

# Alumni Travel Programme

2012

Summer Supplement





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## Welcome to the Cambridge Alumni Travel Programme: a unique way to broaden your horizons...

The Cambridge Alumni Travel Programme has been bringing alumni together and offering them a chance to explore the world in small-group, top quality trips since 1992. Each trip offers the chance to learn about the destination through an academic expert and to share his or her enthusiasm and insight. They also offer careful research and meticulous organisation by the operator, and the company of like-minded companions, with the opportunity to connect up with other Cambridge alumni.

Inside this brochure you will find trips ranging from a chance to see the Northern Lights in Arctic Norway

Every booking directly benefits the University and supports its work and mission through a donation received from the tour operators.

to exploring the art treasures of St Petersburg, discovering the less well-known corners of Oman, getting a glimpse of some of the oldest gardens in the world in Iran and experiencing a total eclipse of the sun in Queensland, Australia. They include a number of joint trips with University of Oxford alumni.

Whatever your ideal travel plans for 2012, we hope that you will find here the inspiration to choose your next adventure.

#### *Further information online*

For a detailed itinerary on all the trips offered, to make a booking or to discuss whether a trip is right for you please contact the individual tour operator. Further information on the trips listed here and on 2011 destinations not included in this brochure can be found at [www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/travel](http://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/travel)

**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.

Cover image: La Boca, Buenos Aires. Photograph by Diego Alvarez de Toledo.



# Polar Nights & Mystical Northern Lights

23 – 27 February 2012

Jointly between University of Cambridge  
and University of Oxford

## Tour operator: Hurtigruten

Price: from £1,329 per person, including  
airfare from London \*

Suite upgrades may be available on  
request approximately 2-3 weeks before  
departure (at extra cost, subject to  
availability).

## Trip Scholars:

**Professor Roger Davies**,  
Philip Wetton Professor of Astrophysics,  
University of Oxford.

**Dr Ian Willis**, University Senior Lecturer,  
Scott Polar Research Institute (SPRI),  
University of Cambridge

[www.hurtigruten.co.uk](http://www.hurtigruten.co.uk)

Our Universe abounds with objects of spectacular beauty, some of which we will see on this trip. Starting with a discussion of the spectacular aurorae and the other effects the sun can have on the earth we will journey through the Solar System and delve into what we already know about planets around other stars. We will take a whistle-stop tour of our Universe - these lectures will take us from our local neighbourhood to the most distant reaches of space and the beginnings of time. We'll explore the origins and fate of stars and galaxies and discover that we are all made from star dust. The lectures will be illustrated with the up-to-date pictures from the world's leading telescopes and provide an overview of the night sky we will see. We hope to spend at least one session on deck at night exploring the heavens.

## Hurtigruten

This is the third Oxford and Cambridge alumni tour with award-winning Hurtigruten, which is renowned for its voyages to remote and beautiful coastlines. With over 120 years of maritime experience and a fleet of fourteen comfortable ships, Hurtigruten offers voyages that go beyond the realms of conventional cruises, providing specialist knowledge and expertise on journeys, and an opportunity to encounter environments, wildlife and local people.

The Hurtigruten ships have been an integral part of Norwegian coastal life for over a century. There are regular sailings which call into remote ports never visited by commercial liners, delivering freight and passengers to isolated communities lying amidst a backdrop of breathtaking fjords.

## MS Trollfjord

We will be travelling on MS Trollfjord, a magnificent ship with excellent facilities, including a cafe, bars, a conference area and panoramic lounge.

Your unique voyage includes:

- Full board on MS Trollfjord
- One night stay at Radisson Blu Hotel, Tromsø (bed and breakfast)
- Excursion to the North Cape, Honningsvåg
- Drinks reception on the first evening on board
- Welcome and farewell group dinner on board
- The services of a dedicated Tour Manager
- A series of private talks

## Itinerary

### Day 1

Fly from the UK to Tromsø, the Gateway to the Arctic, and perhaps enjoy the sights of this famous, compact city before boarding the ship and departing late in the early evening.

