

CELEBRATING  
**60**  
YEARS

Abercrombie & Kent

EUROPE

INSPIRING LUXURY ADVENTURES

2023-2024







*"I met a lot of people in Europe.  
I even encountered myself."*

— James Baldwin

Dear Traveller,

As the world begins to open up, I know that many of you in the southern hemisphere are eagerly planning journeys abroad to places faraway. Europe is close to my heart and a place I now call home. So, while destinations further afield lure me away for periods of time, it is the French Riviera, specifically Monaco, that I always return to. And it's a convenient base for exploring Europe in depth.

At A&K, we have always prided ourselves on taking you, the world's most discerning travellers, to the world's most exotic destinations, but we also thrive on bringing new perspectives to places you already know and love. Some of our most extraordinary journeys are in Europe, many are in this collection, and many more are waiting to be created just for you as bespoke itineraries inspired by the endless experiences and encounters we have access to.

Escaping cooler climes in your winter months makes Europe an obvious choice for a dose of sunshine overlaid with some of the world's most recognised monuments and dreamy landscapes. But Spring and Autumn can be perfect times to travel with fewer crowds and milder temperatures while Winter casts its own magic across the continent with Christmas markets, snowy streetscapes and chances to glimpse the Northern Lights.

Many of the world's favourite gastronomic traditions are in Europe, with culinary experiences aplenty, fine wines and the freshest local produce. There are great works of art in the world's leading museums and galleries as well as unforgettable musical performances and theatre. With the benefit of A&K's local knowledge and contacts, you can avoid the queues and still enjoy Europe's great towns and cities, enhanced by exclusive and outside-hours access to palaces, museums and basilica, dining in splendid villas and ancient cellars, as private participants.

Our travel experts are also occupied uncovering emerging destinations and new experiences. Some of these feature in this collection: Malta is one lesser visited Mediterranean destination with a wealth of history and World Heritage sites. Sardinia and Corsica also feature for the first time, two islands with much to share but many intriguing differences. Northern Ireland, in particular Belfast, has shaken off its troubled past to emerge as an exciting new European destination, while the walled towns and atmospheric villages of Portugal are full of hidden gems just waiting to be explored.


So please peruse our new collection for inspiration and speak to one of our Journey Designers to make your unforgettable European dream adventure a reality.

Bon voyage!

*Geoffrey Kent*

**Geoffrey Kent**

Founder, Co-Chairman & CEO | Abercrombie & Kent

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**ICELAND**  
★ Reykjavik

NORTH ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

**IRELAND**  
Dublin ★

**SPAIN**  
Madrid ★  
**PORTUGAL**  
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# A&K's Europe

Where will your journey take you?

Europe is a treasure trove of dazzling cities and sophisticated cultures, enchanting rural scenes and sparkling coastlines, each country with its own unique heritage, history and architecture, promising endless fascination for discerning travellers.

Whether it's a gourmet journey around Italy, a walking tour through the south of France, an epic adventure in Iceland or a train trip through Scotland, there is a destination and style of journey to suit every individual traveller.

While choosing a destination can provide a pleasurable challenge, accommodation options are myriad — iconic establishments vie with charming country inns and seductive contemporary hotels rival the intimacy of river cruise vessels. Ensuring the perfect blend of elements for the individual traveller is what A&K does best.



# Why Choose an A&K Journey

Abercrombie & Kent takes you to the heart of a destination in extraordinary style and comfort, with authentic local insight, unforgettable experiences and encounters, and exclusive access privileges.

## The Leader in Luxury Travel Experiences

For over 60 years, Abercrombie & Kent has been a pioneer in the world of luxury travel, redefining the notion of what is possible on holiday and delivering travel experiences that change the way travellers see the world, and themselves. We've made it our business to specialise in destinations and itineraries that are extraordinary, creating exquisite adventures handcrafted to exceed the expectations of even the most discerning travellers.

## Our People

A&K works tirelessly to design adventures you won't see from any other travel company, backed up by the most robust support network, including over 55 offices in more than 30 countries around the world. Unlike other operators, we recruit, train, and manage our own full-time staff, orchestrating every aspect of your journey with precision and flexibility, down to the last detail. Whether it's the seamless flow of an A&K itinerary or the prompt attention paid to an unexpected request, you can be sure that our global family is the driving force making it happen.

## A&K's Journey Designers

Our Journey Designers regard travel not as an occasional diversion, but as a calling that stimulates the mind and nourishes the spirit. Exceptionally well-travelled individuals with an average of more than 10 years' travel industry experience, each is an expert in their chosen region of the world. They're also born adventurers who can advise on the best places to visit because they've usually been there themselves already. They're in constant touch with A&K's partners and our network of offices throughout the region and throughout the world, with access to the most up-to-date information at their fingertips. Your Journey Designer also gets to know you as an individual, either through your travel agent or directly with you, one traveller to another, to make sure your journey is everything you want it to be.

## Local Presence & Privileges

When you travel with A&K, we don't just take you to the front of the line, we take you into the rooms in the palace not typically open to visitors, on an exclusive tour with the best historian in the region. This kind of unencumbered access to the authentic heart and soul of a place – to the people and sites that exist far beyond the reach of the average traveller – is something we pride ourselves on and ensure we deliver on every journey we create, whether to Europe's most iconic luxury travel destinations, or to more off-the-grid and under-the-radar places and experiences.

## Expert Local Guides

It is often said that a guide can make or break a special journey. We agree. A&K's guides are the best in the world and deliver superlative experiences in every destination. All are blessed with extensive knowledge and the ability to bring local attractions to life. Multilingual and well-travelled, each possesses insight into diverse attractions and cultural interactions throughout the region, enlightening you in every locale with insider information that adds depth to your journey.

## A Long-Standing Commitment To Local Communities

Conservation and philanthropy have been integral parts of A&K's operations for decades, long before they became *de rigueur* for other operators. Working hand-in-hand with local villages and communities, we fund schools and clinics and generate opportunities for employment that make a real difference. Grassroots Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy projects like these are included on several of our journeys, welcoming our guests to participate in travel that changes lives. See page 60 for more information.

## Safety you can Trust

With experience comes excellence and reliability, and with A&K this translates to peace of mind and security. The safety of our guests is always our priority. Our network of local offices and long-established relationships in this region, and in every region in which we operate, allows us to keep our finger on the pulse of local dynamics and developments. If unexpected events occur, A&K has resources at the ready, and you can rely on us to go the extra mile to ensure your wellbeing and allow you to safely continue your journey.



## Exclusive Guardian Angel and Concierge Rail Service

In Europe, A&K's Guardian Angels can be on-hand to provide 24/7 support and on-the-spot planning during a Private Journey. And our exclusive Concierge Rail Service makes getting around Europe by train a breeze, with escorted transfers, seat reservations and luggage service/porterage available in many cities.







# Discover Europe on a Journey Made Just For You

Your ideal journey starts with a dream, and a deep desire to experience a part of the world in a new way or for the first time. And our Journey Designers are here to create itineraries perfectly suited to your style, your interests and your budget.

## Seamless, Ready-to-Travel Suggested Journeys

In this brochure, and in more detail on our website, you will find a range of suggested itineraries exclusively designed by our experts. Each element of each itinerary is carefully considered in terms of guest enjoyment, travel logistics, and how it fits in the overall pace and flow of the journey. Each one is travelled and tested, to ensure we present the destination in the best possible manner in seamless style and comfort. These suggested journeys are all designed to give you an incomparable travel experience and are operated on a private basis for you and your travelling companions. Each is ready-to-book and ready-to-travel on dates to suit you.

## Find Your Inspiration

Decades of in-country expertise means our Journey Designers can curate exceptional activities and experiences for you that are beyond the reach of the average traveller. In each destination, a list of some of these unique experiences is featured. Some of these also appear in our suggested journeys, but they can also be pieced together to form the framework for your own bespoke adventure.

## No Two Holidays are the Same

Our suggested journeys are just that, suggested. Should you need to deviate from the proposed route, add a different focus or start from scratch, our Journey Designers are poised to start the conversation with you, or your travel specialist, to craft the holiday of your dreams.

It's simple, tell us where and how you'd like to travel and we'll create or curate a journey to match, with as much or as little direction from you, and drawing on the expertise of locals from our offices throughout Europe. By tailor-making your journey with an A&K Journey Designer, you are assured a unique experience from booking to boarding and beyond.

## Itineraries You Won't Find Anywhere Else

With our unrivalled knowledge, A&K can create journeys that feature iconic destinations and perfect pacing, all seamlessly orchestrated for the luxury traveller. These are journeys that unfold with the narrative flow of a good book or a great film. Our approach and network advantages also bring practical benefits, including tailored transfer and flight routings to allow for extra time exploring, and longer stops in the places you most want to see.

## Genuine, Cultural Immersion

We ensure every one of our journeys includes authentic cultural encounters. Imagine strolling the market of a little-known village alongside a friendly local – your A&K guide – who grew up just down the street and has probably known some of the vendors here her entire life. She makes warm introductions and suddenly you are taking a bite of some exotic fruit picked just that morning. Our guides offer the kind of insight into local culture that can only come from being a local. The result is a journey that reveals the real spirit of the people, and the place, in a way you'll never forget.

# Four Steps to Your Inspiring Journey

## 1. Tell Us About Your Ideal Journey

It starts with an A&K Journey Designer, who works with you or your travel professional to open your eyes to the possibilities of travel with A&K – a world of inspiring destinations and exclusive insider access.

## 2. Make Your Journey Your Own

The Journey Designer creates a detailed proposal for your journey, complete with touring, hotels and insider access activities arranged specially for you, refining the itinerary until it's exactly what you're looking for.

## 3. Let Us Handle the Details

Your journey is planned – now it's time to sit back and let us finalise the details, as well as provide all the information you need to prepare for your journey.

## 4. Travel with Around-the-Clock A&K Support

Once you arrive at your destination, we manage everything behind the scenes, leaving you to enjoy every inspiring moment for as long as you travel with us. This is travel as it is meant to be.

## Experience the Journey of Your Dreams

Contact A&K at 1300 851 800, visit [www.abercrombiekent.com.au](http://www.abercrombiekent.com.au) or speak to your travel agent to start planning your bespoke journey today.







# Truly Luxurious Accommodations That Inspire, Enhance & Delight

The quality of the accommodation we use is one of the many things that sets an A&K journey apart. On all handcrafted tailor-made and small group journeys, we select only the most remarkable hotels, boutique lodges and ships, each of which must combine superior service, a sense of place, local character and unanticipated luxuries.

## Award-Winning, Iconic Hotels

When luxury is what you're looking for, there's no reason to settle for second-best. Our local experts choose only the very best hotels in a given destination. In many cases, their choice will be the undisputed local favourite, synonymous with five-star style, often a *Condé Nast Traveler Gold List* or *Travel + Leisure World's Best* property. But the choice might also be a whispered secret, a better option, a small but perfectly-formed boutique property with a certain significant atmospheric, experiential or locational advantage. This firsthand knowledge allows us to recommend the perfect fit for you and your itinerary.

## One-of-a-Kind Locations

When considering an hotel, our experts look at more than just the rooms. Wherever possible, we arrange for you to stay close to the places you most want to see, close to the people you'll most enjoy meeting, and close to the experiences you'll most enjoy discovering. We'll choose the right option from within the region's best properties, whether historically iconic, coveted high-design or supremely located on the edge of wilderness.

## Stylish Expedition Vessels And Small Ships

Our commitment to luxury doesn't stop at the water's edge. When it comes to cruising with A&K, step aboard knowing you'll experience the same comfort, service and style you would on land, all while discovering the beauty of life on the water.









# Italy

Italy is a grand masterpiece of history, art, architecture, gastronomy as well as breathtaking landscapes. Italy's past lives are visible as you wander in glorious cities like Rome, Florence and Venice. The architecture and artwork revealing the rise and fall of empires and ideas. Meet local residents and experts during wine tastings, cooking classes and guided art tours. Put your feet up in hotel suites that evoke the elegance of days gone by.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Italy*

### **Cruise Rome on a Vespa Tour for Foodies**

Hop on a classic Vespa for a foodie tour of the Eternal City and beyond. Led by an expert guide, discover the places and people which make this a gourmet lover's dream. Enjoy la dolce vita as you stop off to sip a classic Italian espresso. Sample delicious pizza Bianca and learn more about the history of Rome's savoury street food.

### **Explore St Mark's Basilica After Hours**

Explore St Mark's Basilica blissfully free of the typical crowds on an after-hours tour. Marvel at the magnificent façade before stepping inside, admiring the beautiful Byzantine altarpiece and treasured mosaics illuminated in all their glittering glory. Then follow your guide into the crypt where St Mark himself is believed to rest.

### **Taste the Wines of Tuscany**

Overlooking the beautiful Bargino countryside, a visit to Antinori nel Chianti Classico introduces you to the iconic Antinori family and their winemaking legacy. Be immersed in the delicate production process and admire the innovative architecture of the cellar before a truly memorable tasting.

### **Explore Mount Etna by Jeep**

Travel by private jeep with your expert guide and see the lava flow, craters and grottoes of Sicily's iconic Mount Etna. Get the chance to scale this mighty volcano which still sends out wisps of scalding steam from its peak standing at 3,329 metres above sea level. Afterwards, enjoy a light Sicilian lunch in a local vineyard over a chilled glass of Etna Rosso wine.

