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UNIVERSITY SOCIETY

— Travel Programme 2005 —



Exclusive academic tours to every corner of the globe





Bukhara, Uzbekistan



Isfahan, Iran



Contact details of tour operator:

Distant Horizons
 4 Amherst Rd, Manchester M14 6UQ
 Tel: +44 (0)161 225 5317
 Fax: +44 (0)161 718 5478
 E-mail: info@distanthorizons.co.uk



A Journey through Central Asia and Persia: *Samarkand to Isfahan*

Date: 29 March – 15 April 2005

Number of days: 18

Price: £2,920 from London

Trip Scholar: Dr Luc Treadwell

Travel with Oxford Islamic scholar, Dr Luc Treadwell, on this unique itinerary through Central Asia and Persia. Begin in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, and travel to Samarkand. Visit the Registan, constructed over a period of two hundred years and described by Lord

Curzon as 'the noblest square in the world'. Drive to 'Divine Bukhara', a town of hundreds of mosques, madrassas and minarets all linked by crooked alleys which wind between the walls of clay-built houses. Cross the Oxus River into Turkmenistan and drive across the desert filled with the colour of spring flowers to the ancient ruins of Merv which in Medieval times was the second most important city in Asia Minor

after Baghdad.

Following in the footsteps of ancient Silk Road travellers, continue on to north-east Iran and the holy city of Mashad, whose huge Imam Reza tomb complex is sacred to millions of Muslims. Fly to Shiraz, famous for its poets and exquisite gardens and visit the ancient ceremonial city of Persepolis built by Darius the Great and one of the world's most inspiring archaeological sites. The journey finishes amidst the splendour and beauty of Isfahan. Explore this exquisite 17th century capital; its buildings are some of the finest in all Islam.

All hotels are deluxe or best available. For an in-depth itinerary please contact Distant Horizons.

Trip Scholar:

Dr Treadwell lectures in the art and archeology of the Islamic World in Oxford's Institute of Oriental Studies. He has travelled extensively in Central Asia and Iran and is currently researching the pre-Mongol history of Eastern Iran.

Libya: Lost Cities of the Greek and Roman Empires

Date: 26 March – 5 April 2005

Number of days: 11

Price: £2,280 from London

Trip Scholar: John Ray

The fast improving relations between Libya and the West offer a wonderful opportunity for The Oxford University Society's first trip to Libya.



The journey begins in Tripoli which has been continuously inhabited through the ages and is the first of the great three cities of Tripolitania. Nearby is Leptis Magna, the grandest of the three emporia of Tripolitania and probably the best-preserved Roman city in the world. Continue into the infrequently visited eastern region of Cyrenaica,



Sabratha

which by stark contrast from the arid western regions is a land of beautiful green hills running down to the crystal turquoise waters of the Mediterranean. Discover the ancient port of Apollonia, an enchanting city whose magnificent basilicas, palaces and theatre are stunning both in their beauty and scale. Visit the spectacularly situated city of Cyrene, founded in the 7th century BC; for centuries it was the most important Greek city in North Africa – the temple of Zeus is larger even than the Parthenon in Athens. Return to Tripoli for a last night before flying home.

All hotels are deluxe or best available. For an in-depth itinerary please contact Distant Horizons.

Trip Scholar:

John Ray is a Fellow of Selwyn College and a lecturer in the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Cambridge University. He is also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquarians and has led previous visits to this fascinating country.

Imperial China with a Yangtze Cruise

Date: 7 – 25 September 2005

Number of days: 18

Price: £2,980 from London

Trip Scholar: Dr Jamie Greenbaum



Join China scholar, Dr Jamie Greenbaum, on a unique itinerary that encompasses many of the most impressive experiences of China. Begin amidst the imperial grandeur of Beijing and in Xi'an, learn more about the amazing new archaeological discoveries, the most famous being the extraordinary life-size

terracotta army of the First Emperor Qin. Aldous Huxley said of Shanghai, "In no city East or West, have I ever had such an impression of dense, rank, richly clotted life". Explore this fascinating city, birthplace of both Chinese capitalism and communism, once known as 'the Paris of the East', now one of China's great cultural centres.