### Day 2

Following the scenic sailing through Magerøysund and after an early stop in Hammerfest, you arrive in Honningsvåg. This small port is home to the wonders of the spectacular North Cape which rises 300m from the ocean, and at 71° 10' 21" north it puts you a mere 2,000 kilometres from the Geographical North pole. This evening, as you approach Kjøllefjord, you

pass Finnkirka, a rock formation that is sacred to the indigenous Sami people and now the site of an impressive light show.

### Day 3

The last port on the Voyage North is Kirkenes. And at longitude 30 east, you are actually further east than Istanbul and St. Petersburg. The terrain, culture and geography of Kirkenes offer the opportunity to take part in some fabulous Arctic excursions. Departing Kirkenes at lunchtime, you retrace your steps along the Varanger peninsula reaching Berlevåg in the evening.

### Day 4

Your first major stop of the day is Hammerfest. Here, you can enjoy an optional excursion including educational visits to the town's Liquid Gas plant and Hammerfest's UNESCO World Heritage site, the Meridian Column, commemorating the conclusion of Struve's historical measurement of the globe. From here, your next major stop will be Tromsø where your voyage comes to an end. Transfer to your hotel for an overnight stay.

### Day 5

After breakfast in your hotel this morning, a choice of winter excursions are available before you are transferred to Tromsø airport for your direct flight back to the UK.





## Heart of Burgundy Cruise

### Architecture & Wines of Central Burgundy

14 – 20 July 2012

**Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)**

**Price: £2,395 from London, including wines at meals\***

\*Price per person including travel from London. One single cabin available without supplement. (Can be joined without train/flight.)

**Trip Scholar: Peter Collins**, a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Oxford, was Cellarer of St Edmund Hall, University of Oxford for 20 years. He has a passion for Burgundy and its wines.  
[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

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 Beaune, the finest example of Burgundian-Flemish architecture in existence, as well as the medieval town of Chalon Sur Saône, the Château de Rully and the picturesque village of Chagny. All this is punctuated by visits to the fabulous vineyards of the Côte d'Or, such as Clos de Vougeot and Château Marguerite. 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 tow-path.



## Art Treasures of St Petersburg

20 February – 2 March 2012

**Tour operator: Distant Horizons**

**Price: £2,060 from London**

**Trip scholar: Professor Alexei Leporc** is a Curator in the Department of Western European Art at the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg.

[www.distanthorizons.co.uk](http://www.distanthorizons.co.uk)

The tour has been specially planned for February when the snow makes everything picturesque and the city looks magnificent. The theatres are open, the vodka and furs are out and it's cosy and warm inside the buildings. One can enjoy the city's wonderful architecture and superb museums without the crowds which occur later in the year.

Throughout the six-day visit there will be two visits to the Hermitage with its hundreds of glittering, gilded rooms and its unrivalled collection of European and Russian art. Enjoy a day excursion to Tsarkoye Selo, the spectacular town of Imperial Palaces just outside St Petersburg. There will be visits to the Peter and Paul Fortress and Yussopov Palace, at least as spectacular in its way as the Hermitage but on a smaller scale. The rooms are gorgeous in their richness and variety. For those who wish, the trip can be extended to include a four-day visit to Moscow, which is only a short train journey away across the spectacular snow-covered Russian countryside.

## Alexander's Path

### Classic Yacht Cruise through Lycia & Pamphylia

22 September – 6 October 2012

**Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)**

**Price: £ 2,780 from London\***

\*Price per person including flight from London. (Can be joined without flight).