### **Privately Cruise Along the Amalfi Coast**

Cruise the caerulean waters along the Amalfi Coast on board your own private motor-yacht. Discover the beautiful island of Capri and natural wonder of the Blue Grotto. Swim in a private cove, explore a picturesque village or just relax and enjoy the breathtaking views. Be spellbound by the confetti-coloured villas which cling to the clifftops of the Sorrentine Peninsula and the azure shimmering sea.

### **Taste Your Way through a Bacari Tour of Venice**

Join the locals for a traditional ombra de vin (small glass of wine) and allow A&K's food and wine connoisseur to accompany you on this tour through the city at night. As you move round the bars, dotted along the canals and tucked discreetly tucked down narrow alleyways, savour a plethora of bite-sized delicacies alongside flavourful local drops.

### **Be Immersed in the Many Wonders of Vibrant Palermo**

Pay a visit to Palermo, capital of the island paradise Sicily. Explore cavernous cathedrals housing royal tombs, or enjoy an opera in the famous Teatro Massimo. Marvel at the glittering Byzantine mosaics within the Norman Palace and Palatine Chapel, and gaze in awe at the Baroque architecture and Gothic palaces for which this beguiling region is famous.







## Suggested Tailor-Made Itineraries

### Rome to Venice: A Connoisseur's Italy

12 days

*Arrive Rome (3N) – Assisi (2N) – Florence (3N) – Depart Venice (3N)*

Long a destination for world travellers, Italy first became fashionable as 17th century Europeans embarked on their Grand Tour. Today, she is as beguiling as ever with extraordinary depositories of art and architecture, a long and fascinating history, dreamy landscapes, rich cultural traditions and a celebrated cuisine, all of which will mesmerise you on this exceptional private journey.

[Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.](#)

### Splendours of Sicily

10 days

*Arrive Palermo (2N) – Agrigento (2N) – Syracuse (3N) – Taormina (2N) – Depart Catania*

Closer to Africa than Rome, Sicily's successive waves of conquerors have each left their mark on this sunny open-air museum with its Greek temples and Norman churches, Baroque palaces and dramatically located cliff-top villages. Lush mountains, sun-drenched plains and sandy beaches are a backdrop to the bustling cities of Palermo and Syracuse while its cuisine is a rich blend of styles.

[Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.](#)

### Northern Italy: A Cultural & Culinary Exploration<sup>NEW</sup>

10 days

*Arrive Bologna (3N) – Verona (2N) – Lake Como (2N) – Depart Milan (2N)*

Discover three of northern Italy's most evocative cities on this cultural and culinary exploration. Celebrate the region's rich flavours in restaurants, cafés, markets and trattorias. Visit country estates and vineyards where age-old methods are employed to deliver the finest local produce – yours for the tasting. And discover the palatial villas, breathtaking alpine landscapes and ancient charming villages of the Italian Lake District before diving into Italy's capital of style, Milan.

[Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.](#)

*Our complete range of popular tailor-made journeys can be [viewed on our website](#) and all can be personalised to your individual requirements. [Click here](#) to find out more about the A&K Difference.*



# Malta

Malta is a true Mediterranean marvel. Heavily influenced by the many civilisations which have contested and ruled its sun-filled shores, Malta and Gozo, its sister island, together claim over 6,500 years of history with one of the world's greatest concentrations of historical sights. Each conquering power has left its mark from Arabic town names to British food, Greek superstitions and Roman Catholicism. A few days here will reveal a lavish architectural legacy, splendid Baroque churches, a flourishing food scene and rich agricultural traditions.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Malta*

### **Soak up History on a Tour of Grand Harbour**

Take a traditional water taxi from Valletta, crossing the waters of Grand Harbour to the Three Cities, whose imposing fortifications tell the fascinating story of Malta's military history. Senglea's tidy Gardjola Gardens, with its iconic watchtower, offers panoramic views of magnificent Fort St Angelo and the capital's lively waterfront.

### **Unravel Mysteries of the Stone Age**

The number of well-preserved megalithic ruins scattered throughout the Maltese archipelago will astound even the most seasoned traveller. A wander through remarkable ancient sites such as the hypogeum of Hal Saflieni, or the temples at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra will leave you pondering the ingenuity of early Stone Age civilisations.

### **Privately Cruise the Maltese Archipelago**

Navigate the stunning Maltese archipelago in a private yacht, stopping in secluded bays where you can snorkel or swim in crystalline waters. Admire the spectacular rocky coastlines of Comino – an island that features in many Hollywood blockbuster films. On Gozo, more ancient megaliths await exploration in the form of the mysterious Ggantija Temples.

### **Follow in the Footsteps of Knights**

For almost 300 years, Malta served as headquarters for the medieval Knights Hospitaller, also known as the Order of St John. Its vibrant capital – Valletta – brims with treasures from this era including the St John's Co-Cathedral, filled with priceless Baroque masterpieces, and the Grandmaster's Palace, which houses an impressive collection of armour and weapons.

## *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

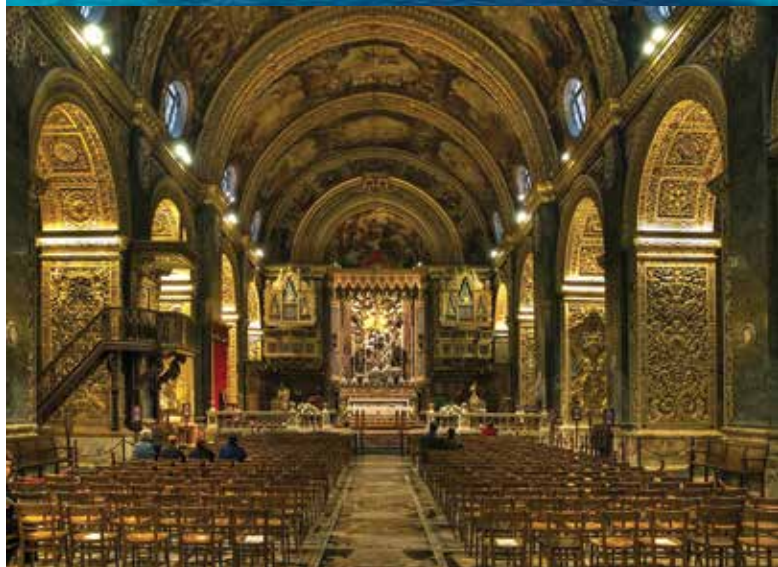
### **Malta: A Journey through the Ages<sup>NEW</sup>**

**5 days**

Peel back the layers of Malta's 7,000 years of history and discover a greater density of historic sights per square kilometre than any other country. Though diminutive in size, this Mediterranean nation is jam-packed with temples, forts and palaces that collectively tell the story of the island's intriguing inhabitants and its history. Explore the capital, Valletta, one of the few cities in the world with UNESCO World Heritage status for its legacy of lavish architecture from the Megalithic Period to the Knights of St. John and beyond. Then venture by yacht to the other islands of the Maltese archipelago.

**[Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.](#)**

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# Sardinia & Corsica

Lapped by the blue waters of the Mediterranean and blessed with the same balmy climate, the islands of Sardinia and Corsica are separated by a narrow strait. Both share many characteristics such as untamed natural beauty, wonderful cuisine, and a rich history, however their personalities couldn't be more different. One is Italian while the other is distinctly French in flavour. One more wild and rugged, the other more sophisticated.



## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Sardinia & Corsica*

### **Explore the Enchanting Gulf of Orosei by 4WD and Boat**

Navigate rocky trails that thread Sardinia's wild eastern shores by 4WD and on foot to reach the stunning white sands and crystal-clear waters that define the fabulous Gulf of Orosei. Board a private RIB and ply this gorgeous coastline, stopping in secluded coves and to admire dramatic limestone grottoes.

### **Unlock Secrets from the Bronze Age**

Built sometime in the late 2nd millennium BC, nuraghe are a unique type of circular defensive stone structure found only on Sardinia. Be awed by the inventiveness of early man at the ruins of 'Su Nuraxi' di Barumini, home to the most complete example of this form of prehistoric architecture.

### **Discover Giants' Graves and the Glamorous Costa Smeralda**

Inspect an ancient, beautifully preserved Giants' grave at Coddu Vecchiu, a stone burial chamber so-called for its enormous size, built during the Bronze Age. Costa Smeralda also offers ritzy resorts and miles of picture-perfect beaches lapped by the Mediterranean Sea.



### **Trace the Spectacular Coastline of the Bay of Calvi**

Travel from the magnificent citadel at Calvi all the way to the crumbling stone tower at L'Île-Rousse. The scenic coastal track takes you past a string of pristine beaches, whilst an inland trail leads you through several charming medieval villages and hilltop settlements.

## *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

### **Sardinia & Corsica: History & Legends<sup>NEW</sup>**

*11 days*

*Arrive Cagliari, Sardinia (2N) – Oliena (2N) – Costa Smeralda (3N) – Ajaccio, Corsica (1N) – Depart Calvi (2N)*

On this all-encompassing exploration of these twin Mediterranean islands, you'll experience an incredible immersion in history, from the Bronze Age to the Napoleonic era and beyond. Discover enigmatic ruins, climb battle-scarred defensive towers and visit the birthplace of Napoleon Bonaparte. You'll also discover a landscape of wild beauty, wonderful cuisine inspired by nature, as well as the warmest of welcomes from the locals.

[Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.](#)

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# France

A feast of architecture, cuisine, viniculture and art, France is the quintessential luxury destination. The mood of this mighty brooding country changes dramatically from place to place, from Paris, to a Barging holiday, to the clear blue waters along the southern coast in the Cote d'Azur, and to the iconic landscapes of southwest Provence. No matter where you go in France, A&K delivers the most authentic experiences in every corner of the country.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience France*

### **Tour Paris by Night**

Explore the iconic sights of the French capital as the sun sets, cruising about the city in your own piece of French history, a Citroën 2CV. Escorted by an expert local guide, gain an in-depth understanding of the history behind some of the city's most famous monuments set against a timelessly romantic backdrop, the breeze rustling your hair as a procession of Paris' brilliantly illuminated landmarks rolls past.

### **Sip and Stroll Through Beautiful Bordeaux**

Stroll along Bordeaux' magnificent waterfront marvelling at the spectacular Miroir d'Eau and the beautiful 18th century facades. Then venture into the Old Town and the Saint Pierre District, the historic heart of the city, with its monumental Cailhau Gate and Parliament Square. Afterwards, receive an introduction to Bordeaux' wine heritage at the Cité du Vin museum before vineyard-hopping through the surrounding countryside.

### **Enjoy a Day at a Farm in the French Countryside**

Immortalised by master painters and writers, the French countryside farmstead endures as a steadfast cornerstone of the national culture. Set out for a day of fun on an authentic, working farmstead secluded in the French countryside. Here, learn the art of French bread making from your host family, chat with your hosts, stroll around the farm, meet the animals and explore the adjacent woodland.

### **Taste Your Way Through the Gastronomic Mecca of Lyon**

World Heritage-listed Lyon is a city overflowing with history and iconic architectural landmarks. A gastronome's dream, explore this mecca of eateries and indulge in perfect pastries, rich cheeses and the traditional tarte Lyonnaise. Meander through local markets, marvelling at the fresh produce and tantalising treats. Boasting an impressive offering of local wines, Lyon is a true epicurean adventure.

### **Explore the Louis Vuitton Legacy in Fashion-Forward Paris**

Discover the man behind the label as you visit Louis Vuitton's Art-Deco-Style home and tour the production studio where skilled artisans still stitch the iconic fashion house's designs by hand. Then, browse the rotating exhibits of the adjacent museum showcasing the latest designer collaborations. Finally, set out on a Parisian shopping trip custom-tailored to your own personal style.

### **Taste of the French Riviera, Nice**

Venture into the old town of Nice and immerse yourself in the colourful open-air market of Cours Saleya, a veritable kaleidoscope of sights and smells, sampling as you go a host of local delicacies from mouth-watering cheeses and crusty bread, to fragrant herbs, salty olives, tasty pâtés and vine-ripened tomatoes.







## *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

### **Paris to the Côte d'Azur**

*12 days*

**Arrive Paris (3N) – Lyon (2N) –  
Avignon (3N) – Depart Nice (3N)**

From the grand museums and monuments of Paris where you'll discover the cultural secrets of the 'City of Light', travel south to the Rhône where the delights of Lyon await and follow the river into sunny Provence and the glittering Côte d'Azur where you'll follow in the steps of some of France's most famous artists.

**Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.**

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# Luxury Barge Cruises

## EUROPE, ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & IRELAND

A&K has a fleet of 17 beautiful hotel barges at its disposal. If you are looking for a European holiday with a focus on fine food, good wines, beautiful landscapes and an exciting new destination each day without ever leaving home, then a slow-paced cruise on some of Europe's most beautiful inland waterways is for you. It is one of the most relaxing and enjoyable ways to discover rural Europe, without the crowds and in great comfort, while immersing yourself in the gastronomy, culture and history of the regions you pass through.

### Vessels

The exclusive vessels we recommend all have charming cabins with private facilities, central heating/air-conditioning and portholes/windows. Cabin sizes vary from cosy and compact to ultra-deluxe staterooms comparable to top hotel rooms. All offer exceptional service with distinctive dining and include spacious lounges and sun decks, some with Jacuzzi. Your biggest choice is whether to charter a whole barge with a group of friends or family, or join other like minded individuals. Cruises depart on a Sunday, are six nights in duration and operate from March to October.

