious beaches, wonderful lakes and serene city squares make for unsurpassed locations from which to watch life drift languidly by for a week or so.

The Italian landscape is divided into numerous regions by its rugged coastline, dramatic mountains and the Mediterranean Sea itself. Each region maintains its own particular traditions and rhythms of life. Touring in Italy from north to south and east to west can feel as though you've travelled through an entire continent in miniature: no



one place is like another and all deserve to be explored at length and at leisure.

Peter Sommer Travels specialises in providing cultural tours to selected Italian regions in the company of expert guides. We visit the most impressive sites and museums, enjoy spectacular scenery and the most delicious local foods and wines and ensure that you have plenty of time for personal reflection and relaxation. Why not join us for the ultimate Italy tour?



“FOR ME THIS WAS JUST A PERFECT TOUR IN EVERY ASPECT. I ENJOYED EVERY DAY TO THE BRIM AND THE WHOLE JOURNEY WAS A SUCCESSION OF EXCELLENCE.”

Leonie, Brussels, Belgium



THE CASTEL SANT' ANGELO

# EXPLORING SICILY

Lying at the heart of the Mediterranean and commanding the narrow sea-lanes that connect east to west and north to south, Sicily attracted merchants, seafarers and settlers from every point of the compass.

The passage of time and a host of invaders have bequeathed a wealth of archaeological sites and monuments to the island. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Aragonese have all left their enduring legacy on Sicily in the form of rich and diverse cultural and culinary traditions.

This tour provides an unforgettable encounter with the island's long history and culture. You will visit the wonderfully preserved remains of the Greek, Roman and Phoenician cities that stud its coasts, where honey-coloured ancient temples lie amid orange groves and almond trees. You'll explore the baroque towns that hug its steep hills and the great modern metropolis, Palermo. You will discover the temple-crowned cities of Selinunte and Agrigento and the ancient island-city of Motya, that now rest in a serene splendour belying their dramatic and turbulent histories.

Sicily's picturesque and historic towns are a feast for the senses and there will be plenty of time to explore their piazzas and meandering streets, or sample their increasingly renowned and varied wines before ending your day in atmospheric hotels or grand rural estates set in the heart of the Sicilian countryside. Our tour is complemented by excellent meals in specially chosen restaurants, wineries and local trattorias, highlighting some of Sicily's richest gastronomic traditions.



SUN APR 23 - SAT MAY 6, 2017

Tour Guides: Prof. Tony Spawforth & Lucia Iacono



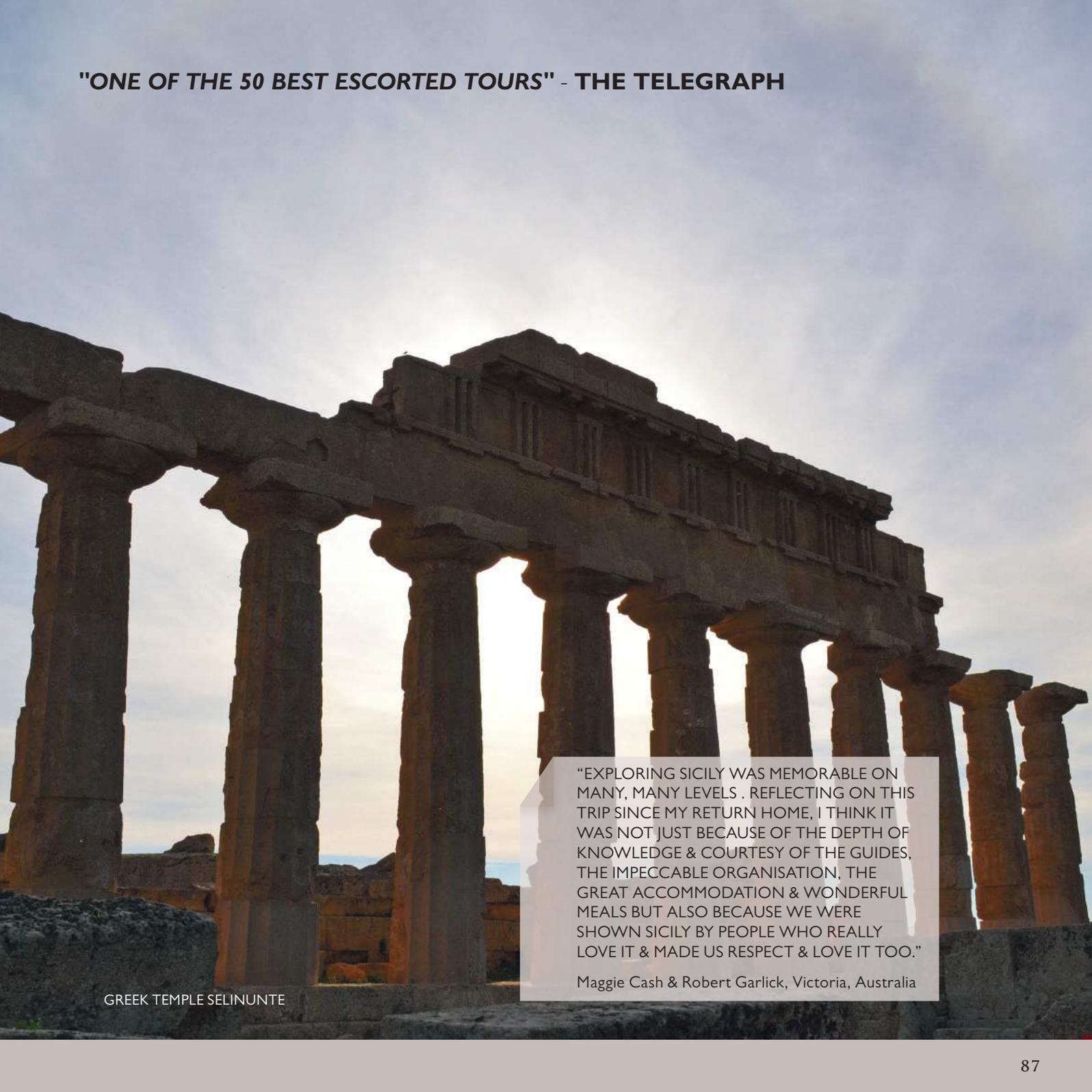
SUN MAY 14 - SAT MAY 27, 2017

Tour Guides: Dr. Sophy Downes & Lucia Iacono

14 DAYS - £4,530 / Single Supplement: £690

Includes all meals except two dinners & two lunches

**"ONE OF THE 50 BEST ESCORTED TOURS" - THE TELEGRAPH**



"EXPLORING SICILY WAS MEMORABLE ON MANY, MANY LEVELS. REFLECTING ON THIS TRIP SINCE MY RETURN HOME, I THINK IT WAS NOT JUST BECAUSE OF THE DEPTH OF KNOWLEDGE & COURTESY OF THE GUIDES, THE IMPECCABLE ORGANISATION, THE GREAT ACCOMMODATION & WONDERFUL MEALS BUT ALSO BECAUSE WE WERE SHOWN SICILY BY PEOPLE WHO REALLY LOVE IT & MADE US RESPECT & LOVE IT TOO."

Maggie Cash & Robert Garlick, Victoria, Australia

GREEK TEMPLE SELINUNTE

# EXPLORING SICILY

THE BIKINI GIRLS MOSAIC, PIAZZA ARMERINA

"THIS WAS AN INTRODUCTION TO SICILY ON A GRAND SCALE. BY DAY WE WERE TAKEN BACK TO THE GREEKS AND CARTHAGINIANS AND COULD FEEL THEM AROUND US AND BY SUNSET WE COULD IMMERSE OURSELVES IN THE HOSPITALITY, THE FOOD AND THE WINE OF MODERN SICILY. THE GUIDES WERE OF THE HIGHEST STANDARD AND THEIR ORGANISATION AND PLANNING RESULTED IN AN EASY AND COMFORTABLY PACED TOUR.

FROM THE FIRST CONTACT WITH PETER SOMMER OFFICE TO THE LAST FAREWELL TO THE GUIDES IN SICILY THE COMPANY EXCELLED IN EVERYTHING THEY DID!"

Richard & Anne Preece, Wirral, UK

Day 1: Transfer from Catania airport approx. 45 minutes away. Arrival and welcome dinner in Siracusa, ancient Syracuse, one of the most important of all ancient Greek cities.

Day 2: We journey up the beautiful Anapo valley to the World Heritage Site of Pantalica, an enormous late Bronze Age necropolis, with its many tombs honeycombing the rocky hills. After indulging in a traditional Sicilian country lunch near the town of Palazzolo Acreide, we visit the hill-top site of the Greek colony of Akrai before returning to Siracusa. An early evening tour of the island of Ortygia, the heart of the ancient city, is followed by dinner at a traditional pizzeria.

Day 3: A day in Siracusa. We begin with Castello Eurialo (the ancient Euryalus), a powerful fortress built over 2,400 years ago, and then visit the Archaeological Park which contains some of Syracuse's finest ancient monuments. Syracuse's darker history can be witnessed at first hand in the extensive quarries, excavated by armies of slaves, where we enter the famed Ear of Dionysius with its unusual acoustics. After enjoying a relaxing lunch, we will visit the Paolo Orsi Archaeological Museum. The rest of the day is free to explore more of the city and dine at a restaurant of your choice.

Day 4: A full day of exploration begins with a journey south to the lovely Baroque town of Modica, rising steeply in terraces from the

valley floor. Fortified by its unique chocolate, derived from the original Aztec recipe, we carry on to the Greek city of Gela to view its well-preserved city walls and get our first glimpse of the long sandy beaches of the southern coast. We finish the day in Agrigento.

Day 5: A free morning to relax in the superb Agriturismo before heading to the medieval and modern centre of Agrigento to enjoy a sumptuous lunch, stroll through its streets, admire its churches and civic architecture and pause at the Santo Spirito convent to try some of the nuns' delicious cakes and biscuits.

Day 6: In the morning we explore the heart of Agrigento, ancient Akragas, a Greek city famed for its wealth and extravagant spending. Its Classical temples are some of the finest in the Mediterranean. Later, we complete our tour of the ancient city and its renowned museum, then dine in lovely surroundings.

Day 7: A drive along the coast through Montalbano country brings us to the breath-taking ancient site of Selinunte and its famous temples, devastated by the Carthaginians in 409 BC. In the afternoon we travel to ancient Lilybaeum to view the well-preserved remains of a Carthaginian ship and the beautiful finds from this ancient multi-cultural city, many of which retain their original painted decoration.

Day 8: We continue to Sicily's western coast and take a short boat trip to the island site of Motya, a major Phoenician city destroyed by Dionysius of Syracuse in 398 BC. The extensive remains of the city include the Tophet (a cemetery for children sacrificed to their gods) and, in the on-site museum, the Motya Charioteer, one of the most celebrated Classical Greek sculptures. After Motya, we travel to Marsala to enjoy a sumptuous Sunday lunch, and then take a leisurely walk through the ancient quarry of the Cava di Cusa, where column drums still lie unfinished in an attractive landscape of olive groves and vineyards.

Day 9: To the ancient city of Segesta, where you'll enjoy the stunning views from its beautiful little theatre and visit its fine Doric temple set in delightful countryside. On to the mediaeval town of Erice where you are free to take lunch at a restaurant of your choice and savour the sweeping panoramic vistas before we finish the day in Palermo.

Day 10: A free morning in Sicily's cultural capital. You'll have time to explore the markets, find a restaurant for lunch, see a puppet show or visit some of the city's attractive mediaeval churches and nineteenth century opera houses. In the afternoon we drive to visit Monreale's twelfth-century cathedral, one of the finest Norman churches, blessed with a beautiful golden cycle of Byzantine-style mosaics. After absorbing the splendid view of Palermo below, you have a free evening to explore and dine at your leisure.

Day 11: In the morning we visit Palermo's archaeological museum and the refined nineteenth-century Villa Whitaker, residence of the famed English wine merchants and aristocrats. Then, on to the Greek city of Himera (site of two enormous battles that changed the history of the entire island) and to our hotel at the foot of the Madonie Mountains on the north coast for a relaxing late afternoon.

Day 12: We journey into the interior to visit the lovely archaeological museum of Aidone and have lunch in a renowned local restaurant. In the afternoon we visit the sprawling and opulent Roman villa of Piazza Armerina, with its world-famous mosaics, and then continue on to Mt Etna.

Day 13: Having caught many glimpses of Mount Etna in the distance, we finally visit it for a guided hike on the volcano's slopes before refreshing ourselves at a nearby winery. Afterwards we visit our final site, the dramatically situated Greek and Roman city of Taormina, perched above a beautiful stretch of coast. We return to Etna for our farewell dinner.

Day 14: Transfer to Catania airport, approx 1 hour and 10 minutes drive away.



# CRUISING THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS

The Aeolian Islands, a gorgeous volcanic archipelago off the Northern Coast of Sicily, are renowned for offering a relaxed and luxurious retreat to rich and famous Italians, while also being home to some fascinating archaeological sites from the ancient cultures of Southern Italy.



SAT JUNE 24 – SAT JULY 1, 2017

Tour Guide: Dr. Michael Metcalfe

SAT JULY 1 – SAT JULY 8, 2017

Tour Guide: Dr. Sophy Downes

8 DAYS - £3,975 (limited to 10 guests) / Single Supplement: £985

Strung out in two intersecting lines, with a handful of their fellow islands always visible on the wide horizons, they create one of the most perfect areas for gulet cruising in all of Italy, and one of the most varied set of island experiences that can be enjoyed in just a week of glorious cruising.

Although they lie tantalisingly close to each other, each island has its own vibrant identity, and offers something unique and enticing to the discerning traveller. From the spectacular food and wines of verdant Salina to the soaring majesty of Stromboli, with its smoking crater, lovely hiking trails and ever-present promise of fiery lava flows reaching down to the sea. From the feeling of peaceful isolation on sparsely populated Filicudi, with its beautifully-located Bronze-age village, to the famed hedonism of gorgeous Panarea, with its lovely flower-lined paths and renowned night-life. Each of these islands offers a distinctive experience and adventure, brought together with exceptional meals, wine, swimming and cruising throughout.

Most travellers to these islands crowd on and off the speeding hydrofoils that ply these waters, dragging their luggage along the crowded jetties while searching for their accommodation for the night. You will cruise in stately splendour, watching with a glass or a book in hand as the islands pass slowly by; swimming in the beautiful clear waters of a succession of gorgeous coves and bays, while your ever-attentive crew prepare the table for a delicious meal. To view these islands in this way is to partake in the very best that they have to offer, day after perfect day.





“MICHAEL METCALFE WAS WITHOUT DOUBT THE BEST TOUR LEADER I HAVE EVER EXPERIENCED & I HAVE BEEN TRAVELLING WITH SMALL GROUP OPERATORS FOR A VERY LONG TIME, HIS ENTHUSIASM & LOVE OF THE COUNTRY & ITS HISTORY MADE IT ALL COME ALIVE FOR US.”

Jen Smith, Victoria, Australia



# CRUISING THE AEOLIAN ISLANDS



VINES ON SALINAS

Day 1: Your gulet awaits you in the port of Milazzo on the North-East coast of Sicily, 1 hour and 40 minutes' drive from Catania airport. Welcome drink and dinner on board.

Day 2: Your day begins with a lovely morning cruise to a beautiful bay on the north-west coast of Lipari, for a first swim in the Mediterranean and a delicious lunch served at anchor. The stunning island vistas unfold across the wide horizon as we cruise across to the island of Filicudi in the afternoon. After dropping anchor in the tiny harbour, we will disembark and walk along the quiet lanes to the Bronze Age village at Capo Graziano set in a stunning location with magnificent views. Here we discover the story of the early inhabitants of the island and explore their millennia old settlement before returning for sunset drinks and dinner aboard our gulet.

Day 3: The famously hedonistic island of Panarea beckons us today, at the end of a glorious long cruise eastwards through the island chain. A relaxing swim and lunch on board will be followed by a leisurely stroll along the flower-lined paths that lead from the small island port to the strikingly-located archaeological site at Capo Milazzese. After exploring the ruins, you could enjoy another swim, or perhaps sample one of the famous Sicilian granitas, or taste a perfectly chilled glass of wine,

before dinner at one of the renowned local restaurants.