**Trip Scholar:** A trip scholar will be announced shortly. Please check the website for more information.

[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

For the first time in three years, we are pleased to offer once again our most popular itinerary, full of theatres, tombs and the beautiful Taurus Mountains. Visiting wonderful classical cities like Xanthos, Phaselis and Myra which feature widely in the history of the eastern Mediterranean, among the gems is the beautiful mountain city of

Arykanda, in the alpine-like valleys behind Phoenix, reminiscent of Delphi. There are also rare sites like Oenanda and Pinara in the Akdag Mountains. As always, we use classic Turkish yachts, built to a Byzantine design but fitted with the most modern conveniences including pleasant cabins with proper beds and ensuite bathrooms, chefs to prepare the excellent Turkish cuisine, and stewards to wait on our every need. For those who enjoy the cruising life there is also plenty of time for relaxation and swimming in the crystal clear azure bays. For those with more time, a three-night night extension to discover glorious Constantinople is available before the tour.



# Eastern Turkey

## Lost Empires & Forgotten Kingdoms

26 June – 6 July 2012

**Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)**

**Price: £2,995 from London\***

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £400. (Can be joined without flight).

**Trip Scholar: Dr Peter Sarris** is University Senior Lecturer in Late Roman, Early Medieval and Byzantine History. A fellow of Trinity College Cambridge, Dr Sarris' research concentrates on Justinian's reform programme and the background to the rise of Islam.

[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

Explore dramatic eastern Anatolia with its fertile plateaux, stunning lakes and mountains, and the architectural legacy of the Urartian, Armenian, Seljukian and Ottoman empires. Beginning in Trabzon on the Black Sea,

visit St Sophia with its extraordinary Byzantine frescoes and the 4th century Sumela Monastery, clinging to a sheer cliff face. Then travel to Kars to visit the lost medieval city of Ani, and drive along the Silk Road to the Ishak Pasa Palace, with wonderful views of Mount Ararat. Explore Seljukian tombs at Ahlat and visit picturesque Akdam Island with its lovely Armenian Church of the Holy Cross. The tour will finish with visits to the Urartian fortress at Sardurill and the Kurdish castle of Hosap. The scenery of stunning Lake Van, the largest sodium carbonate lake in the world, is breathtaking. There is also a post-tour extension available to Mount Nemrut, known for the incredible 2,000 year old Commagene statues littered around the peak, rediscovered in 1881.



# Oman

## Oases, Forts & Fjords (with Frankincense Extension)

8 – 19 October 2012

**Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)**

**Price: £3,495 from London\***

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £750. (Can be joined without flight).

**Trip Scholar: Professor James Allan**, Emeritus fellow of St Cross College and lecturer in Islamic Art and Archaeology, Oriental Institute, University of Oxford  
[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

Discover Oman's more remote gems as well as its well-known highlights during this unique itinerary. Go in search of bottle-nosed dolphins in the stunningly isolated Musandam peninsular, known for its dramatic fjords. In Muscat explore the old town, forts and Grand Mosque, and visit the historical souk and harbour at Muttrah.



Next, turn towards the interior and head for the verdant oasis of Nizwa to see the 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 that lay their eggs nearby.

Finally, the journey will end in Muscat, except for those who stay on for a three-night extension to Salalah, the land of frankincense, with the forts at Mirbat and Taqa, the Biblical "Nabi Ayoub" Prophet Job's Tomb, and stunning coastal scenery.



# Gardens & Palaces of Persia

## Visions of Paradise

28 April – 12 May April 2012

**Tour operator: Distant Horizons**

**Price: £3,080 from London**

**Trip Scholar: Ali Sadrnia** is co-author of Iran: A Chronological History. He accompanied a very successful visit to the Gardens of Persia for the Cambridge Alumni Travel Programme in 2011.

[www.distanthorizons.co.uk](http://www.distanthorizons.co.uk)

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 (who conquered Persia under Alexander the Great in 334 BC), as *paradeisos* and was later used to describe the Garden of Eden in the Greek translation of the Bible. Gardens, palaces and the water that brings them to life will be an important theme of the journey. The party will look at bridges and dams, cisterns and qanats (the ancient underground water channels with access shafts that can still be seen dotting the desert landscape).

As well as gardens, travellers will 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 of this vast country.

One former traveller on this tour describes it this way: 'We had a wonderful holiday - the country is beautiful and the people delightful and friendly. The mix of architecture and gardens was splendid and much enhanced by the erudition and enthusiasm of our mentors.'

