

Unbound

Alumni Travel Programme

Winter 2012



“I can say, without hesitation, that this was a truly amazing trip, probably the best... we have ever done. The tour programme was very well planned, covering not only the gardens theme but many aspects of Persian history, civilisation and culture. The whole experience was unforgettable.”

Alumni traveller on Gardens
of Persia trip | April 2011

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Unbound

A warm welcome to Unbound, our new look for the Cambridge Alumni Travel Programme, first established in 1992. Our programme offers you the opportunity to join other like-minded travellers on carefully selected cultural tours to parts of the world you may not find in more conventional travel brochures.

Every booking you make brings a valuable donation from our participating tour operators that supports the work of the University, through the Alumni Relations Office. Over the years, these donations have raised more than £900,000 – a hugely significant contribution and our grateful thanks go to all those intrepid travellers who have helped in this way.

Wherever your fancy takes you, a recognised academic expert will be on hand to offer an extra dimension - specialist information, insight and enthusiasm that enhances and enriches every trip. Each itinerary is chosen with meticulous attention to detail and most tours have no more than 24 travellers, so you can be confident that you'll never be one of a crowd.

We hope that within these pages you will find your journey of a lifetime.

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Front cover image:
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Europe



The Heart of Greenland

Jointly between University of Cambridge and University of Oxford

D 24 June – 2 July 2012

T Hurtigruten / www.hurtigruten.co.uk

P From £4,487 for bookings made by 31 December 2011.* Includes airfare from London.

S Trip scholars to be confirmed.

Kalaallit Nunaat is the Greenlandic name of the world's biggest island. Meaning "land of the people" it describes Greenland perfectly. This trip on MS Fram brings you close not only to the fantastic mountain formations, icebergs and endemic wildlife of the area but also to the welcoming people of Greenland. Like no other polar destination, Greenland offers close interaction and unique cultural experiences alongside breathtaking nature. The Inuit people's heritage and way of life is best described by themselves, and this expedition along Greenland's west coast offers a fascinating meeting with Inuit culture and the stunning land they inhabit. Only accessible by boat, the small settlements give a unique picture of Greenlandic life. The spectacular scenery and Midnight Sun provide a stunning backdrop for the voyage which includes the Illulissat Icefjord, one of UNESCO's World Heritage sites.

* Early bird discount



Norwegian Classic Round Voyage

Bergen – Kirkenes – Bergen.
Jointly between University of Cambridge and University of Oxford

D 10 – 21 September 2012

T Hurtigruten / www.hurtigruten.co.uk

P From £1,875 per person for bookings made by 31 December 2011.* Includes airfare from London.

S Professor Neil Kent, Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge and Professor Nicholas Rodger, Senior Research Fellow, All Souls College, University of Oxford.

A round voyage from the cultural centre of Bergen to Kirkenes and back again is the ultimate voyage with Hurtigruten. For over 100 years, Hurtigruten has been a part of daily life for the towns, villages and hamlets located along the shores and fjords of Norway's dramatic coastline. Hurtigruten's captains know these waters and people better than anyone else, and with a fleet of smaller, more intimate ships, they take you closer to the heart of Norwegian life by exploring narrower channels and stopping at the smaller ports that other larger cruise lines are simply unable to reach.

The complete voyage takes 12 days and offers the opportunity to see and experience the most fantastic nature and culture that Norway has to offer. You visit 34 ports and cover over 2500 nautical miles. On the southbound leg you have a second chance to catch the ports and experiences that you might have slept through as you headed north.

* Early bird discount



Heart of Burgundy Cruise

The Architecture and Wines of Central Burgundy

D 14 – 20 July 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com/alumni

P £2,395 from London. Price per person incl flight from London. Can be joined without train/flight. No singles available.

S Dr Peter Collins, a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, was cellarer of St Edmund Hall for 20 years. He has a passion for Burgundy and its wines and has led many tours in this area. He is familiar with many of the vineyards in the region.

Travel by classic hotel barge from Dijon along the Burgundy Canal and Canal du Centre. Whilst floating in comfort through the picturesque countryside, sample French cuisine and wines and take escorted visits to the medieval towns and villages of Northern Burgundy. We shall visit the magnificent Hotel Dieu in Beane, the finest example of Burgundian-Flemish architecture in existence, the medieval town of Chalon-Sur-Soane, the Chateau de Rully and the picturesque village of Chagny. All this is punctuated by visits to the fabulous vineyards of the Cote d'Or, such as Clos de Vougeot and Chateau Maguerite.

We have exclusive use of Caprice, a charming vessel taking just 21 passengers in comfort, with private en-suite cabins, a large lounge with picture windows, dining room and sundeck. For the energetic, bicycles are carried on board for cycling along the pretty towpath.