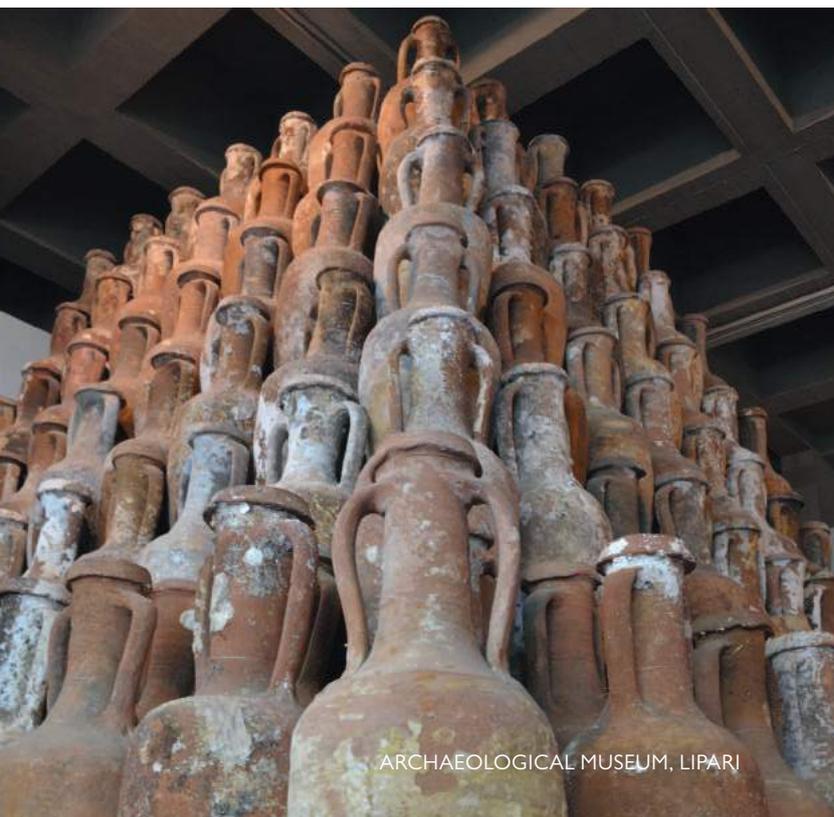
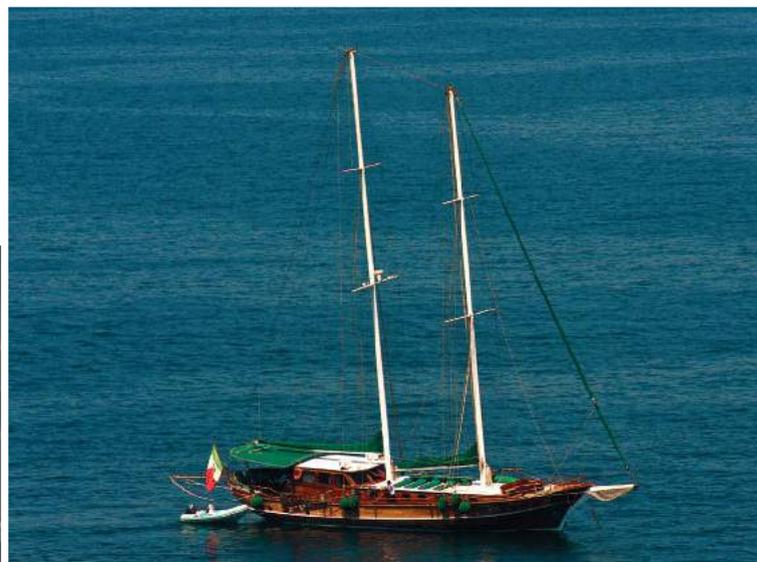
Day 4: A short cruise brings us to the lovely islet of Basiluzzo, for a restful morning of swimming, kayaking, reading, sunbathing and exploring the unexpected Roman heritage of this isolated spot. After lunch, the stark but fertile island of Stromboli is our final destination for the day. An active volcano spearing steeply out of the sea, its smoking summit will have been visible for much of our voyage so far. Its infamous lava flows are now intermittent, and many walking paths have been forged on its flanks. For those who wish, it will be possible to join our hiking guide to experience this volcano first-hand; anyone who prefers a more sedate afternoon is welcome to enjoy the views from the deck of the gulet instead!

Day 5: Salina, the verdant island at the northernmost tip of the central spine of the archipelago, is the famed producer of some of the most charismatic wines in Italy. We will visit one of the innovative new wineries on the island, before sampling their wares over a sumptuous lunch at one of the region's finest restaurants. An afternoon visit to the charmingly presented Museum of Emigration, which brings our historical journey right up to the early 20th century, is followed by a final wine tasting on a terrace with beautiful views out over the islands.

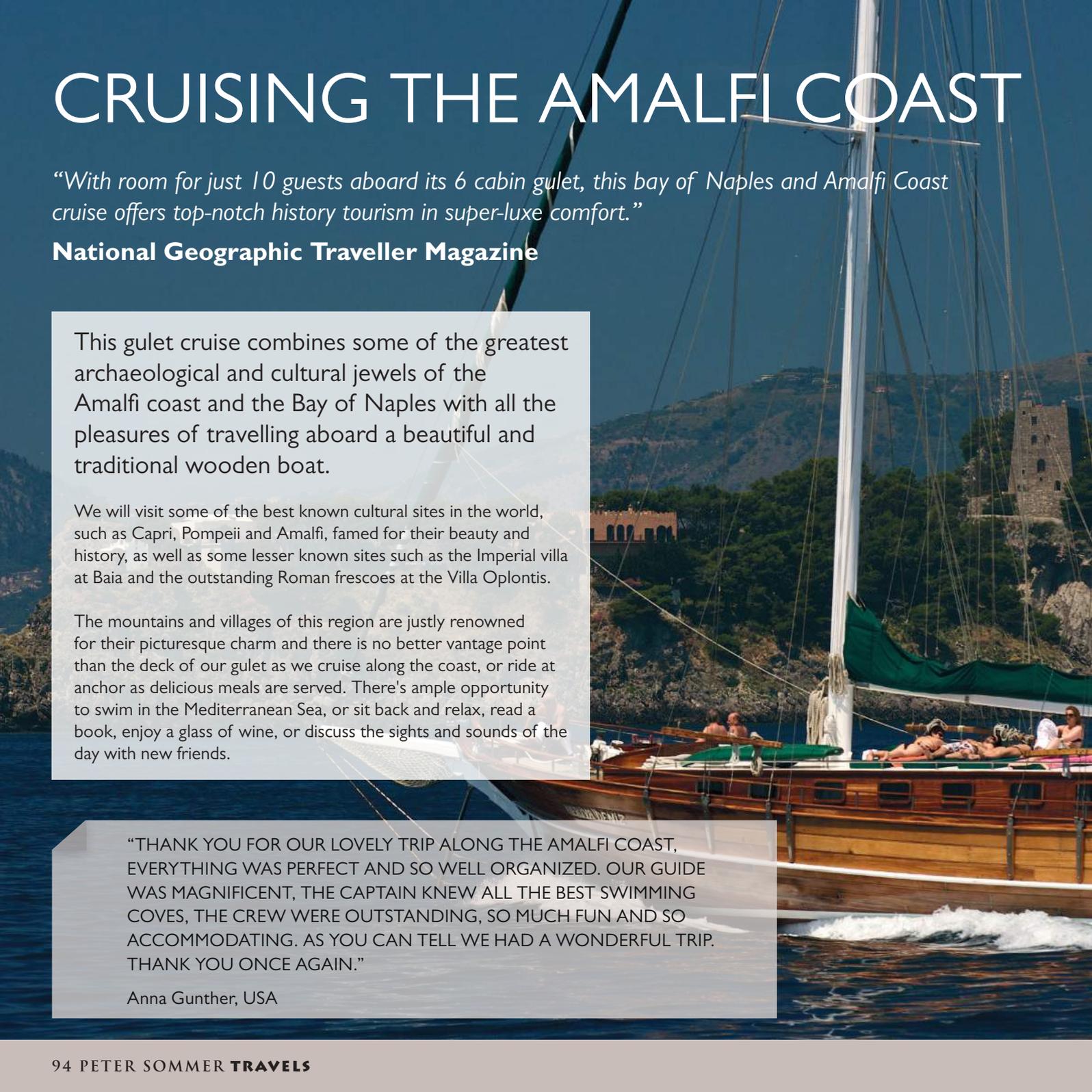
Day 6: We cruise to Lipari, largest of the Aeolian Islands, stopping to enjoy a long swim on the way. After stepping ashore in the bustling harbour town, we will visit the astoundingly rich archaeological museum on the fortified headland overlooking the two harbours. After exploring its collections, we will head up into the hills to visit a spectacular new winery overlooking the straight between Lipari and Salina. On returning to Lipari town, there will be plenty of time to stroll through the streets, admiring the local architecture and browsing through the shops, before dinner in one of its very best restaurants.

Day 7: A day of pure leisure and relaxation, filled with swimming, sunbathing, delicious food and chilled wine as we take a leisurely cruise back to the mainland port of Milazzo, stopping off at Vulcano, the final island of our cruise, on the way.

Day 8: Transfer to Catania airport, about 1 hour and 40 minutes away.



# CRUISING THE AMALFI COAST



*“With room for just 10 guests aboard its 6 cabin gulet, this bay of Naples and Amalfi Coast cruise offers top-notch history tourism in super-luxe comfort.”*

**National Geographic Traveller Magazine**

This gulet cruise combines some of the greatest archaeological and cultural jewels of the Amalfi coast and the Bay of Naples with all the pleasures of travelling aboard a beautiful and traditional wooden boat.

We will visit some of the best known cultural sites in the world, such as Capri, Pompeii and Amalfi, famed for their beauty and history, as well as some lesser known sites such as the Imperial villa at Baia and the outstanding Roman frescoes at the Villa Oplontis.

The mountains and villages of this region are justly renowned for their picturesque charm and there is no better vantage point than the deck of our gulet as we cruise along the coast, or ride at anchor as delicious meals are served. There's ample opportunity to swim in the Mediterranean Sea, or sit back and relax, read a book, enjoy a glass of wine, or discuss the sights and sounds of the day with new friends.

“THANK YOU FOR OUR LOVELY TRIP ALONG THE AMALFI COAST, EVERYTHING WAS PERFECT AND SO WELL ORGANIZED. OUR GUIDE WAS MAGNIFICENT, THE CAPTAIN KNEW ALL THE BEST SWIMMING COVES, THE CREW WERE OUTSTANDING, SO MUCH FUN AND SO ACCOMMODATING. AS YOU CAN TELL WE HAD A WONDERFUL TRIP. THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN.”

Anna Gunther, USA



THE BASILICA POMPEII



SAT SEPT 2 - SAT SEPT 9, 2017

SAT SEPT 9 - SAT SEPT 16, 2017

Tour Guides: Dr. Sophy Downes & Francesca Del Vecchio

8 DAYS - £3,975 (limited to 10 guests) / Single Supplement: £985

Day 1: Our gulet is about 30 minutes south of Naples airport at the Marina di Stabia. Welcome dinner on board.

Day 2: We cruise to the Baia/Pozzuoli region, where we will explore the beautifully located Imperial villa at Baia and enjoying a sumptuous meal in a sea-side trattoria.

Day 3: To Naples, where we will spend the first half of the day exploring the historic centre of this city and visiting the world-famous archaeological museum (which displays many of the most evocative finds from the site of Pompeii) before lunching in a traditional Neapolitan pizzeria. In the

afternoon we return to our boat and cruise to the island of Ischia to swim and relax.

Day 4: We explore Pithecusae on the island of Ischia, one of the first Greek colonies in the west, before cruising south to the island of Capri where we can swim in the azure waters of its stunning rocky coastline.

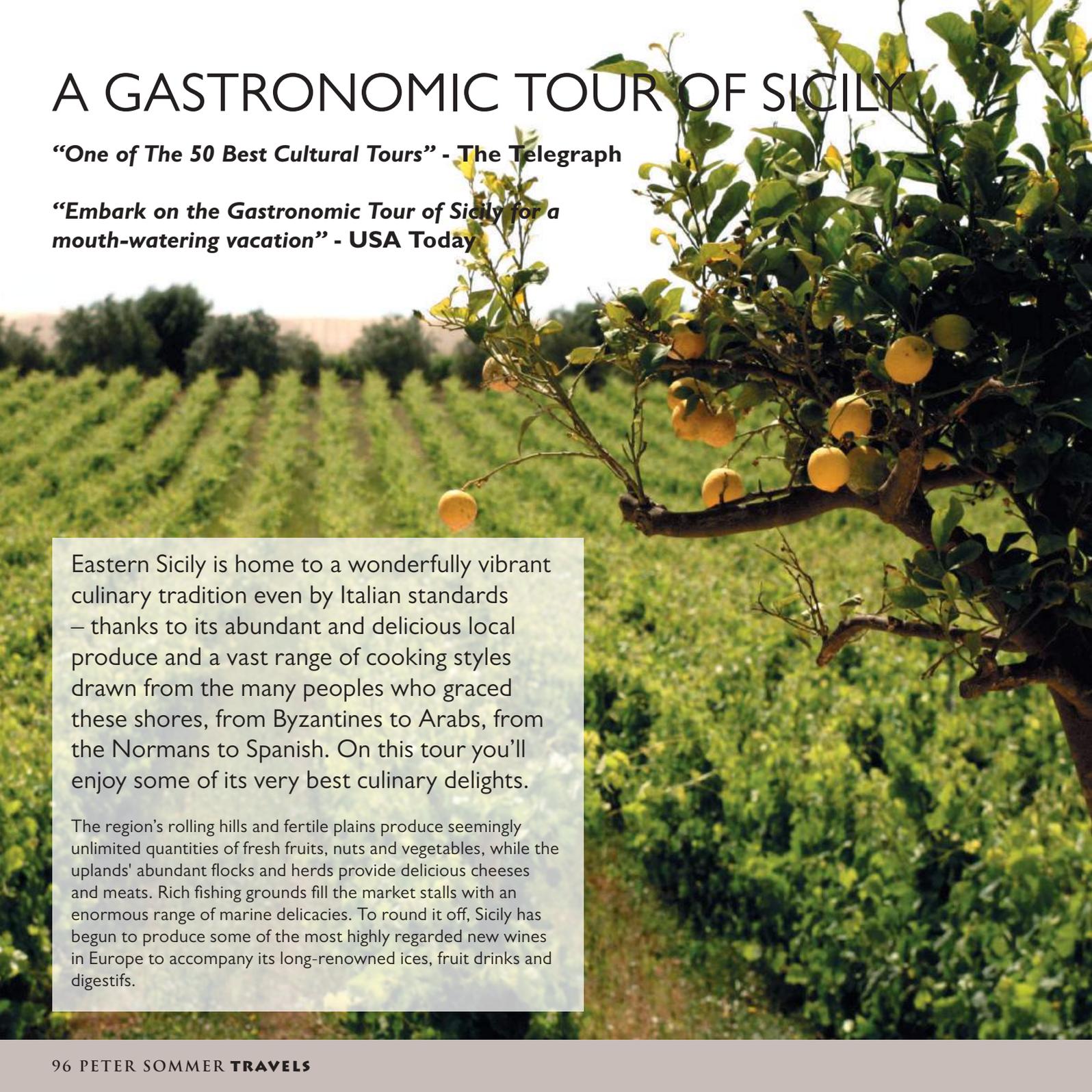
Day 5: A leisurely walk from Capri town to the Villa Jovis, set right at the very tip of the island with breath-taking views all round. The Emperor Tiberius spent many years in much-rumoured seclusion in this Roman imperial palace. In the afternoon we cruise for Amalfi and an evening stroll to admire its cathedral, the Duomo.

Day 6: Inland across the mountains to Pompeii, the most spectacular and complete archaeological site in Italy. We will explore it in detail and picnic among the ruins, then cruise west to anchor off Positano.

Day 7: A last chance to swim as we head past rocky Sorrento to our gulet's home port, the Marina di Stabia. We will discover the beautiful Roman frescoes of the Villa Oplontis, some of the finest in the world, before ending the tour with a sumptuous farewell meal.

Day 8: Transfer from our gulet to Naples airport, about 30 minutes away.

# A GASTRONOMIC TOUR OF SICILY



**“One of The 50 Best Cultural Tours” - The Telegraph**

**“Embark on the Gastronomic Tour of Sicily for a mouth-watering vacation” - USA Today**

Eastern Sicily is home to a wonderfully vibrant culinary tradition even by Italian standards – thanks to its abundant and delicious local produce and a vast range of cooking styles drawn from the many peoples who graced these shores, from Byzantines to Arabs, from the Normans to Spanish. On this tour you’ll enjoy some of its very best culinary delights.

The region’s rolling hills and fertile plains produce seemingly unlimited quantities of fresh fruits, nuts and vegetables, while the uplands’ abundant flocks and herds provide delicious cheeses and meats. Rich fishing grounds fill the market stalls with an enormous range of marine delicacies. To round it off, Sicily has begun to produce some of the most highly regarded new wines in Europe to accompany its long-renowned ices, fruit drinks and digestifs.