### Daily Excursions

Excursions into nearby villages or the surrounding countryside are either a quick journey in the barge minibus or just a short walk from the mooring. Touring may include the magnificent châteaux of the Loire Valley, wine tasting in Burgundy, an ancient abbey in the southwest or a Gothic church in Franche-Comté. All excursions are included but are entirely optional.

### Food & Wine

One of the major highlights of any European sojourn is the cuisine. On board, your chef is a master whose gastronomic creations guests often rate as well as those in top restaurants. The vessel's pantry is supplemented with fresh produce bought from lock-keepers' gardens or local markets. Each morning, a crew member goes ashore to collect fresh breads, croissants and pastries while your coffee brews. Lunch will be a selection of salads, pâtés, quiches and cheeses, with a four or five-course dinner each night. Enjoy regional specialities and the finest wines handpicked from the cellar.

### Special Interest Cruises

For those who prefer a holiday with a specific focus, there are select itineraries designed to cater to unique interests. These may be for golf or garden lovers, opera-goers, wine connoisseurs, antique collectors or families travelling with children. Most are available to whole boat charters only.

## What's Included

Each barge cruise is for six nights and includes:

- Comfortable accommodation in air-conditioned, en suite staterooms or suites
- Gourmet meals prepared by the on board chef, fine wines and an open bar
- Daily escorted excursions to places of interest and private wine tastings in air-conditioned minibuses
- Local return transfer from designated meeting/drop off point
- Bicycles and, on most hotel barges, an on-deck spa pool
- Attentive service from an experienced crew – Captain, chef, tour guide, and hosts/hostesses







# Luxury Barge Cruises

Here is a selection of our most popular barges.

From Paris and Alsace-Lorraine in the north, to the Canal du Midi in the sun-drenched south, the canals and waterways of France are picture postcard destinations for the luxury barge traveller. There are vineyards in their thousands to visit, walled cities to explore, plus countless châteaux, charming villages and colourful markets. Our French barge cruises operate in Burgundy, the Canal du Midi, Alsace & Lorraine, the Loire, Gascony, Bordeaux, Champagne, Paris and Picardy.

While France offers the greatest number of barge cruises in Europe, there are other destinations which lend themselves perfectly to this type of holiday: the waterways and charming cities of Belgium; the Moselle River, Germany; the Netherlands – its art, grand museums and tulips; Italy's Venice and the River Po; the Caledonian Canal, Scotland; the royal River Thames in England and the Shannon in Ireland.



## Anjodi

Canal du Midi, South of France | 8 guests

As featured on the BBC's 'Rick Stein's French Odyssey', Anjodi has a well-planned interior incorporating African hardwoods and shining brass to create a warm onboard feel, reminiscent of a classic yacht. Four cleverly-designed cabins, feature en suite facilities, hardwood panelling and brass portholes. A spacious sundeck offers comfortable loungers and a spa pool.



## Enchanté

Canal du Midi, South of France | 8 guests

Enchanté is a state of the art, double-decker hotel barge that has been built to the highest standard and tastefully furnished in a contemporary style. She provides luxurious accommodation for up to eight guests in four equally spacious twin or double-bedded suites, the largest of any hotel barge on the Canal du Midi and with superbly appointed bathrooms.





## Finesse

Southern Burgundy, France | 8 guests

Finesse is a double-decker hotel barge built with luxury in mind. Guests can relax in the saloon, gazing out of the panoramic windows or settle into the demonstration galley, watching the chef preparing gourmet meals. Outside, unwind on the sun deck or enjoy the alfresco dining area and spa pool.



## Renaissance

Upper Loire & Western Burgundy, France | 8 guests

Renaissance is very spacious with a beautifully-appointed saloon evoking the atmosphere of a timeless French manor house. Outside, the large forward deck includes a covered roof extension with a circular table for alfresco dining, comfortable hardwood sun loungers and a heated spa pool.



## La Nouvelle Etoile

Netherlands, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg | 12 guests

La Nouvelle Etoile's elegantly appointed saloon provides a truly sophisticated canal cruise experience. Boasting four generous cabin suites, an elevator and an exercise room, this hotel barge is lavishly equipped including en suite bathrooms and an expansive sun deck with a hot tub. Bikes available.



## Panache

France & The Netherlands | 12 guests

Hotel barge Panache has been fitted out in traditional yacht style with brass and mahogany fittings and comfortable cabin accommodation. Panoramic windows in the saloon let in plenty of natural light and there are six generously sized suites. The spacious sun deck and heated spa pool are the perfect places to unwind. Bikes available.



## Spirit Of Scotland

Scottish Highlands | 12 guests

Spirit of Scotland features a bright and spacious saloon and dining area with picture windows, a separate bar, and an integral forward wheelhouse giving views of the cruise route ahead. Outside, there are separate relaxation areas and a heated spa pool, as well as a covered dining terrace and upper sun deck.



## Magna Carta

The Royal River Thames, England | 8 guests

Magna Carta is one of the finest and most luxurious barges in the British Isles today with an ambience to match. There are four spacious suites, under-floor heating, spa pool, upper deck saloon and dining area. Your onboard chef produces a range of mouth-watering regional specialities.



# England

England, the “green and pleasant land”, is both eccentric and intriguing with a long and storied history witnessed firsthand in its extraordinary monuments. The rich and glorious past has given way to a newfound energy in vibrant cities where fashion and fine dining compete with historic attractions. From Stonehenge and Tower Bridge to Eton and Oxford, England is loaded with cherished icons set against the backdrop of some of the world’s prettiest countryside.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience England*

### **Experience the Coastal Charm of Cornwall**

Mystical home of King Arthur, this duchy in England’s southwest is breathtakingly beautiful with a rugged coastline, wild beaches, charming seaside villages, historic ruins and lost gardens. Explore the heath covered Isles of Scilly, take a scenic coastal walk to a local pub or visit the extraordinary Eden Project, a dramatic global garden housed in tropical biomes.

### **Get Lost Amid the Arts & Gothic Grandeur of London**

England’s energetic capital, London, boasts a history dating back to Roman times and has been home to the British Royal Family since at least the 11th century. Chock full of iconic attractions, both ancient and modern, it is also an important centre of the arts, boasting some of the world’s most notable galleries and museums plus three world class orchestras, the Royal Opera House and the annual Proms season of musical events.

### **Roam the Fabled Landscapes of Yorkshire**

Scenic valleys and vibrant villages characterise charming Yorkshire. Soak up the soaring natural beauty of its famous dales, the rugged sandy beaches of the coast, the stunning landscapes of the North York Moors and the Lake District. Or explore the cosmopolitan charm of Leeds and York’s ancient cobbled streets.

### **Relax and Restore in Idyllic Bath & The Cotswolds**

Located about 160 kilometres due west of London, Bath is one of the loveliest cities in all of England and the site of the country’s only natural hot springs, prized for their restorative powers since the time of the Celts. Nearby, in the southwest, the idyllic Cotswolds region is known for its rolling hills, winding rivers, picturesque cottages and peaceful villages where many old homes are constructed with the famed Cotswold stone, a honey-coloured limestone found only in local quarries.

### **Visit Blenheim Palace**

Discover World Heritage listed Blenheim Palace, a monumental, heritage-listed stately home in Oxfordshire, principal residence of the Dukes of Marlborough and ancestral home of Winston Churchill. Peek into the gilded state rooms with their priceless collections of portraits, tapestries and furniture, and frolic through the formal gardens, full of exotic flora, fine art and statuary.

### **Uncover the History Within Churchill’s War Rooms**

Delve into the maze of corridors deep beneath London’s Westminster where Britain’s World War II offensive was waged by leading military strategists and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. Join your guide on a revealing exploration of the Churchill War Rooms which sheltered the P.M. and his war cabinet from Nazi bombing raids, seeing them through Britain’s “finest hour”, and onward to victory.







### *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

## **London & Southern England**

*10 days*

*Arrive London (2N) – Oxford (3N) –  
Bath (2N) – Sussex (2N) – Depart London*

Innovative, artistic and historic, it is not hard to see why London is one of the most visited cities in the world and on this journey you'll take in its most recognised landmarks – time-honoured and recent – and venture through the glorious English countryside to Oxford and Bath visiting honey-coloured towns, imposing castles and grand gardens en route.

**Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.**

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# Scotland

Scotland is a land steeped in history. A lonely white croft at the foot of a mountain trail. A 13th century castle dominating a tiny tidal island. A peaty carse where knights once rode into battle on horseback. There are many delights packed into this compact country. Any journey to Scotland is packed with adventure and romance. Heritage architecture marked by the sands of time. An abundance of delicious fresh local produce foraged from the surrounding wilderness and vast swathes of land, coloured by the seasons.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Scotland*

### **Hike Across Scotland's Towering Isle of Skye**

Set off the Scottish mainland's windswept western shores, the Isle of Skye spans 80 kilometres of rugged mountains, emerald moors, timeworn castles, crystal lochs and seaside cliffs. Hike this wild island enclave, exploring Dunvegan Castle and Gardens, the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Scotland, and the majestic Cuillin Hills.

### **Wander the Historic Streets of Edinburgh**

Edinburgh is the stately and sophisticated capital of Scotland, graced with rustic medieval and Gothic architecture. Looming over the city is majestic Edinburgh Castle, home to Scotland's crown jewels. Wander down the Royal Mile and discover the splendid Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official residence in Scotland.

### **Discover the Glens, Lochs & Castles of the Scottish Highlands**

Scotland is the most mountainous region of Great Britain. The beautiful Highlands are an untamed landscape of mountains, lochs and heathery glens, historic castles and famous battle sites. Don't miss its famous distilleries and the chance to taste some of the world's finest single malts.

### **Absorb Golfing History on Scotland's Hallowed St. Andrews Turf**

On a rugged stretch of grassy, windblown North Sea coastline, the game of golf was born some 600 years ago. Since then the hallowed turf of St. Andrews has hosted the Open Championship 29 times, giving rise to such legends as Jones, Nicklaus and Woods. Absorb golf's most storied stage as your guide reveals the challenges of the Old Course.

### **Explore Scotland's Historic Stirling Castle After-Hours**

Perched atop a rocky crag, Stirling Castle brims with history and atmosphere which is revealed on a privately guided VIP after-hours tour. Enter the castle chambers where Stuart kings held court and the Royal Chapel where infant Mary was crowned Queen of Scots. Stroll the gardens and ramparts and marvel at the breadth of history concealed within its towering walls.

### **Taste Scotch Whisky**

In Edinburgh, join an expert at The Scotch Malt Whisky Society, to learn more about fine single cask, single malt whiskies purchased for members directly from top distilleries throughout Scotland. Relax and sample some of their finest malts in a private tasting room usually reserved for members.







## *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

### **A Scottish Sojourn**

*11 days*

**Arrive Edinburgh (3N) – Inverness (2N) –  
Isle of Skye (2N) – Fort William (1N) –  
Depart Glasgow (2N)**

Embracing the northernmost part of the British Isles, Scotland is wild and untamed. Its landscape of lochs and heathery glens, famous battle sites and fast-flowing rivers provides a dramatic background to historic castles, whisky distilleries and ancient ruins. Its rival cities too are an intriguing contrast: Edinburgh with its captivating history and vibrant Glasgow where festivals, museums and the live music scene create a cultural buzz.

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# Ireland

Ireland is an endlessly endearing destination for its historic traditions as much as its love of Guinness. The Irish are legendary for their warm hospitality and their easy-going attitude which is enthusiastically welcoming in charming country pubs, local market stalls, distilleries and shops across the country. Discover its wild, unspoilt landscapes and dramatic coastline as well as its world famous golf courses and a rich artisanal heritage.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Ireland*

### **Gallivant through the landscapes of Southwest Ireland & The Ring of Kerry**

Comprising Counties Cork and Kerry, this postcard-perfect region is lush with verdant hillsides, craggy coastlines and rustic roads. The Ring of Kerry is a scenic route set atop cliffs that overlook the Atlantic, circuiting the Iveragh Peninsula from Killarney to Dingle Bay and beyond.

### **Celebrate Ireland's Slow-Food Movement in Cork**

In recent years, Ireland has seen a resurgence in back-to-basics slow-food, celebrating organic, sustainable ingredients brought to life through skilled, thoughtful preparations. Cork's award-winning Ballymaloe Cookery School is a champion of the slow-food philosophy and on your visit you will explore the extensive organic garden, before grabbing an apron to prepare and enjoy a three-course lunch in the kitchen.

### **Take Flight on a Family Falconry Adventure**

Introduced to Ireland in the 12th century, falconry remains an enduring legacy of the island's Anglo-Norman forebears, a noble pursuit still thriving in manor houses across the nation. Under the tutelage of a local expert falconer, introduce your family to this time-honoured tradition on the sprawling grounds of an historic Irish estate.