Eastern Turkey

Forgotten Kingdoms and Lost Empires

D 26 June – 6 July 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com/alumni

P £2,995 from London. Can be joined without flight. Single supplement £400.

S Dr Peter Sarris is University Senior Lecturer in Late Roman, Early Medieval, and Byzantine History and a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge.

From Rose Macaulay's enchanting 'Towers of Trebizond' to the towering magnificence of Mount Ararat, Eastern Turkey is alive with cultural echoes of the past. Spanning more than 3000 years of tempestuous history, its landscapes and buildings are evocative of bygone ages. Explore dramatic eastern Anatolia with its fertile plateau, stunning lakes and mountains and the architectural legacy of the Urartian, Armenian, Seljuk and Ottoman kingdoms.

Beginning in Trabzon on the Black Sea, we visit St Sophia with its fine Byzantine frescoes and the 4th century Sümela Monastery, clinging to sheer cliff face. We travel to Kars to visit the lost medieval city of Ani and drive along the Silk Road to the Ishak Pas, a Palace with wonderful views of Mount Ararat. We explore Seljuk tombs at Ahlat and visit picturesque Akdam island with its Armenian Church of the Holy Cross. We finish with visits to the Urartian fortress built by the 9th century BC Urartian King Sarduri and the Kurdish castle of Hosap. The scenery of Lake Van, the largest sodium carbonate lake in the world, is breathtaking. A post tour extension is available to Nemrut Da, famous for the incredible 2,000 year old Mausoleum of Antiochus of Commagene, with statues littered around the peak.

Europe & Middle East



Alexander's Path

Classic Yacht Cruise through Ancient Lycia and Pamphylia

D 22 September – 6 October 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com/alumni

P £2,780 from London.
Single supplement £650
Can be joined without flight

S Trip scholar to be confirmed.

This highly popular cruise is full of theatres, tombs and the beautiful Taurus Mountains. The sea passage has changed little in appearance over the last few thousand years, with dramatic peaks and deep-set wooded inlets seen from the coast making this a spectacular route.

The area has wonderful Classical cities like Xanthos, Phaselis and Myra. Among the gems is the beautiful mountain city of Arykanda, in the alpine-like valleys behind Phoenix (Finike). There are also rare sites like Oenanda and Pinara in the Akdag Mountains. Other lovely places include Kekova, probably the most beautiful part of the Mediterranean, with a host of islands making it a water wonderland. As always, we use classic Turkish yachts, built to a Byzantine design, but fitted with the most modern conveniences – private shower and toilet with every cabin, chefs to prepare Turkish cuisine and stewards to wait on our every need.

The Heart of Russia

Moscow and the Golden Ring

D 14 – 21 September 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P £2,480 from London.
Can be joined without flight.

S Professor Alexei Leporc, Curator of Western European Art at the Hermitage.

The Golden Ring is the name given to a series of ancient towns lying to the northeast of Moscow. To travel through these towns is to become acquainted with life of the Russian provinces, unhurried and calm, quite different to Russian city life. The appeal and cultural supremacy of Moscow, however, cannot be underestimated with its immense Red Square, the splendid twirled cupolas of St. Basil's, the Kremlin and Moscow's metro system known as 'the people's palace' with its unique mosaics, chandeliers and sculptures.

Travelling into the heart of the Golden Ring offers hundreds of years of rich Russian history written in stone and wood. From the 12th century cathedral in Pereslavl-Zalessky, to the 15th century Cathedral of the Trinity in Suzdal's open air museum, these Russian towns offer unique insights into the treasures of Russian culture and architecture.

Ancient Routes of the Caucasus

Georgia and Armenia

D 12 – 25 September 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P £2,880 per person from London
Can be joined without flight.

S Dr Hubertus Jahn lectures in East European history at Cambridge.

From the legend of the Golden Fleece to the stories of ancient Ararat, Georgia and Armenia share turbulent histories, extraordinary cultural traditions and spectacularly beautiful landscapes. The journey begins in Georgia, which for centuries stood as a key stop on the Silk Road; a stepping stone between Europe and Asia.

From Tbilisi explore the easternmost part of the country – Kakheti – a province of Georgia rich in historic monuments and home to its greatest vineyards. Travel north into the spectacular high Caucasus and en route to Armenia visit, Mtskheta, a World Heritage site where Christianity was first adopted. The Armenian monastic complex of Haghbat is an excellent example of 10th century Armenian architecture and nearby is beautiful Lake Sevan. Spend three days in Yerevan, Armenia's elegant capital, and visit the Matenadaran, the world's largest collection of ancient manuscripts, including works by Aristotle.



