



PETER SOMMER
TRAVELS

EXPERT-LED

ARCHAEOLOGICAL & CULTURAL
TOURS & GULET CRUISES



2024

WELCOME TO PETER SOMMER TRAVELS



“We were met by our guide with a big smile and open arms, and my wife and I began a true gastronomic adventure up close and personal with the people and food of Southwestern Sicily. We experienced sites, sights and carefully chosen venues not readily available to a normal tourist. We met the Sicilians who actually produce and provide the artisanal and indigenous wines, olive oils, pastas, fish and even homemade chocolate. We even sent home two cases of lava minerally laced prosecco from the terroir of Mt. Aetna (arrived in pristine condition) so the memory of the visit can be celebrated afterwards. In all it was an experience to be treasured and even repeated. Peter Sommer and his team are superb.”

Donald Santarelli, USA

WHY TRAVEL WITH US?



“Having been to Rome several times already I was astonished at how much I’d missed during prior visits. Our guide took us daily on a lively, fascinating journey, sharing ancient Rome’s people, places, art, architecture, historic sites and mysteries. We experienced some of the world’s top restaurants and stayed in a lovely hotel that was built as a convent in the 15th century. The days flew by and I learned more than I could ever have imagined. This is a unique and unforgettable experience.”

Caron Sjoberg, USA

ATTENTION TO DETAIL

We offer a select mix of escorted tours, all of which have been carefully researched and meticulously planned.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

We strive for the very best in personal service and assure you of individual care and attention. As a previous traveller told us:

“The hospitality was exceptional, we felt like guests rather than customers.”

EXPERT GUIDES

Our tour leaders, archaeologists and historians, are great communicators, passionate enthusiasts and friendly hosts as well as being extremely knowledgeable.

BEAUTIFUL BOATS

We use hand-crafted traditional Turkish gulets of the highest standard: stylish and characterful, with modern conveniences and friendly and experienced crews. Alongside our scheduled trips, we offer expert-led gulet charters for private groups, large or small. We are happy to assist with any logistics you might require.

SMALL GROUPS

We have only ever taken small groups of like-minded people – typically between 10 and 14 on our gulet tours (max 18 on our 11 cabin Cruising the Cyclades/Dodecanese trips) and between 10 and 18 on our land tours – travelling in an easy-going informal style.

VALUE FOR MONEY - NO SURCHARGES

Our tour prices include almost everything except airfares. Customers tell us they are great value. The old adage ‘you get what you pay for’ is especially true when it comes to holidays and adventure travel. We will not levy surcharges for fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices or for any other reason. The price of the trip is the price you pay.

RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We believe our tours are a positive force, holidays with a cultural purpose, bringing economic benefits to local people. We try where possible to minimise our impact on the environment. You can read our Responsible Travel policy online.

EXPERIENCE & QUALITY

Peter has been organising cultural tours since 1996. We aim to provide the very finest expert-led archaeological tours and gulet cruises. We want you to travel with us again and again – as a great many of our customers do.



ABOUT PETER SOMMER TRAVELS



Peter Sommer

Peter studied Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham University before completing a Masters on the archaeology of Central Asia. He has taught at Birmingham University and Istanbul's Bogaziçi Üniversitesi (Bosphorus University). In 1994 he walked 2,000 miles across Turkey, retracing the route of Alexander the Great, and fell deeply in love with the country. For this epic journey he received The Explorers Club of America Young Expeditioners' award. Two years into a PhD. at University College London, he was seduced into television to work on In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great (BBC/PBS). An award-winning documentary producer, he has shot around the world for acclaimed series like Millennium: A thousand years of history (BBC/CNN), Commanding Heights: the Battle for the World Economy (PBS/BBC), and Tales from the Green Valley (BBC).



Elin Sommer

Originally from Norway, Elin travelled as a youngster to London to study journalism. After her degree, she started working in television, and this is where she and Peter met. Elin worked as a Production Manager on a variety of documentaries such as Hostage, When Money Went Mad: the Story of the South Sea Bubble, Sleaze – the State of Britain and A Child's World, all for Channel 4. After television, she worked as a freelance translator and also ran her own natural skincare company. When Peter and Elin first started PST, Elin was Peter's right hand woman; looking after everything when Peter was away on recess and tours. She has been at the heart of the company ever since, being more or less involved depending on the arrival of children. These days Elin oversees company strategy alongside Peter and is in charge of HR, H&S, tech support and general admin.