### **Explore Killarney National Park**

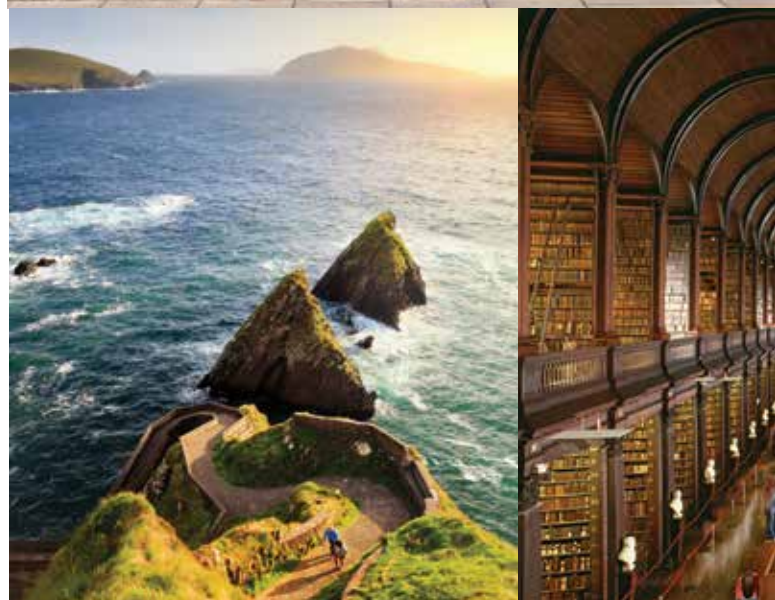
In County Kerry, at the foot of Macgillycuddy's Reeks – the highest mountain range in Ireland – lies the 26,000-acre Killarney National Park. Visit Ross Castle or Muckross House and Gardens, or venture forth in search of the region's only wild herd of native red deer, amid soaring mountains and ancient oak woods.

### **Explore the Cobbled Streets of Belfast, Northern Ireland**

The newly vibrant capital of Northern Ireland, Belfast, has shaken off its troubled past to emerge as one of northern Europe's most happening cities. Stroll the cobbled streets of the buzzing Cathedral Quarter, lament the infamous Belfast-built liner at the Titanic museum and admire glorious Victorian architecture.

### **Be Captivated by the Giant's Causeway, Northern Ireland**

Reaching from the shores of County Antrim into the rolling seas of the North Atlantic, the tightly packed, hexagonal basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway stretch seaward toward the distant Scottish coast. Take in the majesty of this geological wonder as your guide recalls the legend of Finn McCool, a mythical giant long intertwined with the Causeway's folklore.







## *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

### **Best of Southern Ireland**

**9 Days**

**Arrive Dublin (2N) – Cork (2N) – Killarney (2N) – Depart Lower Shannon (2N)**

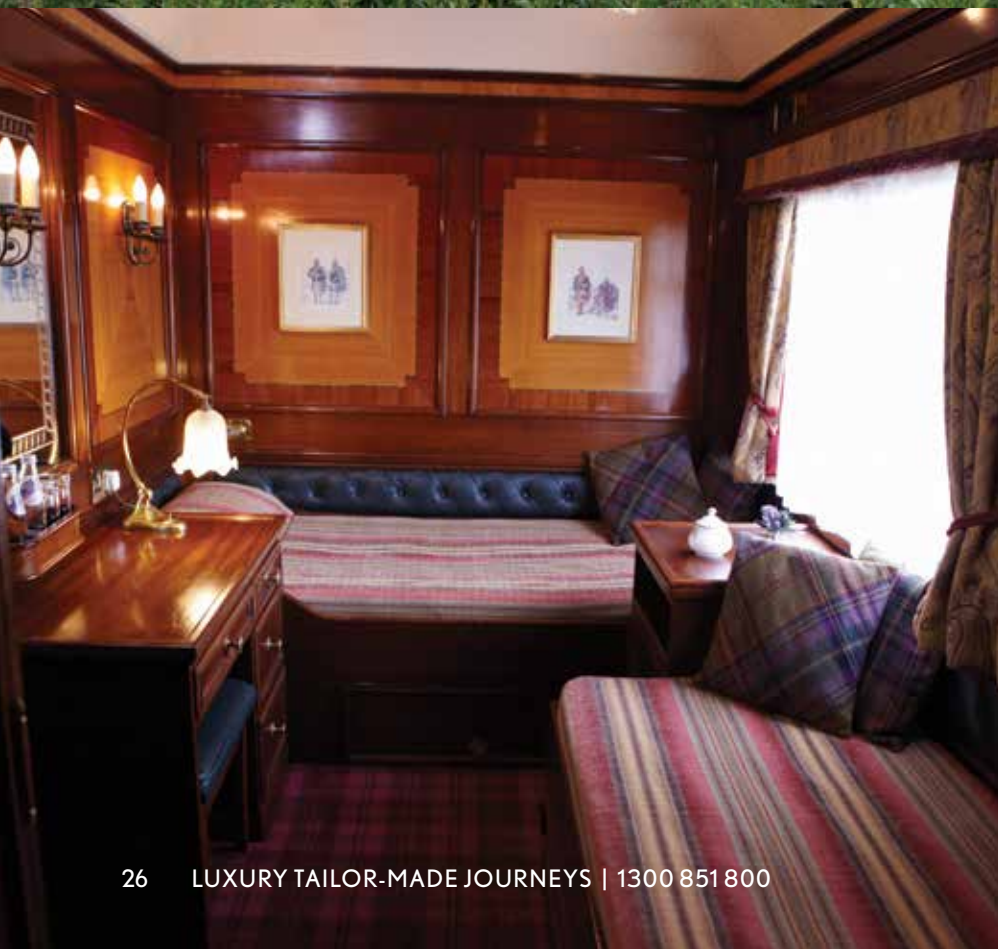
Explore the Emerald Isle from east coast to west. From the Georgian architecture of Dublin to Cork and its Titanic heritage, the scenic Ring of Kerry and the Irish Lake District. You'll be captivated by the raw landscapes and wild coastlines, quaint villages and country pubs, the folk music and dance and of course the whiskey – best drunk out of Waterford crystal.

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# Royal Scotsman, a Belmond Train

A journey on the Royal Scotsman revives the romantic age of rail travel in Scotland. 40 guests travel through Scotland's breathtaking countryside in luxurious cabins. Exceptional one- to seven-night journeys give you the chance to do much more than simply admire the stunning scenery. Take part in activities such as clay pigeon shooting, Highland safaris, fishing and golf, and enjoy visits to traditional whisky distilleries, local castles and grand country estates. Life on-board is relaxed and indulgent, with gastronomic dining and the convivial atmosphere of celebrating with friends.

## The Cabins

There are 15 twin, three double and four single State Cabins. All have a private bathroom with shower, washbasin and toilet, high-quality toiletries and fresh towels. Lined with rich marquetry, each has been designed to offer the ultimate in luxury travel. Facilities include lower beds, a dressing table, a full-length wardrobe, individually controlled heating, ceiling fans, opening windows and a cabin service call button.

## Dining

The mahogany panelling and rich upholstery that adorn the two dining cars, Raven and Swift, set the scene for an unforgettable on-board dining experience. Royal Scotsman's on-board chefs create dishes using the freshest seasonal local produce.

## Entertainment

Enjoy traditional Scottish entertainment after dinner in the Observation Car, including storytelling from a clansman or a performance by local musicians.

## Observation Car

The splendour of the Observation Car provides the perfect backdrop to Scotland's stunning scenery. Views may be admired from the comfort of the interior, or from the open-air verandah.

## Taste of the Highlands 3 Days

Journey into the heart of the Scottish Highlands, visiting enchanting sites of natural beauty, whisky distilleries and a country estate with traditional outdoor activities.

## Western Scenic Wonders 4 Days

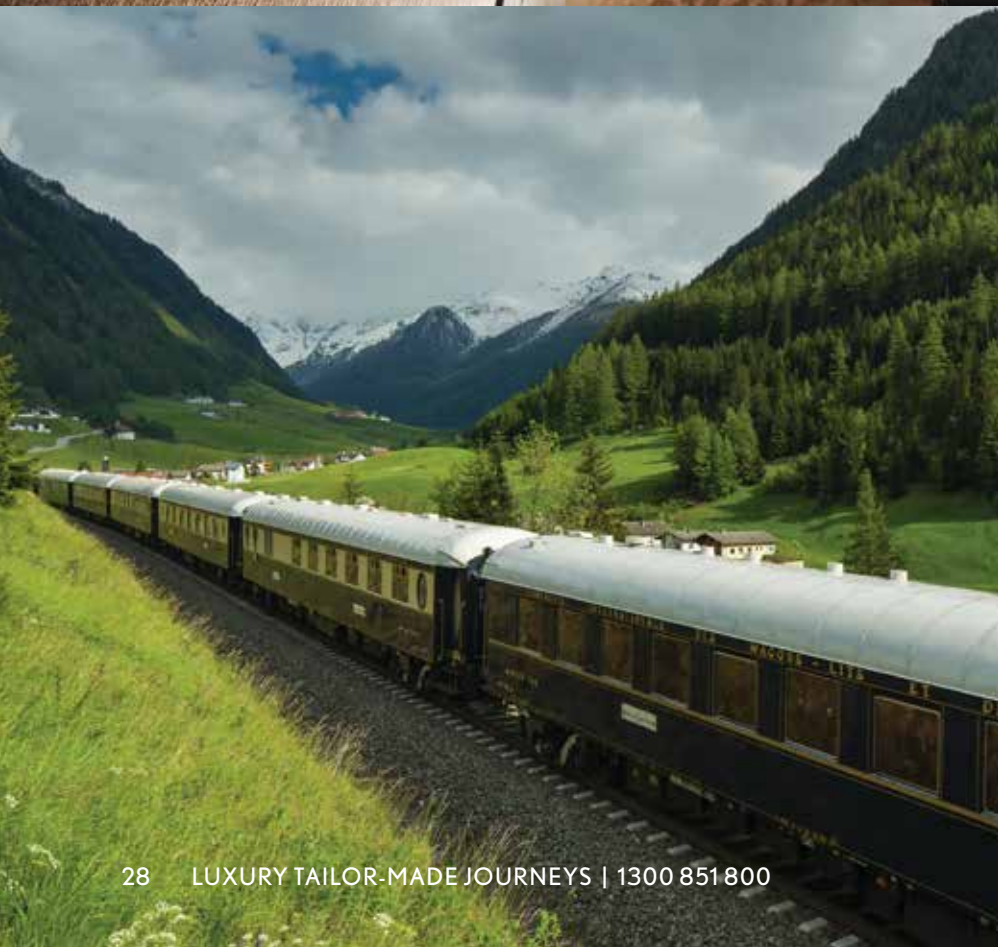
Take a ride on the country's wild side visiting some iconic sites: Loch Lomond, Ben Nevis, the Isle of Bute, a guided tour of Mount Stuart and a choice of tour to Glenfinnan Monument or the Steall Waterfall.

## Classic Splendours 5 Days

This classic Scottish Highlands tour takes you through some of the country's finest scenery. Visit Rothiemurchus Estate and enjoy a guided tour of Glamis Castle and gardens.











# Venice Simplon-Orient-Express, A Belmond Train

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express has earned renown as the world's most glamorous train carrying 188 guests in sophisticated style. Ornate carriages, sumptuous cuisine and attentive personal service make it one of the world's finest luxury travel experiences. Impeccably restored private compartments are converted each evening by a steward into a luxurious bedroom with washbasin cabinet. The train's classic journey runs from London via Paris to Venice, or you may choose to pursue a different chapter in history taking in the sights of Istanbul, Budapest, Prague or Vienna.

## The Cabins

The Venice Simplon-Orient-Express cars are the original 1920s models. Each cabin has a washbasin, hot and cold water, towels, bathrobes and slippers. Many cabins have adjoining doors and can be converted to 'Cabin Suites'. WC's are located at either or both ends of each sleeping car. For something unforgettable, experience new levels in one of the new Grand Suites, inspired by art deco indulgence while providing every modern comfort.

## Dining

Three restaurant cars offer a truly magical dining experience, from scenic lunches to romantic dinners. Gentlemen are asked to wear

a jacket and tie for dinner. During the day, smart casual is expected, excluding jeans and sport shoes.

## Bar Car '3674'

A glamorous setting for pre-dinner drinks and cocktails with your fellow guests, or a nightcap before retiring to your cabin. Enjoy the evocative sound of the baby grand piano, played by the resident pianist.

## Champagne Bar

Sample the finest Champagnes in our exclusive bar. Art Deco interiors and Lalique glassware conjure the romance and glamour of the Roaring Twenties.

## London to Venice 2 Days

Depart London onboard the British Pullman enjoying a silver service Brunch. After crossing the Channel board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train for one night onboard with a four-course dinner. Next day, breakfast served in your cabin, lunch in the restaurant car. Arrive into Venice late afternoon.

## Venice to Paris 2 Days

Departing mid-morning, your time aboard will be marked by luxury. Explore the carriages, admiring the vintage flourishes. Relax in your cabin, where a personal steward attends to your every need. Then head to one of the three restaurant cars and savour wonderful, world-class cuisine.

## Venice to Budapest 5 Days

Life on the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is elegant and indulgent. You'll be spoilt with wonderful regional cuisine, fine wines, peerless service, and a timeless atmosphere, which you will never forget.





# Spain

It's hard to think of Spain as a single entity. It's more like an infinite jigsaw. Each region, culture and custom fitting together to create a captivating canvas of pure wanderlust. Meet the fiercely proud Basque people in the north, discover the Celtic province of Galicia, explore the Moorish architecture of Andalucia and feel the electric energy of Madrid and Barcelona. Spain has enough cultural traditions, architectural sites, natural beauty and tasty tapas to keep travellers engrossed for aeons.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Spain*

### **Witness Moorish Magnificence at Granada's Alhambra**

Travel back in time to the medieval grandeur of the Alhambra, the palace fortress of the Nasrid sultans and heart and soul of Granada. Let your expert guide reveal the magnificence and might of the splendid Moorish architecture as you explore the soaring Royal Palace, fortress complex and famous gardens.

### **Learn the Secret to a Perfect Paella, Valencia**

In the hip coastal enclave of Valencia, home of paella, join a local chef and explore the history and preparation of this iconic regional favourite, learning how a humble dish of rice, chicken, seafood and vegetables becomes a national delicacy when simmered over a smouldering wood fire in the giant pan for which it is named.