By stark contrast, discover the subtle beauty of Suzhou whose many exotic gardens were designed by retired mandarins and artists, not to compete with nature but to express and sanctify it. Fly to Wuhan and enjoy a five-day deluxe cruise along the mighty Yangtze River as you pass through the hauntingly beautiful landscape of the Three Gorges and travel deep into the heartland of western China. With the recent completion of the huge Yangtze dam, this will be one of the last chances to admire this scenery before it is completely submerged under 600 ft of water.

Continue on to Guilin whose remarkable and timeless limestone formations have been likened in a Tang poem to a cluster of jade hairpins.

Finally, en route to the vibrant and dynamic city of Hong Kong stop at the great trading city of Guangzhou, formerly Canton.

All hotels are deluxe or best available. For an in-depth itinerary please contact Distant Horizons.

Trip Scholar:

Dr Greenbaum is currently researching the history of early Chinese utopias and also a history of the early Northern State of Yan (the area around and to the north of present-day Beijing). He has travelled widely in China and lectured on both Ancient and Contemporary China. In 2003 he led a very successful visit for the Society to China.

The Khmer Empire

Date: 19 – 30 October 2005

Number of days: 12

Price: £1,720 from London

Trip Scholar: Dr John Villiers



At its height, the Khmer Empire, whose spiritual and political centre was Angkor, extended over most of Indochina. It lasted from the 9th to the 15th century and produced some of the world's most beautiful art and architecture.

On this unique journey, explore the art and culture of this magnificent empire.

Fly through Bangkok to Phnom Penh, the distinctive capital of Cambodia where the crumbling ochre villas remain the legacy of the French. Visit the National Museum, a structure of traditional Cambodian design, and learn more of the museum's collection which contains some of the greatest masterpieces of Khmer art. Make the short journey south of Phnom Penh to the Khmer sites at Ta Prohm and Phnom Da.

Drive to Angkor, stopping en route at Kampong Thom, where there will be a chance to see some early examples of pre-

Angkor art and architecture. Spend four days at Angkor and during this time explore this spectacular capital with its hundreds of monuments covering an area of over 120 square miles. The principle temple, Angkor Wat, built in the 12th century, is a hand-carved mountain of sandstone whose walls are covered with intricately sculpted bas-reliefs depicting the great Hindu epics. There will be visits to sacred sites away from the capital such as Bantey Srei with perhaps the most beautiful art work in all Angkor.



Ly River



Angkor



Angkor

Please Note:

The trip can be extended to visit Laos and the magical town of Luang Prabang ending with a short cruise up the mighty Mekong River to Northern Thailand.

Trip Scholar:

This trip will be accompanied by Dr John Villiers, formerly a lecturer at the Asia Studies Centre in Oxford and visiting Fellow of Trinity College. He was also the Director of the British Institute of Southeast Asian Studies first in Singapore and later in Bangkok and has led previous very successful visits specialising on the Khmer Empire in Indochina.

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4 Amherst Rd, Manchester M14 6UQ
Tel: +44 (0)161 225 5317
Fax: +44 (0)161 718 5478
E-mail: info@distanthorizons.co.uk



Berlin

Date: 5 – 9 May 2005
Number of days: 5
Price: £455

Berlin combines the greenery of London with the boulevards of Paris and the waterfronts of Stockholm. In new buildings, look for glass rather than concrete. Track down the remaining

Photo supplied by German National Tourist Board



Brandenburg Gate

memories of the 40-year division into East and West, or retreat to the 18th and 19th century by visiting the restored palaces and above all the Brandenburg Gate. Then leap into the 21st century at the Potsdamer Platz, Berlin's new heart.

This unique tour, led by Neil Taylor, author of the 'Footprint Guide to Berlin' guidebook, will include a walk along Unter den Linden, the road that links the Brandenburg Gate with Museum

Island. The British Embassy is just around the corner, now completely rebuilt and showing how glass and nature can enhance traditional stone and brick. Another walk will take us around

Prenzlauerberg, the home of Berlin Jugendstil, and now the major artistic quarter. Follow in the footsteps of countless

Inside the dome of the Reichstag

(Photo supplied by German National Tourist Board)

German writers and painters who have gained inspiration from this area over the past 100 years.

We will see Berlin partly by coach and on foot, with several contrasting excursions.