## Modern Wonders of the World

### Petra & the Taj Mahal

22 – 31 March 2012

**Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)**

**Price: £ 2,495 from London\***

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £450. (Can be joined without flight).

**Trip Scholar:** A trip scholar will be announced shortly. Please check the website for more information.

[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

This special short tour of India and Jordan features two of the architectural wonders of the world - the Taj Mahal and the rock-cut city of Petra. In Jordan we see remembrances of the Roman Empire like Jerash and the outstanding Nabatean city of Petra. We also visit Wadi Rum, a stunning moonscape. In India the Mughal Empire held sway in the 16th and 17th centuries, leaving

along with the Taj Mahal enduring echoes like the Red Fort at Agra. We also travel to Rajasthan, exploring Jaipur's Amber Fort, the Jantar Mantar observatory and Keoladeo National Park, a former duck-hunting reserve of the Maharajas and a superb habitat for rare aquatic birds such as the Siberian Crane. Whether visiting for the first time or returning to gaze again at their grandeur, these sights 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.



## A Journey through Central Asia & Persia

### Samarkand to Isfahan

3 – 20 April 2012

**Tour operator: Distant Horizons**

**Price: £ 3,480 from London**

**Trip scholar:** Dr Iain Shearer is an Islamic expert at the British Museum. He has carried out extensive archaeological research in Iran, Uzbekistan and Afghanistan and accompanied several alumni parties.

[www.distanthorizons.co.uk](http://www.distanthorizons.co.uk)

Travel with Iain Shearer on this unique itinerary and learn more about the 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 that 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, one of the world's most inspiring archaeological sites built by Darius the Great. The journey finishes amidst the splendour and beauty of Isfahan with some of the finest buildings in the world.



## A Short Trek in the Himalayan Mountains of Nepal

12 – 26 April 2012

**Tour operator: Distant Horizons**

**Price: £2,180 from London**

**Trip scholar:** Zara Fleming is a cultural historian specialising in Himalayan history, art and culture.

[www.distanthorizons.co.uk](http://www.distanthorizons.co.uk)



Accompanied by Himalayan cultural historian Zara Fleming, explore 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 some of Nepal's most magnificent scenery. The trek also provides a wonderful opportunity to explore the great cultural diversity of this region, which is well known to Zara who has lived and carried out research in the local villages. The trip has been designed as a 'first time' trek and does not require particularly high fitness levels.

As well as the trek, travellers will explore the great cultural centres of

Nepal at Kathmandu, Patan, Bhaktapur and Pokhara with their bustling bazaars and exquisite temples beautifully situated in the foothills of the snow capped Himalayas.



# Ancient Egypt & Nile Cruise

1 – 12 November 2012

## Itinerary

**Day 1:** Evening Egypt Air flight from London Heathrow for Cairo. Transfer to Oberoi Mena House Hotel, Giza for three nights stay.

**Day 2:** Saqqara (Step Pyramid) and Memphis (limestone Colossus of Ramses).

**Day 3:** Pyramids, Great Sphinx, Solar Boat Museum, Egyptian Antiquities Museum (treasures of Tutankhamun).

**Day 4:** By air to Aswan. Embark Nile Lily. Afternoon: Aglika Island, Temple of Isis, and Aswan High Dam.

**Day 5:** Abu Simbel excursion by air: Great Temples of Ramses II on shores of Lake Nasser. Afternoon: optional felucca sail.