Oman: Oases, Forts and Fjords

Muscat, Jebel Akhdar and the Wahiba Sands

D 9 – 20 October 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £3,495 from London. Single supplement £750. Can be joined without flight.

S Professor James Allan, Emeritus fellow of St Cross College and lecturer in Islamic Art and Archaeology, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford.

This unusual itinerary features Oman's more remote gems as well as its well-known highlights. We go in search of bottlenosed dolphins in the stunningly isolated Musandam peninsula, known for its dramatic fjords. Flying to Muscat, we explore the Grand Mosque and visit the souk and harbour at Muttrah. Turning towards the interior, we head for the oasis of Nizwa, its massive 17th century fort dominating the town. Nearby is the traditional town of Hamra with its Ya'arubi mud-brick houses, Jabreen Castle and Oman's oldest fort at Bahla. Then, spend an exciting night in Bedouin style at a desert camp amidst the dunes at Wahiba Sands, before returning to the coast and the town of Sur, famous for its dhows and the sea turtles which lay their eggs nearby.

Ending in Muscat, for those with more time there is a three night extension to Salalah, the land of frankincense.

Gardens and Palaces of Persia

Visions of Paradise

D 28 April – 12 May 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P £3080 from London.
May be joined without flight.

S Ali Sadrnia is the co-author of Iran: A Chronological History.

It is an illuminating experience to visit some of the oldest gardens and palaces in the world. Indeed, the Persian word pairidaeza meaning 'a wall around' was translated by the Greeks as paradeisos and was later used to describe the Garden of Eden in the Greek translation of the Bible. Palaces, gardens and the water that brings them to life will be an important theme of the journey.

The party will also visit the main cultural and historical sites of Iran at Kerman, Shiraz, Yazd and Isfahan. Resting between the steppes of Asia and the fertile crescent of the Mediterranean, Iran is a stepping-stone between East and West and its vast empire once stretched from the Indus River in the East, to Egypt in the West. It is a land dotted with the carved reminders of the Parthians, the Sassanids, the Seljuks and the Mongols - their monuments serving as a vivid testament to the extraordinary cultural heritage and beauty of this vast country.

Central Asia and Persia

Samarkand to Isfahan

D 3 – 20 April 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P £3480 from London.
Can be joined without flight

S Dr Iain Shearer is an Islamic expert who is currently on secondment as the Sackler Scholar at the British Museum.

Travel on this unique itinerary and learn more of history and culture of the region's great kingdoms whose magnificent civilizations have produced some of Asia's most beautiful art and architecture.

Begin in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan and travel to Samarkand. Visit the Registan, constructed over a period of two hundred years and described by Lord Curzon as 'the noblest square in the world'. Drive to 'Divine Bukhara', a town of hundreds of mosques, madrassas and minarets all linked by crooked alleys which wind between the walls of clay built houses. Cross the Oxus River into Turkmenistan and discover the ancient ruins of Merv which in Medieval times was the second most important city in Asia Minor after Baghdad.

Fly to Shiraz, famous for its poets and exquisite gardens and visit the ancient ceremonial city of Persepolis. The journey finishes amidst the splendour and beauty of Isfahan whose buildings are some of the finest in all Islam.

Africa



Eternal Egypt

The Nile, the Oases of the Western Desert and the Excavations at Tel El-Amarna

D 15 – 31 March 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £2,895 from London. Single supplement £750
Can be joined without flight.

S Professor Mark J Smith, Professor of Egyptology, University College Oxford.

This version of our popular tour combines Egypt's key experiences into one comprehensive journey: the Pyramids at Giza, a classic Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor and a fascinating trip through the Oases of the Western Desert to Siwa. Most excitingly, we shall join UK researchers as they excavate Tel el-Amarna, the New Kingdom capital of ancient Egypt built by 'heretic' Pharaoh Akhenaten.

We shall explore Cairo and the Pyramids before travelling to Tel el-Amarna. We will have behind-the-scenes access, with its Project Director on hand to bring the lives of its ancient Egyptian inhabitants to life. Further south lie the Temples of Luxor and Karnak and the Valley of the Kings with tombs filled with wealth beyond dreams.

Our cruise on the Nile is one of the most memorable ways of absorbing the atmosphere of ancient Egypt. Along its banks in Upper Egypt are the Philae Temple at Aswan, the Ptolemaic Temples of Horus at Kom Ombo and of Sobek and Horus the Elder at Edfu.

Another highlight is a unique excursion through the Great Sand Sea of the Western Desert to the oases of Kharga, Dakhla and Farafra, an experience of an unspoiled, Bedouin Egypt.