Bratislava

Date: 18 – 22 August 2005
Number of days: 5
Price: £415

Bratislava is now being discovered by those who went to Prague in the 1980s and Riga in the 1990s. Direct flights started in 2003 and Vienna is still on the doorstep. All western comforts are there, but they are discreetly hidden in a town that still boasts an array of Gothic, Baroque and Jugendstil buildings. Recent concrete intrusions are minimal. Cars are kept well away from the town centre so pedestrians are in complete



control. Culturally Bratislava flowers in August which is why the tour is arranged then. Theatre and organ music takes over at the Castle, and lighter fare in the Town Hall Square.

Our time here will include the

chance to drive into the vine-covered hills in the surrounding countryside, not only to sample the local produce but to see village after village architecturally intact.

We will explore Bratislava on foot, which is what people did when the city was founded and it is a practice continued today. With many of the streets being so narrow, even if it should rain, one will hardly notice.

Tour Leader:

These tours will be led by Neil Taylor, Director of Regent Holidays since 1975. He combines this role with writing guidebooks, and his recent books include: The Bradt Guide to Tallinn, The Bradt Guide to Estonia and the Footprint Guide to Berlin. He regularly leads tours in the Baltic States and Germany.

Prices include:

- flights with a scheduled carrier from Heathrow or Gatwick
- bed and breakfast in a twin/double room
- all excursions listed
- a welcome drink and talk upon arrival
- the services of a Tour Leader.

Tallinn

Date: 22 – 25 September 2005
Number of days: 4
Price: £395



Tallinn is a city that now firmly looks West, following the end of its 45 years in the Soviet Union. The Old Town is fortunately just that, with cobble streets, Gothic churches, Jugendstil offices and the occasional Baroque intrusion. 2004 saw the final restoration of the 15th Century Town Hall. We will have a private tour of this building, where we will see the tapestries which were woven in Oxford. Given Estonia's population of only 1.4 million, the arts put the rest of Europe to shame, in glassblowing as much as in painting, in woodwork as much as in fabric design. We will see the best of Tallinn's galleries and museums to witness this diversity. One artist, Adamson-Eric, who lost the power of his right hand following a stroke, simply took up painting with his left hand.

Old Tallinn is totally walkable and our two walks planned here will take in most of the Old Town. We will also drive into the countryside and along the coast, to see windmills, a Czarist royal palace and the museum that commemorates the British naval aid to Estonia during its War of Independence in 1918-20.

Contact details of tour operator:

Regent Holidays
15 John Street, Bristol BS1 2HR
Tel: +44 (0)117 921 1711
Fax: +44 (0)117 925 4866
E-mail: regent@regent-holidays.co.uk



Cruising the Cyclades

Date: 4 – 18 September 2005

Number of days: 15

Price: £1,845

Trip Scholar: Richard Stoneman

For this cruise to the heart of the Aegean we use Turkish gulets; hand-built, traditional-style motorised sailboats, which combine comfort with the ability to visit many ports and sites out of bounds to large liners. The islands of the Cyclades offer a rich mythological landscape,



The Temple of Apollo, Naxos

ranging from the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis at Delphi, to Naxos, where Theseus abandoned Ariadne. We also visit the volcano-island Thira, the site of a cataclysmic eruption in prehistory, the effects of which were felt across the Aegean.

We board at Kuşadası in south-west Turkey, before crossing to Greece early the next morning to Samos, home to Pythagoras, and the Heraion, the largest temple known to Herodotus in Greece. On Patmos, we visit the Monastery of the Apocalypse, built around the grotto where John the

Evangelist is said to have received the Revelation, and the Monastery of St John with its massive fortifications. By way of Mykonos, we visit Delos, birth-place of Apollo and Artemis, and, although the smallest of the Cyclades, once the religious and political centre of the Aegean. The island also boasted an oracle second only to that at Delphi.

On Paros we visit the famed marble quarries, before crossing to Naxos, the largest and most fertile of the Cyclades. A long causeway joins the main harbour to the islet of Palatia, where Theseus is said to have abandoned Ariadne after defeating the Minotaur on Crete. On Thira

we moor in the centre of the caldera and underneath the town which clings precariously to the cliff-face. We visit classical Thira, which boasts a stunning location and substantial remains.

