



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

Highlighted **2020 LAND TOURS**



Dun Carloway
© operator

"I came to this tour with almost no expectations so the sense of discovering a whole new area of history and of the world was incredible...I have never taken a group tour like this before..."

- Allen, California

AIATOURS.ORG

AIA Tours

Archaeological-themed tours for the curious to the connoisseur.

Our land tours feature small groups, usually with a maximum of 12 to 16 guests, and an expert AIA lecturer who is both fascinating and approachable. Each well-paced, inclusive itinerary offers ample time at each site, carefully-chosen hotels, many included meals, plus trip managers and local guides who handle every detail.



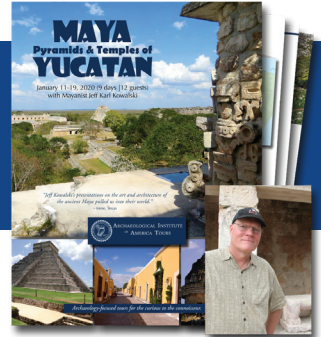
Giant's Causeway in Northern Ireland - Dr. Stephen Mandal leads a group of AIA Tours' travelers.

By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts. The AIA is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The Institute 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.

Customized itinerary, just one departure in 2020!

Maya Pyramids & Temples of Yucatan

January 11-19, 2020 (9 days | 12 guests)
with Mayanist Jeff Karl Kowalski



“I have always been fascinated with the Maya and their life and Jeff had the answers to every question. I liked everything about the tour, very well organized...” - Emile, Washington

This luxurious, nine-day holiday provides the best-paced itinerary available to see the sun-drenched Yucatan peninsula’s ancient sites, traditional Maya villages, and colonial architecture. Maya art and architecture abound, with visits to Chichén Itzá, Ek Balam, Uxmal, Dzibilchaltun, and more: iconic as well as off-the-beaten-path sites with soaring pyramids, distinctive temple complexes, and wonderful sculpture. There is free time to bird watch, shop for crafts, or relax, reflect, and enjoy our excellent accommodations. Enjoy two luxurious nights at the *Mayaland Hotel* (next to Chichén Itzá) and three at the *Hacienda Uxmal* (next to Uxmal). Maximum of just 12 guests.



Chichén Itzá

©Daniel Schwen

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Customized itinerary, just one departure in 2020!

Southern India: Temples & Palaces

January 26-February 12, 2020 (18 days | 12 guests)
with art historian Annapurna Garimella

Revised Itinerary/Lower Price!

“[What I enjoyed most was] the synthesis between the detailed visits to the palaces, temples, etc. and the wonderful lectures by Dr. Garimella. I felt the insights she provided together with being ‘on the scene’ were thrilling and very informative.” - Jim, New York

Immerse yourself in the wonders of southern India with Dr. Annapurna Garimella, an expert in India’s art and architectural history, diverse religious and cultural traditions, and vibrant living legacies. This well-paced, 18-day tour is the most comprehensive overview of southern India available, and Dr. Garimella—who not only helped design the itinerary, but also has led this AIA tour five times to excellent reviews since 2004—will enhance our travel experiences through lectures, informal discussions, and special experiences “off the beaten path.” Maximum of just 12 guests.



Pattadakal

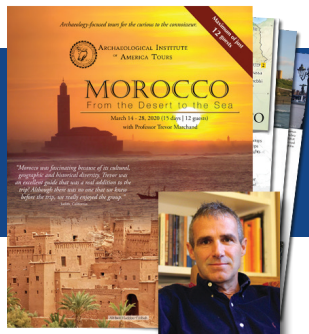
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Customized itinerary, just one departure in 2020!

Morocco: From the Desert to the Sea

March 14-28, 2020 (15 days | 12 guests)
with anthropologist & architectural historian
Trevor Marchand



“Trevor was the highlight of the trip: he made Morocco come alive with his compelling lectures and storytelling, knowledge-sharing, on-site observations and good humor. I’d go on another tour led by Trevor without hesitation!” - Tina, Singapore

Join us for a unique look at the history, architecture, archaeology, and art of Morocco in the company of Professor Emeritus Trevor Marchand. Explore the magnificent landscapes that helped form the country’s ancient and modern cultures, from the wild Atlantic coast to the High Atlas Mountains, dense cedar forests, and vast Sahara Desert. It is a land of extraordinary contrasts, and on this custom-designed itinerary you will visit all of the country’s best-known historic sites, including six that are inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List, as well as bustling casbahs, medinas, and souks. Maximum of just 12 guests.



© Gemellisti

Volubilis

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Customized itinerary, just one departure in 2020!

Jungle Kingdoms of the Ancient Maya

January 25 - February 7, 2020 (14 days | 12 guests)
with Mayanist Virginia Miller

This tropical adventure provides the best-paced itinerary available to thoroughly explore ancient Maya sites in the lush 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 huge temple-pyramids that soar above the rainforest. Explore, in-depth, the sites of Palenque, Bonampak, Yaxchilán, Tikal, Yaxhá, Copán, and Quiriguá (four are UNESCO World Heritage sites); with free time to go bird watching or simply relax, reflect, and enjoy our comfortable hotels and remote jungle lodges. Maximum of just 12 guests.



