AIATours.org
September 2023 - July 2024

More than 30 customized itineraries to a wide variety of destinations

Exclusive land tours & luxurious, small-ship voyages

Engaging, expert leaders

Small groups

Fascinating sites

Experience world cultures while you relax & enjoy your journey

Archaeology-focused tours, for all levels of interest

“I enjoyed the intensity of the trip and the knitting together of excursions and lectures. The sites we visited were amazing in their complexity and variety.”

- Fran, New York

© R. Todd Nielsen
The finest learning adventures:
Each trip is accompanied by a fascinating scholar and expert local guides who are congenial, accessible, and understandable.

“It was an amazing experience to see such wonderful sites enhanced by our lecturer’s knowledge...A fabulous experience.”
- Barbara, Maryland

Small groups & superior leaders-to-guest ratio:
Most AIA land tours have a maximum of just 12 to 16 guests, plus your engaging AIA lecturer/host and a professional tour manager/guide. Our largest ships have just 92 staterooms and suites.

“The small group size and the wonderful people we traveled with made this an exceptionally enjoyable trip.”
- Annette, Ohio

Exquisitely planned & inclusive, with expert service:
Our customized, archaeologically-focused land tours often feature special meetings and access. We monitor and plan for any necessary itinerary changes and travel restrictions or requirements, keeping you informed along the way.

“The tour was superbly organized and your AIA Tours staff were prompt, efficient, and provided very useful information.”
- Raphael, Arizona

“I instantly felt confident about my choice for this trip and our AIA lecturer’s ability and professionalism...very knowledgeable and experienced.”
- Debra, California

We typically offer no more than one departure of each itinerary per year.

We no longer print and mail all our brochures in bulk.

To receive detailed brochures, call or email us, go online to download them, or fill in the brochure request form found on our website to have them emailed/mailed to you.

If you request a brochure that is not yet complete, we will send you the finalized brochure before the tour is announced to the public.
2023-2024 Land Tours

“I didn’t expect an archaeologist who was not only an expert in his subject but would provide so many additional ‘perks.’ Instead of listening to a dry academic, our lecturer was informative and entertaining with a sense of wonder, humor, insight.”

- Helen, New York

France: The Reach of the Romans, from Turin to Nice
September 16-27, 2023 (12 days | 12 guests)
with archaeologist Patrick Hunt

Discover six UNESCO World Heritage Sites in both Turin, Italy; and in Arles, Orange, Avignon, and Lyon, plus the iconic Pont du Gard, France. Explore Saint-Romain-en-Gal, Vaison la Romaine, Turin’s Egyptian Museum, and Musée de l’Arles Antique. Enjoy fine cuisine and wine, and stay at distinctive, 4-star hotels.

Minoan Crete & the Cycladic Islands
September 24 - October 8, 2023 (15 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Joanne Murphy

Step back in time to explore the island of Crete, center of the Minoan civilization during the Bronze Age, as well as the nearby Cycladic Islands of Santorini, Mykonos, and Delos. Highlights include Crete’s four known Minoan palaces (Phaistos, Malia, Zakros, Knossos), Agia Triada, Palaikastro, and Gournia; Akrotiri on Santorini; and much more.

Sicily: Archaeology, Art & Cuisine
October 3-15, 2023 (13 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Jenifer Neils

Discover and learn about many of the most impressive archaeological monuments found anywhere in the Mediterranean, such as Agrigento, Selinunte, Segesta, and Syracuse. Admire the landscapes, and see two of the finest examples of Norman architecture: Monreale Cathedral and the Royal Palace of Palermo. An optional post-tour extension to Malta is available.

The Best of Ancient Peru
October 9-24, 2023 (16 days | 15 guests) with cultural anthropologist/archaeologist Gabriela Cervantes-Quequezana

Experience the best of ancient Peru, with the convenience of spending three nights each in Chiclayo, the Sacred Valley, and Cuzco. Explore fabulous archaeological sites (including two visits to Machu Picchu); visits to three other UNESCO World Heritage Sites (Chan Chan, Lima, Cuzco); and a variety of museums, picturesque villages, and cities.