Via Astypalea, we cross to Kos, home to Hippocrates and one of the most important sanctuaries to the healing god,

Aesclepius. We re-enter Turkey at Bodrum, ancient Halicarnassus, where the Persian satrap, Mausolus, had his capital. His tomb was one of the wonders of the ancient world. Toppled in an



earthquake, the building's remains now make up the bulk of the Crusader Castle of St Peter which houses a fine maritime museum.



Trip Scholar:

Richard Stoneman will accompany the cruise. Richard read Greats at New College and undertook research at Christ Church. He has written widely on classical Greece, including a recent biography of Alexander the Great.

Price includes:

- full-board accommodation
- airport transfers
- transport to and entrances into the archaeological sites.

Extras:

- airfares and visas. Turkish Airlines operate flights from London Heathrow via Istanbul and we can give advice on the most appropriate flights to take;
- single supplement costs £420.

Please note:

As a commercial company we are obliged to make a profit but with a strong academic background it is not our intention to maximise profit; we think that this is an important distinction and that its benefits are felt by all who travel with us.

Private charters:

We also organise private charters along the Turkish coast, from Troy to Antioch, and the neighbouring Greek Islands. If you would like to organise your own private group of university friends or family, we will gladly donate 10% of the cost to the Oxford University Society.

Contact details of tour operator:

Westminster Classic Tours
4 The Firs, Bath BA2 5ED
Tel: +44 (0)1225 835488
Fax: +44 (0)1225 837562
E-mail: info@wct99.com





What is the best way to visit and understand a region?

Perhaps your answer involves wonderful walks in the countryside to discover buildings and sites in their natural environment, superb food and wine, the best, most characterful and comfortable hotels, a small group of like-minded travellers and a knowledgeable and experienced guide to smooth the way.

The walks we present this year to the Oxford University Society offer all these elements and much more. We stay in the finest hotels, we eat at the best restaurants and we picnic at midday on specially prepared al fresco picnics. And of course we visit the most interesting and evocative regions and sites.

Prices include:

- first class or best available accommodation everywhere
- ALL meals and wine and mineral water with meals
- entrance fees
- the services of a tour guide and a tour leader
- all land transportation including transfers to and from the airport.

Extras:

- flights are offered separately due to the increasing numbers of people making use of mileage awards;
- prices are based on two people sharing a twin or double room. Single rooms are available at a supplement in Sicily of £125 and in Spain at £155.

Fitness level required:

All the walks are designed to be accessible to the average fit person who takes regular exercise of this kind. It is our aim to introduce the most evocative and interesting parts of the region by approaching them on foot through the surrounding countryside. Walks last from between one to two and a half hours in the morning and one to two hours in the afternoon.



Sicily



Date: 16 – 24 April 2005

Number of days: 9

Price: Land cost £1,295. Flights starting at about £200 can be booked through our office. Please call for details.

Sicily lies at the centre of the Mediterranean and has a unique cultural heritage. The island has seen every major civilization come and go, leaving monuments to their passing. Phoenician maritime settlements, Greek temples, Roman villas, Byzantine mosaics, Moorish palaces and Norman cathedrals are all found along our route. This nine-day walk takes us from East to West, from ancient capital to modern capital and explores the extraordinary diverse history and exceptional food of this beautiful island.



In the Middle Ages the Camino de Santiago was the busiest road in Europe. It comprised Roman causeways and medieval roads, early stone bridges and ancient mountain passes that witnessed the travels of saints and kings. Our route follows the road that

medieval pilgrims walked down and takes us to all the most important sites between Navarra and the shrine of Saint James in Galicia as we wander along the most beautiful, ancient and spectacular sections of the medieval road. In between the walks we visit all the major pilgrimage stops, including medieval hospitals, churches and artistic treasures. The trip takes ten days, during which time we will discover the art and architecture, the myths and legends of the road, the greatest cities of northern Spain, the daily life of the medieval pilgrim and the foods and wines of the different areas that we visit. Staying in first class accommodation, much of the time in historic and artistic buildings, we experience to the full the glory and power of the road.

Contact details of tour operator:

Duende Travel Limited
Brymor House, Heatherton Park,
Bradford-on-Tone, Taunton TA4 1EU
Tel: +44 (0)870 7106666
Fax: +44 (0)870 7106666
E-mail: info@duende-travel.com

Tour Leader:

Our guide, Peter Watson, a graduate of Oxford University in Modern Languages, has many years of experience in leading academic groups from around the world and has designed these trips especially for the Society.