Michael Metcalfe

Michael earned his PhD at University College London, focusing on the ancient Greek cities in the Eastern Aegean Islands and Western Turkey. While finishing this research, Michael lived and worked in Athens and Ankara as well as London, and took up his first academic post as Assistant Professor in Ancient History at The Mediterranean Center for Arts and Sciences in Sicily. A specialist in Greek and Latin inscriptions and social history, Michael is currently studying the unpublished diaries of early British Travellers to Greece, Turkey and Sicily, and is involved in publishing inscriptions from many parts of the Eastern and Central Mediterranean. He is the innovative and organisational force behind our tours in Greece, Italy and the UK and responsible for our private tours



Julie Sibley

Julie is our Office and Operations Manager, at the heart of all we do. After a long career in the corporate world she decided to make her lifelong fascination with archaeology her job! As well as the day to day running of the business she takes care of all our supplier contracts, is responsible for development and maintenance of our company website, advertising and media content and designs and produces our weekly newsletter and our annual brochure. Having travelled extensively in Greece, Turkey and Sicily she is also involved in the design, preparation and delivery of new tours and is destination manager for all of the UK and Ireland.



Paul Beston

Paul studied Ancient History at King's College, London, gaining a first, and then earned a distinction in his Masters. Alongside lecturing posts at King's and Royal Holloway in London, he has acted as an historical adviser for TV including HBO's Fire from Heaven. Previously he taught Classics in Hertfordshire but we are delighted that he is now full time with us. He is also working with Michael Metcalfe on the publication of some notebooks of early travellers to Greece. He has a lively interest in all periods and regions, but a particular passion for Late Antiquity, Roman Britain and the Near East. He also focuses on tour design, creative content, and writes our blog and newsletters.



Liga Hince

Liga has headed up our accounts department since 2018 and is responsible for keeping all of our finances in order. She also helps out with our administration and keeps the office running smoothly. Originally Liga is from Latvia and got her Master's degree in accountancy and economics at the University of Latvia. As part of a Latvian folk dance group, Liga danced her way across Europe and the Middle East, from Sicily to Israel, prior to 2006 when she moved to the UK which she has been busy exploring ever since. Liga speaks Latvian, Russian, English and very rusty German and enjoys reading, walking, traveling and dancing and especially loves her cup of coffee!



Alex Stephens

Alex is our Client and Operations Administrator and our main point of contact. He deals with all of our bookings, enquiries, general admin and very much enjoys talking to our guests on the telephone. An avid sportsman, Alex plays football regularly as part of a county level team. Alex is also a keen traveller with a love for history and archaeology, his most far flung journey to date was to Peru, where he hiked the Inca trail to Machu Pichu. Alex has a degree in Professional Policing from the University of Derby but decided to step into the travelling industry to better pursue his love of adventure.



Ian Finlay

Ian Finlay has spent more than 30 years in the travel and leisure space, becoming a director of more than 50 businesses, and running companies in 11 countries worldwide. Since 2018 he has taken on a plural career, and now enjoys working with a diverse group of high-quality travel businesses in non-executive roles, helping them grow and thrive.



Joe Shingles

Joe is our Commercial Manager and an experienced tour operator, with experience of planning and running archaeological, historical, artistic, cultural, sailing and wine tours. Alongside a wide travel experience, he has worked in sales, customer service, operational, marketing and commercial roles so will be helping in a lot of areas behind the scenes.

6 TIMES UK TOUR OPERATOR OF THE YEAR

AITO (THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TOUR OPERATORS)

These awards are based on the highest scoring independent client reviews on the website of AITO, an association which represents more than 120 of Britain's best independent tour operators.

[Read over 750 independent reviews of our tours](#)



In 2022 we won a Silver British Travel Award and in 2023 we won Bronze, for Best Travel Company for Arts and Culture Holidays. We are delighted that so many of you enjoy our tours and that almost all of you consider our tours to be "excellent". We continue to strive to improve our offerings and always take customer feedback into account when planning our tours.



Our Local Partners

The success of any tour depends on logistics. These basic, behind the scenes, practical arrangements are the very necessary nuts and bolts of making a trip a success – from making sure a vehicle arrives at the right location, to the crucial matter of timing.