The Legacy of the Etruscans: Latium, Umbria & Tuscany
October 11-22, 2023 (12 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Lisa Pieraccini

Travel to the world of the ancient Etruscans. Visit their necropolises, whose tombs feature brightly-painted scenes of feasting and dancing, including Cerveteri, Tarquinia, and Sovana; the important Etruscan towns of Veii, Fiesole, Volterra, Orvieto, and Vulci; many splendid museums with unparalleled Etruscan collections, including Rome’s Villa Giulia and Vatican City’s Etruscan Gregorian Museum; and more.

= This tour requires an elevated level of fitness.

For printed brochures, questions, and reservations call 800-748-6262 or email aia@studytours.org.
“The trip overall far exceeded any expectations I might have imagined…wonderful continuous interaction of our small group with the tour manager, guide, and our lecturer/host.”

- Deborah, Virginia

Origins of Humans & Wine: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia
October 12-27, 2023 (16 days | 14 guests) with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall

Ancient history of the Caucasus region awaits you where Homo erectus skulls were found at Dmanisi, and wine-making goes back 8,000 years. UNESCO World Heritage Sites include Baku, Azerbaijan’s Old Town and Gobustan’s petroglyphs; Mtskheta, in Georgia; and Armenia’s Echmiadzin and Zvartnots Cathedral. Sample wines and visit the cave complex of Areni-1.

Oman & the UAE: Crossroads of the Indian Ocean & the Arabian Gulf
November 2-20, 2023 (19 days | 16 guests) with cultural anthropologist/architectural historian Trevor Marchand

Delve into the cultural and geographical diversity of Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Our custom-designed itinerary highlights ancient sites and historical monuments, and helps illustrate how influential geography has been on the region’s history and how the region’s maritime history has linked it to elsewhere in Arabia and as far as Africa and southern Asia. An optional pre-tour extension to Qatar is available.

Archaeology in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
January 9-25, 2024 (17 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist Barbara A. Porter

Experience Saudi Arabia’s long history and rich culture, learn how both were influenced by its dramatic geography, and become familiar with some of the archaeological research and sites that are being uncovered and shared with the world. Following historic trade and pilgrimage routes, we will cross vast deserts, see irrigated lands teeming with agriculture, and enjoy scenic views with striking mountains and landscapes along the way.

Egypt Revisited
January 12-28, 2024 (17 days | 16 guests) with Egyptologist Stephen Harvey

Go behind-the-scenes at the ancient necropolis of Saqqara; see the Red and Collapsed Pyramids, and the necropoli of Beni Hasan and Tuna el-Gebel; visit Tel el-Amarna; and make two in-depth visits to Abydos, where your lecturer has worked for more than 25 years. Also see lesser-visited sites in Luxor, such as the Ramesseum and Medinet Habu.

Egypt through the Ages
January 16 - February 1, 2024 (17 days | 16 guests) with Egyptologist Okasha El Daly

This unique trip combines the very best of the ancient pharaonic sites with later Coptic (early Christian) and medieval Islamic sites. Our well-paced, inclusive trip includes pyramids, temple complexes, an exploration of medieval and Islamic Cairo, museum visits, and a three-night cruise on the Nile aboard a private, eight-cabin sailboat. An optional post-tour extension to Wadi El Natrun and Alexandria is available.

View detailed itineraries and download brochures at www.aiatours.org.
Maya Pyramids & Temples of Yucatán
January 20-28, 2024 (9 days | 12 guests)
with Mayanist Jeff Karl Kowalski
Explore the sun-drenched Yucatán peninsula’s ancient sites, traditional Maya villages, and colonial architecture on this well-paced tour. Maya art and architecture abound, with visits to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Chichén Itzá and Uxmal, plus Ek Balam, Dzibilchaltun, and more: iconic as well as off-the-beaten-path sites with soaring pyramids, distinctive temple complexes, and wonderful sculpture.

Absolute Egypt
January 30 - February 16, 2024 (18 days | 16 guests)
with Egyptologist Stephen Harvey
This meticulously-planned, in-depth Egypt itinerary is longer than most, for a well-paced experience. Visit all the preeminent sites of the pharaohs from Cairo to Luxor and Aswan. Special arrangements are planned for meetings with excavators and conservators, behind-the-scenes visits when possible, and a three-night cruise on the Nile aboard a private, eight-cabin sail boat. An optional post-tour extension to Jordan is available.