IMA has been creating educational tours for university alumni for more than a decade. Many hundreds of Oxonians have already enjoyed the very special atmosphere of our unique journeys – that combination of intellectual stimulation and bodily relaxation in the company of like-minded travellers. IMA is now part of Temple World, which has been arranging educational travel for almost a quarter of a century.

Alexander's Path

*Cruising the coast of ancient Lycia
10th year of Oxford Alumni cruise to Turkey*

Date: 1 – 15 October 2005
Number of days: 15
Price: £1,785 fully inclusive with flights from London
Trip Scholar: Thomas Braun, Merton College



Our Yacht M/S Sultan in Lycia

last few thousand years, with dramatic peaks and deep-set wooded inlets best visited by sea.

Our Lycian cruise is full of theatres, tombs and the beautiful Taurus Mountains, with Classical cities like Xanthos, Phaselis and Myra. Among the gems is the beautiful city of Arykanda, high in the Bey Mountains behind Phoenix. There are also rare sites like Cadyanda and Pinara in the Akdag Mountains. And for those who enjoy the cruising life there is also plenty of relaxation and swimming.

Alexander the Great chose Lycia to winter before conquering the world. Because of the rugged nature of the interior, the sea passage around the coast of ancient Lycia has changed little in appearance over the

The Galápagos Islands and Ecuador

Zoology, Ornithology and Ecology

Date: 3 – 14 December 2005
Number of days: 12
Price: from £3,995 fully inclusive with flights from London
Trip Scholar: Prof Nick Davies, Pembroke College Cambridge

This will be our sixth alumni tour to the Galápagos to explore the islands and to study the unique flora and fauna that helped inspire Darwin's seminal work "On the Origin of Species".

Flying via Quito in Ecuador, en route visiting the Cotopaxi National Park and Inca ruins, we shall spend our seven night exploration of the Galápagos on the superb private 40 passenger expedition ship Isabela II.

This is without doubt the very best way to experience and enjoy these extraordinary islands.

Contact details of tour operator:

IMA
13 The Avenue, Kew, Richmond,
Surrey TW9 2AL
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8940 4114
Fax: +44 (0) 20 8332 2456
E-mail: ima@templeworld.com



Royal Africa's big game

A unique ecological and historical safari in South Africa

Date: 3 – 17 September 2005
Number of days: 15
Price: £2,690 fully inclusive with flights from London
Trip Scholar: Dr Malcolm Coe, Emeritus Fellow, St Peter's College

Once the hunting preserve of the Zulu kings, the coastal wilderness of Natal and Maputaland is a key area for viewing Africa's big game. The floodplains offer superb habitat for hippo and crocodile, and the richest diversity of bird life anywhere south of the equator – over 400 species. Our safari offers the best of wildlife and bird watching against a backdrop of the vibrant culture of the Zulu nation.

Reserves include Hluhluwe and Umfolozi, with lion and elephant, and the escarpment landscape of Itala where herds of rhino are common, as are wildebeest, giraffe, zebra, eland, hartebeest, kudu and impala.



A trio of White Rhino in Zululand



African Plains Zebra among spring flowers

The Nqutu Plateau is the living heart of the Zulu nation and includes two of the famous sites from the Anglo-Zulu war of 1879 – Isandlwana and Rourke's Drift. For anyone interested in Southern Africa, the visit is a deeply moving experience.

Cruise the Po

A land between art and culture

Date: 21 – 28 August 2005
Number of days: 8
Price: from £2,390 fully inclusive with flights from London
Trip Scholar: Richard Cooper, Brasenose College

This is a repeat of the highly successful 2002 cruise from Venice, including this time the famous opera season at the Arena di Verona.

Using again the superbly appointed River Cloud II, a veritable floating 5 star hotel, we shall explore the cultural and historical highlights of this fascinating region of Italy in luxurious surroundings.



See the world from a different POINT OF VIEW

What inspires us to travel?

The stories that lie behind the places we visit. It's these stories that, for over 50 years, our invited Guest Speakers have been revealing to turn a journey into a memorable and enriching experience.