### **Pedal through Spanish Cava Country**

Secluded in the fertile plains southwest of Barcelona, the Penedès wine region is the home of cava and produces some of the world's finest. Hop aboard a bike and pedal your way through the vineyards, pausing to visit two charming bodegas for a tour of the cellars and, of course, tastings of Spain's famous sparkling wine.

### **Savour the Cuisine, Culture and Colourful Landscapes of San Sebastián**

This culinary hot spot on Spain's Basque coast is framed by golden beaches and wooded hillsides. It boasts grand architecture, a dynamic surf culture and an array of festivals and cultural events. It is also second in the world for the highest number of Michelin stars per square metre with a vibrant pintxos tradition and lively bar scene.

### **Learn Sensual Flamenco in Spain**

Experience the living heritage that is flamenco. Begin with a warm welcome at a local studio, including a glass of wine and a Spanish tapa, as you listen to an expert guitarist and a singer. Then, take to the floor with a top instructor and learn some of the dance's simpler steps, along with tips for playing the castanets.

### **Savour Traditional Pintxos in San Sebastián**

Discover San Sebastián's epic pintxos tradition on a trail through the narrow streets of the old town with your guide picking out an array of these small Basque tapas from fresh prawns, cod and squid to succulent veal, pork, mushrooms and white asparagus paired with pours of cider, beer and local wines.







## Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary

### Journey Around Spain

**14 Days**

**Arrive Barcelona (3N) – Madrid (2N) – Granada (2N) – Seville (3N) – Depart San Sebastián (3N)**

Get an intimate impression of this extraordinary country visiting its most iconic spots and discovering its warm and friendly culture, imposing palaces, remarkable art works, a colourful history and mouth-watering food. You'll travel at a leisurely pace through stunning sun-drenched landscapes with plenty of time to soak up the atmosphere in the vibrant, buzzing cities.

**Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.**

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# Portugal

Portugal offers charm in spades with its bijou villages, mountaintop palaces, walled towns and of course its Port wine. It is a fascinating destination that blends the charm of ancient towns and city centres with a selection of golden sandy beaches in the Algarve, swept clean each day by the Atlantic tides.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Portugal*

### **Marvel at Medieval Wonders in Coimbra**

Portugal's medieval capital for over a century, Coimbra, is an animated city steeped in history. Visit the university's beautiful Baroque library Biblioteca Joanina, or explore the awe-inspiring architecture of ancient monasteries and towering cathedrals. Browse the bustling markets, sample tantalising street food and lose yourself in its atmospheric cobbled laneways.

### **Hike the Captivating Clifftop Landscapes of the Algarve**

Portugal's southernmost region, the Algarve spans a vast coastal playground of sun-soaked beaches, crashing surf, wind-swept bluffs and hidden islets. Hike the cliffs of Cabo São Vicente, the Algarve's quintessential seaside enclave, taking in endless ocean vistas as you make your way to a dramatic precipice guarded by the town's iconic lighthouse.

### **Taste Your Way Through the Vineyards of the Douro Valley**

The enchanting Douro Valley is one of the world's best unsung wine destinations. Explore this hidden gem winding your way through terraced vineyards carved into the steep hillsides. Follow the Douro River upstream from Porto and pause for an overnight stay at a local vineyard, meeting the family winemakers and sampling their finest.

### **Try Your Hand at Tile Painting with a Master**

Famous for its decorative ceramic tiles, or azulejos, Lisbon's National Tile Museum shows off some of the best. View its most prized masterwork, a sprawling mural depicting the city before the great earthquake of 1755, and try your hand painting a tile under the supervision of an expert artisan before baking it in the kiln. A fitting memento of your visit.

### **Embark on a Culinary Exploration of Lisbon**

Satisfy your inner epicurean on an evening of culinary indulgence, beginning your tour with a Portuguese aperitif before exploring the famed Mercado da Ribeira market. Sample some of Portugal's finest cheeses and smoked hams from Manteigaria Silva and enjoy petiscos (Portuguese tapas), with tantalising samples on offer from some of the region's top restaurants.







## Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary

### Portugal Revealed

*12 days*

*Arrive Lisbon (3N) – Évora (2N) – Coimbra (2N) – Douro Valley (2N) – Depart Porto (2N)*

Storied cities, sun-drenched scenes and friendly locals are just part of the reason Portugal is one of Europe's hottest destinations right now. Amongst its vibrant cities, whitewashed villages and Moorish walled towns, admire architectural tributes to the country's most celebrated navigators, savour hearty Portuguese cuisine and see what makes the perfect port.

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# Netherlands

With a buzzing café culture, tranquil canals and beautiful rainbow fields of crocuses, daffodils, hyacinths and tulips that burst into flower each year, the Netherlands will be sure to draw you back over and over again. In a country home to celebrated Dutch Masters like Rembrandt, Vermeer, Van Gogh and Piet Mondrian, the art legacy is incredible. World-renowned art museums in Amsterdam, Den Haag, Rotterdam, Haarlem and Leiden drip with iconic masterpieces, alongside a respectable portfolio of contemporary works.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Netherlands*

### **Lose Yourself Amid the Art, Architecture and Canals of Amsterdam**

Golden Age waterways lined by tilting gabled buildings are the backdrop for Amsterdam's treasure-filled museums, vintage shops and creative dining and design scenes. Dive into art appreciation with a visit to the famed Museum District or settle in with a sundowner overlooking the picturesque canals.

### **Delve into Dutch Art History at the Rijksmuseum**

Explore the artistic legacy of the great Dutch masters on a private boat cruise through Amsterdam's canals to the Rijksmuseum, home to Vermeer's *The Milkmaid* and Rembrandt's *The Night Watch*. Privately tour the world-class collection with your expert guide, before opening, and step inside the Cuypers Library, home to the oldest and most extensive collection of art history texts.

### **Admire Masterpieces of the Dutch Golden Age, Amsterdam**

Immerse yourself in Dutch art and history with a visit to the monumental Mauritshuis and the remarkable Rijksmuseum. The two world-renowned artistic institutions showcase iconic works from the likes of Rembrandt and Vermeer, sharing the stories of the Netherlands from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.







## Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary

### Treasures of the Low Countries

13 days

Arrive Amsterdam, Netherlands (5N) –  
Bruges, Belgium (2N) – Brussels (3N) –  
Depart Luxembourg (2N)

Alluring Amsterdam, beautiful Brussels and illuminating Luxembourg, cities and states full of awe-inspiring architecture, spectacular landscapes and intriguing local icons. Wander through magnificent museums brimming with classic works, sample spectacular local sweets, and admire impressive medieval castles as you lose yourself in all the wonders this region has to offer.

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## Belgium

Wedged between Germany, France, and the Netherlands, Belgium rewards with a rich tapestry of culture, sights and delectable local cuisine. You'll encounter some of Europe's finest fare. Belgium's town squares boast historical soaring spires and warm-brick gables, whilst its museums house spectacular paintings. Belgium is full to bursting with memorable experiences and historical icons.





# Croatia

Ancient walled cities, a glittering coastline dotted with over 1,000 islands, bustling fishing villages and a fascinating historic heritage, Croatia is a sparkling gem on the Adriatic. Indulge in a lazy lunch of the freshest seafood and locally produced wines in Dubrovnik, or enjoy the warm Mediterranean climate as you stroll along the seafront promenade in Split.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Croatia*

### **Go on Location in Dubrovnik**

Coined the "Pearl of the Adriatic," Dubrovnik is renowned for its fortified old town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the Middle Ages, maritime trade spurred Dubrovnik's rise to power. Today, the port city's majestic air endures, featuring prominently in the hit series *Game of Thrones*. Go on location as you explore the mighty fortresses, towering parapets and meandering alleyways.

### **Dine like Nobility in the Seaside Oasis of Opatija**

Fronting Croatia's northwestern coast, the Adriatic beaches of Opatija have drawn Europe's sun-seeking elite since the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. A number of stately Belle Époque villas remain from this period, a testament to Opatija's imperial glory days. Join your local host in a luxurious Opatija villa dating from 1844. Amid these elegant surroundings, enjoy cocktails, chamber music and dinner in the formal dining room.

### **Wander the Waterfalls and Gorges of Krka National Park**

Stretching from the Adriatic beachfront to the mountains of the Croatian interior, Krka National Park is an idyllic place of cascading waterfalls, gaping gorges and age-old monasteries celebrated for their storybook beauty. Swim through the mist in the crystal-clear pool beneath Skradinski Buk waterfalls and cruise to the tiny island of Visovac to visit its Franciscan monastery.

### **Kayak Croatia's Hidden Islands**

Escape Croatia's coastal summer throng on a guided kayaking exploration through some of the secluded islands off Split. Head for strikingly scenic Ciovo island seeking out unspoilt beaches and swimming spots and stopping for lunch in a seaside eatery.

### **Escape to Croatia's Island of Hvar**

Drop in to Hvar for a taste of idyllic island life. Wander in awe around the historic hilltop fortress and main square anchored by the Renaissance-era Hvar Cathedral. Or, stroll through the fragrant lavender fields and relax on one of the islands many beautiful beaches.







## Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary

### Best of the Balkans: Slovenia to Croatia

12 days

Arrive Ljubljana, Slovenia (2N) – Zagreb, Croatia (1N) – Split (3N) – Depart Dubrovnik (3N)

Beautiful cities, dramatic mountain scenery, pristine lakes and golden beaches, this journey covers it all. You'll discover Baroque architecture in abundance, flavoursome cuisine and robust wines plus ancient walled cities and emerald green forests. From Slovenia to Croatia and the sparkling Dalmatian coast, there is also the opportunity to explore Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.](#)

### Classic Croatia: A Family Adventure<sup>NEW</sup>

14 days

Arrive Istria (4N) – Split (3N) – Hvar (2N) – Depart Dubrovnik (4N)

Take it slowly and ease your family into the relaxed pace of Croatia. Revel in the bucolic charm of Istria with its seaside villages, rivers, mountains and historic cities and venture down the Adriatic coast to the ancient walled town of Split and the medieval splendour of Dubrovnik. Hear legends of giants and pirates and dine on bountiful fresh seafood. Explore hidden villages, pristine beaches, Roman monuments and charming islands. See it by land and sea and discover a truly enchanting part of Europe.

[Please click here to view detailed itinerary.](#)

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### Slovenia

This tiny gem of a country offers stunning alpine scenery, lakes, crystal-clear rivers, sophisticated cuisine, vineyards, caves and castles. Whilst it boasts a wide range of adventure options including cycling, caving and boating, its postcard-perfect views, harmonious architecture and charming culture make it also ideal for travellers looking to explore at a slower pace.



# Turkey

Turkey bridges the gap between Europe and the Middle East, with glorious sunshine, brilliant beaches and tons of history and culture to discover. Explore the quintessential cosmopolitan capital Istanbul, view bizarre rock formations known as “fairy chimneys” in Cappadocia, bathe in the warm waters which trickle down the hillside of Pamukkale and examine the ancient remains of this Roman spa city, or just relax on the idyllic beaches of the Mediterranean.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Turkey*

### **Discover the Culinary Secrets of Turkey, Bodrum**

In the Turkish Riviera, Bodrum's bejewelled harbour has witnessed fleets of empires past mingle over countless generations, culminating in a vibrant fusion of culture and cuisine that endures to this day. Explore local culinary secrets in a private cooking demonstration, learning how hand-pressed olive oil has bound this cosmopolitan fusion of flavours together throughout the centuries.

### **Admire the Artisans, Ancient Architecture and Flavourful Fare of Istanbul**

Intriguing Istanbul is where Asia and Europe collide. The skyline is dominated by minarets and mosques, while in the heart of the walled Old City lies the labyrinthine Grand Bazaar, where you may meet local artisans, sip Turkish coffee and haggle over the price of onyx jewellery or silk carpets.

### **Drift Over Cappadocia on a Ballooning Adventure**

Glide peacefully over the extraordinary 'fairy chimneys' of Cappadocia on a dawn hot air balloon ride getting a bird's-eye view of the unique rock formations which punctuate the honeycomb hills of this volcanic region. Marvel at the natural pillars of Monks Valley bathed in an orange hue and float over rock-cut mosques and monasteries and abundant orchards and vineyards.

### **Immerse Yourself in Istanbul's Coffee Culture**

Experience the warmth of Istanbul's hospitality and its rich heritage when you visit a local coffee house. See how finely ground arabica beans are painstakingly brewed in cezves (small copper pots) and lovingly poured into pint-sized porcelain cups with insights revealed by your guide on Turkey's enduring coffeehouse culture as you sip the perfect demitasse of foamy kahve.

### **Treasure a Local Village Encounter in Turkey**

Join local villagers for a traditional Turkish dinner in a family garden. After a visit to a mosque you'll sit down to a meal cooked from fresh produce and learn more about life along the Aegean coast. During the evening, artisans will be on hand to show you the intricacies of silk carpet weaving.

### **Uncover a Lost Empire in the Ruins of Ephesus**

Flanking an azure Aegean bay, Izmir's bustling bazaars belie the weight of antiquity hidden just below the port city's surface. Delving into the depths of a vast archaeological site, your guide reveals the Ionian ruins of Ephesus, the best-preserved classical city in the eastern Mediterranean. Marvel at sprawling frescoes frozen in time, their fascinating scenes of daily life affording insight into an empire lost to the ages.







## Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary

### Treasures of Turkey

11 days

Arrive Istanbul (3N) – Yeşilyurt (1N) – Izmir (2N) – Izmir (2N) – Depart Istanbul (2N)

A melting pot of cultures, Turkey is fascinating and exotic. With a 10,000-year-old history and more than 40,000 ancient sites, it is one of the oldest continually inhabited regions in the world. Discover its rich history, culture and beautiful landscapes as you journey from the delights of Istanbul to Gallipoli and on down the Aegean coast exploring archaeological sites and into the interior to the magical fairy chimneys of Cappadocia.

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# Greece

Greece is a rich *mélange* of experiences and an ideal spot for those who delight in joyful music and dance, delicious cuisine and sunshine. Nature beckons, whether for a picnic on the gorgeous, sun-drenched coast or a walk on cobblestone Byzantine footpaths. Visit beautiful Santorini Island and drink raki at a fish tavern on the sea; this is where Jacques Cousteau looked for the lost city of Atlantis. Immerse yourself in the culture of Corfu, and order saganaki at an Athens taverna and watch waiters cry “Opa!” as the cheese erupts in flames.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Greece*

### **Embark on an Athenian Foodie Adventure**

The birthplace of democracy, Athens, also gave rise to one of the world’s most iconic regional cuisines, cross-pollinating ingredients from every corner of its vast, ancient empire. Delve into a culinary adventure through the timeworn lanes of this historic capital, visiting specialty stores and vibrant markets to sample local olive oil, cheeses, honey and sweet treats.

### **Discover the Birthplace of the Olympics, Olympia**

In 776 BC, the first Olympic games were held in a crowded stadium on the slopes of Mount Kronion. Here, among the ruins, the torch still burns today. Be amazed, as your expert guide reveals the colossal Temple of Zeus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World; the palaestra, where athletes trained; and the ancient stadium, its running track still largely intact.

### **Retrace Spartan footsteps on the cliffs of Santorini**

Created following a huge volcanic eruption, the archipelago of Santorini is picture-postcard perfect. Its volcanic slopes are dotted with cliff-hugging villages of whitewashed houses, terraced farmland and timeworn switchback pathways. Hike the ancient Spartan Trail, before unwinding in the square of Megalochori, one of the island’s most serene villages.







### *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

## **Ancient Wonders of the Aegean: Turkey & Greece**

*16 days*

*Arrive Istanbul, Turkey (4N) – Cappadocia (2N) – Bodrum (2N) – Göcek (1N) – Rhodes, Greece (2N) – Nafplio (2N) – Depart Athens (2N)*

Embark on a journey around the ancient world as you discover its most renowned monuments and archaeological sites. Unpeel layers of history and witness the influences cast by successive civilisations and the cultural achievements made. Wander through timeless landscapes drenched in sunshine and dine out on the fresh and simple flavours made famous throughout the Mediterranean.

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# Germany

There is something for everyone in Germany's towns and cities - whether it's the big city buzz or the famous architecture, the historic sights or the packed shopping streets, the enchanting medieval houses or the scintillating nightlife. Incredibly, there are more than 10,000 towns and cities in Germany between the North Sea and the Alps. In these vibrant destinations, you can look forward to concerts, cultural events, and high-calibre museums. Every day, Germany's big cities and romantic towns are just waiting to be discovered.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Germany*

### **Be Immersed in the Vibrant Arts Scene in Cosmopolitan Munich**

Munich, the capital of Germany's largest state, Bavaria, is an important centre of European culture with a history dating to the Middle Ages. A cosmopolitan city, it is prized for its galleries, outstanding museums, theatres, opera, breweries and a vibrant market scene.

### **Absorb History, Art, and Architecture in Berlin**

Surviving turbulent times in the 20th century, Berlin has steadily become a must-see destination for travellers interested in its historic past and vibrant present. With a dazzling and versatile arts scene, it is home to three world class opera houses, the Philharmonie concert hall and Museum Island where five museums are devoted to archaeology and art.

### **Taste Beers of Bavaria on a Monk-Led Brewery Tour**

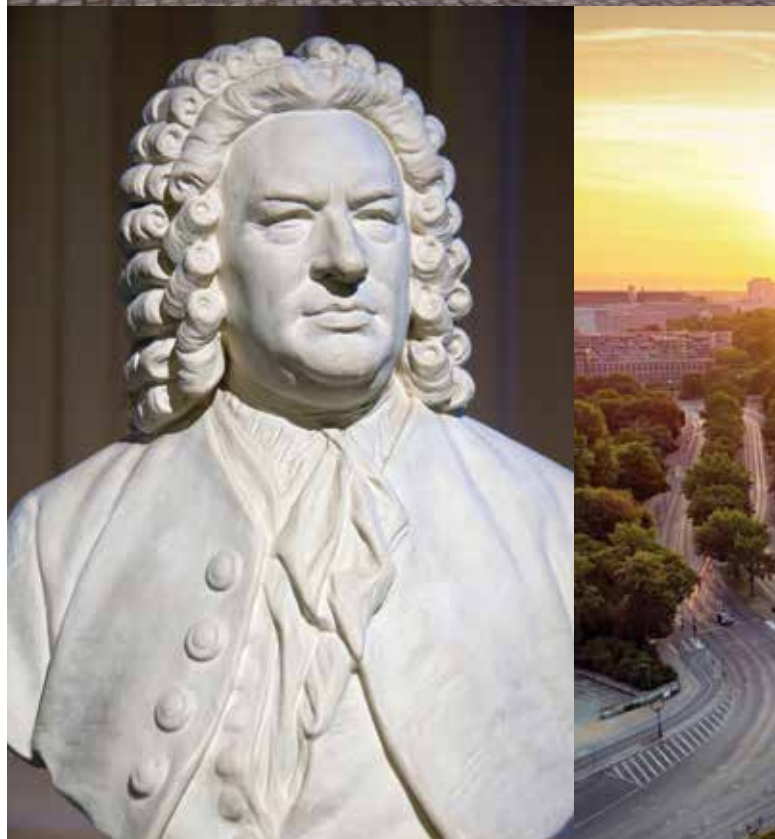
Munich is cherished for its rich history, warm hospitality and cold Hefeweizen. Sample all three when you visit the Benedictine monks of the Andechs Monastery where your local guide reveals the flamboyant Baroque architecture of the church before joining the monks at their brewery for an introduction to Bavarian beer, a legacy more than five centuries in the making.

### **Discover Berlin's Underground Wartime Legacy**

Between 1940 and 1945, Berlin bore the brunt of 363 Allied bombing raids, driving millions from the city. Those that remained endured a stark existence in the Berliner Unterwelten, a subterranean labyrinth of tunnels, air raid shelters and bunkers. Let your expert guide reveal life in these small chambers as air raid sirens sounded and the rumble of Allied bombers thundered overhead.

### **Explore Berlin's Museum Island**

Nestled in the River Spree, explore the aptly named Museum Island's marvellous galleries. Tour the Pergamon and its vast collection of ancient artefacts, or discover the Neues Museum and its extraordinary Egyptian antiquities. Museum Island also boasts impressive architecture; including the Berlin Cathedral with its vast dome and extravagant Neo-Baroque interior.







### *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

## **Connoisseur's Prague, Saxony and Berlin**

*11 days*

*Arrive Prague, Czech Republic (3N) –  
Dresden, Germany (2N) – Leipzig (2N) –  
Depart Berlin (3N)*

Immerse yourself in extraordinary highlights of European history on this captivating journey from the Bohemian city of Prague to beautiful Berlin. Explore museums brimming with artefacts and antiquities, discover rich tapestries of city heritage and stand in awe of ornate Baroque architecture, from lofty castles and cathedrals to resplendent royal palaces.

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# Switzerland

Switzerland, with its shimmering, turquoise lakes, towering mountains and chocolate box villages, is a country that inspires awe and stirs the soul. From glittering Lake Lucerne to the Aletsch glacier, the iconic Matterhorn and the Eiger, the country's natural wonders are, indeed, wonders and ripe for adventure in all seasons. Contrast its picture perfect mountain resorts with medieval Bern, cosmopolitan Zurich, Germanic Basel and graceful Lausanne and you have the perfect European getaway.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Switzerland*

### **Devour Swiss Chocolate, Cheese and Pastries in Lucerne**

Nestled lakeside amongst snow-capped mountains, Lucerne is world renowned for its rich chocolates and distinctive cheeses. Join a local foodie and visit one of Lucerne's oldest chocolate shops (with tastings). Then an artisan cheese shop for an expertly curated selection of the region's finest. Finish the culinary adventure with lebkuchen (gingerbread) or birnenweggen (pear strudel) in a local bakery.

### **Experience Goat Trekking in the Swiss Alps**

The charming hamlet of Andermatt is surrounded by pristine alpine wilderness just waiting to be explored. A family-friendly goat-trekking excursion is just the ticket, your expert guide and hairy companions leading the way through riverine valleys and wildflower groves. Come lunch time, choose a scenic spot and spread out a blanket for an unforgettable gourmet picnic.

### **Dine Under the Stars in Zermatt**

Known for its spellbindingly scenic setting, the village of Zermatt stands at the foot of one of the world's most iconic peaks, the mighty Matterhorn. Take in its rugged beauty from the Gornergrat, a scenic viewpoint accessible by the highest open-air railway in Europe. Then join stargazing experts for dinner under the stars or at 3100 Kulm Hotel, the highest in the alps.

## *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

### **Switzerland: A Journey Through the Swiss Alps** NEW

**10 days**

**Arrive Geneva – Lausanne (3N) – Zermatt (3N) – Depart Lucerne (3N)**

Discover beguiling historic cities, breathtaking snow-capped mountains and jewel-toned glacial lakes on this exploration of Switzerland. Travel from cosmopolitan Geneva to lovely lakeside Lucerne, visiting the romantic Chateau de Chillon and the pretty alpine hamlet of Zermatt along the way. Accommodation throughout this tour is in some of the country's grandest hotels, including the glamorous Beau Rivage Palace in Lausanne and the storied Grand Hotel Zermatterhof, set in the shadow of the Matterhorn.

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# Czech Republic

Picture-perfect Prague is a serene riot of architectural history from Gothic to Baroque and Art Deco. Its medieval centre is crenulated with church spires, domes and gold-tipped towers, all overlooked by its impressive 9th century castle. The Czech Republic's lesser-known cities are home to palaces, breweries and spas. Highlights include Marienbad, an historic jewel tucked away in verdant mountains in the west of country and Pilsen, famous for its brewery, 13th-century Gothic cathedral and miles of subterranean cellars.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience the Czech Republic*

### **Peruse the Monumental Wonderland of Prague**

One-time seat of the Habsburg Dynasty, and today capital of the Czech Republic, Prague is home to the Estates Theatre, where Mozart conducted the premiere of Don Giovanni, and the elegant, 14th century Charles Bridge. Its Jewish quarter, once a walled ghetto, further reveals the city's complex legacy.

### **Take a Glimpse into Cesky Krumlov's Medieval Past**

Set along a meandering river in the deep south of the Czech Republic, the Bohemian enclave of Cesky Krumlov affords a glimpse into medieval Europe. Step back in time as you climb the castle belltower for a commanding view of the town and surrounding countryside. Then, sample the region's celebrated beers at a local brewery.

### **View Prague's Jewish Quarter**

In Josefov, Prague's historic Jewish Quarter, the Old New Synagogue, Europe's oldest, is still active. Visit it as well as the birthplace of one of the city's most famous sons, writer Franz Kafka. Stop at the Jewish Museum to view the largest collection of Judaica in Europe and pause to reflect at the Old Jewish Cemetery, one of the oldest in Europe.

## *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

### **A Tale of Three Cities**

**9 days**

**Arrive Budapest, Hungary (3N) – Vienna, Austria (2N) –**

**Depart Prague, Czech Republic (3N)**

On this journey, you'll become acquainted with Eastern Europe's three most cultured capitals – Budapest, Vienna and Prague. Each of these elegant cities has a rich history, revealed by your expert guides, much of it explored on foot. From music to art and architecture, special experiences are included to add a delightfully different flavour.

**[Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.](#)**

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# Nordic Region

Delve into the vibrant Nordic cultures of Scandinavia: Norway's rich Viking history and spectacular fjords; the elegant culture, cuisine and hygge of Denmark; the lakes, mountains and architecture of Finland and the Swedish archipelago with its sophisticated cities and chic Scandi design.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Scandinavia*

### **Visit the National Gallery in Oslo**

Discover Norway's largest collection of art, architecture and design at the National Gallery, Oslo. Home to almost 400,000 pieces including the Edward Munch expressionist icon *The Scream*, it's a mecca of masterful works.

### **Discover Picture-Perfect Bergen, Gateway to the Fjords**

Bergen is a thriving city in a stunning natural setting. Nicknamed "The Gateway to the Fjords," due to its close proximity to both the Sognefjord, the city's longest and deepest, and the Hardangerfjord, it boasts picture-perfect landscapes of spectacular waterfalls, gorgeous glaciers and lush mountainsides.

### **Explore Norway's Serene Lofoten Islands**

On the edge of the Norwegian Sea, far above the Arctic Circle, the Lofoten Islands are a rare wilderness outpost, an idyllic paradise of rolling green pastures, picturesque villages, majestic mountains, surf-swept beaches and deep fjords.

### **Chase the Northern Lights**

There are few phenomena that capture the imagination like the Aurora Borealis. A seasonal wonder, the Northern Lights appear at high latitudes on dark nights from September to March, and lucky stargazers can witness anything from an ethereal green glow on the horizon to scarlet streaks shooting across the sky.