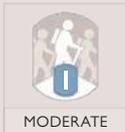
**SAT SEPT 23 - SAT SEPT 30, 2017**

Tour Guides: Marcello Baglioni & Lucia Iacono

8 DAYS - £3,375 / Single Supplement: £375

(limited to 10 guests)

(Includes all breakfasts, 6 lunches and 4 dinners. )

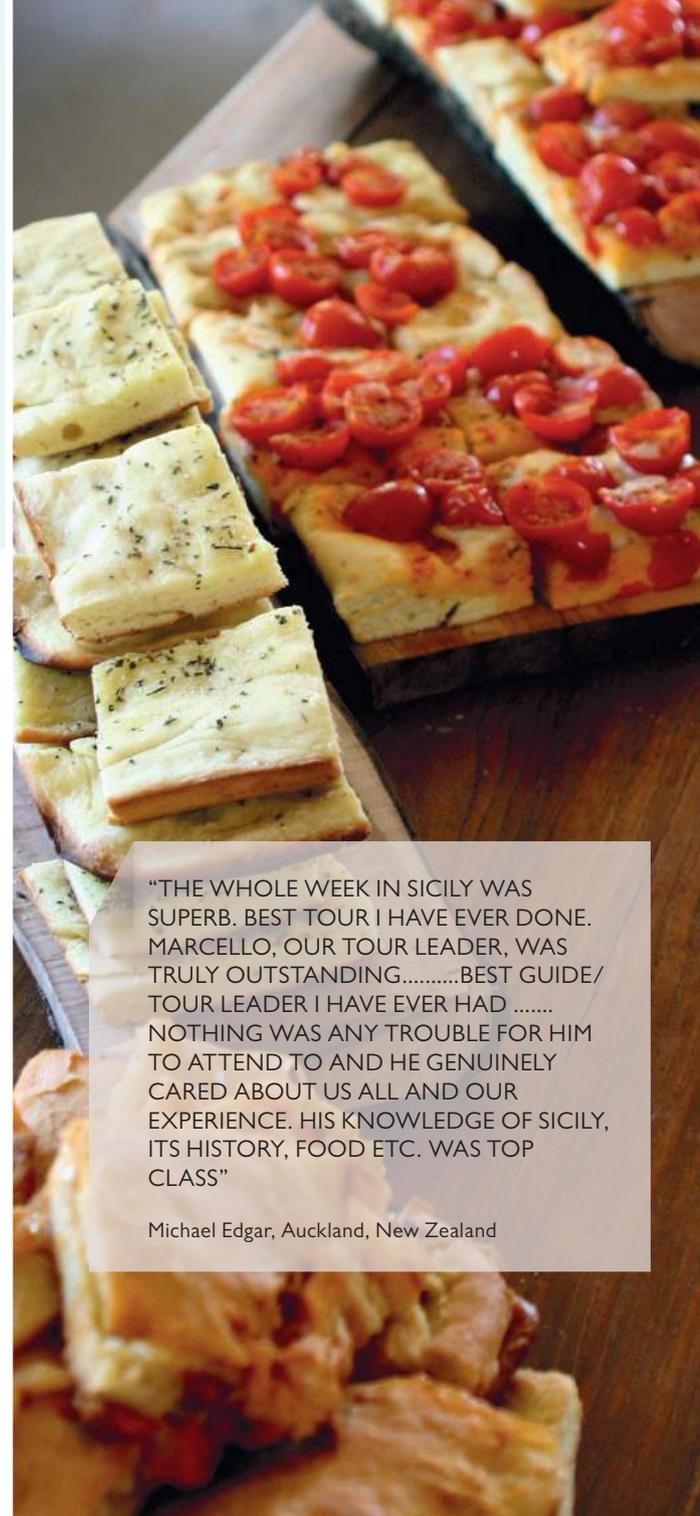


MODERATE

This remarkable cuisine is the legacy of Sicily's uniquely diverse past. On this gastronomic adventure you'll discover the landscapes and the history, culture and archaeology that inspired its evolution.

Travelling through the richly varied landscapes of Eastern Sicily you'll enjoy a wealth of unique experiences: you'll sample almond granitas in Noto, one of Italy's celebrated beautiful baroque towns, and admire the epic views from Mt. Etna, Europe's most active volcano, then walk on its slopes with a volcanologist and savour the complex red wines grown there. You'll sample the fabulous olive oils cultivated for millennia using age-old methods and see and taste chocolate made in the traditional way in Modica. You'll explore bustling food markets, try your hand at cooking and also see some of the area's key historical and cultural sites including breath-taking Roman mosaics.

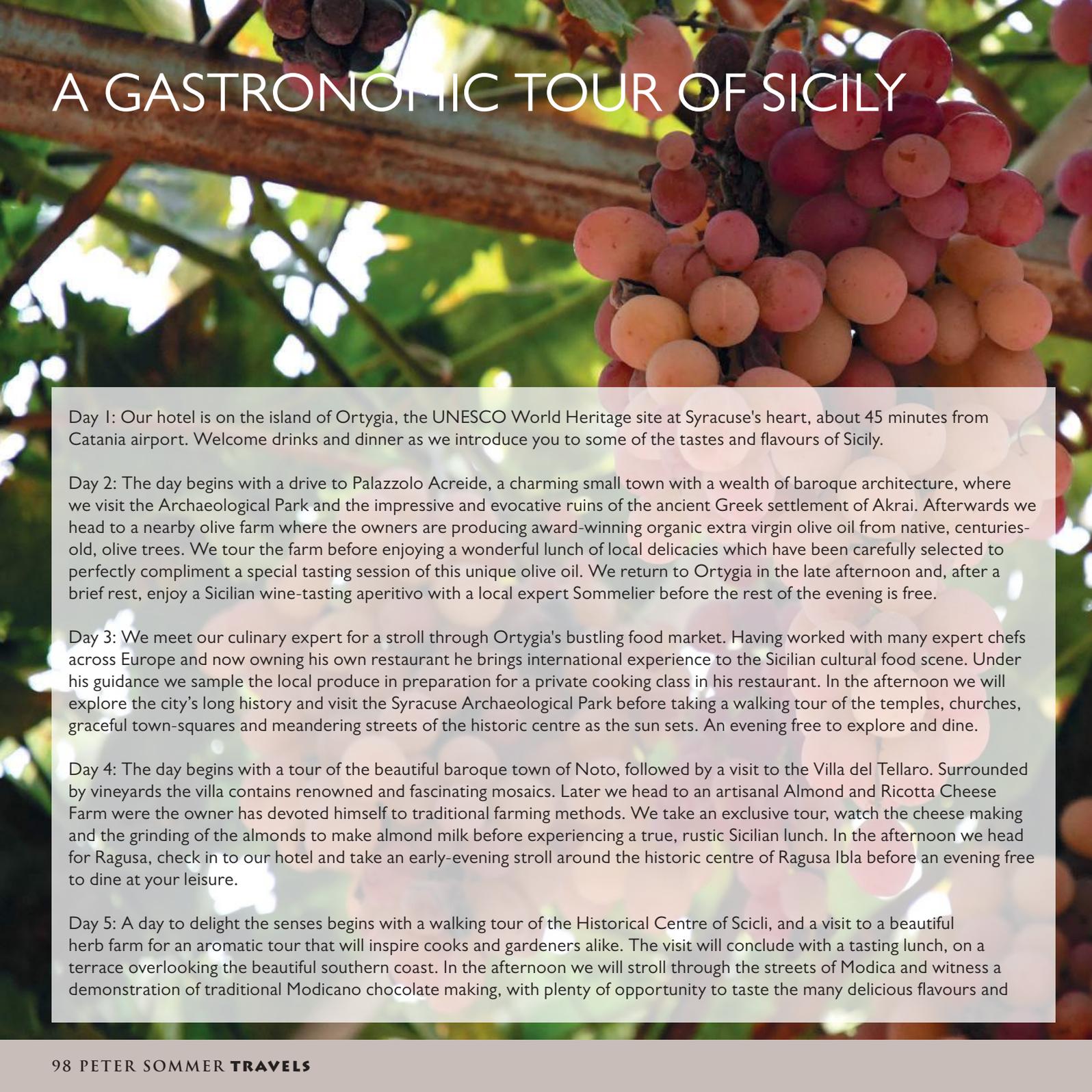
Your guides on this tour have lived and worked in the region for many years. They have drawn deeply from their personal knowledge to craft this very special tour for small groups. Whether you are a connoisseur, or simply someone who enjoys good food and wine on your travels: this tour will prove a week-long feast for all the senses!



"THE WHOLE WEEK IN SICILY WAS SUPERB. BEST TOUR I HAVE EVER DONE. MARCELLO, OUR TOUR LEADER, WAS TRULY OUTSTANDING.....BEST GUIDE/ TOUR LEADER I HAVE EVER HAD ..... NOTHING WAS ANY TROUBLE FOR HIM TO ATTEND TO AND HE GENUINELY CARED ABOUT US ALL AND OUR EXPERIENCE. HIS KNOWLEDGE OF SICILY, ITS HISTORY, FOOD ETC. WAS TOP CLASS"

Michael Edgar, Auckland, New Zealand

# A GASTRONOMIC TOUR OF SICILY



Day 1: Our hotel is on the island of Ortygia, the UNESCO World Heritage site at Syracuse's heart, about 45 minutes from Catania airport. Welcome drinks and dinner as we introduce you to some of the tastes and flavours of Sicily.

Day 2: The day begins with a drive to Palazzolo Acreide, a charming small town with a wealth of baroque architecture, where we visit the Archaeological Park and the impressive and evocative ruins of the ancient Greek settlement of Akrai. Afterwards we head to a nearby olive farm where the owners are producing award-winning organic extra virgin olive oil from native, centuries-old, olive trees. We tour the farm before enjoying a wonderful lunch of local delicacies which have been carefully selected to perfectly compliment a special tasting session of this unique olive oil. We return to Ortygia in the late afternoon and, after a brief rest, enjoy a Sicilian wine-tasting aperitivo with a local expert Sommelier before the rest of the evening is free.

Day 3: We meet our culinary expert for a stroll through Ortygia's bustling food market. Having worked with many expert chefs across Europe and now owning his own restaurant he brings international experience to the Sicilian cultural food scene. Under his guidance we sample the local produce in preparation for a private cooking class in his restaurant. In the afternoon we will explore the city's long history and visit the Syracuse Archaeological Park before taking a walking tour of the temples, churches, graceful town-squares and meandering streets of the historic centre as the sun sets. An evening free to explore and dine.

Day 4: The day begins with a tour of the beautiful baroque town of Noto, followed by a visit to the Villa del Tellaro. Surrounded by vineyards the villa contains renowned and fascinating mosaics. Later we head to an artisanal Almond and Ricotta Cheese Farm where the owner has devoted himself to traditional farming methods. We take an exclusive tour, watch the cheese making and the grinding of the almonds to make almond milk before experiencing a true, rustic Sicilian lunch. In the afternoon we head for Ragusa, check in to our hotel and take an early-evening stroll around the historic centre of Ragusa Ibla before an evening free to dine at your leisure.

Day 5: A day to delight the senses begins with a walking tour of the Historical Centre of Scicli, and a visit to a beautiful herb farm for an aromatic tour that will inspire cooks and gardeners alike. The visit will conclude with a tasting lunch, on a terrace overlooking the beautiful southern coast. In the afternoon we will stroll through the streets of Modica and witness a demonstration of traditional Modicano chocolate making, with plenty of opportunity to taste the many delicious flavours and



a variety of other delectable temptations. In the late afternoon we return to Ragusa. There is time to wander or rest before dinner in the historic centre.

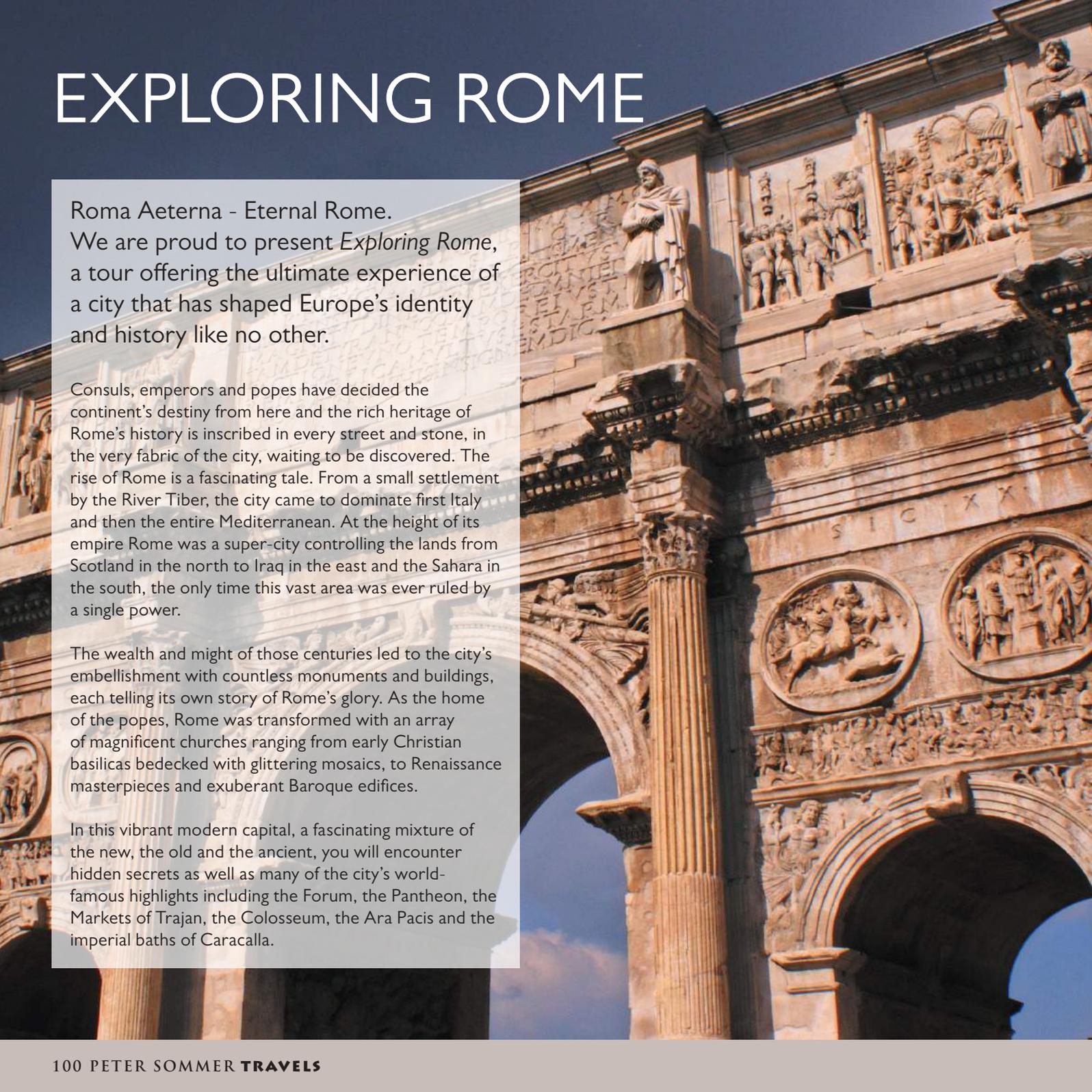
Day 6: We journey to Vittoria to visit a fabulous winery where the owners have spent the last decade rediscovering the 'Ancient Grains' of Sicily. This devotion to returning to the healthy and wholesome approach, so much the backbone of Sicilian food culture, shows us techniques that are steeped in the history of the island. After a tour of the vineyards where the wines are produced using traditional methods and aged in clay amphorae, we meet up with our expert chef and roll up our sleeves for a pasta and bread making cooking class followed by a splendid lunch. After lunch we continue on to Mt Etna and check into our hotel. Dinner that evening is at a restaurant on the slopes of Etna.

Day 7: We spend the morning walking on Mt. Etna in the company of an expert volcanologist. We'll stroll through verdant woods of pine and silver birch before ascending to a lunar landscape of lava flows and ash filled craters with incredible views all around. Afterwards we visit a local winery to enjoy a rustic lunch and sample the award-winning wines that thrive on Etna's slopes in the company of an expert Sommelier. A last chance to relax, then a sumptuous farewell dinner.

Day 8: Transfer to Catania airport, about an hour away.



# EXPLORING ROME



Roma Aeterna - Eternal Rome.

We are proud to present *Exploring Rome*, a tour offering the ultimate experience of a city that has shaped Europe's identity and history like no other.

Consuls, emperors and popes have decided the continent's destiny from here and the rich heritage of Rome's history is inscribed in every street and stone, in the very fabric of the city, waiting to be discovered. The rise of Rome is a fascinating tale. From a small settlement by the River Tiber, the city came to dominate first Italy and then the entire Mediterranean. At the height of its empire Rome was a super-city controlling the lands from Scotland in the north to Iraq in the east and the Sahara in the south, the only time this vast area was ever ruled by a single power.

The wealth and might of those centuries led to the city's embellishment with countless monuments and buildings, each telling its own story of Rome's glory. As the home of the popes, Rome was transformed with an array of magnificent churches ranging from early Christian basilicas bedecked with glittering mosaics, to Renaissance masterpieces and exuberant Baroque edifices.

In this vibrant modern capital, a fascinating mixture of the new, the old and the ancient, you will encounter hidden secrets as well as many of the city's world-famous highlights including the Forum, the Pantheon, the Markets of Trajan, the Colosseum, the Ara Pacis and the imperial baths of Caracalla.