To The Rose Red City

Cruise M506

Date: 11 – 26 March 2005 (16 Days)
India, Oman, Egypt and Jordan



Leave the Western World behind and enter the exotic East. Beginning in Mumbai, the gateway to India, you head for Porbandar, Gandhi's birthplace. Then hop across the Arabian Sea and spend warm spring days exploring the souks and palaces of Muscat and Salalah, the Perfume City. Egypt opens up before you, including the Valley of the Kings and the Temple of Amun. Cruising forward in time and distance, your fascinating journey ends at Aqaba and a chance to visit the lost city of Petra.

Special inclusive fares*

DOUBLE/TWIN FARE

Deluxe with Balcony BA Deck 8	£2,688
Superior Plus with Balcony BC Deck 7	£2,621
Standard Outside GE Deck 4	£2,150
Standard Inside IC Deck 7	£1,873

A Story of Islands *Cruise M513*

Date: 25 June – 9 July 2005 (15 Days)
UK, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Iceland
No Flight Cruise

The sun rises early as Minerva II enters the North Atlantic. Visit bubbling mud pools, the 'Waterfall of the Gods', the Blue Lagoon and the world's most northerly capital. Enjoy the splendour of Iceland: its dramatic scenery and its spectacular wildlife such as the mighty Humpbacked Whale. Then gain a new perspective on Britain's place in history as described by the castles, great houses and natural beauty of the isles that once ruled the world. Uncover the real Dublin then head for the South Coast of Britain taking in many of her great ports.



Special inclusive fares*

DOUBLE/TWIN FARE

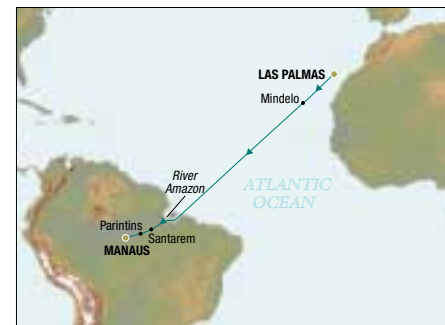
Deluxe with Balcony BA Deck 8	£2,764
Superior Plus with Balcony BC Deck 7	£2,741
Standard Outside GE Deck 4	£2,275
Standard Inside IC Deck 7	£1,979



Conquistadores' Path

Cruise M522

Date: 29 Oct – 11 Nov 2005 (13 Days)
Canary Islands, Cape Verde and Brazil



Following in the wake of the Conquistadores, cruise across the Atlantic to the New World. Stop to explore the Cape Verde Islands, a Portuguese stronghold since 1444, then set course for Brazil. Your first glimpse of this vast country is the mouth of the Amazon, from here it's over 6000km to its source. Minerva II can take you some of the way. Marvel at the snow-white river beaches of Santarem and the Jesuit mission. Then travel further inland to discover the abundance of flora and fauna before drawing into the remarkable city of Manaus.

Special inclusive fares*

DOUBLE/TWIN FARE

Deluxe with Balcony BA Deck 8	£1,393
Superior Plus with Balcony BC Deck 7	£1,382
Standard Outside GE Deck 4	£1,145
Standard Inside IC Deck 7	£999

- Expert Guest Speakers on every cruise
- A choice of 4 excellent restaurants with free-seating arrangements
- A ship of around 600 passengers, able to visit smaller, less well-known ports
- 70% of your time spent exploring ashore

www.swanhellenic.com



For reservations call:
0845 3 555 111 quoting reference GH5

Please see Swan Hellenic's advertisement in Oxford Today. For every booking made, Swan Hellenic will donate 10% of the fare to the Oxford University Society.

*Terms and conditions

Offer is for new bookings made before 17 December 2004 only. This offer cannot be combined with any other promotional offer or discount. Fares are per person, based on two adults sharing a twin/double cabin. See our 2004/6 brochure for fare details. This offer is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at anytime. For travellers wishing to travel on a sole occupancy basis, a discount of up to 55% will be offered off the full brochure fare on selected cabin grades for the cruises featured above.

For full details and itinerary, please contact Swan Hellenic, quoting ref GH5 on +44 (0) 845 3 555 111, or visit the OUS website at <http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel/>

The tours detailed in this travel programme are offered, organised and run by various commercial tour operators and not The Oxford University Society. Please see further notes on our website at <http://www.alumni.ox.ac.uk/travel/>
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