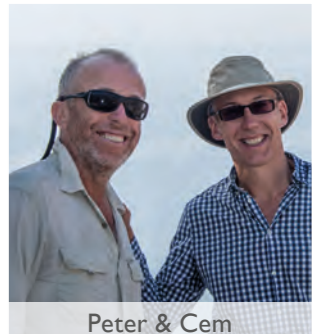
Meticulous planning is all very well, but actually making it happen is key. We depend on our local partners to ensure our escorted trips run smoothly.

In Turkey we work with Travel Atelier, a travel agency run by Murat Özgüç and his wife Pinar. We have worked with them for many years and rate them very highly. Murat organises hotels, transfers, and all other travel arrangements for our guests. He helps us both with our scheduled tours and our custom created tours. Cem Yücesoy is our logistics co-ordinator and tour manager extraordinaire. He has organised all our Turkey tours to date, from choosing minibus drivers to booking local guides.

In Greece we work with Dolphin Hellas, a travel agency of long standing offering a complete range of travel services. Run by Aliki Hamosfakidou, she and her team assist us in shaping and then co-ordinating perfect itineraries for our cultural tours throughout Greece.

In mainland Italy we work with King DMC for all our land tour services and in Sicily we work with Agave Travel Creative, run by Marcello Baglioni who specialises in slow travel, an in-depth exploration of Sicily's culture and cuisine. All our Italian tour logistics are coordinated through a team of local companies committed to outstanding customer service.

In Croatia we work with Ventula, who are responsible for organising the logistics of all our tours there, and our number one recommendation for add-on arrangements throughout the whole country. They are a relatively small company with a team of designated and experienced experts. Their specialities are tailor-made trips and highly personal service.



Peter & Cem

IN THE PRESS: RECOMMENDED BY

The New York Times

FT FINANCIAL TIMES

THE AUSTRALIAN

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Washington Post

THE SUNDAY TIMES

BBC

San Francisco Chronicle

The Sydney Morning Herald

The Telegraph

Traveller

THE TIMES

AITO QUALITY CHARTER



Peter Sommer Travels is a member of the United Kingdom's Association of Independent Tour Operators. AITO is the Association for independent and specialist holiday companies. Our member companies, usually owner-managed, strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Exclusive Membership

AITO sets criteria regarding ownership, finance and quality which must be satisfied before new companies are admitted to membership. All members are required to adhere to a Code of Business Practice which encourages high operational standards and conduct.

Financial Security

An AITO member is required to protect money paid by customers to the member for any holiday sold under the AITO logo. This protection applies to customers who are in the UK at the time of booking or to overseas customers who have booked directly with the member. Members have to comply with UK Government Regulations in this respect. Members submit details of their bonding or guarantee arrangements to the Association on a regular basis.

Accurate Brochures & Web Sites

All members do their utmost to ensure that all their brochures and other publications, print or electronic, clearly and accurately describe the holidays and services offered.

Professional Service & Continual Improvements

All members are committed to high standards of service and believe in regular and thorough training of employees. Members continually seek to review and improve their holidays. They listen to their customers and always welcome suggestions for improving standards.

Monitoring Standards

AITO endeavours to monitor quality standards regularly. All customers should receive a post-holiday questionnaire the results of which are scrutinised by the Association.

Responsible Tourism

All members acknowledge the importance of AITO's Responsible Tourism guidelines, which recognise the social, economic and environmental responsibilities of tour operating. Those demonstrating their achievements beyond the pure acceptance of this principle are recognised by the award of 2 to 5 star status. Peter Sommer Travels are proud to have been awarded 3 stars for Sustainable Tourism by AITO.

Customer Relations

All members endeavour to deal swiftly and fairly with any issues their customers may raise. In the unlikely event that a dispute between an AITO member and a customer cannot be settled amicably, AITO's low-cost Independent Dispute Settlement Service may be called upon by either side to bring the matter to a speedy and acceptable conclusion. For more information visit www.aito.com or call 020 8744 9280.

BOOK WITH CONFIDENCE

✳ Flexible Booking

While deposit payments are non-refundable, because we have to make significant payments in advance to cover the costs of each tour, we want to be as fair and flexible as possible. If you need to change your booking, you can move your deposit to any of our other tours taking place in 2024 without a charge as long as you do this before the final balance payment becomes due (10 weeks before departure). We can also transfer your deposit to a friend or family member without any charge.