LAZIO

VILLA D'ESTE  
TIVOLI  
HADRIAN'S  
VILLA

THE VILLA D'ESTE, TIVOLI



SAT OCT 28 - SAT NOV 4, 2017

Tour Guides: Paul Beston & Dr. Michael Metcalfe  
8 DAYS - £3,375

Single Supplement: (Executive Room) £660

Single Supplement: (Classic Room) £440

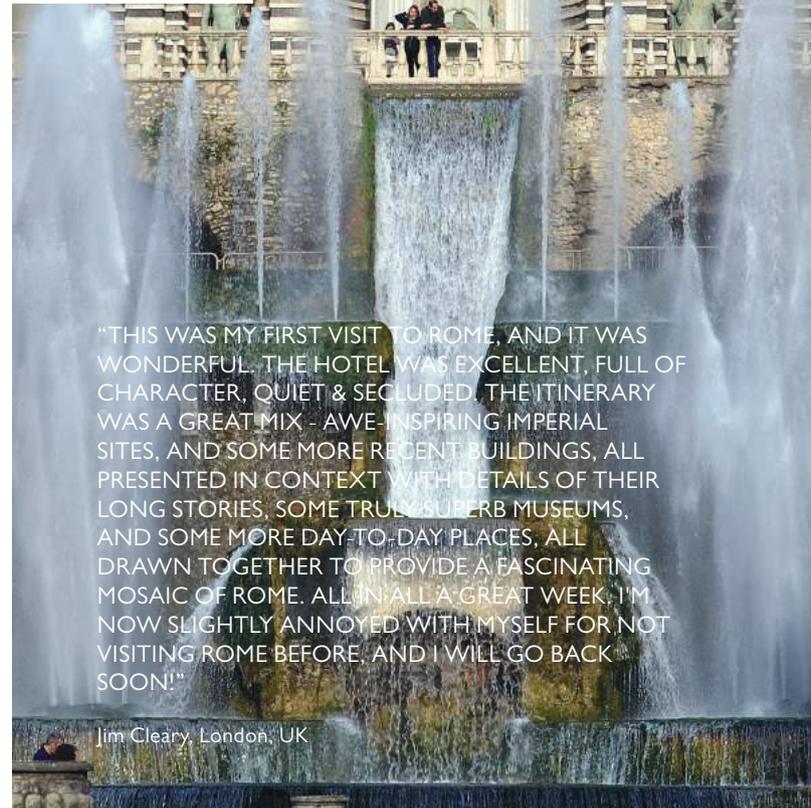
(Includes all breakfasts, 6 lunches and 3 dinners)



MODERATE

You'll discover the many great treasures housed in the magnificent Vatican and Capitoline Museums. You'll also travel outside of Rome to visit the huge Villa of Hadrian at Tivoli and the well-preserved residential quarters of ancient Ostia, Rome's harbour town.

Staying in a superb hotel situated in a delightful district and escorted by two of our expert guides, both connoisseurs of Rome's charms and glories, you'll enjoy some of the most delicious food and wines and be immersed in the story of one of the world's greatest cities - an unforgettable experience.



"THIS WAS MY FIRST VISIT TO ROME, AND IT WAS WONDERFUL. THE HOTEL WAS EXCELLENT, FULL OF CHARACTER, QUIET & SECLUDED. THE ITINERARY WAS A GREAT MIX - AWE-INSPIRING IMPERIAL SITES, AND SOME MORE RECENT BUILDINGS, ALL PRESENTED IN CONTEXT WITH DETAILS OF THEIR LONG STORIES, SOME TRULY SUPERB MUSEUMS, AND SOME MORE DAY-TO-DAY PLACES, ALL DRAWN TOGETHER TO PROVIDE A FASCINATING MOSAIC OF ROME. ALL IN ALL A GREAT WEEK. I'M NOW SLIGHTLY ANNOYED WITH MYSELF FOR NOT VISITING ROME BEFORE. AND I WILL GO BACK SOON!"

Jim Cleary, London, UK

# EXPLORING ROME



Day 1: Transfer from Rome Fiumicino airport approx. 30 minutes away, to your hotel. Welcome drinks and dinner.

Day 2: We begin with the city's ancient heart, the Roman Forum. Here, in a small space hemmed in by the great rocks of the Capitoline and Palatine hills, the greatest names of Roman history fought for power and prestige. Amidst an extraordinary concentration of famed and marvellous buildings jostling for space, you will walk where Antony spoke over Caesar's body, Cicero delivered stinging orations and the legions processed in triumph. In the afternoon, we visit the wonderful Capitoline Museum where famed works are displayed in a setting by Michelangelo.

Day 3: We tour the elegant Campus Martius district, centrepiece for imperial monuments and refined Renaissance palaces. We begin with the majestic Ara Pacis, the Altar of

Augustan Peace, with its scenes of serene religiosity housed in a splendid modern museum and then pass to the superlative Pantheon, surely the most beautiful interior ever created. From placid piety, we move in the afternoon to the rugged power and brutality of the Colosseum where imperial authority was shored up with gladiatorial blood.

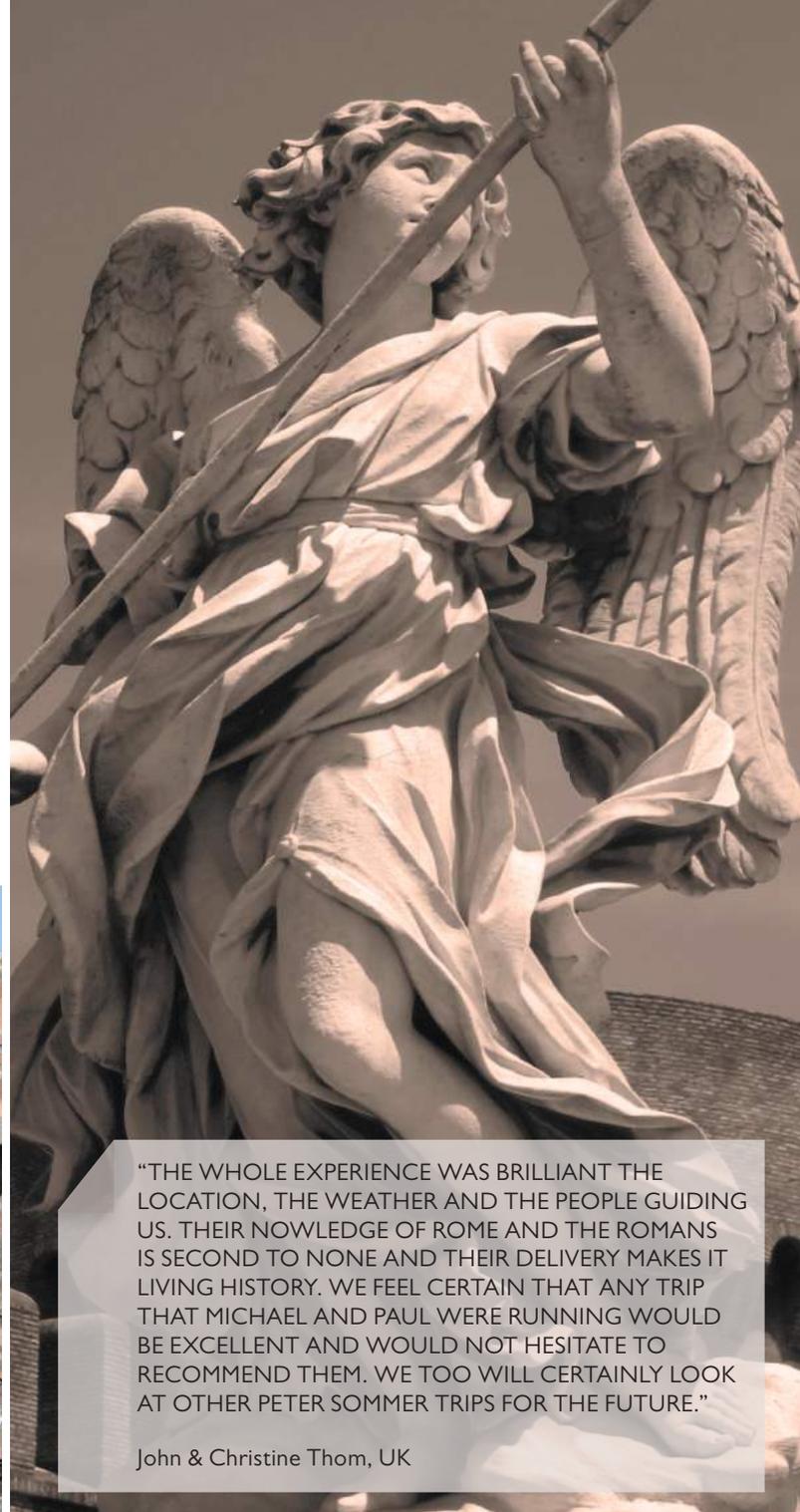
Day 4: An excursion from the city allows us to immerse ourselves in a Roman cityscape uncluttered by the works of later ages. We visit Ostia, the stunning port of Rome where the preservation is on a par with Pompeii. Elaborately decorated baths and offices, a mighty Capitoline temple and an evocative firefighters' barracks can be found in streets studded with Roman fast-food shops and apartment blocks where it is still possible to climb beyond the first floor. In the afternoon, we return to Rome's remarkable white Pyramid of Cestius before an evening free to spend as you wish.

Day 5: We visit the magnificent Markets of Trajan, where a Roman street remains miraculously preserved overlooking the imperial forums. We then tour the colossal Baths of Caracalla, a lavishly decorated imperial gift to the city's people. From this extravagant setting, we go in the afternoon to the humble and touching subterranean catacombs just outside the city.

Day 6: After a day with the ordinary Romans, we experience the opulence of two ages in a trip out to the inspiring hillside retreat of Tivoli. In the morning, we visit the massive, brilliantly preserved and sprawling villa of the Emperor Hadrian, where luxury on an unparalleled scale centres on a fantasy rendition of the River Nile. The afternoon is spent amidst the fountains and gardens of the enchanting Renaissance Villa d'Este.

Day 7: From imperial Rome, we turn to Papal Rome. We feast on the wondrous collections of the Vatican Museums and arrive at the unforgettable Sistine Chapel before taking in the magnificence of St Peter's itself, a fitting way to end a week of precious memories.

Day 8: Transfer to Fiumicino airport approx. 30 mins away.



"THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE WAS BRILLIANT THE LOCATION, THE WEATHER AND THE PEOPLE GUIDING US. THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF ROME AND THE ROMANS IS SECOND TO NONE AND THEIR DELIVERY MAKES IT LIVING HISTORY. WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT ANY TRIP THAT MICHAEL AND PAUL WERE RUNNING WOULD BE EXCELLENT AND WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RECOMMEND THEM. WE TOO WILL CERTAINLY LOOK AT OTHER PETER SOMMER TRIPS FOR THE FUTURE."

John & Christine Thom, UK

# ABOUT TURKEY

A land on the very cusp of Europe and Asia, Turkey embodies the magic and exoticism of the orient.

When you enter this country, you delve into a culture profoundly different and distinctly unfamiliar. Turkey is literally steeped in history, boasting many of the world's best preserved Greek and Roman archaeological sites. When archaeologists dig here they are confronted by seemingly endless layers of peoples and cultures. It truly is a crossroads of civilisations.

Once nomads from Central Asia, the Turks dominated the Eastern Mediterranean and Islamic worlds for many centuries, uniting three continents – Europe, Africa and Asia. Today, they are universally recognised for their warmth and hospitality, legacies of their nomadic ancestry and Islam's code of respect for strangers in a strange land.

It's hard not to speak in superlatives when describing Istanbul - now the largest city in Europe. No other city on earth sits astride two continents. No other city has been besieged so many times. No other city has ruled over such vast empires for as many centuries. Today this epic metropolis stands adorned with some of the world's finest architectural and artistic wonders. Turkey's social, artistic and economic hub, Istanbul bubbles with vitality. It is the perfect place to begin your Turkish adventure.

Combine Turkey's history with its soaring mountain ranges and a vast turquoise coastline, mix in its famed cuisine and friendly people and you have a country perfect for sea and land-based adventures.

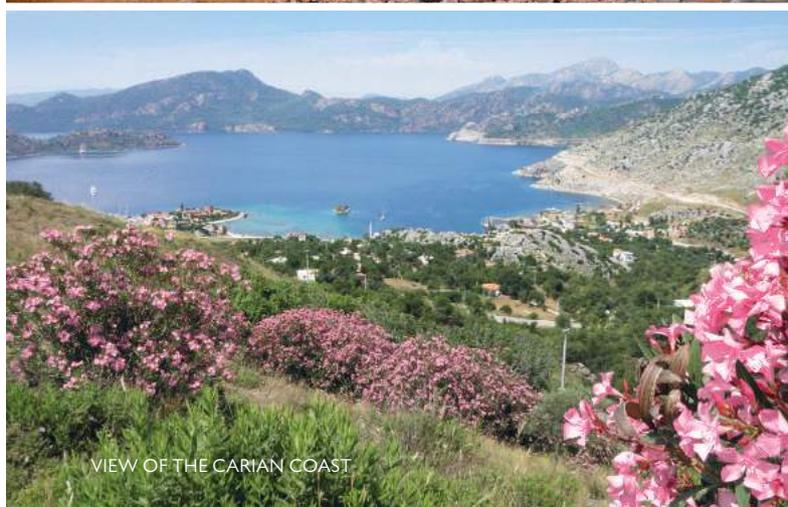


We are proud that Peter Sommer Travels is an official Travel Partner of the British Institute at Ankara (BIAA). The BIAA is internationally renowned for over 60 years' work supporting, enabling and encouraging world-class research in Turkey and the Black Sea region in the fields of history, archaeology and related social sciences. Peter Sommer Travels and the BIAA share a passion for discovering and sharing the cultural aspects of Turkey and opening up the ancient history of this fascinating country to a much larger audience.

**BIAA** | BRITISH INSTITUTE  
AT ANKARA



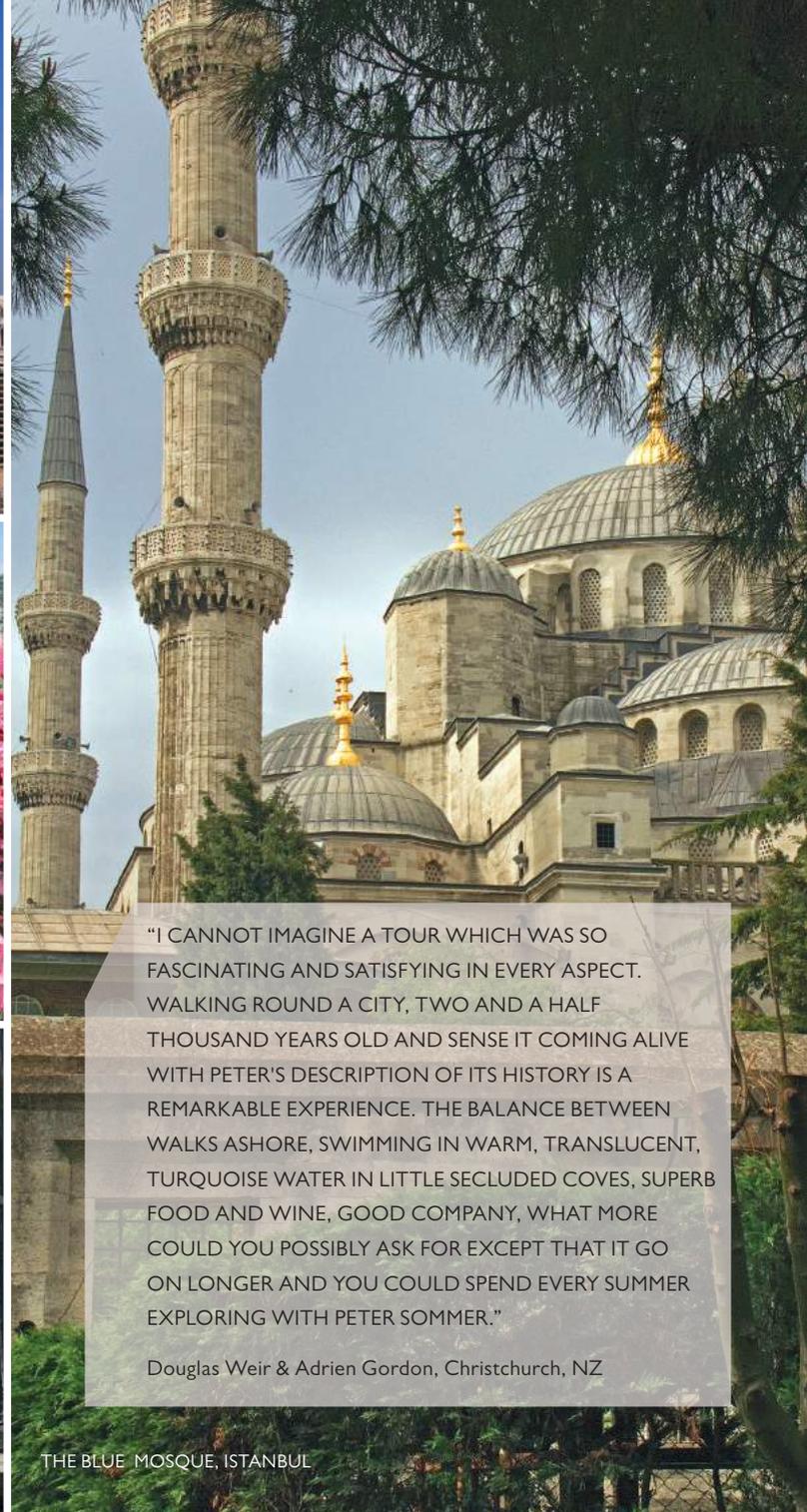
TEMPLE OF APOLLO, DIDYMA



VIEW OF THE CARIAN COAST



TEMPLE OF ZEUS EUROMUS



"I CANNOT IMAGINE A TOUR WHICH WAS SO FASCINATING AND SATISFYING IN EVERY ASPECT. WALKING ROUND A CITY, TWO AND A HALF THOUSAND YEARS OLD AND SENSE IT COMING ALIVE WITH PETER'S DESCRIPTION OF ITS HISTORY IS A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE. THE BALANCE BETWEEN WALKS ASHORE, SWIMMING IN WARM, TRANSLUCENT, TURQUOISE WATER IN LITTLE SECLUDED COVES, SUPERB FOOD AND WINE, GOOD COMPANY, WHAT MORE COULD YOU POSSIBLY ASK FOR EXCEPT THAT IT GO ON LONGER AND YOU COULD SPEND EVERY SUMMER EXPLORING WITH PETER SOMMER."