**Day 6:** Elephantine Island, Kitchener's Island of Plants, 10th century fortress monastery of St Simeon.

**Day 7:** Kom Ombo: Temples of Sobek and Haroeris.

**Day 8:** Temple of Horus in Edfu.

**Day 9:** Esna Temple (site of ancient Thebes).

**Day 10:** Arrive Luxor and visit Karnak Temple.

**Day 11:** Valley of the Kings, Temple of Queen Hatshepsut, Deir El Medina, Luxor Temple and Luxor Museum.

**Day 12:** Disembark Nile Lily and transfer to Luxor airport for direct flight to Heathrow.



## Tour Operator: ACE Cultural Tours

**Prices:** Cost of £3,590 includes: return airfare, accommodation based on sharing a twin or double bedded room / cabin, full board during cruise (breakfast & dinner elsewhere), shore excursions & admissions, crew gratuities. During the cruise soft drinks are included as is wine with dinners. Not Included: visa, travel insurance, single cabin supplement £1,490 (double room/cabin for single use), dinner on first evening (due to late arrival).

**Trip Scholar:** Andrew Bednarski, Ph.D. in Egyptology from Cambridge, has excavated at Hierakonpolis, Abydos, Tell el-Amarna, Luxor Temple, and Dakhla Oasis. He currently works for the American Research Center in Egypt, where he facilitates archaeological, conservation, museum, and documentation projects.

This tour will unravel the secrets behind one of antiquity's most beguiling civilisations: the ancient Egyptians. The twelve-day itinerary throws light on some of this period's most stunning achievements: the Great Sphinx, the Great Pyramid, the Valley of the Kings and Abu Simbel, home to four colossal statues of Ramses II.

After exploring Cairo and Giza from the luxurious Oberoi Mena House Hotel located in the shadow of the pyramids, transfer by air to Aswan to board a private dahabiyya. These traditional, twin-masted craft were a common sight on the Nile in the days of the monarchy, when the cultural traveller would meander from temple to temple in a rented vessel. Henceforth travellers will glide down the Nile at a leisurely pace.

The Nile reveals all its glory at Aswan as it flows around islands decked in palm groves and tropical plants. Visit the famous High Dam as well as the nearby Temple of Isis on the island of Philae. Kom Ombo provides the most striking of settings for the temples of Sobek and Haroeris, dedicated respectively to the crocodile god and the falcon-headed god.

## Dahabiyya Nile Lily

The dahabiyya carries a maximum of 20 passengers with a crew of 14, ensuring that participants benefit from the very best service.

Equipped with modern comforts and conveniences (including a jacuzzi), the dahabiyya is fitted out in traditional timber and is furnished with period pieces – wicker chairs and sumptuous sofas are de rigueur.

Meals – both international and Egyptian cuisine – are enjoyed in the dahabiyya's elegant salon or on the partially shaded fore-deck, which is

also the ideal spot to savour the Nile's stunning vistas.

The dahabiyya is air-conditioned throughout and has ten beautifully appointed, outside-facing, fully-equipped cabins, each with en suite facilities.

**The Nile Lily dahabiyya is also available for private hire**



# Eternal Egypt

## The Nile, Western Desert Oases & Excavations at Amarna

15 – 31 March 2012

**Tour Operator:** Temple World (IMA)

**Price:** £2,895 from London\*

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £750. (Can be joined without flight).

**Trip Scholar:** Professor Mark J Smith, Professor of Egyptology, University College, Oxford, specialises in Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt, as well as Coptic Christianity.

[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

This tour combines Egypt's key experiences: the Pyramids at Giza, a classic Nile cruise from Aswan to Luxor, a fascinating trip through the Oases of the Western Desert to Siwa and finally Alexandria, Cleopatra's Capital. Most excitingly, join Cambridge researchers

as they excavate Amarna, built by 'heretic' Pharaoh Akhenaten.

Begin by exploring Cairo and the haunting Pyramids, then on to Tel el-Amarna, for behind-the-scenes access to the site which is being excavated by a Cambridge team led by Professor Barry Kemp, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. Our Nile cruise takes in the Temples of Luxor and Karnak, 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 oases of the Great Sand Sea of the Western Desert to the oases of Khârga, Dakhla and Farafra, an experience of an unspoiled, Bedouin Egypt.



## Livingstone's Footsteps

### Victoria Falls, Chobe & Okavango Delta

28 February – 9 March 2012

**Tour Operator:** Temple World (IMA)

**Price:** £4,295 from London\*

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £450 (Can be joined without flight).