✳ Flexible Final Balances

We will only ask you to pay your final balance 10 weeks prior to departure if we think that we can run a trip in a safe and enjoyable manner. If this is not the case, we will delay the final balance payment date until we are confident that the tour can go ahead safely. If, by 30 days prior to departure, we still feel that we cannot run a trip in a safe and enjoyable manner, we will cancel your tour and you can either receive a credit towards any trip in 2024 or 2025 or receive a full refund.

✳ Financial Security

We have cast iron financial protection and are fully bonded through ABTA to ensure all your payments to us are fully protected.

✳ The Association Of British Travel Agents (ABTA)

We are a member of the Association of British Travel Agents. Booking your holiday with an ABTA Member means that you'll be able to relax safe in the knowledge that you've booked with a reputable travel company. Find out more on the ABTA website.

✳ The Association Of Independent Tour Operators (AITO)

We are a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO) – the UK's leading association for independent and specialist holiday companies. Member companies, usually owner-managed, strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating. In the past five years, we have won AITO's Tour Operator of the Year Gold award two times and the Silver award three times. For more information visit the AITO website.

✳ Our Promise To You

As a small family run company, we always try to be fair, flexible and reasonable and to act with integrity. Our main aim is to ensure that all of our guests are more than satisfied with all of our services. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.



WHAT'S INCLUDED

On our Gulet Cruises:

Full board accommodation (except where specified)
Airport transfers on first and last day of tour
Road transfers by minibus
Site entrance fees and tips on land
Harbour fees and crew services
Excursions with expert guides
WiFi (coverage permitting)
Mineral water, tea and coffee and wine with dinner.

On our land tours:

Full board accomm (except meal exclusions for each tour)
High standard 3-5* hotels with character
Airport transfers on first and last day of tour
Road transfers by minibus
Entrance fees and tips on land
Excursions with expert guides
Mineral water, tea and coffee and wine with dinner.

Not included:

Flights and airport taxes
Visas
Travel insurance
Gratuities on the gulet. It is customary to tip the crew at the end of a tour.
Tips for drivers on land tours
Tips for guides (always welcome, but never expected.)
Meals on free days on land tours
Drinks from the bar on the gulet
Drinks from hotel bars or mini bars in hotel rooms.



HOW TO BOOK

Call us

From the UK - Tel: 01600 888 220
From the USA / Canada - Tel: 855 443 3027 (toll free) or 011 44 1600 888 220
From Australia - Tel: 00 11 44 1600 888 220
From Elsewhere - We welcome guests from all over the world. Please check the prefix you need to call international from your home country and then add 44 1600 888 220.

Our office, is open from 9 am to 5.00 pm GMT, Monday to Friday. Please leave a message on our answering machine outside of these hours.

Email us on

info@petersommer.com

We'll be delighted to help and will send you booking details by email, including a booking form and payment information. We will be happy to hold a place (or places) for you on a trip for 1-week pending receipt of your deposit payment and completed booking form. Please remember to read the booking conditions that will be sent with your booking form.

Download and send a booking form

You can [download the booking form](#) from this brochure.



TOUR INTENSITY

How fit do I need to be to join one of your tours?

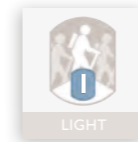
Our tours by their very nature involve a significant amount of walking, often in hot and humid climatic conditions, as well as scrambling over rough terrain on archaeological sites which are frequently rugged and with loose rocks underfoot. This can make them difficult to negotiate and physically tiring. Your physical fitness should therefore be of a level that will allow you to get the most from the chosen tour.

It's important to note that on our gulet cruises, we do at times go ashore using the gulet's dinghy. Therefore if you would like to join these specific onshore excursions, you will need to be able to safely descend/ascend the gulet's ladder and step into and out of the dinghy. Members of the gulet's crew and our guiding team will be there to assist you if needed but having good mobility and balance is important for your safety and enjoyment.

While all of our tours involve an element of walking, the distance, duration and terrain can differ considerably. So we've graded our trips to better help you assess the level of fitness needed in order to enjoy them to the full.

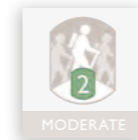
To help you choose the right holiday for you, each tour page has a logo indicating its rating. If you click on the logo you will be brought back to this page where you can read up about the level of fitness required to participate.