Douglas Weir & Adrien Gordon, Christchurch, NZ

THE BLUE MOSQUE, ISTANBUL

# A GASTRONOMIC GULET CRUISE

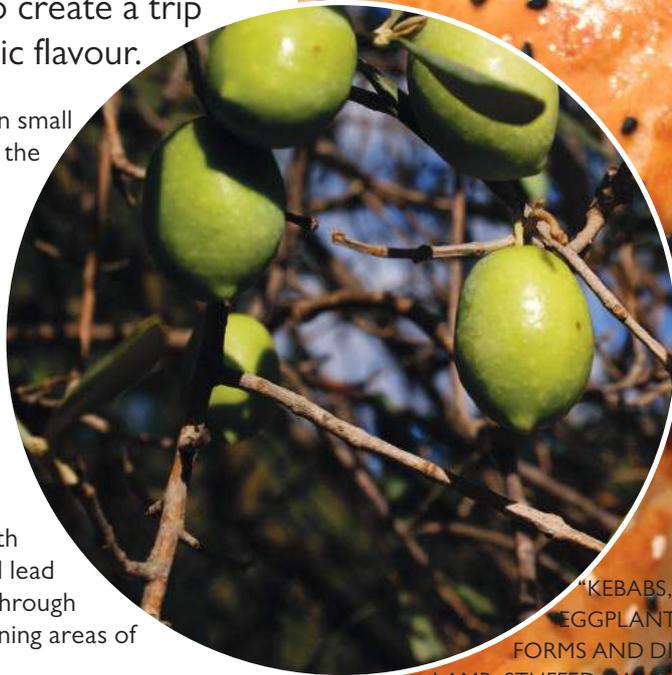
***"This cruise reminded me why I travel in the first place"***  
**Barbara Ramsay Orr, The Globe and Mail (Canada)**

So many of our guests have raved about the food served on our gulet cruises in Turkey and asked for recipes, that we decided to create a trip with an even more gastronomic flavour.

On this trip you will see demonstrations in small traditional restaurants and get involved in the cooking, conjuring up some of the excellent Turkish dishes you'll eat. You'll cook with local Turkish people and prepare regional delicacies.

This is a journey to treat your taste buds, a voyage of discovery through Turkish Mediterranean cuisine. But you won't miss out on the history. Your expert guide, Serdar, is an archaeologist who has been excavating in Turkey for many years. He also happens to be a foodie, a man with a great passion for Turkish cuisine. He will lead you on a culinary and cultural adventure through one of the least developed and most stunning areas of natural beauty in Turkey.

You'll explore some of Turkey's most impressive ancient sites, including wonders like Kaunos with its exquisite rock-cut temple tombs, and beautifully preserved Knidos, a stunning marbled city arranged around a double harbour. You'll also enjoy some magnificent scenery and visit ancient towns like Lydae, set in a remote and beautiful location.



"KEBABS, MARVELLOUS MEZES, EGGPLANT IN MANY DIFFERENT FORMS AND DISHES, OCTOPUS STEW, LAMB, STUFFED CALAMARI, SEA BREAM AND YOGHURT WITH EVERY MEAL. IT WAS ALL DELICIOUS AND OPENED OUR EYES TO THE WONDERFUL ASPECTS OF MEDITERRANEAN AND ANATOLIAN CUISINE."

Philip & Joanne Rouben, Kansas, USA



## SAT MAY 20 - SAT MAY 27, 2017

Tour Guide: Serdar Akerdem

8 DAYS - £2,365 / Single Supplement: £635

Day 1: Our boat is about 40 minutes from Bodrum airport, in the town's beautiful harbour. Welcome drink and dinner aboard.

Day 2: We cruise east along the Carian coast, with stops to swim and relax, before a demonstration of a special local dish in a small family run restaurant.

Day 3: South to spectacular Knidos, where decades of digging, still ongoing, have revealed a beautiful and well-planned city. Set at the very tip of a long peninsula, her superb double harbour could be accessed from both east and west, providing protection for generations of ships and making her rich from the lucrative seaborne trade.

Day 4: East to beautiful Bozburun, a picturesque village surrounded by hills. We'll visit the kitchen of one of the most longstanding restaurant owners and one of the local boatyards to see how gulets are built.

Day 5: To Loryma, a magnificent Rhodian fortress guarding a strategic bay. We'll swim and eat warm delicious bread freshly baked in a traditional oven.

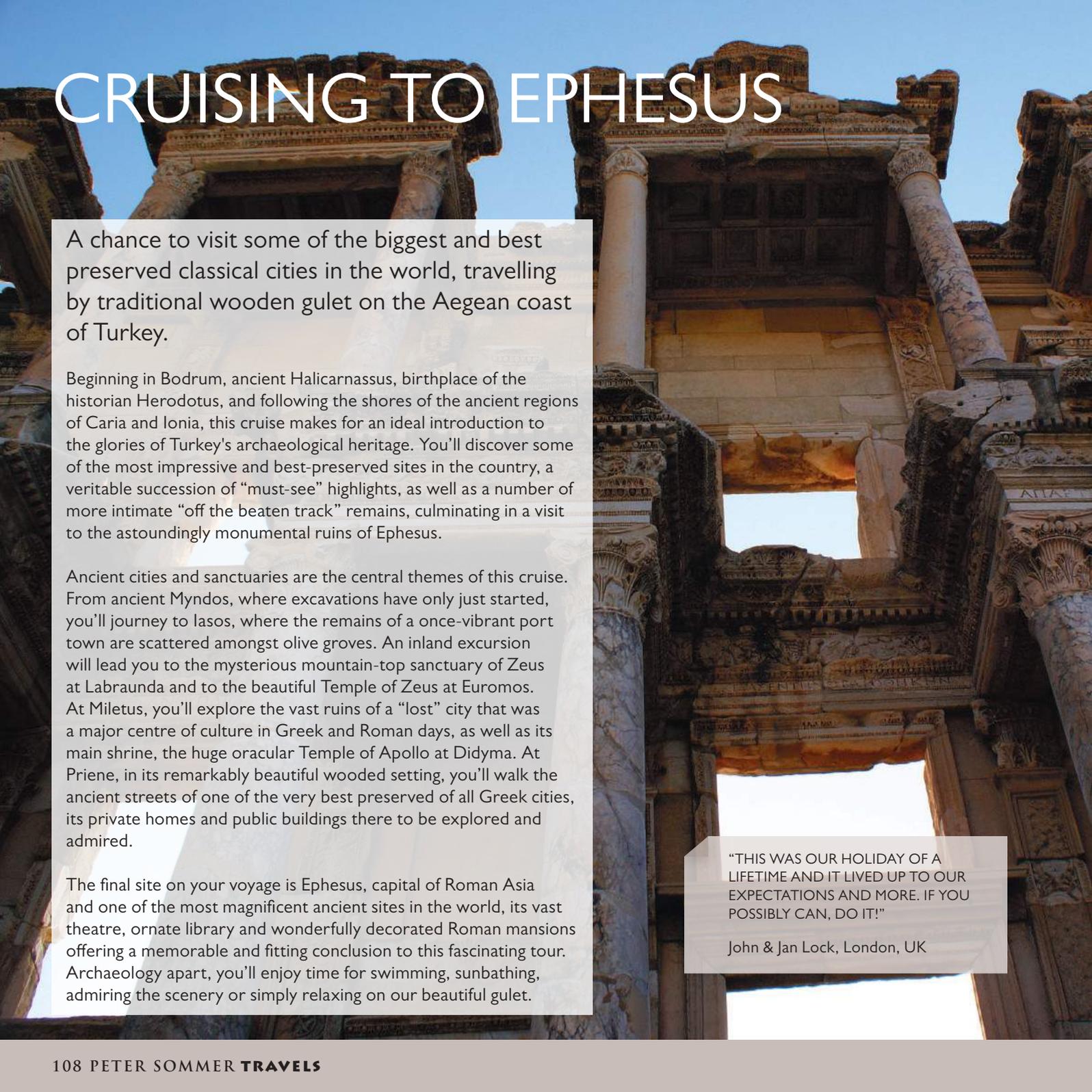
Day 6: Heading east we take a boat along the reed-lined Dalyan River to see the city of Kaunos. Its monumental public buildings, surrounding a silted up harbour, speak of its once great wealth and fame. Serdar has been excavating

here for many seasons. As well as exploring the site, we'll cook and eat with one of the village ladies who prepares food each summer for the archaeologists.

Day 7: We cruise to the pretty inlet of Ađlımanı and walk up an ancient track to the city of Lydae, set in a forgotten valley. We break bread and have wild sage tea with a local goatherd and see the traditional olive press where he and his family produce the most delicious olive oil. A last chance to swim then on to Göcek, a pretty harbour on the Bay of Fethiye for our final farewell dinner.

Day 8: Transfer to Dalaman airport about 30 minutes away.

# CRUISING TO EPHEBUS



A chance to visit some of the biggest and best preserved classical cities in the world, travelling by traditional wooden gulet on the Aegean coast of Turkey.

Beginning in Bodrum, ancient Halicarnassus, birthplace of the historian Herodotus, and following the shores of the ancient regions of Caria and Ionia, this cruise makes for an ideal introduction to the glories of Turkey's archaeological heritage. You'll discover some of the most impressive and best-preserved sites in the country, a veritable succession of "must-see" highlights, as well as a number of more intimate "off the beaten track" remains, culminating in a visit to the astoundingly monumental ruins of Ephesus.

Ancient cities and sanctuaries are the central themes of this cruise. From ancient Myndos, where excavations have only just started, you'll journey to Iasos, where the remains of a once-vibrant port town are scattered amongst olive groves. An inland excursion will lead you to the mysterious mountain-top sanctuary of Zeus at Labraunda and to the beautiful Temple of Zeus at Euromos. At Miletus, you'll explore the vast ruins of a "lost" city that was a major centre of culture in Greek and Roman days, as well as its main shrine, the huge oracular Temple of Apollo at Didyma. At Priene, in its remarkably beautiful wooded setting, you'll walk the ancient streets of one of the very best preserved of all Greek cities, its private homes and public buildings there to be explored and admired.

The final site on your voyage is Ephesus, capital of Roman Asia and one of the most magnificent ancient sites in the world, its vast theatre, ornate library and wonderfully decorated Roman mansions offering a memorable and fitting conclusion to this fascinating tour. Archaeology apart, you'll enjoy time for swimming, sunbathing, admiring the scenery or simply relaxing on our beautiful gulet.

"THIS WAS OUR HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME AND IT LIVED UP TO OUR EXPECTATIONS AND MORE. IF YOU POSSIBLY CAN, DO IT!"

John & Jan Lock, London, UK



SAT JUNE 3 - SAT JUNE 10, 2017

SAT SEPT 9 - SAT SEPT 16, 2017

Tour Guides: Dr. Olivier Henry or Prof. Julian Bennett

8 DAYS - £2,365 / Single Supplement: £635



Day 1: Your gulet awaits you in the pretty coastal village of Gümüşlük, about an hour from Bodrum airport. Welcome drink and dinner aboard.

Day 2: A gentle cruise north-east, with plentiful swimming opportunities on the way, before mooring in the pretty harbour of ancient Iasos where archaeological excavations are revealing a vital and beautiful classical city.

Day 3: In the morning we head inland to the temple of Zeus at Euromus, then, on into the mountains to Labraunda, Caria's most sacred sanctuary, site of the great oracular shrine

to Zeus Labraundus. In the afternoon, a chance to swim, as you cruise westwards.

Day 4: In the morning we visit the colossal oracular temple of Apollo at Didyma. In the afternoon, a glorious long cruise northward to anchor off the southern coast of the isolated Dilek peninsula.

Day 5: We head north to Kuşadasi and a short distance to the town of Selçuk, where we visit the Archaeological Museum housing key finds from Ephesus. Finally, just as the main crowds are leaving, we enter Ephesus itself, to explore the vast site at

leisure, walking through its monumental squares and along marble-paved roads.

Day 6: Heading south inland we walk the ancient roads of Priene, an almost perfectly preserved Greek city and Miletus, with its vast theatre, baths, and brooding atmosphere.

Day 7: A leisurely day cruising to Bodrum. In the afternoon we visit Bodrum's magnificent Crusader castle and museum of underwater archaeology.

Day 8: Transfer from our gulet to Bodrum airport, about 40 minutes away.

# CRUISING THE LYCIAN SHORE

This gulet tour explores the virtually undeveloped shore of ancient Lycia, on Turkey's breathtaking turquoise coast.

The tour includes well-known highlights like the marble-clad city of Perge, where archaeologists are unearthing a site to rival Ephesus, Myra, with some of the finest rock-cut tombs and Xanthos, a vast fortified citadel city that dominated the region for centuries.

These famous sights are complemented by a whole series of "hidden gems": ancient settlements, shrines and cemeteries set within the region's wonderful landscapes, waiting to be discovered and explored. Examples include magnificent Arykanda, surrounded by lovely natural scenery on the edge of a mountain, beautiful Phaselis, famed in antiquity for its rascally merchants and three fine harbours, now swathed in pine trees and unforgettably picturesque Kale, where the cottages of a traditional Turkish village rub shoulders with a medieval castle, an ancient fortification and a vast necropolis.

The cruise also includes a visit to the award-winning museum of Antalya, housing a remarkable collection of Roman sculpture, a tour of the islet of Gemiler, with the remains of an unusually elaborate Byzantine pilgrimage centre and an opportunity to see Patara, where a huge and monumental Roman city is emerging from the sand dunes.

VIEW FROM THE OTTOMAN CASTLE AT KALE



## SAT SEPT 2 - SAT SEPT 16, 2017

Tour Guide: Peter Sommer

15 DAYS - £3,995 / Single Supplement: £975

Day 1: Our boat is about 30 minutes from Dalaman airport in the pretty harbour of Göcek. Welcome dinner on board.

Day 2: A chance to unwind in the Bay of Fethiye.

Day 3: We cruise south to Gemiler Island, a key Byzantine pilgrimage site, where Japanese archaeologists have been hard at work. A perfect area for swimming.

Day 4: On to Kaş, a beautiful village of white washed houses covered with purple bougainvillea. The ancient city, Antiphellos, is littered with tombs and a theatre with a magnificent sea view.

Day 5: East to picturesque Üçagız, old Teimiussa, one of the most evocative of all Lycian burial sites.

Day 6: Into the mountains to Arykanda, the Turkish Delphi, where excavations have revealed a prosperous monumental city.

Day 7: On to Phaselis, seat of pirates who terrorised the region's rich trade routes. Its three harbours now lie serene amid pine trees.

Day 8: To Antalya, the south's most vibrant city, with a fortified harbour and museum full of marble statues. We visit Roman Perge, a vast treasure house of ruins. We stroll through colonnades and shops, marbled bathhouses, a stadium and fortifications.

Day 9: South to Olympos. On an ancient sacred way we visit the Chimaera, a natural phenomenon where flames burst from the ground and legendary home of the mythical beast.

Day 10: We visit Myra, famed for its Roman theatre and rock-hewn tombs. Walking through its port Andriake, we explore a giant cistern and granary built by the Emperor Hadrian.

Day 11: West to Kale, ancient Simena, a combination of Lycian tombs, an ancient acropolis and an Ottoman castle with vast views. One of the tour's most romantic locations.

Day 12: We set off for pretty Kalkan and inland to Xanthos, capital of ancient Lycia, where archaeologists have been digging for half a century, uncovering more and more wonders every year.

Day 13: We head to Patara, a major naval and trading port of ancient Lycia. Much of Patara still remains undiscovered, but excavations have revealed many structures previously hidden by sand dunes. Among them, the parliament building of the Lycian League and its stunning Roman lighthouse, one of the oldest extant examples in the world.

Day 14: A last dip, then to Fethiye to visit its magnificent cliff tombs and a final chance to shop.

Day 15: Transfer to Dalaman airport, about an hour away.