**Trip Scholar:** This tour is accompanied by an expert local guide throughout [www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

This special safari starts in Zambia then crosses into Botswana, following in pioneering missionary Dr David Livingstone's footsteps. One of the natural wonders of the world, Victoria Falls thunders down into the chasm between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Explore the area with walking tours and cruises on the Zambezi to look for crocodiles, hippos and elephants. Spend the next two nights in Chobe National Park, host to exceptional birdlife and

game viewing. Navigating the waterways by boat, travellers will have the opportunity to look for birds such as the Pel's fishing owl and African skimmer as well as predators such as cheetah and lion.

Finally travel onwards to the glittering waters of the Okavango Delta, where travellers will be poled through tranquil reeds in a traditional canoe or explore in an open-sided 4X4. The Moremi Reserve is rated as one of Africa's finest game-viewing areas, offering sanctuary to abundant herds of elephant, sable, giraffe, tsessebe, wildebeest and waterbuck. Lion, leopard, cheetah, wild dog and hyena are also resident and the birdlife is superb in March with more than 250 species.

## Cradle of Mankind

### South Africa – In Search of our Human Ancestors

7 – 17 May 2012

**Tour Operator:** Temple World (IMA)

**Price:** £3,395 from London\*

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £625. (Can be joined without flight).

**Trip Scholar:** Dr David Price Williams directed an environmental research project into early man in Southern Africa for fifteen years. He will be joined locally by Professor Francis Thackeray, Director of the Institute for Human Evolution, University of the Witwatersrand. [www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

The study of early ancestors and the search for human origins touches on the most fundamental questions humans can ask: who are we and

where do we come from? This tour of South Africa focuses on the sites, the scholars and the skeletal remains that have shaped our understanding of evolution. Visit the World Heritage sites of Taung, where the first hominid was discovered in 1925, and Sterkfontein, the largest hominid site in the world. Talk to the team who is currently excavating here and see the original specimens on which the whole study is based. Finally, understand the context of these events better by spending time in one of the finest game reserves in Southern Africa, at Madikwe on the Limpopo: an experience of the wild Africa of our ancestors, with superb game viewing.



# Magical Madagascar

## The Zoology of a Gondwanaland Island

26 August – 11 September 2012

Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)

Price: £4,690 from London\*

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £595.

(Can be joined without flight).

There will be a maximum group size of 12 on this tour.

Trip Scholar: Dr Ivan Scales, College lecturer in Human Geography and Fellow, St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Ivan's research includes tropical deforestation and community conservation in Madagascar, and he has a passion for the country.

[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

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.



# Ancient Ethiopia

## The Empire of Aksum & the Rock-Cut Churches of Lalibela

25 September – 7 October 2012

Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)

Price: £3,395 from London\*

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £460. (Can be joined without flight).

Trip Scholar: (Subject to confirmation)

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

[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

The fascination of Ethiopia lies in its ancient monasteries, rock-hewn churches and dramatic mountain scenery. This trip 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. Travellers will visit Gondar's fascinating castles and the unique church of Debre Berhane Selassie. Then look for the gelada baboon in the beautiful Simyen Mountains before visiting the legendary

sources of the Blue Nile. 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. We are also offering an anthropological extension to see the remote tribes of the Omo River region, such as the Mursi, with their characteristic lip-plates.





# The Magic of New Zealand

19 February – 10 March 2012

**Tour Operator:** ACE Cultural Tours

**Price:** £4,290 per person includes: return airfare to London, accommodation based on sharing a twin or double bedded room, almost all meals.

**Not included:** two lunches and two dinners, excursions and admission fees, single supplement £590.

There will be a maximum group size of 16 on this tour.