For our [walking and hiking tours](#) you can also read much more information on the details tab on the tour page on our website.



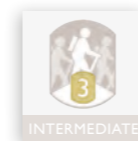
1. Light:

Our light tours include easy walks on mostly flat ground, often in towns or cities. Short stretches on tracks or paths may include some steps and uneven terrain. Walks are of short duration and distance, usually below 3km/2 miles or 2 hours, site tours likewise tend to be under 2 hours.



2. Moderate:

On moderate itineraries, key site tours can be of up to 5 hours' duration. Walks are rarely over 2 hours in duration and 5km/3 miles in distance. Walking is mostly limited to flat terrain or towns, but some stretches may be on relatively steep slopes and narrow paths.



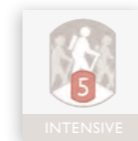
3. Intermediate:

Our intermediate tours include stretches of walking on narrow tracks, across rough terrain or on steep slopes. Distances rarely exceed 5km/3 miles, but some walks may last over 2 hours. On city tours, entire mornings or afternoons are spent on foot (5 hours, including breaks). Site tours last up to 5 hours.



4. Energetic:

On energetic tours, we cover distances up to approx. 8km/5 miles per day, including hikes on rocky and rugged ground, sometimes off the beaten track, including some challenging tracks, paths requiring a good sense of balance, and long uphill or downhill stretches. Average walking/hiking duration is generally below 4 hours per day.



5. Intensive:

Our most intensive walking and hiking tours or cruises include some strenuous hikes on rough ground or across rugged terrain, ascents or descents on steep slopes (mostly on pathways), narrow tracks and other challenges. The longest hikes have a duration of up to 7-8 hours, covering maximum distances of approx. 18km/11 miles.



TESTIMONIALS



“ This trip hit five stars on all fronts. This was a mother/daughter trip and the first time in Crete for both of us. It exceeded all expectations. Our guide’s incredible knowledge and ability to weave history and myth together made the many sites we visited that much more fascinating. The hotels were unique, including old, remote village homes converted into charming hotels. The meals were a treat in themselves, locally sourced and deliciously prepared, and the itinerary took us through Crete’s variable and beautiful landscape. For anyone interested in history from that part of the world, I would highly recommend this trip.

Exploring Crete

Britt Chester &
Kristine Lynn
USA

“ My wife and I have traveled to Rome many times and were looking for something truly different. A history and archeological focused experience with a small group, led by someone who truly understand the history, not just a show and tell tour. Our guide was incredible, was always interesting, and took us to places we have not visited before. Highly recommend this trip !!!!

Exploring Rome

Craig & Mary
Kirsch
USA

“ The tour was superbly organised and incredibly interesting, even for a non archeologist. Richard kept us enthralled with the archeological gems of Lycia for the full 7 days. He is a gem himself. Ugur was a very personable tour manager - nothing was too much trouble for him. The boat, the crew, the meals - all great.

Walking and Cruising Western Lycia

Mark Goedecke
AUS

“ Wonderful combination of guided visits, excellent food and cruising along beautiful coastline.

Cruising to Ephesus

Bruce Wright
UK

“ Our tour was idyllic! There was a perfect balance of activities: charming villages to explore; lovely walks and drives through the rugged landscape; memorable meals both on board and in lively tavernas on shore; time to swim, kayak, read and relax, and above all many visits to ancient sites and museums wonderfully interpreted for us by our knowledgeable (and entertaining) guides. We topped it off with the Athens extension, which was a perfect way to consolidate and absorb all we had seen and learned in the islands. Our guide in Athens was superb, and every detail of our stay was thoughtfully arranged and provided for.

Cruising to the Cyclades & Heart of Classical Athens

Cynthia Seybolt &
Stan Emery
USA

“ We spent a wonderful week hiking, walking and exploring the remains of Hadrian’s Wall from coast to coast. Our guide was brilliant- archaeological, historical and linguistic information was shared in a manner of a master storyteller. The village of Blanchland was charming, the Lord Crewe Arms Hotel delightful, and the food at all locations was fabulous. Guides, staff, drivers all were top notch professionals- helpful, accommodating, patient, and a joy to be around.

Walking Hadrian’s Wall

Betsi English
USA

“ The itinerary took us to all the unmissable sites in the Peloponnese and the Mani and to some wonderful places that are quite off the beaten track. Our guides were most knowledgeable and entertaining and made this two weeks very special. The food and wine were generous and very well chosen, the best of Greece.