**"EVERYTHING WAS BEYOND MY EXPECTATIONS AND I CAN'T SPEAK HIGHER OF THE ENTIRE TWO WEEKS. PETER AND CEM AND THE CREW WERE ALL GREAT. BEST HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE WE'VE EVER HAD!"**

Stephen Duddy, Adelaide, Australia

# CRUISING THE CARIAN COAST: FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE AEGEAN

We visit some of the greatest gems on Turkey's southwest coast aboard a glorious traditional Turkish gulet.

This tour offers a marvellous combination of superb archaeological sites and a remarkably beautiful maritime landscape – a gorgeous and undeveloped stretch of Turkey's turquoise coast.

Starting from Göcek, a quiet small town in a lovely setting on the Gulf of Fethiye, this cruise follows the convoluted shoreline of Caria, made up of deep inlets and long peninsulas forming a complex and diverse geography where land and sea constantly embrace one another. It ends at the lively harbour of Bodrum, ancient Halicarnassus, the birthplace of Herodotus.

Along the way, you'll visit a series of fascinating ancient cities including Knidos, in a stunningly beautiful peninsular location with twin harbours and spectacular Kaunos, overlooked by uniquely elaborate rock-cut tombs. You'll also explore more remote spots, such as the mighty Rhodian fortification at Loryma, one of the best examples of defensive architecture to survive from antiquity, the virtually unknown town of Phoenix, surrounded by evocative grave monuments, and long-forgotten Lydae, hidden away on a wild promontory far away from roads, towns and modern life.

As well as the archaeological adventures and walks through landscapes of unforgettable beauty, you'll have many opportunities to just sit back and enjoy the magnificent scenery or dip into the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean – a perfect combination of cultural experience and quality time.

"HAVE JUST COMPLETED THE CARIAN COAST TOUR AND WE THOROUGHLY ENJOYED EVERY DAY, EVERY LANDING AND EVERY GREAT MEAL ON BOARD. A SUPERB ADVENTURE. AS AN INTRODUCTION TO TURKEY'S ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS WE DO NOT THINK THAT THIS COULD BETTERED BY ANYBODY."

Carole Davies and Colin Harvey, New Zealand



ENERGETIC

SAT SEPT 16 - SAT SEPT 23, 2017

Tour Guides: Dr. Olivier Henry or Prof. Julian Bennett

8 DAYS - £2,365 / Single Supplement: £635

Day 1: Our boat is about 30 minutes from Dalaman airport at Göcek, a pretty harbour on the Bay of Fethiye, on Turkey's Mediterranean coast. Welcome drink and dinner on board.

Day 2: We head south to the beautiful inlet of Ađlımani, from where we will walk up an ancient track to ancient Lydae, shrouded in mystery. Monumental tombs stand on the crest of a hill overlooking a forgotten valley filled with the tinkle of goat bells.

Day 3: Cruising west we take a boat through a lagoon and up the reed-lined Dalyan River to the extraordinary ancient city of Kaunos. Its monumental public buildings, surrounding a silted-up

harbour, speak of its once great wealth and fame, as do its uniquely elaborate rock-carved Temple Tombs.

Day 4: We head inland from Serçe Bay, famous for its proliferation of shipwrecks, to explore Phoenix, a wild and remote citadel city, offering great views of the surrounding land- and seascapes. Still barely explored by scholars, Phoenix is a puzzle waiting to be solved.

Day 5: We continue to Loryma where the island state of Rhodes erected a magnificent fortress guarding a strategic bay, to protect itself and its possessions from attack. The site, accessible only by boat, is one of the best-preserved examples of its kind.

Day 6: West to spectacular Knidos, where decades of digging, still ongoing, have revealed a beautiful and well-planned city. Set at the very tip of a long peninsula jutting into the Aegean, her superb double harbour could be accessed from both east and west, providing protection for generations of ships and making her rich from the lucrative seaborne trade.

Day 7: A last chance to swim as we cruise north to explore Halicarnassus, Caria's ancient capital, with its Crusader castle now housing one of the finest museums of underwater archaeology. A final opportunity to shop.

Day 8: Transfer to Bodrum airport, about 40 minutes away.

# WALKING AND CRUISING THE LYCIAN SHORE

The Lycian Way, rated by The Sunday Times (UK) as one of the ten best walks in the world, stretches 300 miles along one of Turkey's most remote and untouched coastlines.

On this two-week cruise, we follow some of its very best stretches, chosen for their beauty and interest. Across the two weeks, the average distance is about 5-6 miles (approx. 9.5 km) taking around 3 hours. We take all the walks at a comfortable pace, with some wonderful sites and great swims thrown in for good measure. In the second week, once people have found their feet, there's a walk of about 6 hours, and one full day of walking, about 11 miles (approx. 18 km) taking around 7 hours. Our travelling offshore base is our gulet, offering us elegant transport, delicious dining and comfortable accommodation throughout.

Exploring on foot offers a uniquely profound and enjoyable engagement with the strikingly beautiful landscape and its history. You'll be able to discover truly remote archaeological sites that cannot be easily reached otherwise, like Phellos, the "stony place", an ancient citadel perched precariously on a pinnacle high above the Mediterranean Sea, Apollonia, with its grand necropolis and romantic theatre and Kyaneai, one of Lycia's most important ancient cities, boasting extensive mountain-top ruins. More often than not we'll be the only people exploring such antiquities. You'll also visit some of Lycia's best known ancient cities, including breath-taking Pinara, set at the foot of a cliff studded with tombs, Simena, surrounded by age-old Lycian sarcophagi and Patara, capital of Roman Lycia, with its vast and well-preserved monuments.

You'll stroll along Roman roads, retrace the routes of 2,000 year old aqueducts and follow in the footsteps of characters from Alexander the Great to modern day shepherds. From footpaths by the coast to goat tracks high up in the hills, this tour, combining expert-led archaeological adventures, superb swimming, delicious meals aboard and picnics in rustic locations offers delightful stimulation and relaxation for mind, body and soul.

"THE COMBINATION OF SAILING, WALKING THROUGH FASCINATING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, MEETING FRIENDLY TURKISH VILLAGERS, SWIMMING IN WARM CLEAR WATERS AND BEING FED DELICIOUS HEALTHY TURKISH FOOD IN GOOD COMPANY IS JUST A WINNER. IT IS THE BEST HOLIDAY WE HAVE EVER HAD. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR METICULOUS ATTENTION TO OUR COMFORT..."

Suzie Allman, New South Wales, Australia



SAT SEPT 30 - SAT OCT 14, 2017

Tour Guide: Peter Sommer

15 DAYS - £3,995 / Single Supplement: £975

Day 1: Our gulet is about 30 minutes from Dalaman airport at Göcek, a pretty harbour beneath mountains at the head of the Bay of Fethiye, on Turkey's Mediterranean coast. Welcome dinner aboard.

Day 2: A chance to unwind in the Bay of Fethiye.

Day 3: We cruise east to explore the ghost town of Levissi/Kaya, abandoned by the Greeks in 1923. Walk back to the gulet near Gemiler Island, an area perfect for swimming.

Day 4: We drive inland to the impressive ancient ruins of Sidyma, a 2,500 year old Lycian city that surrounds a modern farming village. Then back to our gulet for a swim.

Day 5: Up the Xanthus valley to Pinara, where a mighty cliff riddled with tombs stands over one of Turkey's most spectacularly situated archaeological sites.

Day 6: East to investigate Apollonia, where a Byzantine fortress and church surround an ancient Greek theatre. Then a walk through a wild moonscape back to the sea.

Day 7: We cruise by Kekova Island then stroll through ancient burial grounds to the Ottoman castle at Kale. One of the most romantic stops of the holiday.

Day 8: We visit Sura, site of a famous fish oracle dedicated to Apollo, then trek along a beautiful stretch of coast to ancient Istlada and our waiting boat.

Day 9: Inland to one of the most remarkable Lycian towns, mountain-top Kyaenai. We overnight in Kaş, a picturesque town and ancient harbourage.

Day 10: The longest hike of the tour, but well worth the effort. Up to the lost city of Phellos and along a high

ridge. Stunning views abound.

Day 11: A wondrous walk retracing the route of the Roman aqueduct to Patara. A sunset dip offers a refreshing finale. Overnight in the pretty harbour at Kalkan.

Day 12: We hike from Farayla to Kabak through cyclamen-filled woods.

Day 13: A glorious final trek across the shoulder of Babadağ (Father Mountain) to Ovacık. Breath-taking views all day long.

Day 14: A day of total leisure aboard our elegant gulet, cruising and swimming. We moor in Fethiye for a final chance to shop.

Day 15: Transfer back to Dalaman airport, on Turkey's south coast.

# ABOUT THE UK



Green fields with enigmatic henges, outposts of Roman civilisation in wooded valleys, emblems of Norman power and celebrated Georgian architecture, just a taste of England's long and inspiring history.

Our new tours in the UK are the result of several years of intense work by our dedicated in-house team of archaeologists and historians. Although Peter Sommer Travels is justly famed for our tours in the Mediterranean, each of the core members of our company studied and trained in the history and archaeology of the ancient world in the British Isles, and many of our first encounters with the ancient world were made here. From our base in Monmouthshire we have travelled the length and breadth of these island nations, and are hugely excited at the prospect of introducing you to the wonderful archaeological and historical sites across these lands, the superb hotels, and the delicious food and drink on offer from award-winning local producers.

Bringing together all of the elements that have made our Exploring tours so popular in Greece and Italy, these tours will be the perfect introduction to these lands, whether you have been a regular visitor, or will be travelling here for the first time.





As with all of our tours these are journeys that will reward the head, heart and stomach in equal measure. There will be fine dining, visits to traditional English pubs, locally brewed ales and ciders and tastes of some of the world famous specialities of each region. At night we stay in beautiful Italianate-style Victorian country houses set in wonderful gardens, an elegant mansion house hotel in the centre of Bath, only minutes away from some of it's most famous sights and a sumptuous 14th Century castle in Northumberland deep in the heart of Hadrian's Wall country.

These tours offer a wealth of experiences: remarkable landscapes, a deep history, the stern traces of Roman power, the aesthetic beauty of abbeys and priors, and fantastic local food and drink. There is no better place to begin an exploration of England's long history, beautiful countryside and cultural richness.



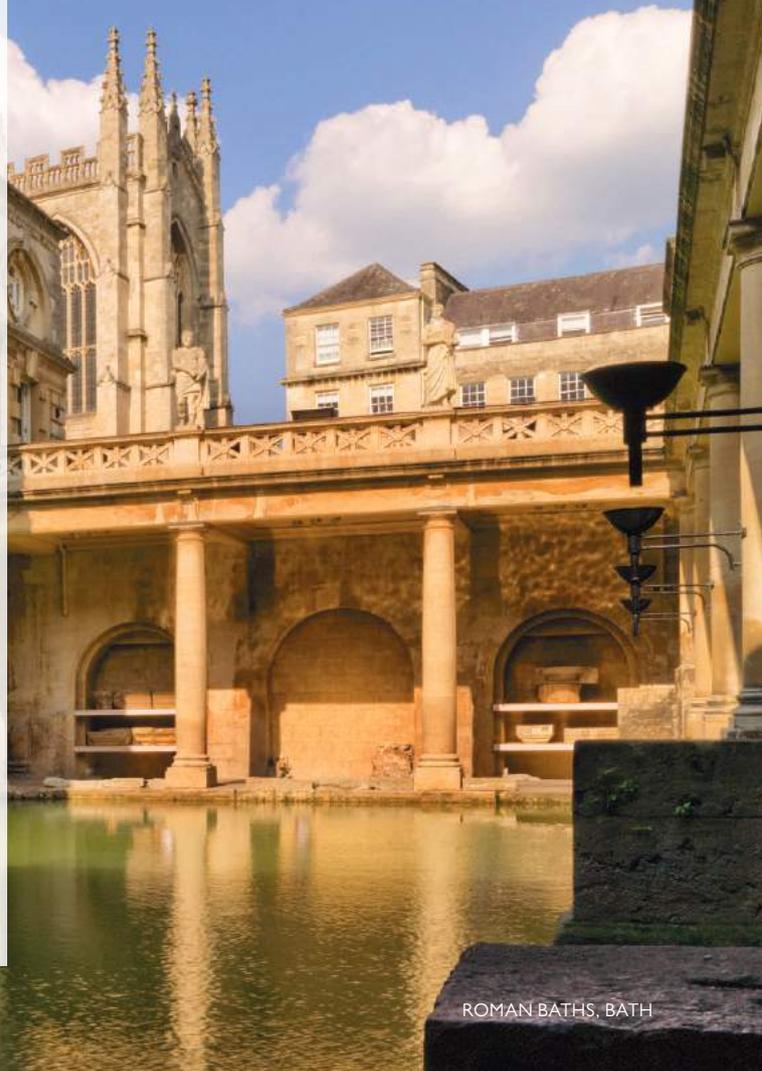
# EXPLORING WESSEX:

## FROM NEOLITHIC AVEBURY TO GEORGIAN BATH

Wessex: close to our home base, and close to our hearts, a beautiful region of England, which perfectly encapsulates the history and culture of the country.

From the ancient chalk downlands of Wiltshire, through the lush tree-clad hills and combes of Gloucestershire to the misty beauty of the Somerset Levels, this is the England of the mind's eye. We will take you to dramatic cathedrals with soaring spires, serene abbeys, elegant Roman villas and into the deep past of Stone Age England, where it all began.

All of England's history can be seen in this region replete with World Heritage Sites. We begin with the truly ancient landscape of Wiltshire, which still feels indefinably old, even to those familiar with the ancient world. Through encounters with ridge-top sepulchres, the awe-inspiring great stone circles at Stonehenge and Avebury and the strange wonder of Silbury Hill, you will see how humanity passed from the Mesolithic and embedded itself in the landscape in the Neolithic, one of the most dramatic eras in England's history, and nowhere seen better than here. The depth of our story can be appreciated when even the Celts and Romans arrive only at its middle. This tour introduces you to some of their finest sites and traces, from the fine mosaics of Britain's second largest Roman town, through the richly decorated villa at Chedworth to the pious melding of Roman and British religion in the hot springs of the great shrine at Bath.



ROMAN BATHS, BATH



STONEHENGE

SUN JULY 2 - SAT JULY 8, 2017



Tour Guides: Paul Beston & Dr. Michael Metcalfe  
 7 DAYS - £2,645 / Single Supplement: £350  
 Includes all breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners

The castles and holy places of the Middle Ages, and the new Kingdom of England, come into view next. We see the powerful castles of the Marcher Lords at Berkeley, meet saints and see a powerful prelate cast down at Old Sarum, and admire the delicate beauty of Salisbury Cathedral, its renowned spire reaching up in adulation to Heaven.

Finally, we come to the periods of turbulence and transformation that made our own world as the old religion is broken. At Glastonbury we see a beautiful monastery suppressed, leaving romantic ruins and enduring myth.

We see the varying fortunes of the great families, as some fall in Civil War and others prosper and build great country houses, ready to enter the refined and genteel world of Georgian elegance and high society in the respectable, elevated beauty of Bath.

All of this accompanied by some fine dining, visits to traditional English pubs, locally brewed ales and ciders and tastes of some of the world famous specialties of the region. At night we stay firstly in a beautiful Italianate-style Victorian country house set in wonderful gardens in the heart of the

Wiltshire countryside before heading to Bath and an elegant mansion house hotel on the edge of one of the city centre parks and only minutes away from some of Bath's most famous sights.

From green fields with enigmatic henges, outposts of Roman civilisation in wooded valleys, emblems of Norman power and Georgian taste, there is no finer place to begin your exploration of England's long and inspiring history.

"THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE WAS BRILLIANT THE LOCATION, THE WEATHER AND THE PEOPLE GUIDING US. THEIR KNOWLEDGE IS SECOND TO NONE AND THEIR DELIVERY MAKES IT LIVING HISTORY. WE FEEL CERTAIN THAT ANY TRIP THAT MICHAEL AND PAUL WERE RUNNING WOULD BE EXCELLENT AND WOULD NOT HESITATE TO RECOMMEND THEM."

James & Ruthie Henderson, Tennessee, USA



BERKELEY CASTLE



AVEBURY MANOR

# EXPLORING WESSEX:

## FROM NEOLITHIC AVEBURY TO GEORGIAN BATH

Day 1: Arrivals and transfer to our Country House Hotel in the heart of Wiltshire and on the edge of the North Wessex Downs. Welcome drinks and dinner.

Day 2: We begin with some of the earliest and most evocative monuments in British history, all set in the beautiful rolling countryside around Avebury. After a short drive, we enter this unrivalled Neolithic landscape at West Kennet long barrow, which looks out from its prominent ridge from behind a great veil of massive sarsen stones. After a traditional pub lunch overlooking the ancient stone circle, we visit the Keiller Museum to expand our picture of its long-gone makers, before enjoying the afternoon exploring in the house and gardens of the attractive Tudor and Georgian Avebury Manor. Finally, we return to the Neolithic to view the extraordinary Silbury Hill, a massive man-made eminence, as old as the pyramids. The evening is free to dine at your leisure.