Ancient Ethiopia

The Empire of Aksum and the Rock-Cut Churches of Lalibela

D 25 September – 7 October 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £3,395 from London. Single supplement £460
Can be joined without flight.

S Professor David Phillipson was Professor of African Archaeology at the University of Cambridge and has directed major excavations at Aksum.

The fascination of Ethiopia lies in its ancient monasteries, rockhewn churches and dramatic mountain scenery. Our visit will coincide with Meskel, a festival commemorating the discovery of the true cross, a piece of which is believed to be kept in Ethiopia. Aksum was the seat of an empire that reached across the Red Sea to Arabia, traded with India and China, had its own alphabet and was one of the four great powers of the ancient world. We shall visit Gondar's fascinating castles and the unique church of Debre Berhane Selassie. Then we will look for the gelada baboon in the beautiful Simien Mountains before visiting the legendary sources of the Blue Nile.

We conclude in Lalibela where, wreathed in mystery, the rock-cut churches of Ethiopia's 'New Jerusalem' have been welcoming pilgrims for almost 1,000 years.



In the Footsteps of Livingstone

Exclusive safari to Victoria Falls, Chobe and the Okavango Delta

D 28 February – 9 March 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £4,295 from London. Single supplement £450
Can be joined without flight.

S This tour is accompanied by a local expert throughout.

"Scenes so lovely must have been gazed upon by angels in their flight" was David Livingstone's thought upon being the first European to see Mosi-oa-Tunya (the Smoke that Thunders) which he named Victoria Falls. This special safari starts in Zambia then crosses into Botswana, following in Livingstone's footsteps.

We spend three nights exploring Victoria Falls, and learn about Zambia's cultural heritage with a visit to the Tokoleya people. We then cross the Zambezi from Zambia into Botswana. We spend the next two nights at Chobe Safari Lodge. Host to unique birdlife and game viewing, these waterways are best navigated by boat, where we look for birds such as the night herons, African skimmers and pygmy geese and large mammals such as large herds of elephant, hippo and buffalo.

Taking a scenic flight over the Chobe, we travel onwards to the glittering waters of the Okavango Delta. The Moremi Reserve is rated as one of Africa's finest game-viewing areas, offering sanctuary to abundant herds of elephant, sable, giraffe, tsessebe, lechwe, wildebeest, impala and waterbuck. Lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog and hyena are also resident and the birdlife is superb.



Ancient Egypt & Nile Cruise

D 1 – 12 November 2012

T ACE Cultural Tours / www.aceculturaltours.co.uk

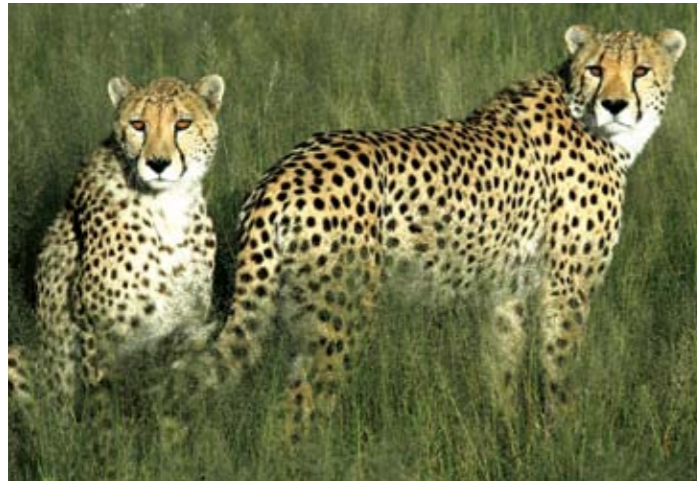
P £3,590. Single cabin supplement £1,490

S Dr Andrew Bednarski, PhD (Cantab), has excavated at Hierakonpolis, Armana and Luxor Temple. He currently works for the American Research Center in Cairo.

This twelve-day tour unravels the secrets behind the ancient Egyptians, focusing on the Great Sphinx, the Great Pyramid, the Valley of the Kings, Karnak and Abu Simbel, home to four colossal statues of Ramses II.

Our journey begins at the Step Pyramid on the edge of the desert at Saqqara, followed by an in-depth tour of Giza and visit to the Egyptian Antiquities Museum. From Cairo we transfer by air to Aswan where we board the Nile Lily – a privately owned traditional, two-masted sailing yacht – on board which we spend eight nights, navigating to Luxor. We visit Agilika Island, the Aswan High Dam and tour the famous granite quarries, Kitchener Island and the 10th century fortress monastery of St Simeon. An excursion by air takes us to the rock temples of Abu Simbel. As we sail along the Nile we will visit the temple of Sobek and Haroeris at Kom Ombo, the Ptolemaic Temple of Horus at Edfu and the Temple of Khnum at Esna. A detailed investigation of Luxor and its environs follows, from the great necropolis of the Valley of the Kings to the vast temple complex of Karnak and the Colossi of Memnon.