**Trip Scholar:** 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. [www.aceculturaltours.co.uk](http://www.aceculturaltours.co.uk)

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 programme opens on Auckland's wild west coast in the Waitakere Ranges, home to the lofty kauri pine, whose monumental girth can reach an astonishing 60 feet. Next travellers head for the Waimangu Valley, a vast geothermal area of hot springs,

bubbling geysers and boiling mud, before going to the Tongariro National Park, where participants have the option to fly over three imposing snow-clad volcanoes.

In the Wanganui Valley, a leading centre of Maori culture, take a boat trip from the historic village of Pipiriki along the Whanganui River to the Bridge to Nowhere. The final stop on North Island will be the capital, Wellington, where the national museum, Te Papa Tongarewa, displays New Zealand's most significant Maori treasures.

One of the most intriguing sights on South Island is the Blackbirch range of mountains – "vegetable sheep", a peculiar alpine vegetation that, from a distance, resembles a flock of dozing sheep. At Kaikoura admire a wide range of seabirds and marine animals, including threatened species of dolphins and whales.

Two nights follow in Christchurch, with its absorbing museum, botanic gardens and Victorian and modern architecture. In the Mt Cook area travellers will catch sight of New Zealand's highest peak, roam over glaciers and spot rare birds such as the wrybill plover and black stilt.

The tour ends in Dunedin, a remarkable Victorian and Edwardian survival inspired by Edinburgh, with an excursion to see albatrosses on the tip of Otago Peninsula.

Travel is by comfortable, small coach equipped with an excellent library of reference books. Accommodation is in pleasant hotels and motor lodges with private facilities.

**Itinerary**

**Day 1:** Depart Heathrow 1545 on Air New Zealand for Auckland via Los Angeles.

**Day 2:** In flight.

**Day 3:** Arrive Auckland 0705. Transfer to Hotel Grand Chancellor for 2 nights. Remainder of day at leisure.

**Day 4:** Waitakere Ranges (immense kauri trees), Muriwai (gannet colony), Mt Eden (volcano).

**Day 5:** Volcanic regions of North Island: Miranda (wading birds), Lake Rotorua (waterfowl), Waimangu Valley (geothermal area, Tarawera rift). Transfer for overnight to Rydges Hotel, Rotorua, with Maori concert and hangi (food cooked in outdoor pit oven).

**Day 6:** Southwards to Orakei Korako (geothermal area), Pureora Forest Park (lowland podocarp forest, range of New Zealand forest bird species), Tongariro National Park (outstanding volcanic features). Transfer for 2 nights to Powderhorn Chateau, Ohakune.

**Day 7:** Explore flanks of Mt Ngauruhoe (New Zealand's most active volcano) and Mt Ruapehu.

**Day 8:** Wanganui River National Park (volcanoes, bubbling mud, geysers), Pipiriki (boat excursion), lower reaches of Wanganui River (sites of Maori interest). Overnight at Kingsgate Hotel, Wanganui.

**Day 9:** Depart Wanganui via horticultural lands for Wellington (botanic gardens) and Te Papa (National Museum) then by ferry across Cook Strait to Picton on South Island. Overnight at Broadway Motels, Blenheim.

**Day 10:** Blackbirch Mountains (spectacular alpine vegetation, panoramic views), rugged Kaikoura coastline. Overnight at White Morph Inn, Kaikoura.

**Day 11:** Morning at sea spotting sperm whales, three species of dolphin (including endangered Hector's dolphin) and wide array of marine birds. Afternoon: depart for Christchurch for 2 nights at Copthorne Durham Street.

**Day 12:** Free day in Christchurch (Gothic Revival arts centre, Avon River, cathedral, traditional Maori buildings) or excursion to historic French settlement of Akaroa on Bank's Peninsula.

**Day 13:** Cross Canterbury Plains to Peel Forest Park, then continue over Burkes Pass into Mackenzie Country (stunning glacial lakes) for overnight at Mackenzie Country Inn, Twizel.

**Day 14:** Via Lake Pukaki to Mt Cook National Park (alpine park dominated by Australasia's highest peak): spectacular Hooker Valley (imposing glaciers, black stilt in delta) then via Lindis Pass to Queenstown for overnight at Kingsgate Terraces Hotel.