Day 3: We rise early to enjoy special access to the inner stone circle at Stonehenge and view this unrivalled symbol of the Stone Age up close and in the serene atmosphere it deserves. Leaving Stonehenge and the Neolithic behind, we journey into the Cotswolds - designated as one of England's 'Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty' - and advance to Cirencester, and the Roman period. At the acclaimed Corinium Museum, we see the transformation of the land from the Iron Age through the centuries of Roman occupation. Finally, after a short drive through the undulating and verdant Cotswold countryside, we

come to the defining type of Roman site, the villa at Chedworth.

Day 4: After checking out of our hotel, we drive to Old Sarum, a site with a very long history. An Iron Age fort, into which the Normans set a castle and richly-decorated Cathedral. A short journey brings us to the lovely city of Salisbury and after seeing some of the finest remains from the age of Stonehenge, we pick up the story of Old Sarum and visit the exquisite and fragile beauty of Salisbury Cathedral. Here we see 'Magna Carta' one of the most celebrated documents in English history, and a founding influence on the American colonies and Constitution. After lunch where you are free to dine where you choose, we drive to the famed site of Glastonbury Abbey, whose picturesque ruins are surrounded with a haze of mediaeval legends connecting it to Joseph of Arimathea, the Holy Grail and King Arthur, Camelot and The Knights of the Round Table.

Day 5: Today, we visit two large sites which reveal the changing fortunes, lives and taste of the aristocracy from the marcher lords of the mediaeval period through the tempestuous era of the Civil War to the gentility of Georgian Britain. In the morning, we drive to Berkeley Castle, where the mighty walls of a vast and powerful mediaeval fortress rise steeply from the green surroundings of the Berkeley Vale. After lunch, we visit the Georgian finery of Bowood House. Through the efforts of both Robert Adam and Capability Brown, Bowood has been graced with some of the finest interiors and most ethereal gardens in the country. An evening free to dine at leisure.



Day 6: A whole day in the magnificent World Heritage Site of Bath brings some of our earlier experiences together in some of the most perfect vistas Britain boasts. This exceptionally beautiful city combines a long and extraordinary history with rich connections to some of England's greatest writers and artists, and a breathtaking sweep of delectable Palladian architecture in warm bath stone with a forest of neo-classical columns. Bath offers the most perfect image of the heights of Georgian sophistication to be seen in the whole country and is a transporting experience for our final day.

We begin with a visit to the Roman Baths, where a Celtic sacred spring with naturally warm and sulphurous gushing waters was turned into a vast Roman religious complex. We visit the fine modern museum with its extraordinary array of remains and view the miraculous spring itself, its naturally heated and sulphurous gushing flow still inspiring awe today.

After lunch where you are free to dine where you choose we discover how the healing reputation of the spa waters brought Bath a second period of fame inspired by Queen Anne's visits and the Georgian and Regency Bath of Jane Austen.

We follow in their footsteps through the ordered and mathematically-perfect yet delightful streets to enjoy some of Bath's most famous buildings. Robert Adam's perfect Pulteney Bridge, the vast bow of the Royal Crescent, complete with a deep Georgian ha-ha and The Circus, testify to the rarefied society of this most attractive city. We have our farewell dinner in one of the city's best restaurants, an unforgettable way to end a delightful encounter with England's riches.

Day 7: Transfer to either Bath Railway Station or Bristol International Airport.

# EXPLORING HADRIAN'S WALL: ROMANS, REIVERS AND ROMANTICS

Join us on an exploration of the raw beauty and richly-layered history of this most distinctive English region.

Few areas so large come to be defined by a single work of man, but the Wall Country has had a special character since the Romans first set this great work in trail over field, hill, crag and river nearly two thousand years ago. Today, we take you through a warm and welcoming countryside of ever-changing views, from bustling mediaeval market towns, through gentle farmland and craggy rocks strewn with tumbled Roman stones which give way to beautiful views of thick woods and wild loughs. This is a tour where the landscape itself inspires awe and is a character in its own right. It has drawn people from Romans through Anglo-Saxons and Vikings to mediaeval warlords, sinister Reivers and the Victorian romantics who fell in love with it and its stories.

MILECASTLE 39, TOWARDS STEEL RIGG



ARBEIA ROMAN FORT, SOUTH SHIELDS



SAT JULY 8 - FRI JULY 14, 2017

Tour Guides: Paul Beston & Peter Sommer

7 DAYS - £2,495 / Single Supplement: £350

Includes all breakfasts, 4 lunches and 5 dinners

Our encounter with the long history of this region begins as the Romans, after forty years in the north, built their mighty Wall, marching mile after mile across the neck of Britain, disregarding hills, rocks and rivers and definitively marked the land to the south as Roman. Though there is much to see and say about the military side of the wall – the physical awe, the impressiveness of Roman military power and organisation – there is also another more human tale to tell. Everywhere behind the wall, there are stories of strange gods, civilian bustle, military order and the daily lives of thousands of men, women and children. It is a Roman landscape unique in Britain for its diversity and scale.

With the end of Roman rule the ruins of the Wall became the homes of farmers, strongholds of lords, hide-outs of thieves and the building material of churchmen, but always remained a powerful reminder of what had once been. Our story continues with the Anglo-Saxons and then the stretching north of the great kingdom of England, marking the landscape with

beautiful churches and gripping it with castles. Here, for centuries, England contested the land either side of the Wall with Scotland, leaving a trail of wars and raids and forging a tough, self-reliant and independent people. In time, the border was pacified, and the hazards earlier people faced became part of the magnificent tapestry of a border history which drew people to a now-peaceful but storied and beautiful country, inspiring Scott, Kipling, Turner and William Morris, and the perfectly-placed grand home of the ingenious Lord Armstrong.

This tour offers a wealth of experiences: a remarkable landscape, a deep history, the stern traces of Roman power, the fascinating contact with individual lives carved in stone or left in the organic finds at Vindolanda, the aesthetic beauty of Cragside or Lanercost priory, the reminders of its dangerous past and the fantastic local food and drink. There is no better place to begin an exploration of England's long history, beautiful countryside and cultural richness.

# EXPLORING HADRIAN'S WALL: ROMANS, REIVERS AND ROMANTICS



Day 1: Arrival at our hotel, the magnificent fourteenth century Langley Castle, set in the centre of Wall Country. A baronial residence burned in the rebellion by Hotspur's father against Henry IV, it was resurrected by a Victorian romantic, and makes a sumptuous base for our exploration of this beautiful country. Welcome drinks and dinner at the hotel.

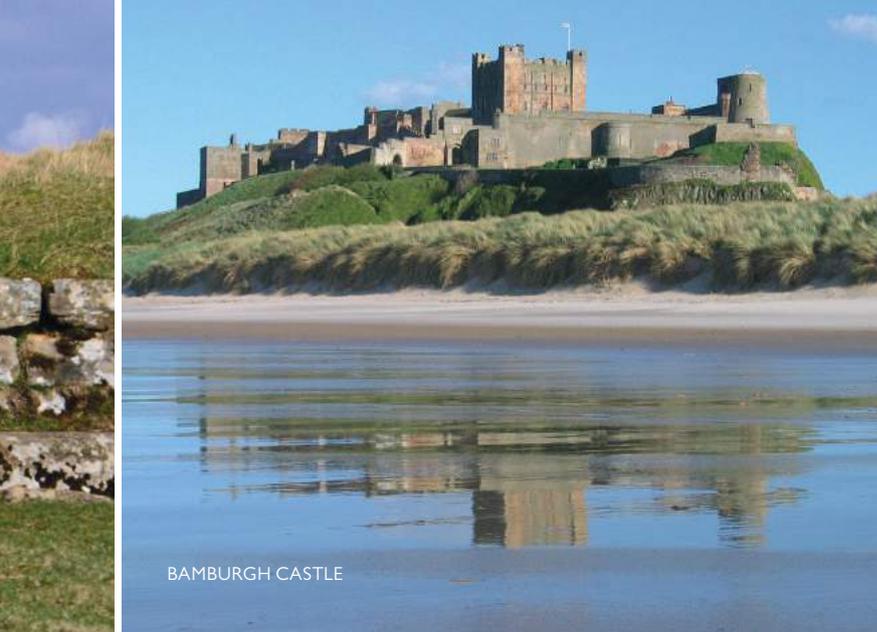
Day 2: A short drive takes us to the east, where we begin with Wallsend's elevated view of its fort and reconstructed Roman baths before crossing the broad River Tyne to South Shields and its imposing gatehouse. After a fine lunch, we gain an appreciation of the entire Wall system at the excellent Hancock Museum, a superb location to meet the soldiers, civilians and gods who inhabited the Roman Wall.

Day 3: A short journey takes us to Steel Rigg for a walk through the Wall's most breath-taking, wild and romantic scenery, the hard spine of the Great Whin Sill. This most iconic stretch of the Wall still preserves the feeling of being a frontier, as it drives its way through ragged, undulating terrain with fine views of Crag Lough and through the famous Sycamore Gap. We walk up to Housesteads, the most renowned station on the Wall, where one of its largest forts peers over the Sill's precipice. After a well-earned lunch, we travel the short distance to the pretty market-town of Hexham to visit its Abbey, to see the fragments of Roman buildings and inscriptions built into its ancient crypt. From Hexham's gentility, we return to the Wall at Chesters set in gently rolling riverside parkland and blessed with a fine

Edwardian museum and the best Roman baths on the Wall. Finally, we stop at the nearby temple of Mithras at Carrawburgh, whose well-preserved remains have much to tell about this enigmatic saviour-god.

Day 4: A day which allows us to immerse ourselves in the daily lives of the people of the Wall. We spend the whole morning at the extraordinary site of Vindolanda, one of the most important in the entire Roman Empire. Here, the environment has preserved a bewildering array of everyday objects - personal letters, children's shoes, combs, even wigs - that allow us to come as close to real Roman life as it is possible to do. The remains of the fort, and the civilian town outside would be impressive even if they were not continually changing with the excavations that will be producing new insights as we visit. After lunch, and a visit to the beautifully-done museum at Carvoran, we visit the Roman town of Corbridge. The singular, undulating, rumped-carpet appearance of the site which you see walking down the main Roman street is owed to the many layers of remains sagging over each other as you pass shops, granaries, fountains and houses in this idyllic spot.

Day 5: A day of Roman twilight and new beginnings. We pass into the western section of the Wall, and see how the Roman Wall faded, was reused and became the stuff of Romantic adulation. We begin with Birdoswald fort, perched on a great spur which sweeps down majestically into the Irthing Valley, where the fort buildings were used through the Dark Ages and into Mediaeval times. A gentle walk

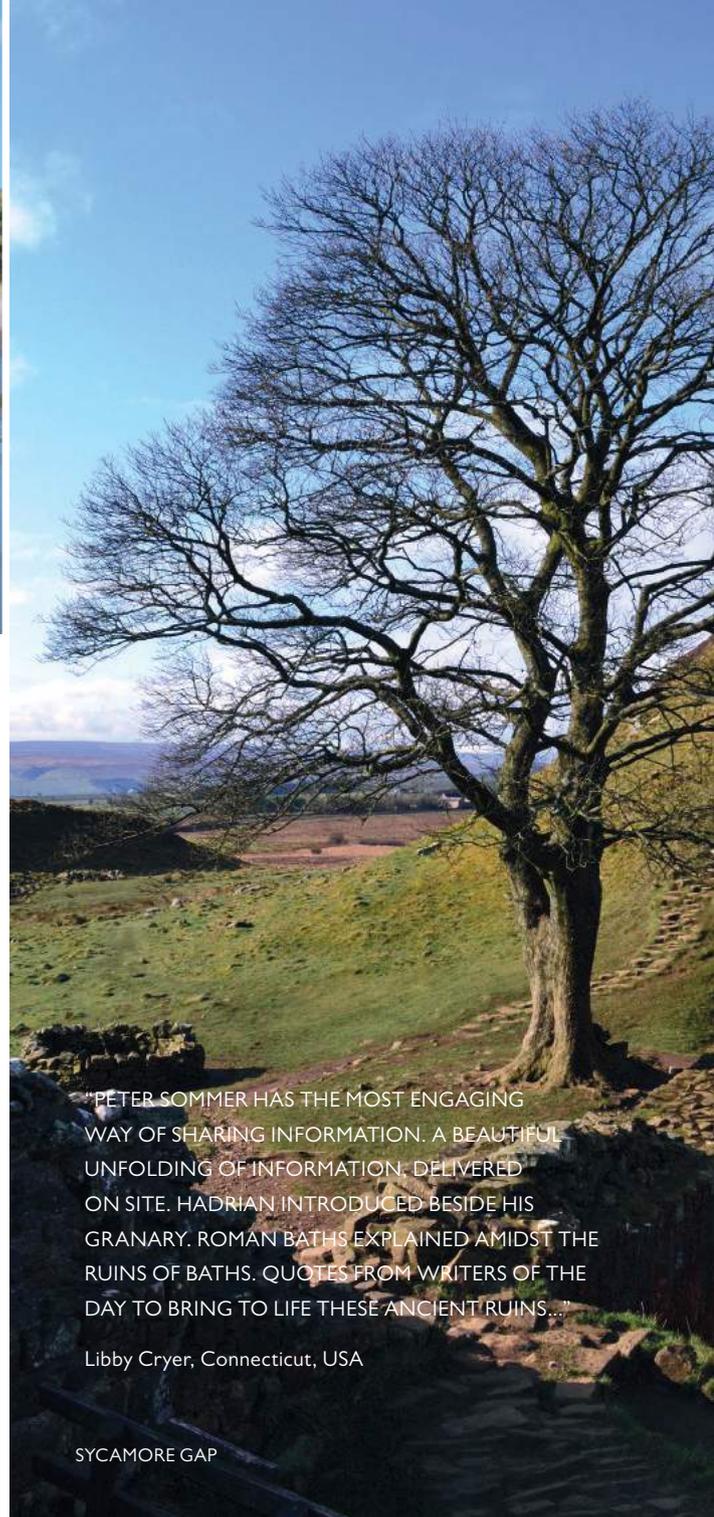


BAMBURGH CASTLE

through attractive countryside brings us over the river and past the Roman bridge at Willowford. From here, we make the brief journey to the distinctive red stone priory at Lanercost. Now a restful ruin, it stamped English mediaeval civilisation on an area buffeted by conflict, and was home to Edward I on his last journey north. After falling victim to Henry VIII it drew the interest of Victorian Romantics and the Arts & Craft movement. After a fine lunch we journey beyond the west end of the Wall to the Roman fort at Maryport and encounter one of the Empire's finest collections of inscriptions.

Day 6: Today we begin on the east coast with the magnificent castle of Bamburgh, soaring on its impregnable craggy rock, and trace its history from being an Anglo-Saxon royal centre, refuge of saints and target of Vikings, through its time as a mighty English royal fortress, philanthropic school and finally, to being stately residence of the Victorian industrialist and inventor, Lord Armstrong. After lunch, we travel through the hilly wilderness west of Bamburgh to Armstrong's house nestled in the forest at Cragside surrounded by lakes and woods, tiered rockeries and gardens spilling down to a fine iron bridge spanning a pretty stream. The natural beauty of the site is brilliantly balanced by Armstrong's ingenuity in the house, the first to use hydroelectricity, and filled with the paraphernalia of civilised and refined modernity. After a rich and rewarding day, we have our farewell dinner.

Day 7: Departure from our hotel.



"PETER SOMMER HAS THE MOST ENGAGING WAY OF SHARING INFORMATION. A BEAUTIFUL UNFOLDING OF INFORMATION, DELIVERED ON SITE. HADRIAN INTRODUCED BESIDE HIS GRANARY. ROMAN BATHS EXPLAINED AMIDST THE RUINS OF BATHS. QUOTES FROM WRITERS OF THE DAY TO BRING TO LIFE THESE ANCIENT RUINS..."

Libby Cryer, Connecticut, USA

SYCAMORE GAP

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## What sort of people go on your trips?

We consider our archaeological tours to be very much self selecting. Our guests are usually well travelled, enthusiastic and curious about exploring new countries and cultures. They come from an incredibly wide range of professional backgrounds. Some have never been on an escorted tour before; others have been on cultural tours all around the world. About 35% of our guests come from the UK, 40% from the US and Canada and the remaining 25% split between Australia, New Zealand, Europe and beyond. On average, about a quarter of the people on our trips are single travellers.

## How old are your customers?

Our trips appeal to quite a wide age range. Generally speaking, most are in their 40's-70's. We have had a number of clients in their 80's. Our family tours have usually attracted parents with children aged between 6-17. We are finding more and more people in their 30's wanting to travel with us - those who want to explore and learn whilst having a relaxing time in a beautiful place.

## Do people get seasick on a gulet trip?

Possibly, but very, very rarely! The non-tidal Mediterranean is a very different proposition to the great seas and oceans, though of course the weather can blow up at times. The gulets we use are all broad and beamy offering a very comfortable ride. We watch the weather very closely and try to avoid any rough seas, taking shelter in the numerous coves and bays along the coast. Some guests take precautions: travel sickness pills, acupressure wrist bands, medical patches and we've had a number of ladies who insist that brandy helps! But usually even guests who had been apprehensive before feel fine throughout their cruise. Most people tell us that being on deck in the sunny fresh air gazing at the ever changing horizon is more than enough to ward off any passing feelings of mal de mer.