Africa



The Cradle of Mankind: South Africa

A Study of Human Ancestry with the Scholars at the Cutting Edge

D 7 – 17 May 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £3,395 from London. Single supplement £625
Can be joined without flight.

S Dr David Price Williams FRGS directed an environmental research project in southern Africa for fifteen years and has led many alumni trips to Southern Africa. He is a Life Member of the Southern African Quaternary Research Association (SASQUA).

Who are we and where do we come from? Despite the fact that the investigation is sown with political and cultural minefields and riven with dissent, it is also one of the most dynamic subjects in modern science. New discoveries, new methods of dating, new analytical techniques all add to the constantly changing aspects of this fascinating pursuit.

Our tour of South Africa focuses on the physical evidence – the sites, the scholars and the skeletal remains which have shaped our understanding of our own evolution – and on the ecological framework in which these events took place. We shall visit Taung, where the first hominid was discovered by Prof. Raymond Dart in 1925, and Sterkfontein, the largest hominid site in the world, and talk to the team who are currently excavating here. We shall also see the original specimens on which the whole study is based. No prior knowledge of the subject is needed. The background will be filled in for you on the tour.

Magical Madagascar

The Zoology of a Gondwana Island

D 26 August – 11 September 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £4,690 from London. Single supplement £595
Can be joined without flight.

S Dr Ivan Scales is a Fellow of St Catharine's College Cambridge. His PhD was on landscape change in western Madagascar.

Uninhabited by man until just 2,000 years ago, 80% of Madagascar's species are endemic, making it possible to witness what happens when a large isolated island is left to evolve without big predators for 165 million years.

A host of protected reserves and rainforests contain amazingly diverse wildlife, from impish ringtailed lemurs and 'dancing' sifakas to brightly-coloured chameleons, frogs and butterflies. Madagascar is one of the world's ten biodiversity hotspots and six of the world's eight species of Baobab tree (*Adansonia*) are endemic to the island. Bird lovers will find a superb array in each new habitat, with the beautiful crested coua and impressive helmet vanga to be found amongst the six endemic families of birds and more than 70 species of singing birds and parrots.

Asia & the Middle East



India and Jordan

Wonders of the Modern World

D 22 – 31 March 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £2,495 from London. Single supplement £450
Can be joined without flight.

S Dr Maria Misra is lecturer in Modern History at the University of Oxford. She is an expert on India and has written many books and articles on the subject.

This special short tour of India and Jordan covers some of the finest monuments of these two countries, including two of the architectural wonders of the world – the Taj Mahal and the rock-cut city of Petra.

In Jordan we shall visit the partly reconstructed Roman city of Jerash before driving through the desert to Wadi Musa and the outstanding city of Petra, capital of the Nabateans in the 1st century BC and 1st century AD. We shall also visit Wadi Rum, stunning haunt of Lawrence of Arabia. In India, the Mughal empire held sway in the 16th and 17th centuries, leaving, along with the Taj Mahal, enduring echoes such as the Red Fort at Agra. The later Rajput states are represented by a visit to Jaipur and the Palace of Deeg. Whether visiting for the first time or returning to gaze again at their grandeur, these sites never fail to impress on the traveller the glories of Asia's past.

Private extensions to southern India and Sri Lanka can be arranged on request.

Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan

Kingdoms in the Sky

D 15 – 31 October 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P £3,480 from London.
Can be joined without flight.

S Dr Charles Ramble is a former lecturer in Himalayan Studies at the Oriental Institute, University of Oxford.

Isolated by formidable mountain barriers, the peoples of Sikkim and Bhutan have preserved a sophisticated, living medieval culture in the modern world. Accompanied by Dr Ramble, travel through some of the world's most magnificent scenery and explore these unique kingdoms.

The journey begins in Kathmandu where the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas tower above the foothills encircling the Kathmandu Valley. Enjoy a wonderful drive to through terraced fields, tea estates, small towns and soothing green landscapes to Darjeeling – one of India's finest hill stations. Sikkim is a kingdom of relentlessly steep hills, knife-edged valleys and stunning variety of plants and animals. The monasteries here are the repositories, not only of art treasures, but also of centuries of belief. On a spectacular road enter Bhutan where the sense of near-impregnability deepens as one drives to Thimpu, its capital, hemmed in by jagged forbidding mountains. No bigger than Switzerland, it is one of the most beautiful and unspoilt countries in Asia and its architecture is stunning. The role of religion in Bhutan is crucial and the influence of red robed lamas can be seen everywhere. The journey finishes in Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta).