**Day 15:** Depart for Te Anau, gateway to Fiordland National Park (New Zealand's largest area of wilderness) via sheep-station near Garston. Transfer to Luxmore Hotel for 3 nights.

**Day 16:** Day of leisure at Te Anau.

**Day 17:** Hollyford Valley (rare blue duck), Gertrude Valley, Milford Sound (stunning lake, spectacular waterfalls).

**Day 18:** Cross southern South Island to Nuggets (yellow-eyed penguins) then on to Dunedin for 2 nights at Southern Cross Hotel.

**Day 19:** Free time in Victorian Dunedin then Dunedin botanic gardens, exploration of Otago Peninsula and cruise to Taiaeroa Head (royal albatross colony).

**Day 20:** Visit tour director's home for brunch then transfer to Dunedin airport for flight via Christchurch to Auckland. Depart Auckland 2300 via Los Angeles for Heathrow.

**Day 21:** Arrive Heathrow 1040.



# Australia & the Total Solar Eclipse

1 – 16 November 2012

**Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)**

**Price: £4,690 from London\***

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £1,200. (Can be joined without flight).

**Trip Scholar:** A trip scholar will be announced shortly. Please check the website for more information.

[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

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.



# Amazing Argentina Buenos Aires, Iguassu Falls & Patagonia

1 – 12 March 2012

**Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)**

**Price: £3,995 from London\***

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £650. (Can be joined without flight).

**Trip Scholar:** Educated at Cambridge, **Chris Sharpe** is an ecologist who has lived and worked in Latin America for more than twenty years. In addition to his work on national park management and bird conservation, he has led more than a hundred specialist wildlife tours throughout the region.

[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

From the cafes of Buenos Aires, where impassioned tango dancers swirl through the night, to the magnificent spectacle of imposing Iguassu Falls and the breathtaking wilderness of Patagonia, Argentina offers an experience unmatched anywhere in the world. This tour encompasses many of Argentina's incredible contrasting highlights, starting with a tango show in sophisticated Buenos Aires and continuing with gaucho life on an estancia before flying up to see the 275 cataracts of the mighty Iguassu Falls as it gushes 90 metres over its



horse-shoe shaped precipice. Next fly to Welsh-speaking Puerto Madryn to visit the wild isthmus of Peninsula Valdes, home to penguins, elephant seals, armadillos and killer whales, then finally south to Glacier National Park, with its magnificent Perito Moreno glacier calving vast ice sheets into the stunning lake landscape. Private extensions to Salta, Bariloche, Chile, and other destinations in South America can be arranged.

# The Galapagos Islands & Ecuador

## Zoology, Ecology & Ornithology of the Pacific

7 – 18 October 2012

**Tour Operator: Temple World (IMA)**

**Price: £4,350 from London\***

\*Price per person including flight from London. Single supplement £1,950 (Can be joined without flight).

**2 CABINS AVAILABLE ON 3 DEC 2011 TOUR.**

**Trip Scholar: Professor Nick Davies**, Professor of Behavioural Ecology, University of Cambridge. Professor Davies is an ornithologist with a special interest in Darwin's Finches.

[www.templeworld.com/alumni](http://www.templeworld.com/alumni)

Experience first hand the astonishing ecology that contributed to Charles Darwin's pivotal theory of evolution with this new version of our ever-popular itinerary.

The tour begins in Quito, high in the Andes, the northern extent of the Inca Empire. Visit the plazas and churches of Quito's Old City and Otavalo's famous market.

In the Galapagos, a week-long private cruise has been arranged aboard Coral I, a stylish privately chartered cruiser with just 18 comfortable, air-conditioned outside cabins, all with private facilities. Spend seven nights in these amazingly diverse islands to take in the astonishing birdlife, iguanas, giant tortoises and sea lions - a unique chance to witness evolution in action. An optional pre-tour to the Ecuadorian Amazon and post-tour to the incredible Incan sites of Peru are also available.



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