## How fit do I need to be to join one of your tours?

Our tours by their very nature involve a significant amount of walking, often in hot and humid climatic conditions, as well as scrambling over rough terrain on archaeological sites which are frequently rugged and with loose rocks underfoot. This can make them difficult to negotiate

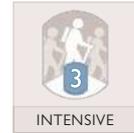
and physically tiring. Your physical fitness should therefore be of a level that will allow you to get the most from the chosen tour.



MODERATE



ENERGETIC



INTENSIVE

While all of our tours involve an element of walking, the distance, duration and terrain can differ considerably. So we've graded our trips to better help you assess the level of fitness needed in order to enjoy them to the full.

**Moderate:** Level walking, gentle hills or slopes, city walking, steps, tracks and paths, some uneven ground.

**Energetic:** Walking includes some steep slopes and narrow paths over rugged terrain. Some loose stones underfoot and walls to climb over. Duration max 4hrs.

**Intensive:** Walking includes rocky and rugged terrain with loose stones underfoot. Challenging tracks and paths requiring a good sense of balance. Some long stretches of uphill and downhill walking. Duration max 7hrs, distance max 12 miles (19.5 km).

## How do people get to the gulet, or the first hotel, at the start of a trip?

We meet guests at the local airport closest to the starting point of a tour on the first day of a trip and then return them to the local airport closest to the ending point of a holiday on the final day. These airport transfers are included in our tour prices.

## Do I need to pay a single supplement if I am willing to share a room or cabin?

Often our single customers splash out and book a room or cabin for themselves, but if you have a travelling companion with whom you are willing to share, or there is another single traveller booked on a trip who is willing to share a twin room or cabin, we won't, of course, charge you a supplement.

## How well does Air-Con work on Gulets?

All the gulets we use for our scheduled tours are equipped with air conditioning. However, local noise regulations prevent gulets from operating the AC overnight. Air conditioning requires power from the onboard generator. Often gulets are not permitted to run AC in harbour, nor are they permitted to run it throughout the night when moored out of harbour.

In hot temperatures when moored out of a harbour, the Captain usually runs the AC in the evening to cool cabins before guests retire. Many guests take advantage of the warm weather to sleep out on deck under the stars.

## Can it be noisy at night during a gulet cruise?

On our gulet cruises, we often spend nights anchored in remote coves and bays, either as the only boat present or along with few others. During those nights, the only prevalent noises are the lapping of the waves, the hypnotic but unobtrusive creaking of the wooden hull and now and then the blowing of the wind. Other nights are spent moored in small ports or marinas. The frequency of such nights depends on the itinerary in question as well as the weather.

Nights in harbour can be noisier than nights in bays with a range of potential noise sources, ranging from chatting on neighbouring boats to shore traffic and music etc. from local restaurants and bars, even occasional concerts. We try where possible to offer a mix of nights in harbour and out in bays so our guests get a full and rounded experience. If you are concerned about noise, are a very light sleeper or habitually use earplugs, we recommend you bring ear plugs with you for your own comfort.

## How often do your gulets sail?

The gulets we use on our scheduled tours all have sails and are very capable sailing craft, but gulets are relatively large and heavy (which, of course, gives them a stable motion, typically weighing in at over 100 tonnes.) So, unlike light fibreglass boats, the gulets require a fair amount of wind to get them sailing. Naturally, we intentionally don't sail in strong winds, as this would be uncomfortable for guests and would require much larger crews.

Another consideration affecting sailing is our need to maintain our itineraries. We usually cruise for about three to four hours a day, generally by motor to keep to schedule, so we can visit sites in the

itinerary at the right time of day and with plenty of time to explore them thoroughly. Weather and time permitting, we'll do our best to ensure you'll have the opportunity to sail at least once in a one week trip. If conditions permit, we'll sail more often.

## Are towels and bed linen provided on board the gulet?

All bed linen is provided on the gulet. Depending on the temperature and individual preference there is a choice of sheets, blankets and duvets. Each guest has three towels - a large bathroom towel, a hand towel and one for swimming. Guests are welcome to bring their own towels. All bed linen and towels are laundered once a week.

## Are there electrical outlets on the gulet and what adaptors do we need?

Electricity aboard is 220V and requires European-style two-pin plugs. There is an outlet in each cabin, typically in the bathroom, so you can use hair driers/shavers etc. and of course you can charge phones/camera batteries there. When we are docked in a designated harbour rather than out in a bay, the gulet receives electricity directly by cable from shore mains power. While the gulet's cruising or anchored out, its electricity is provided by the generator, so there may be occasional periods in a day when the electricity is not on, or might be diverted to necessities - e.g. fridges, freezers etc.

## Do you have Wi-Fi on your gulets and will there be good cell phone/mobile reception during the trip?

All gulets on scheduled tours carry a wi-fi router. It provides web access to a limited number of internet-enabled devices at the same time. We ask that guests use the wi-fi responsibly and avoid large down/uploads and be mindful of other guests, logging their device off when not in use. Internet access relies on land-based 3G networks; signal quality can vary, occasionally there is none.

Similarly, mobile/cellphone signal depends on our location. There is good coverage along most of the coast but at times it may be weak or SOS-only level. If you plan to use your own native mobile/cellphone, please ask your provider about roaming rates and activation procedures.

For a more detailed list of FAQ's visit:

[www.petersommer.com](http://www.petersommer.com)

# BOOKING FORM

Please complete form in block capitals

Name of tour: \_\_\_\_\_

Departure date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Travellers' names

(Please complete with title & name as detailed in your passport):

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Names \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Date \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ First Names \_\_\_\_\_

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Passport No. \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Date \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Peter Sommer Travels Ltd, Chippenham house, 102 Monnow Street,  
Monmouth, NP25 3EQ, UK

Gulet Tours: Cabin preferred:  twin  double

Land Tours: Room preferred:  twin  double  single

## Travel insurance

Name of insurer \_\_\_\_\_

Policy No. \_\_\_\_\_ Emergency Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Next of kin \_\_\_\_\_  
or contact in case of emergency

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit payment: £475 per person - non refundable

Bank transfer for \_\_\_\_\_ Credit card for \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque for \_\_\_\_\_

**Health** - Do you have any disability or medical condition that might prevent you from participating fully in the tour?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Special requests** - Do you have any special requests (i.e. Dietary requirements)?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Please send any specific details in a separate letter if necessary

I have read and agreed to the booking conditions on behalf of all those listed above and hereby confirm my booking.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Tour Cost

The tour cost includes:

- Road transfers by minibus
- Airport transfers on first and last day of tour
- Full board accommodation, except where specified
- Site entrance fees
- Gratuities on land
- Harbour fees and crew services
- Excursions accompanied by an expert guide
- WiFi on our scheduled gulet cruises (coverage permitting)

Mineral water, tea and coffee are complimentary on all our tours. On our scheduled trips wine is included with dinner, other drinks are extra and there is a reasonably priced bar for guests' use. Bar bills can be settled in cash at the end of the trip.

Not included:

- Flights and airport taxes
- Visas
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities on the gulet. It is customary to tip the crew at the end of a tour. We recommend about £12 per day per guest.

## How to Book

Contact us to check availability and make a provisional reservation. We will hold this for 1 week. To confirm your booking complete the booking form and send it to us with your deposit of £475 per person. Please remember to read the booking conditions. Payments may be paid by:

1. Bank transfer. Please contact us for our bank details.
2. Credit card. We accept credit card payments. Contact us for more details.\*

\*Payment by Credit Card is subject to a fee to cover the Credit Card Issuers Commission. UK Debit Cards are not subject to any fees.

## Visas

For Turkey and cruises through the Greek Islands that pass through Turkish customs, visas are easily obtained online at [www.evisa.gov.tr](http://www.evisa.gov.tr) and must be purchased before you travel. Citizens of European Union or Schengen Treaty member states need no visa for Greece, Croatia or Italy. Those from the United States, Canada and Australia do not need to apply for a visa to visit Greece, Croatia or Italy for trips of less than 90 days duration. Other nationalities should contact their local consulate or ask us for further advice.

## Health

Guidelines laid down by the UK Department of Health say you do not require any specific inoculations for the parts of the Mediterranean covered in these tours.

## Payment Protection

As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), an Association approved by BIS, Peter Sommer Travels Ltd. has provided a Bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. All passengers booking with us are fully protected as detailed in the ABTOT Bond for their initial deposit and balance payments made, in the unlikely event of cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to our insolvency.

## Data Protection

In order to provide your holiday, we need to collect certain personal details from you and as appropriate, pass these on to suppliers and other third parties. We would like to keep and use these details for the purpose of sending you our brochure and other marketing material in the future. Full details of our data protection policy can be found on our website.

# ESSENTIAL BOOKING CONDITIONS

*Bookings with Peter Sommer Travels Ltd. are only accepted subject to the terms and conditions set out in our full booking conditions available on our website or on request. Please read them carefully.*

## Payments

A deposit is required in order to confirm your chosen holiday. You will be informed of the deposit amount required at the time of booking. The balance of the cost must be paid at least 10 weeks before the scheduled start. If booking 10 weeks or less from the scheduled start, payment must be made in full. We reserve the right to cancel any booking for which full payment has not been received on the due date and to levy cancellation charges as set out below. If you make a booking on behalf of others as well as yourself, we shall take it that you have the authority of each of those other people to enter into the contract on the basis of these booking conditions and that you and they have agreed to be jointly and severally liable to us. By requesting a booking, the 'lead booker' confirms that he/she is so authorised. The lead booker is responsible for making all payments due to us.

## Contract & Legal

Subject to the availability of your chosen arrangements, we will confirm your holiday by issuing a deposit receipt. The deposit receipt will be sent to the lead booker. Please check the deposit receipt carefully as soon as you receive it. Contact us immediately if any information which appears on the deposit receipt or any other document appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (for which we are responsible) in any document within ten days of our sending it out. We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits but you must meet any costs involved in doing so. A binding contract between us comes into existence when we despatch our deposit receipt to the lead booker. We both agree that English Law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us (except as set out below). We both also agree that any dispute, claim or other matter of any description (and whether or not involving any personal injury) which arises between us which cannot be settled directly must be dealt with under the AITO Dispute Settlement Service (see below) or within the jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of Court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the Courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

## Medical Conditions/Disabilities/General Health & Fitness

If you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. Once on the tour, it is up to us to determine if your level of fitness is sufficient to tackle the challenges presented by each day's activities.

Bookings are accepted on the understanding that they appreciate the possible risk inherent in such cultural travel and that they undertake our tours walks or cruises on that basis.

## Passports

At the time of publishing the passport and visa requirements applicable to British citizens for the holidays we offer to Turkey require all travellers to have a passport valid for a minimum of six months from their arrival date into Turkey and at least three months validity beyond their return date from Turkey, in addition you will also be required to purchase a visa on arrival at a cost of £10.00 in cash. To enter Schengen countries (Greece and Italy) for up to three months your passport must be valid for the duration of the stay and no visa is required. We strongly recommend travelling with at least 6 months validity on your passport at all times. Requirements may change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure. Nationals of other countries should ascertain whether visas are required in their case and obtain them if they are. A full British passport presently takes approximately 2 to 6 weeks to obtain. If you or any member of your party is 16 or over and haven't yet got a passport, our recommendation is that you should apply for one at least 6 weeks before your holiday. The UK Passport Service has to confirm your identity before issuing your first passport and will ask you to attend an interview in order to do this. If you or any member of your party is not a British citizen or holds a non British passport, you must check passport and visa requirements with the Embassy or Consulate of the country(ies) to or through which you are intending to travel. Please note that some countries require a passport valid for 3-6 months after travel.

A visa might not be issued if the passport is valid for less than six months after the date of your return. It is therefore essential to check and renew your passport in good time. All costs incurred in obtaining such documentation must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry all required documentation. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalty being imposed on us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly.

## Insurance

We consider adequate travel insurance to be essential. You should ensure that you have sufficient insurance to cover any medical treatment, repatriation and/or cancellation charges and property loss. Travellers who lack adequate insurance cover are responsible for indemnifying us in full of any such responsibilities and any losses or expenses arising out of your failure to take out adequate insurance cover. Please note that we recommend that you should organise travel insurance as soon as possible after booking as cover (including cancellation cover) will not be effective until you have paid all applicable premiums in full. We do not check insurance policies; however we request written details (insurer's name, policy number and emergency contact number). Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on tour. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs. You accept full responsibility for ensuring that all members of your party comply with the terms and conditions of the travel insurance purchased.

### Changes by You

Should you wish to make any changes to your confirmed tour or holiday arrangements, you must notify us in writing as soon as possible. Whilst we will endeavour to assist, we cannot guarantee we will be able to meet any such requests. Any change is subject to availability and also to payment of an administration fee of up to **£35** per person and any associated costs of the change imposed by our suppliers. A change of tour dates will normally be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and rebooking in which case cancellation charges will apply. Changes may result in the recalculation of the holiday price where, for example, the basis on which the price of the original holiday was calculated has changed.

### Transferring Bookings

If any member of your party is prevented from travelling, the person(s) concerned may transfer their place to someone else (introduced by you) providing we are notified not less than 30 days before departure. This right of transfer is subject to an administration fee of £30 per person. The person prevented from travelling and the transferee shall be liable to us. For the payment of the balance, together with any additional charges imposed by the suppliers providing the component parts of your holiday.

### Cancellation by You

Should you or any member of your party need to cancel your holiday once it has been confirmed, the lead booker must immediately advise us in writing. Your notice of cancellation will only be effective when it is received in writing by us at our offices. As we incur costs from the time we confirm your booking, the following cancellation charges will be payable. Where the cancellation charge is shown as a percentage, this is calculated on the basis of the total cost payable by the person(s) cancelling excluding amendment charges. Amendment charges are not refundable in the event of cancellation.

More than 70 days before departure:	Deposit only
69-37 days prior to departure:	50% of the total cost
36-22 days prior to departure:	75% of the total cost
21 days or less prior to departure:	100% of the total cost

We consider the cancellation day to be that on which we receive written confirmation of your cancellation. Where a refund is payable there will be an admin fee of **£35** per person. Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these cancellation charges (less any applicable excess) under the terms of your insurance policy. Claims must be made directly to the insurance company concerned.

### Changes & Cancellation by Us

We will make every effort to operate the specially arranged tours according to the descriptions and itineraries described. Although it is unlikely that we will have to make any changes to your travel arrangements or cancel confirmed arrangements, we must reserve the right to do so should it become necessary or advisable. However, we promise we will only cancel your confirmed booking after you have made full payment where we are forced to do so as a result of circumstances outside our control/"force majeure" as defined in below or lack of minimum numbers. We will not cancel after this date for any other reason. Please note our holidays require a minimum number of participants to enable us to operate them. If

the minimum numbers of bookings required for a particular holiday have not been received, we are entitled to cancel it. We will notify you of cancellation for this reason no later than 10 weeks before departure. Where a change is a minor change, we will, if practical, advise you before departure, but we are not obliged to do so. Most changes are minor but occasionally we have to make a significant change. A significant change is a change made before departure which, taking account of the information you give us at the time of booking and which we can reasonably be expected to know as a tour operator, we can reasonably expect to have a major effect on your holiday. If we make a significant change to your holiday we will inform you as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure. Examples of significant changes include a change to a lower standard of accommodation for the whole or a major part of your holiday or a significant change to the itinerary.

Please note that these are examples only and there may be other changes which are considered major. You will then have the choice of either accepting the change, or take an alternative holiday (paying or receiving a refund / credit in respect of any price difference) or cancelling your booked holiday and receiving a full refund of monies paid. In the unlikely event that we become unable to provide a significant proportion of your trip after you depart, we will make alternative arrangements for you to continue your holiday. If this is impossible, or you do not accept these alternative arrangements for a good reason, we will pay you compensation of an amount which is reasonable taking into account all the circumstances. Compensation will not be considered appropriate, for example, in cases where we are unable to provide your contracted holiday services as a result of force majeure or because of lack of numbers. No compensation will be payable and the above options will not be available if we cancel as a result of your failure to comply with any requirement of these booking conditions entitling us to cancel (such as paying on time) or where a change is a minor one.

### ABTOT

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for Peter Sommer Travels Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:

1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK;
2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK;
3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK, which are sold to customers outside of the UK;
4. additional services provided, if part of the package as required by AITO.

1, 2, 3 and 4 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Peter Sommer Travels Ltd.

### Flights & Transfers

We have no connection with any airline and suggest making reservations directly with the airline, online or with a flight specialist. Airport transfers on the first and last day of the scheduled tour are included in the cost of your booking. If you are arriving or leaving on different days you will need to make your own arrangements regarding transfer to or from arrival and departure airports. If you arrive late, we will do our best to enable you to join the tour at a convenient time and place but cannot make any guarantees that you will be able to.

“WE HAVE TRAVELLED EXTENSIVELY AND THIS WAS ONE OF THE BEST ORGANISED, MOST MEMORABLE TRIPS WE HAVE BEEN ON. EVERY DAY WENT LIKE CLOCKWORK, FROM THE SUMPTUOUS BREAKFAST TO THE LAST DRINKS AT NIGHT. THANKS FOR A MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE.”

Geoff & Christine Grenda, Victoria, Australia



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