Asia



A Short Trek in the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal

D 12 – 26 April 2012 and 2 – 16 October 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P First date: £2,180 from London. Second date: £2,280 from London. Trip scholar on second date to be confirmed. Can be joined without flight.

S Zara Fleming is a cultural historian specialising in Himalayan and South Asian history, art and culture. She has lived, worked and travelled extensively in the region.

Edging the utmost heights of the Himalayas, Nepal is one of the world's most spectacular countries whose history and culture are steeped in ancient customs and traditions.

The itinerary involves an eight-day trek following one of the oldest trade routes between the Indian sub-continent and the plateau of Tibet as it passes through breathtakingly beautiful scenery. The days walking also provide a wonderful opportunity to explore the great cultural diversity of this region. The journey has been designed as a 'first time' trek and does not require particularly high fitness levels.

Along the trek the party will visit Jomsom, the capital of the still semi-restricted district of Mustang, the village of Muktinath which highlights a blend of animistic Hindu and Buddhist beliefs and Marpha, one of the prettiest villages in the Himalayas, surrounded by apple and peach orchards. The final stop is Tukche, an old Thakali trading town with its sulphurous hot springs. As well as the trek, the party will explore the great cultural centres of Nepal at Kathmandu, Patan, Bhaktapur and Pokhara.



Crossing the Ancient Silk Road

China and Central Asia

D 19 August – 7 September 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P £3,480 per person from London
Can be joined without flight.

S Dr Jamie Greenbaum is currently at Beijing University where he is researching the history of early Chinese utopias and the early State of Yan.

The ancient Silk Road was actually a vast network of roads with a number of branches stretching westwards from Xi'an to Venice and Rome. Dr Greenbaum will show that the road was a mechanism not just for the trade of silk and other precious items, but also a crossroads for the expansion of religious ideas, arts and the exchange of opinions.

Begin in Beijing and continue on to Xi'an to learn more about the great 9th century Tang court. At Dunhuang, in caves hewn over a millennium, discover one of the world's richest treasure troves of Buddhist art. Turfan was an important oasis town on the Silk Road and a jewel in the Buddhist crown until the 8th century when Islam spread from the West. The town, now Muslim, presents an captivating contrast of these two religious influences. Arrive in Kashgar for the famous Sunday market where down the ages Eastern traders have rubbed shoulders with some of the most colourful figures in Central Asia. Travel north through the spectacular landscape of the Tien Shan mountains into Kyrgyzstan, a small and beautiful country in the heart of Central Asia. Explore Issy Kul, the world's second highest navigable lake surrounded by snow-capped peaks and verdant pastures.



A Journey Through Laos, Yunan and Tibet

Sacred and Tribal China

D 17 October – 4 November 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P £3,580 per person from London.
Can be joined without flight

S Zara Fleming is a cultural historian specialising in Himalayan and South Asian history, art and culture.

China is officially made up of 55 minority groups covering 9% of the population whom over the last few generations have been marginalised into mountain and border regions. The journey begins in royal town of Luang Prabang, a small backwater in the heart of Laos and one of Asia's last unspoiled havens. Take a beautiful northern road, through endless rice paddies and lush jungle to the misty mountains of the Hmong hill tribes whose settlements are perched precariously on high cliff faces. Here enter China through a small 'back door' border crossing with the Himalayan foothills beyond. Yunnan Province (literally 'South of the Clouds'), is home to some of China's most diverse variations in flora, fauna and ethnicity.

Continue on through bamboo forests and the lush tea plantations to the ancient towns of Dali and Lijiang with their colourful markets left over from the Southern Silk Route. Rolling terraced hills give way to jagged snow capped peaks as one ascends into the Tibetan world of Shangri-La. On the Himalayan plateau of Tibet, the party will explore the traditions of China's most famous minority group, in the medieval capital city of Lhasa and surrounding towns of Gyantse and Shigatse. Then finally return to earth on the newly opened and world's highest (Sino Tibet) railway.



China: Past Present and Future

D 26 September – 12 October 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P £3,640 per person from London.
Can be joined without flight

S Professor Bill Jenner has held chairs in the Universities of Singapore and Australia. He is currently working on the Penguin History of China.

Over the next five to ten years little of old China will escape the ever present wrecking ball. All but a few important landmarks, like the Forbidden City will be torn down, re-built and gentrified in the name of modernisation. In Beijing, place one foot in the past, and another in the future and witness the stark contrast of imperial courtyards and ancient neighbourhoods flanked by a backdrop of gleaming post Olympic super structures. Turn the clock back 2000 years and discover the roots of the Chinese nation in the historic city of Xi'an where the warring states of the Zhou were unified; today it is still a melting pot of cultural exchange.