Jungle Kingdoms of the Ancient Maya
February 16-29, 2024 (14 days | 12 guests)
with Mayanist Ben Thomas
This tropical adventure provides the best-paced itinerary available to thoroughly explore ancient Maya sites in the jungles of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras. Maya art and architecture will “come alive” as you encounter enormous stelae (carved monoliths), painted frescoes, stucco friezes, carved lintels, and temple-pyramids. Explore, in-depth, the sites of Palenque, Bonampak, Yaxchilán, Tikal, Copán, and Quiriguá.

Tunisia: Phoenicians to Romans, Mosaics to Mosques
April 11-23, 2024 (13 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Nejib ben Lazreg
Visit all seven of Tunisia’s cultural UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including fabled Carthage, Dougga, Kairouan, and El Djem. Other highlights include Bulla Regia’s underground Roman villas, Thuburbo Majus’s sunken winter baths, and (pending its reopening) the Bardo Museum’s renowned mosaics.

Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley
April 18-30, 2024 (13 days | 16 guests)
with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall
Discover many unheralded examples of Ice Age art in Spain and France. Highlights include the original decorated caves of Isturitz and Oxocelhaya, Niaux, and Gargas. Also visit the spectacular, recently-opened Chauvet cave replica at Vallon-Pont-d’Arc. Enjoy fine food and delightful accommodations.

“I enjoyed most the knowledge that [our lecturer and tour guide] imparted throughout the tour. So many times the links between history, geography, and mythology helped to ground the experience in something transcendent.”
- Joel, Pennsylvania

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The AIA & AIA Tours

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world’s archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA’s network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

Morocco: From the Desert to the Sea
April 20 - May 4, 2024 (15 days | 12 guests)
with cultural anthropologist/architectural historian Trevor Marchand
See the archaeology, architecture, art, and history of Morocco, visiting the best-known historic sites, including six UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the ruins of medieval Sijilmassa and Aghmat, as well as bustling casbahs, medinas, and souks. Visit all four Imperial Cities, archaeological monuments, fabulous museums, natural landscapes, an ancient oasis, and idyllic rural settlements.

Türkiye: Ancient Splendors
April 2024 (13 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Yasar Ersoy
Learn about many of the world’s most magnificent Greco-Roman temples, theaters, and stadiums, visiting Ephesus, Priene, Miletus, Didyma, Aphrodisias, Sagalassos, Perge, and Aspendos. Three full days in Istanbul include all of the major highlights. An optional post-tour extension features the Neolithic settlement of Çatalhöyük, the Hittite capital of Hattusa, and the Cappadocia region.

Israel Revisited
May 4-17, 2024 (14 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Jodi Magness
Revisit Israel on this active, small-group adventure to explore ancient and natural sites, many of which are off the beaten path. This tour requires an elevated level of fitness as it includes several hikes in nature reserves to see wildlife and geological wonders in addition to visiting a variety of archaeological and cultural sites.

From Stonehenge to Carnac: Megaliths, Monuments & Tombs
May 28 - June 8, 2024 (12 days | 14 guests)
with archaeologist Peter Bogucki
Explore the extraordinary prehistoric sites of Wessex, England, and Brittany, France. Amidst beautiful landscapes see world renowned, as well as lesser known, Neolithic and Bronze Age megaliths and monuments such as enigmatic rings of giant standing stones and remarkable chambered tombs.

Hiking Scotland’s Orkney & Shetland Islands
July 29 - August 8, 2024 (11 days | 15 guests)
with archaeologist Val Turner
Explore all that Scotland’s Northern Isles have to offer: prehistoric stone circles, burial chambers, and settlements; quaint villages; huge seabird colonies; and remarkable plant life—all amidst dramatic landscapes. This will be Scotland seen slowly, with time for in-depth exploration at each site. The Orkney and Shetland islands have an amazing wealth of archaeological sites dating back 5,000 years.

Even more trips are in the planning stages for 2024.

View detailed itineraries and download brochures at www.aiatours.org.
Vietnam & Cambodia: Cruising the Mekong River
October 2-15, 2023 (14 days), featuring 7 nights aboard the 14-suite Mekong Princess riverboat, with archaeologist Joyce White
Explore the wonders of tropical Indochina. Spend two nights in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and then embark your luxurious riverboat for a seven-day cruise on the Mekong, exploring Buddhist and Hindu temples. Conclude with three nights based in Siem Reap to explore Angkor's world-famous Khmer temples.