Virginia E. Miller is an expert on Maya art and architecture who has led five previous AIA Tours to acclaim, including this one in 2016 and 2017. Professor Miller has lived in Spain, Mexico, and Central America and is fluent in Spanish. She is the recipient of several major fellowships, including one from the National Endowment for the Humanities and two Fulbrights to teach and conduct research in Guatemala and Mexico. Professor Miller is the author of numerous articles on Maya art and architecture and has lectured throughout the U.S., Europe, and Latin America, including the AIA’s national lecture circuit.

Contact AIA Tours for more information:
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Palenque

Plan Your 2020 Winter Getaway!



“Virginia Miller was an excellent leader -- good humored, knowledgeable about the Maya, and very familiar with travel in the region.”

– Mark, Florida

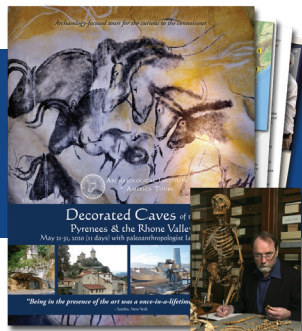
Copán

© talk2wint

Customized itinerary, just one departure in 2020!

Decorated Caves of the Pyrenees & the Rhone Valley

May 21-31, 2020 (11 days | 20 guests)
with paleoanthropologist Ian Tattersall



"Dr. T. was straight out of Central Casting - urbane, articulate, humorous, witty, gracious. His knowledge was vast and deep, without being showy. He had enchanting anecdotes up his sleeve for every occasion, and could explain any and everything with the charming turn of phrase and originality that is his hallmark.."

- Eve, California

Discover with acclaimed paleoanthropologist and popular trip leader Ian Tattersall a collection of magnificent but largely unheralded examples of Ice Age art. Admire unusual, elegant bas-relief animal images in Basque caves, a profusion of hand prints at Gargas, and the famous panels of line-drawn and subtly shaded bison, horse, and ibex at Niaux. The trip concludes with a visit to the newly-opened Chauvet cave replica at Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, which expertly re-creates the earliest, and perhaps most impressive, of the many masterpieces of Ice Age art dated to some 35,000 years ago. Maximum of 20 guests.



Chauvet

© Claude Valette

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Ireland's Ancient East

May 26-June 8, 2020 (14 days | 12 guests)
with geoarchaeologist Stephen Mandal



“I’ve traveled in Japan, Israel, and Europe, and I’ve lived overseas. There have been many wonderful trips, but this was the best...Dr. Mandal’s extraordinary mix of personal, scholarly, and leadership gifts was central.”

- Victoria, Kansas

Journey through the archaeology, history, and landscapes of Ireland’s eastern coast and into Northern Ireland. After a couple of days in Dublin, where you will visit the National Museum of Ireland and explore the city, head north to explore various landscapes of Northern Ireland, including Slieve Gullion, the medieval town of Carrickfergus, and the Giant’s Causeway. Then journey south to the Boyne Valley to visit, amongst other sites, the UNESCO World Heritage site of Brú na Bóinne (Newgrange and Knowth). Other highlights include the medieval city and castle of Kilkenny and Waterford, with visits to the Irish National Heritage Park and your host’s ongoing excavation project. Maximum of just 12 guests.



© Giorgio Galeotti

Dunluce Castle

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Customized itinerary, just one departure in 2020!

Hiking Scotland's Orkney & Shetland Islands

June 27 - July 7, 2020 (11 days | 15 guests)
with archaeologist Val Turner

"This was my fifth trip with the AIA and one of the best ever...I loved every minute of the trip [and I] cannot recommend it enough. No wonder it sells out each year." - Leslie, California

This is the perfect opportunity to 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. Together the islands have more than 18,000 known sites, with new discoveries being made every year. This archaeological saga is worth the telling, and nowhere else can the evidence be seen in more glorious a setting. Maximum of just 15 guests.



Skara Brae

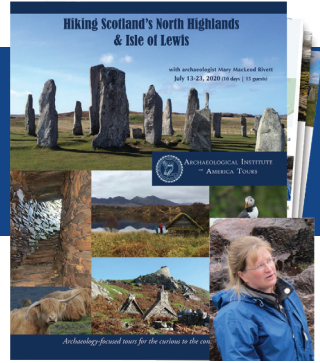
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Customized itinerary, just one departure in 2020!

Hiking Scotland's North Highlands & Isle of Lewis

July 13-23, 2020 (11 days | 15 guests)
with archaeologist Mary MacLeod Rivett



"We loved Mary's leadership and comprehensive presentations. It was not only a full description of archaeological history of the area but a real look at what it's like to live there. She's great to be with, as were our guides." - Dee, Florida

In Scotland's remote north Highlands and the Isle of Lewis in the Outer Hebrides, we will explore mostly off the well-beaten Highland tourist trail and, along the way, we will be treated to an abundance of archaeological and historical sites, striking scenery—including high cliffs, sea lochs, sandy and rocky bays, mountains, and glens—and, of course, excellent hiking. Scotland's long and varied history stretches back many thousands of years, and archaeological remains ranging from Neolithic cairns and stone circles to Iron Age brochs (ancient dry stone buildings unique to Scotland), medieval castles, and deserted clearance villages cover these landscapes. Maximum of just 15 guests.



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Highlighted **2020 LAND TOURS**

Single Departures ~ Customized Itineraries ~ Small Groups