But this journey aims to look beyond the historical centres, and allow a deeper understanding of rural China by heading into the sleepy backwaters of Guilin. Enjoy a quiet boat journey along a tributary of the Li River through some of China's most spectacular scenery. This is the world which has inspired generations of Chinese artists and poets. Continue onto Hangzhou the artistic and cultural heart of China. Nearby is the sacred mountain of Huang Shan (Yellow Mountain) now one of Asia's great pilgrimage sites. The journey finishes in Shanghai, the most intensely living city imaginable.

Asia & South America



Burma

The Art and Culture of the Golden Land

D 1 – 16 November 2012

T Distant Horizons / www.distanthorizons.co.uk

P £3,250 per person from London.
Can be joined without flight

S Professor Janice Stargardt is currently researching the history and archaeology of South East Asia at Cambridge. She is known for her discoveries of early historical sites in Burma.

Explore the ancient land of Burma, now called Myanmar, one of the most beautiful and unspoilt countries in Asia. Myanmar is the last of the truly magical destinations of the Orient: here is a glimpse of old Asia and the most devoutly Buddhist nation on earth. From May of 2011, the party of Aung Sang Suu Kyi – the National League for Democracy – is now encouraging informed and respectful visits to Burma.

Begin the journey in Yangon, formerly called Rangoon, and explore this curiously Victorian city with its wide straight boulevards and majestic colonial facades. Spend two nights at Inle Lake, beautifully situated amidst the Shan Mountains. Travel on through lush countryside to the hill station of Kalaw with its sacred Buddhist caves and fascinating hill tribe cultures. Mandalay was Burma's last royal capital and today it is the cultural heart of the country with a romantic and evocative past. Enjoy a cruise along the mighty Irrawaddy River to the many shrines and pagodas of Sagaing. Further downstream is the ancient capital of Bagan, a true wonder of the ancient world and one of the most remarkable archaeological sites in southeast Asia.

Amazing Argentina

Buenos Aires, Iguazu Falls and Patagonian Glaciers

D 2 – 13 March 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £3,995 from London. Single supplement £460.
Can be joined without flight.

S Chris Sharpe (Girton 1985) is an ecologist who has lived and worked in Latin America for over twenty years. He has led over 100 specialist wildlife tours throughout the region.

From the cafes of Buenos Aires, where impassioned tango dancers swirl through the night, to the magnificent spectacle of imposing Iguazu Falls and the breathtaking Wilderness of Patagonia, Argentina offers an experience unmatched anywhere in the world.

Our tour encompasses many of Argentina's incredible contrasting highlights, starting with a tango show in sophisticated Buenos Aires and experiencing gaucho life on an estancia before flying up to see the 275 cataracts of the mighty Iguazu Falls as it gushes 90 metres over its horse-shoe shaped precipice. We fly to Welsh-speaking Puerto Madryn to visit the wild isthmus of Península Valdes, home to penguins, elephant seals, armadillos and killer whales, then finally south to Glacier National Park, where the magnificent Perito Moreno glacier calves vast ice sheets into the stunning lake landscape.

Private extensions to Salta, Bariloche, Chile, and other destinations in South America can be arranged.

South America & Australia



The Galápagos Islands and Ecuador

The Zoology, Ecology and Ornithology of the Pacific

D 7 – 18 October 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £4,650 from London. Single supplement £1,950
Can be joined without flight.

S Professor Nick Davies, Professor of Behavioural Ecology, University of Cambridge. Professor Davies is an ornithologist and has accompanied many successful alumni tours.

We are delighted to feature again this tour of Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands. Experience first hand the astonishing ecology which contributed to Charles Darwin's pivotal theory of evolution.

The tour begins in the Andes, at the northern extent of the Inca empire in Quito, the first city to receive World Heritage status. We visit the plazas and churches of Quito's Old City and Otavalo's famous market.

In the Galápagos, we have arranged an eight day private cruise exclusively for Oxford and Cambridge alumni aboard *Coral I*, a cruiser with just 18 fully air-conditioned outside cabins all with private facilities. She will visit key islands in the Galápagos to take in the astonishing bird life, iguanas and giant tortoises, as well as witnessing evolution in action on the islands.

Australia and Total Solar Eclipse

With a unique tour of the Outback and the Great Barrier Reef

D 31 October – 16 November 2012

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £4,690 from London. Single supplement £1,200
Can be joined without flight.

S Professor Ken Freeman F.R.S. is Duffield Professor of Astronomy in the Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Australian National University, Canberra. He was a Research Fellow at Trinity College, Cambridge.