### **Experience Stockholm, the 'Venice of the North'**

The Swedish capital, Stockholm, is built on an archipelago, earning it the title, "Venice of the North." Its Vasa Museum, Royal Palace and City Hall offer historic and architectural appeal, as does Gamla Stan (Old Town), with its narrow cobblestone streets perfect for strolling.

### **Bike through the Charming Streets of Copenhagen**

Copenhagen is the largest city in Scandinavia, and Denmark's charismatic capital. Do as the locals do and explore the charming cobbled streets by bike, immersing yourself in the city's cultural buzz. A mecca of museums, Michelin-starred restaurants and awe-inspiring architecture, Copenhagen is sure to surprise and delight.

### **Go Behind the Scenes at the Royal Danish Opera House**

Experience behind-the-scenes insight on a guided tour of the architecturally resplendent Royal Danish Opera House, designed by Danish architect Henning Larsen. Admire the marble-clad foyer and its sweeping views of Renaissance Copenhagen before exploring the extensive backstage facilities and the vast, inspiring auditorium.

### **Delve into the Snowy Lapland Forest on a Sleigh Ride**

Reindeer outnumber people in Finland's northern Lapland region, an enchanting winter wonderland. Visit a reindeer farm in the charming town of Rovaniemi, gaining insight from the herders themselves before venturing out on a sleigh through the trails of a snow-covered pine forest. Warm up with a three-course lunch of regional specialties served fireside in a cozy kota (traditional tented dwelling).







### *Suggested Tailor-Made Itinerary*

## **Nordic Adventure: Denmark, Norway & Iceland**

**13 days**

**Arrive Copenhagen, Denmark (4N) – Oslo, Norway (3N) – Bergen (2N) – Depart Reykjavik, Iceland (4N)**

Immerse yourself in spectacular Nordic landscapes, Scandi art and design and grand castles on this two-week journey to the capitals of northern Europe. Visit important museums, stroll through stunning waterfront neighbourhoods, cruise through pristine fjords and admire Mother Nature at her most dramatic.

[Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.](#)

## **Norway Winter Odyssey<sup>NEW</sup>**

**10 days**

**Arrive Tromsø (2N) – Lofoten Islands (2N) – Bergen (3N) – Depart Oslo (2N)**

Few places on earth offer more ways to witness the Aurora Borealis than Norway and during the long winter nights this extraordinary phenomenon of coloured lights dancing across the dark sky occurs. You are also introduced to the fascinating Sami people in the north whose traditions include reindeer herding and fishing. Take exhilarating sleigh rides through magical snow-covered terrain and explore the little known Lofoten Islands which are a rare wilderness outpost of majestic landscapes, seabird colonies and surf-swept beaches. Heading south you'll explore the breathtaking fjords around Bergen and Norway's vibrant capital, Oslo.

[Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.](#)



## **Northern Lights in Finnish Lapland<sup>NEW</sup>**

**8 days**

**Arrive Helsinki (2N) – Rovaniemi (2N) – Saariselkä (2N) – Depart Helsinki (1N)**

Discover the wonder of Finland's northern lights while travelling by snowmobile and snowshoe across a classic white winter landscape. By day, learn all about Lappish culture with a visit to both a reindeer and husky farm in Rovaniemi, a city just south of the Arctic Circle and famous for having a very high number of auroral displays. After dark, search for aurora borealis in the velvet night skies. You'll also enjoy the opportunity to ride a sleigh, mush a dog sled and try your hand at ice fishing.

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# Iceland

Iceland is one of the most visually breathtaking countries in Europe. Raw landscapes are what Iceland does best with dramatic fjords, thermal fields, mountains, volcanoes, geysers and waterfalls at every turn plus a small and compact capital and a paddock to plate food scene. Witness the stellar theatrics of the northern lights, experience a helicopter landing on the lava field, and driving onto vast Langjokull Glacier where the feeling of space extraordinary and immense.

## *Extraordinary Ways to Experience Iceland*

### **Gaze in Awe at Iceland's Otherworldly Glacier Lagoon**

One of Iceland's most incredible natural gems, the Jokulsarlon Glacier Lagoon is filled with icebergs that calve from the leading edge of a glacier. Embark with an expert Zodiac driver and crew on a private excursion to see the true meaning of "ice blue" and the other dazzling colours that dance off the jagged ice in the sunlight.

### **Traverse the Breathtaking Landscapes of Iceland's Golden Circle**

The powerful Gullfoss waterfall, the explosive geothermal Geysir, and the monumental Thingvellir National Park – Iceland's Golden Circle landscapes showcase world-renowned natural wonders and humbling historical sites. Rich in culture, riveting heritage and spectacular Nordic scenery, a visit to this glacial wonderland will take your breath away.

### **Relax at the Blue Lagoon**

Located not far from Reykjavik, the Blue Lagoon is a massive man-made pool filled with steaming hot geothermal seawater drawn from nearly 2,000 metres below the surface. Soak at leisure in its soothing, mineral-rich waters, or ask your guide about other, more secluded springs to privately explore.

### **Traverse an Icelandic Glacier by Snowmobile**

Be reinvigorated by the thrill of exploring Langjökull glacier, Iceland's second largest, by snowmobile. Criss-cross the glacier's snowy expanse, following your expert guide and venture into ice caves all the while admiring the beauty of your chilly surrounds.

### **Adventure Into the Heart of a Volcano, Thrihnukagigur**

Trek across the lava fields of Bláifjöll Country Park before donning safety gear and descending by lift deep inside the heart of Thrihnukagigur crater into the magma chamber 120 metres below ground. Marvel at the kaleidoscope of colours in the molten rock and the beautifully lit chamber frozen in time.

### **Chase the Northern Lights**

There are few phenomena that capture the imagination like the Aurora Borealis. A seasonal wonder, the Northern Lights appear at high latitudes on dark nights from September to March, and lucky stargazers can witness anything from an ethereal green glow on the horizon to scarlet streaks shooting across the sky.

### **Go Whale Watching off the Coast of Reykjavik**

The waters off Reykjavik's coast afford an ideal marine habitat for more than 20 species of whales, with humpback and minke whales being the most commonly sighted. Cast off into Faxaflói Bay for a chance encounter with one of these gentle giants, keeping an eye out for the North Atlantic's resident seals, dolphins and puffins as you cruise.







## Suggested Tailor-Made Itineraries

### Land of Fire & Ice

7 days

**Arrive Reykjavik (2N) – Hella (3N) – Depart Reykjavik (1N)**

With its rugged, volcanically active terrain, few countries showcase the activity of Mother Nature better than Iceland. Its landscapes are jaw-dropping, with dramatic fjords, mountains, volcanoes, geysers and waterfalls aplenty. Stay in intimate boutique properties that range from log cabin-style lodges to sophisticated Art Deco city hotels and enjoy fine, seasonal Icelandic cuisine.

**Please click here to view detailed itinerary and pricing.**

### Iceland & the Northern Lights

7 days

**Arrive Reykjavik (2N) – Borgarfjörður (1N) – Hella (2N) – Depart Reykjavik (1N)**

This winter journey takes you to one of the most visually breathtaking countries in Europe to see the Northern Lights. Best seen during the winter months, when the temperatures are low and the night sky is clear and black, the Aurora Borealis lights up the sky in varying shades of green, pink and blue, sending out an eerie, otherworldly glow. You'll visit locations outside of Reykjavik where, subject to weather conditions, the raw landscapes provide the best opportunity of viewing.

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# Explore More Europe



## Austria

Spectacular alpine landscapes, cultured cities, an impressive classical music heritage and extraordinary gastronomic experiences await you on you in Austria. Culture here truly flourishes impressively with the list of events taking place in cities, towns and villages throughout the country. It is not only theatre that gives the country a festive appearance, but also the many concerts and exhibitions, dance performances and readings. The focus is always on light, cheerful enjoyment, and it is the combination of artistic quality with good food and drink that is unique in Austria.



## Belgium

Wedge between Germany, France, and the Netherlands, Belgium rewards with a rich tapestry of culture, sights and delectable local cuisine. You'll encounter some of Europe's finest fare, including the best beer, creamiest chocolates, and tastiest French fries. Belgium's town squares boast historical soaring spires and warm-brick gables. Its museums house spectacular paintings and its most famed resident is a small boy of bronze. From funky urban neighbourhoods to tranquil convents, from old-fashioned lace to high-powered European politics, little Belgium is full to bursting with memorable experiences and historical icons.



## Hungary

Having seen empires come and go, Hungary has a multitude of architectural marvels from Roman ruins and medieval town houses to baroque churches, neoclassical public buildings and Art Nouveau structures. The country is teeming with vibrant cities bound to impress with grand theatres, ornate palaces, chic restaurants and bustling café society, nowhere more so than Budapest which is considered one of the jewels in the Eastern European crown. Visit Budapest, the city of two sides, charming castles and churches alongside majestic buildings and museums. The vibrant capital is bound to impress with its grand buildings, sumptuous palaces and café culture.



## Luxembourg

Small in size but big on culture, heritage and wonderful wine, the compact country of Luxembourg has much to offer. With its stunning valley location and UNESCO-listed centre, the capital - Luxembourg City - is one of the most beautiful in Europe. It also offers a notable wine district and impressive number of Michelin-starred restaurants to explore. Outside of Luxembourg City, the craggy, forested hills and myriad streams which make up Luxembourg's two large natural parks make a spectacular setting for walks, bike rides, and even an exploration by canoe.



# Explore More Europe



## Poland

Poland is one of Eastern Europe's emerging jewels, full of medieval architecture, bold landscapes, a rich Jewish heritage and a hip art scene. Despite the devastating consequences of World War II, Poland has managed to retain many treasures. Its capital Warsaw has endured many an invasion and is today a confident metropolis on the rise. Elsewhere in the country, the well-preserved historical city of Kraków, Jasna Góra Monastery and Wieliczka Salt Mine combine with the capital and many other attractions to form a memorable European journey.



## Estonia

Estonia is home to over 2,000 islands, a wonderfully diverse terrain of rocky beaches, old-growth forests and lakes, whilst its capital, Tallinn, is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Northern Europe, and its oldest capital city. Explore this charming city with a walking tour. Highlights include the onion-domed Russian Orthodox Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Tall Hermann, the 14th century defensive tower of the Toompea Castle, the Dome Cathedral and the Town Hall Square. Other attractions include the seaside village of Pirita and the parkland district of Kadriorg.



## Latvia

Latvia is a country of ancient castles, splendid medieval architecture, a spectacular unspoiled countryside, and a vibrant capital, the cosmopolitan Riga. Discover the iconic wooden and art nouveau architecture, a vast Central Market and a medieval Old Town housing the divine St. Peter's Church. The country's charismatic capital is home to beautiful local crafts, delicious food and lively music, and beyond the city explorers can discover enchanting Sigulda National Park, the Gauja Valley, the ruins of Sigulda Castle and many magnificent medieval fortresses.



## Lithuania

This Baltic state is a nature-lover's delight with lush forests, lakes, a stunning coastline, as well as incredible architecture. A city of churches and baroque finery, the capital city of Vilnius' cobblestoned charms haven't gone unnoticed by tourists. As Europe's last country to be Christianised, pagan history still soaks the land, with Curonian Spit, splintering from the Baltic coast, awash in folklore. Complementing the sparkling lakes, forests of birch and pine, and acres of farmland; in Lithuania, there's ample space to breathe.





## Montenegro

Picture perfect Montenegro is packed with rugged mountains, medieval villages including brilliantly renovated, red-roofed, 15th century stone houses laced with evergreen trees, and picturesque beaches along its rugged Adriatic coastline. The picture perfect islet of Sveti Stefan is Montenegro's most photographed attraction. It's a beguiling sight, but it's only a tiny part of this extraordinary Balkan destination. This small but perfectly preserved country, tucked into the coast below Croatia, is changing and developing, yet retains its myriad charms.



## Georgia

The Republic of Georgia is located on the divide between Asia and Europe. Famous for its breathtaking scenery, the rugged Caucasus Mountains traverse much of the country. Its capital Tbilisi is a study in old world European charm complete with terraced houses and cobblestone streets. The country's monuments include dramatically located Christian Orthodox churches and monasteries, old forts, art nouveau buildings and Soviet Modernist structures. Georgia is also said to be the oldest wine producing nation on Earth with a cuisine that is fresh and flavoursome.



## Armenia

One of the world's oldest civilisations, Armenia lies just south of the great Caucasus Mountain range. The country is home to the biggest lake in the Caucasus, Lake Sevan, as well as some beautiful monasteries and churches, breathtaking scenery, a sublime culinary heritage and a thriving brandy producing industry. Armenia's capital Yerevan is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities where today Soviet-era architecture sits alongside old-fashioned tea houses and hip European-style wine bars.



## Azerbaijan

Bounded by the Caspian Sea and Caucasus Mountains, Azerbaijan is variously known as the Land of Fire and the Pearl of the Caucasus. A land where eastern colour combines magnificently with western innovation, it is an energy-rich nation boasting unique scenery, a vibrant culture, fine cuisine and centuries of history. Historically a part of the Great Silk Road, it has an amazing historical and cultural heritage with more than 7,500 natural, archaeological, architectural, and historical monuments from Khan's Summer Palace in Sheki to Baku's Maiden Tower and the castles of Absheron.