Island Life® in Ancient Greece & Turkey
October 3-11, 2023 (9 days) aboard the 92-cabin Le Bougainville with archaeologist Michael Hoff
Cruise from mainland Greece to iconic Greek islands, including visits to five unforgettable UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the monasteries at Meteora, the sacred and uninhabited island of Delos, the sprawling site of Ephesus (Turkey), the medieval city of Rhodes, and the Monastery of St. John on Patmos; plus visits to Santorini and Mykonos.

Cruising the Adriatic: The Best of Slovenia & Croatia
October 7-18, 2023 (12 days) aboard the 18-cabin Queen Eleganza with archaeologist Ivančica Schrunk
See Slovenia's capital city of Ljubljana and scenic Lake Bled before embarking on a seven-night cruise along the spectacular coast of Croatia. Visit fascinating archaeological sites, impressive cathedrals, and ancient city centers, including the Roman ruins at Pula, the charming city of Zadar, Emperor Diocletian's Palace in Split, and picture-perfect Dubrovnik.

Petra to the Parthenon: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt & Greece
March 23 - April 5, 2024 (14 days) aboard the 59-cabin Hebridean Sky with Egyptologist Okasha El Daly
Gaze upon ancient and modern marvels between Aqaba, Jordan, and Athens, Greece. Visit the fascinating Nabataean sites of Petra (Jordan) and Mada'in Saleh (Saudi Arabia); Egypt's iconic Giza pyramids, Sphinx, and Valley of the Kings; Crete's Minoan palace at Knossos; and Athens' Acropolis. Transit the Suez Canal, enjoy a traditional lunch at a Wadi Rum desert camp, and more.

Dubrovnik to Venice: Sailing the Adriatic
June 13-22, 2024 (10 days) aboard the 50-cabin Emerald Sakara with archaeologist Ivančica Schrunk
Visit spellbinding archaeological sites, impressive cathedrals, dramatic palaces, and ancient city centers that illuminate the layered history of the Dalmatian Coast. Cruise along the Croatian coast from Dubrovnik to Venice calling at Korčula, Split, Hvar, Sibenik, Zadar, and Rovinj. Optional extensions to Dubrovnik and Venice are available.

Malta & Sicily
June 15-24, 2024 (10 days) aboard the 47-cabin Sea Cloud II with archaeologist Laetitia La Follette
Join this incredible circumnavigation of Sicily aboard the luxurious, three-masted barque Sea Cloud II. Begin and end on the island of Malta which, together with Sicily, has witnessed and bears the stamps of all the major civilizations that the Mediterranean cradled: Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Christians, Jews, Byzantines, and Muslims.

Generous Comfort
Travel aboard small, private, yacht-like vessels. Unpack less and travel with ease, docking in the heart of smaller, historic ports, close to each extraordinary site.

View detailed itineraries and download brochures at www.aiatours.org.
IN THE PLANNING STAGES

Ireland’s Southern Coast
Summer 2024
with geoarchaeologist Stephen Mandal

South Africa: Human Origins, Wildlife & Vineyards
September 8-22, 2024
with paleoanthropologist William Harcourt-Smith

Prehistoric Cave Art of Spain & France
September 18-30, 2024
with prehistory expert Paul G. Bahn

Sicily: Archaeology, Art & Cuisine
Fall 2024
with lecturer TBD

France: The Reach of the Romans, from Turin to Nice
Fall 2024
with archaeologist Patrick Hunt

Peru: Ancient Cultures of the Coast & Andes
Fall 2024
with lecturer TBD

Origins of Humans & Wine: Azerbaijan, Georgia & Armenia
October 14-29, 2024
with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall

The Legacy of the Etruscans: Latium, Umbria & Tuscany
October 14-25, 2024
with archaeologist Lisa Pieraccini

Rome, Amalfi & Naples
Fall 2024
with archaeologist Crispin Corrado

Prehistoric Japan: Jomon Culture & Society
Fall 2024
with archaeologist Ilona Bausch

“The whole tour was immaculately organized. All in all, a fantastic experience.”
- Elizabeth, Canada

"This for me was the trip of a lifetime. Thank you for this incredible experience."
- Linda, Vermont
2023/24 AIA Tours Schedule

“[I have taken] my 5th AIA tour and I keep coming back because the experience is always excellent and the groups congenial.”

- Susan, Virginia

Archaeology-focused tours, for all levels of interest