There has never been a better time to visit Australia, Earth's oldest continent, as on 13 November 2012 a total eclipse of the sun will be visible from Queensland as it rises over the Great Barrier Reef.

This small group tour, with limited spaces available, will visit vibrant Sydney with its historic 'Rocks' area and stunning harbour, and cosmopolitan Melbourne, home to Captain Cook's Cottage and the fascinating Immigration museum. We shall tour the excellent new world wineries of the Yarra valley before travelling to the Red Centre to visit Olga Gorge and sacred Uluru, Ayers Rock, where we learn about Aboriginal culture. Finally, we travel to the Great Barrier Reef at Cairns to explore the wonders of this amazing marine park, before experiencing the total eclipse as a final highlight of the trip.

A post-tour extension to visit New Zealand is available and unlimited private extensions pre and post tour are possible upon request.

Planning Ahead Trips in 2013



Fire and Ice A Voyage from Tierra del Fuego to Antarctica

D 22 February – 8 March 2013

T Temple World / www.templeworld.com

P £6,950 from London.
Single supplement £2,890
Can be joined without flight.

S Professor David Walton, a practicing scientist with the British Antarctic Survey for 40 years. Professor Walton has written and edited six books on research in Antarctica and is editor in chief of the journal *Antarctic Science*.

We are delighted to offer our 2013 tour to the Antarctic Peninsula. The towering walls of ice and glistening glaciers of the world's last untouched continent inspire awe, whilst the abundant summer wildlife of whales, penguins, leopard seals and multitudinous birds contrasts with the mesmerising, trackless landscape.

We fly to Tierra del Fuego to embark our expedition ship *Antarctic Dream*. With just 39 outside cabins, all with ensuite facilities, this comfortable ship has been selected because it can get to remote locations to land passengers for extended visits among the islands and

continent of Antarctica which large cruise ships are neither able nor approved by the IAATO to do.

The cruise crosses the Drake Passage to the magnificent scenery of the South Shetlands and Antarctic Peninsula. Frequent landings enable the group to get close to penguin colonies. This tour is a chance to understand the importance of one of the most remote parts of our planet in comfort and in the company of a world expert. The birdlife is superb with over 250 species.



Natural Wonders of New Zealand

D 17 February – 9 March 2013

T ACE Cultural Tours / www.aceculturaltours.co.uk

P Base price: £4,990
Single room supplement: £690

S Mark Hanger, MA, is one of New Zealand's leading natural history guides. A botanist and ornithologist, Mark worked for a number of years for the New Zealand National Parks Service and has been offering tours of New Zealand and Australia for nearly twenty years.

Traditional Maori culture, historic early settlements and colourful botanic gardens are just a handful of the attractions of this comprehensive three-week itinerary, alongside dolphin-watching and whale-spotting.

The central theme of our tour will be the glorious New Zealand landscape, from the deep valleys and sheer rock-faces of Fiordland National Park to the snow-capped mountains and glacial lakes of Milford Sound. Mark Hanger, a professional ornithologist, will also introduce us to New Zealand's exotic birdlife, from its keas and parakeets to its albatrosses and mollymawks.

The trip encompasses the high spots of both islands, from Auckland's wild west coast and the hot springs of Waimangu Valley and Wellington on North Island through to the Blackbirch mountain range, Kaikoura, Christchurch and Dunedin in the South Island. Travel throughout is by comfortable, small coach equipped with an excellent library of reference books. Accommodation is in pleasant hotels and motor lodges with private facilities.

Limited availability still exists for tour departing 19 February 2012

Unbound

Adventure and learning are lifelong activities. We are at University for a brief few years but students for the rest of our lives. The Alumni Travel Programme offers a unique way to continue your Cambridge education as well as exploring the globe and connecting with other alumni.

We hope you can travel with us in the coming year.

Information online

For detailed information on all the trips offered by the Cambridge Alumni Travel Programme, visit www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/travel, where you can search for a trip by destination, date or favourite trip scholar. For further information including full itineraries, travel options and how to book just click straight through to the individual tour operator.

All the operators are also more than happy to provide further information or discuss whether a trip is right for you on the phone.

Important Note

All the trips in this brochure are run by tried and tested travel operator partners with whom the University has been working for many years. The operators have sole responsibility for the trips and the University has no control over or responsibility for the operation of the tours. All queries about individual trips should be addressed to the operator concerned. The information provided in this brochure is for general information only; if you are interested in making a booking, please contact the travel operator directly.

Tour operator contact details:

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“I have just returned from Beijing after the most wonderful trip with the Oxbridge party. It was truly memorable and it will take some time for the epic to sink in... [it] has been a highlight of my life.”

Alumni traveller on Crossing the Ancient Silk Road trip | August 2011



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