# Luxury Expedition Cruises

Backed by more than 30 years of expedition cruising experience, every exclusively chartered A&K voyage is led by an award-winning Expedition Team, features all-balcony staterooms and a maximum guest complement of 199 (148 on the smaller vessels), and includes all excursions, beverages, gratuities and more. Below is a selection of expedition cruise in this region.



## Italy Cruise: Hidden Treasures from Florence to Venice

13/12 days | Departs 13 Sep 2022 & 9 Sep 2023

Embark on a comprehensive itinerary that explores nearly the entire navigable coastline of Italy and visits its most unique ports.



## Cruising the Greek Isles

10 days | Departs 30 Sep 2022 & 27 Sep 2023

Experience the wide diversity of Greece on a single itinerary that spans Knossos in Crete, Rhodes, Santorini and lively Mykonos, exploring historic sites and natural marvels.



## Cruising Scandinavia & the Baltic Sea

10 days | Departs 15 Jul 2023

Set out on the most sweeping of Baltic cruises, immersed in the cultures of grand, historic cities in Denmark, Poland, Lithuania, Sweden, Estonia and Finland.



## Adriatic Voyage: Croatia, Montenegro & Greece

8 days | Departs 20 Sep 2023

Set sail on this all-inclusive, exclusively chartered expedition to discover the glittering Adriatic Sea and its Mediterranean gems.



## European Coastal Cruise: Portugal, Spain & France

9 days | Departs 2 Apr 2023

Experience adventure and culture on this unique western European coastal journey encompassing Portugal, Spain and France.





# Small Group Journeys

In addition to our portfolio of private journeys, A&K also offers a range of handcrafted small group journeys to exquisite destinations across the globe. Below is a selection of what is available in this region. Please visit our website for more details on these and other A&K small group journeys in Europe, or to request a copy of our Small Group Journeys brochure.



## Georgia & Armenia: Journey to the Caucasus

13 days | Departs 11 May, 8 Jun, 31 Aug, 12 Oct 2022 & 19 Apr 2023

This unique journey to the heart of the Caucasus – Georgia and Armenia – offers a surprising taste of old world Eastern European charm. Discover thousands of years of history, stunning scenery and a rich cultural heritage.



## Ireland: Splendours of the Emerald Isle

9 days | 10 departures across May, Jun, Aug, Sep & Oct 2022

Revel in the legendary hospitality and warmth of the Irish people on this comprehensive journey across the Emerald Isle. Take in world-famous scenic backdrops, bask in traditional songs and stories, and celebrate a cherished culture, staying in five-star hotels along the way.



## Wings Over the Mediterranean

13 days | Departs 14 Jun & 6 Dec 2022

Discover ancient and modern wonders throughout the Mediterranean, from the art and history of Portugal and Spain to the seaside charms and delights of the Amalfi Coast, and sojourn on a three-night stay in scenic Dubrovnik.

Featuring private charter flights between destinations.



## Wings Over Greece & Turkey

12 days | Departs 9 May & 5 Sep 2022

Explore the historic and cultural riches of the ancient world, from the glories of Athens and Istanbul, to the Minoan culture of idyllic Crete and the wonders of Cappadocia, flying by chartered air around this fascinating region.





# Connections Boutique Group Journeys

Combining the best of A&K expertise and style with authentic experiences and hand-picked boutique hotels, Connections Boutique Group Journeys invite you on an immersive quest into the heart of the world's most captivating locales, with a maximum group size of just 24 guests.

## Go Beyond the Guidebook for Authentic Discovery

Explorers who really want to know a destination don't take the word "experience" lightly. Neither does A&K, and it's why we created Connections Boutique Group Journeys, which offer deeply immersive experiences – the kind that take you beyond the guidebook – in the most captivating neighbourhoods, enjoying specially tailored activities and dining experiences. Every journey is anchored by stays in boutique accommodations: one-of-a-kind hotels that put you in the heart of the places you most want to be; it also features groups of no more than 24 guests led by an A&K Resident Tour Director.

## Boutique Connections in Every Destination

Every Connections Journey is designed to bring you to the beating heart of the places we visit, and we look to our Boutique Connections to take you there. Immersive travel at its finest, these authentic, exclusive and engaging local interactions not only reveal the distinct culture of a place, they connect you to it in unexpected and unforgettable ways.

## Boutique Hotels That Tell a Story

Intimate, charming and brimming with stories, the boutique hotels we select for every Connections Boutique Group Journey add a unique dimension to your travel experience. Whether it's Ireland's historic Markree Castle, Munich's family-run Platzl Hotel or Venice's centrally situated Hotel L'Orologio, we seek out properties with just the right blend of heritage, character, location and scale.

## Why Local Access Matters

On a Connections Boutique Group Journey with A&K, we don't just bring you to the bustling seaside of Ston in Croatia – you sample fresh-caught oysters and a refreshing glass of wine with a local fisherman. Boutique experiences like this are what set A&K apart from any competitor, and speak directly to our extensive and long-established ties everywhere we operate. Our 56 offices in more than 30 countries – six in Europe alone – work tirelessly to design boutique experiences you won't find anywhere else.

## Intimate Groups of Just 24 Guests

Connections Journeys feature groups of no more than 24 guests on every departure, and that makes an important difference in how you experience your destination. Small groups allow for more intimate access to places and experiences that larger groups can't manage.

## Explore Europe on an Inspiring Connections River Cruise

Experience the same authentic boutique ambience of our land journeys on the only small-group river cruising experience available in Europe. Connections European River Cruise Journeys take you through the very heart of the continent along the Rhine, Main, Danube and other great rivers of Europe, with city stays in boutique hotels, the chance to dine and go ashore in an exclusive group of no more than 24 guests and A&K's unmatched local access and expertise.

## Boutique Connections you may experience include:

- Joining a welcoming Puglian chef in her home on Sicily, Puglia & the Amalfi Coast, where you learn to prepare regional dishes and then feast on them together, just as Italian families do
- Taking a lesson in the lively sport of dogsledding from an expert instructor, and then trying your hand as musher with your own dog team on the new Northern Lights of Lapland
- Spending time in the workshop of the master porcelain makers of Delft on Cruising Holland & Belgium in Bloom, observing as masterpieces are fired and painted
- Experiencing dinner and a captivating flamenco performance at a private palace in Seville on Spain: Seven Cities, arriving via an enchanting horse-drawn carriage ride
- Exploring a Nuremberg art bunker that sheltered paintings from destruction in World War II while travelling on Prague & the Blue Danube

Get a taste of the A&K Connections experience.





## 2022 Departures

### **Sicily, Puglia & the Amalfi Coast**

11 days featuring Palermo, Taormina, Matera, Naples & Capri.  
8 departures across May, June, July, September & October.

### **Greece: Athens & The Aegean**

10 days featuring Athens, Oropos, Crete & Santorini.  
4 departures across May, June, September & October.

### **Morocco**

8 days featuring Casablanca, Meknes, Fes, Volubilis, Rabat & Marrakech.  
6 departures across February, August, September, October & November.

### **Spain: Seven Cities**

10 days featuring Barcelona, Granada, Ronda, Seville & Madrid.  
6 departures across May, June, July, August, September & October.

### **Iceland: Geysers & Glaciers**

10 featuring Reykjavík, Húsafell & Siglufjörður.  
6 departures across June, July, August & September.

### **Croatia: Jewel of the Coast**

9 days featuring Zagreb, Split, Brac, Dubrovnik & Kotor.  
10 departures across May, June, July, September & October.

### **Cruising Holland & Belgium in Bloom**

9 days featuring Amsterdam, Arnhem, Zeeland, Ghent, Bruges, Antwerp, Delft & Keukenhof.  
2 departures across April & May.

Reserve your place on one of these inspiring journeys now. Call Abercrombie & Kent on 1300 851 800, visit [www.abercrombiekent.com.au](http://www.abercrombiekent.com.au) or contact your travel professional for more information.



# A Rewards Programme for Repeat Travellers

## Experience the Marco Polo Club

Created to recognise and reward our most loyal guests, the Marco Polo Club® is open to everyone who travels on three or more journeys with Abercrombie & Kent.

Marco Polo Club members enjoy benefits including special discounts, priority waitlist for sold-out journeys, a members-only onboard reception on A&K Luxury Expedition Cruises, and a variety of exclusive communications and events.

To learn more about A&K's Marco Polo Club, visit [www.abercrombiekent.com.au/marcopoloclub](http://www.abercrombiekent.com.au/marcopoloclub)

Abercrombie & Kent



MARCO POLO  
— CLUB® —





# Celebrate Family and Friends

At A&K, we're all about creating lasting memories for you, your family and your friends, spending time away together in the world's most special places.

Whether you're gathering to celebrate a special milestone – a big birthday, anniversary, honeymoon or wedding – or simply a family get-together, we recognise that shared experiences are the most memorable, and we know how to tailor the journey to suit every dynamic. Our Journey Designers can create magical moments for every generation travelling.

## A&K Family Moments in Europe

Europe provides the perfect backdrop for creating shared memories that will last for generations. A few of our current favourite family activities and itineraries include:

- Cruising the waterways of Britain or France in a luxury barge with an on-board chef – a relaxing and indulgent way to explore rural Europe together, cycling and walking along towpaths, visiting charming villages, gardens, golf courses and vineyards
- Norway is a wonderful destination for winter action – dog sledding, snowmobiles and reindeer sleigh rides – or a family adventure inside the Arctic Circle to see the unforgettable Northern Lights
- The gorgeous and family-friendly Croatian coastline offers some of the most scenic cycling, snorkelling, hiking and kayaking you can imagine. Charter a luxury yacht and explore at your own pace

- Italy is synonymous with family and boasts arguably the most family-friendly food culture on earth; A&K can organise pizza-making classes in Rome, visits to gelaterias and chocolateries, and a gladiator experience for your budding Maximus Decimus Meridius.

## A&K Milestone Celebrations

The ultimate way to holiday is to take up residence in your own fully-staffed villa or aboard your own luxury vessel. You decide who the guests are, and you set the daily timetable. A&K has access to extraordinary European properties and some very special vessels, perfect venues for a milestone celebration or a multi-generation family adventure.

A Tuscan villa, an Irish Castle, your family's own chalet in the Swiss Alps, the fairy-tale base for an unforgettable ski holiday, a French château, private yacht charter along the Croatian coastline, or a luxury expedition cruise around the Greek Isles or the coast of Italy on the new, all-balcony 'Le Bougainville'... whatever takes your fancy, A&K can create special European experiences and itineraries that you and your loved ones will celebrate forever.









## Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy

# Be a part of travel that changes lives

Make a deeper local connection on your next journey with a visit to an Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy project.

### Transforming Travel

While the travel industry is in the midst of a transformation toward greater equity and sustainability, Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy (AKP) has been committed to positively impacting lives and livelihoods in the communities where our guests travel for decades. We are equally committed to ensuring guests learn about our philanthropic investments as an integral part of their travel experience.

### Sharing a Journey That Matters

While an A&K journey reveals all kinds of inspiring experiences, our guests often find their visit to an AKP project the most stirring. You'll find these unique opportunities on many of our journeys, affording a wealth of interactions and insights you won't find anywhere else. Whether celebrating a newly opened school or the beauty of an ecosystem brought back from the brink, these visits forge memories that last a lifetime.

### Building on a Solid Foundation

Established in 1982 under the guidance of A&K Vice Chairman Jorie Butler Kent, Abercrombie & Kent Philanthropy is dedicated to giving back to the vibrant communities we're so privileged to share with our guests. Our local offices seek out and support grassroots projects in these communities, and we're now deeply involved in more than 40 education, conservation, healthcare and community enterprise projects in 22 countries.

For example, in Florence, AKP funds are helping to restore the Basilica of Santissima Annunziata's Giambologna Chapel to its former glory. Guests can visit the chapel with one of the restorers and learn about the meticulous work being undertaken.

In Iceland, Húsavík Whale Museum houses an extensive collection of whale skeletons. AKP support has helped build a new wing for the skeleton of the largest animal known to have lived on earth, the blue whale. The exhibit is now open to the public.

### Sustaining an Unmatched Local Presence

With full-time, locally based coordinators serving our partner communities in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, India, Peru, Sri Lanka and southeast Asia, AKP is fostering philanthropic commitments unprecedented in the travel industry. Focused on making the most of our efforts in the field, these community development professionals are also uniquely qualified to share these projects with you, our guests.

If you'd like to meet one of our Philanthropy Coordinators and experience an AKP project firsthand, please contact A&K or your travel agent to arrange a site visit on your next journey.

Abercrombie & Kent makes a donation to AKP on behalf of every guest travelling.



For more information on AKP projects around the world, and how you can support or visit them, see [www.abercrombiekent.com.au/philanthropy](http://www.abercrombiekent.com.au/philanthropy)







# Explore More of the World in A&K Style



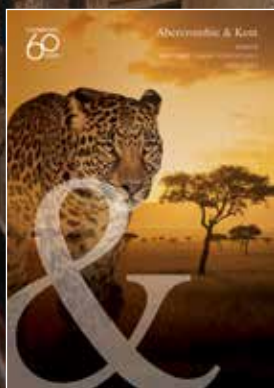
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View these brochures online at [www.abercrombiekent.com.au](http://www.abercrombiekent.com.au), or call 1300 851 800 for more information.

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Join us on our travels around the world, as we share our favourite photos from the field. Tag your A&K travels with #GoBeyondtheOrdinary.

YouTube



[www.abercrombiekent.com.au/youtube](https://www.abercrombiekent.com.au/youtube)

Discover more about A&K, including our philanthropy projects.



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