Exploring the Peloponnese

Sue Freathy
UK

“ This was our 9th holiday with Peter Sommer, which I think says it all. This time we organised a private charter with people we had met on previous trips. We spent two glorious weeks on a Turkish gulet, traditionally built but with all mod cons. We visited archaeological sites, not all open to the public, and were lucky enough to be taken around by archaeologists working on the site. We swam from the boat several times a day, explored the countryside a little and enjoyed the best food we have ever had on any holiday anywhere. It was a perfect combination.

Private Gulet Charter

Alison
Ledgerwood
UK

“ The transportation, food, and lodging locations were all wonderful. Our guide and the people we met at each stop were knowledgeable and interesting. Highly recommend this tour for the perfect blend of food and local history.

Gastronomic Tour of Sicily

Dawn DeMartino
USA

“ This cruise had been on my bucket list for the past five years and it was every bit as good, if not better, than I’d imagined it would be.

Walking and Cruising the Lycian Shore

Diny Slamet
AUS

“ We had explored Trieste, Slovenia and much of Croatia before embarking on our week’s holiday at Slano. We were blessed with excellent weather and fellow travellers we found sympathetic. Our crew were attentive, professional and the catering was first class - they did everything to make our cruise enjoyable. Lots of opportunities to swim from the gulet and our gastronomic excursions were both educational and delicious.

Gastronomic Gulet Cruise In Croatia

N & P Woodcock
UK

“ This trip was wonderful. We saw a lot, we learned a lot about the islands and their history, we had great meals both on and off the boat and we had time to explore both with the group and by ourselves. Our guides were exceptional, the captain and crew looked after us extremely well and we hope to travel with Peter Sommer Travels again before too long.

Cruising the Dodecanese

John & Elaine
Elkington
USA

“ This was our third tour and they have all been outstanding. The hotels, the food, the guides: all superlative. We have taken tours previously with other companies. None comes close to the experience with Peter Sommer Travels. The value and quality are simply amazing. I’ve never had so much fun while learning so much history.

Private Land Tour

Dr. Paul Brown
USA

“ Cruising for seven days along the tranquil azure colored coast of Turkey and encountering unexpected gastronomic and archeological delights at every turn was truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Our lovely expert guide Serdar can only be described as a Turkish National Treasure! Serdar’s extensive knowledge of Turkish history, culinary arts, archeological sites, and coastal geography was second to none. I cannot express enough in words how much this gentle and thoughtful man is utterly filled with knowledge and experiences regarding his beautiful country. Serdar introduced us to small non-touristy villages, breathtaking hiking trails, family-owned restaurants serving absolutely delicious Turkish food, and undiscovered and rarely visited archeological sites. All these experiences were shared with the other lovely tour guests with whom we thoroughly enjoyed their company.

Gastronomic Gulet Cruise In Turkey

Brian Hartman &
Odette Oesau
USA

“ Very well run tour with knowledgeable and enthusiastic tour leader and friendly crew. A nice blend of activity and rest/recreation time. Comfortable cabins and excellent fresh food every day. Thoughtful touches included visits to remote village restaurants for lunch during walks and icecreams at the end of a busy few hours of walking.

Walking & Cruising Western Lycia

Prof. Andrew
Goldsmith
AUS

“ A fascinating itinerary, extremely knowledgeable and attentive guides, very well put together practical arrangements, comfortable accommodation and travel, excellent eating and a great group of like minded guests - all the ingredients for an outstanding holiday.

Exploring the Peloponnese

Giles & Jane
Cockerill
UK

“ The tour truly lived up to its name, with exposure to a range of gastronomic delights from high end olive oil producers and vineyards to charming, rustic biodiversity farms. The food, wine and people were exceptional and the local guide knowledgeable about the archaeology and baroque architecture. Highlights included visiting the local food market with a renowned chef followed by a cooking lesson in his restaurant, and farmhouse lunches prepared by the family. The trip was crowned by a walk on Etna led by a volcanologist.

Gastronomic Tour of Sicily

Mark Boast
UK

TESTIMONIALS



“ This holiday exceeded all our expectations. The itinerary attracted us, being a combination of physically active walking in scenically stunning regions and swimming/snorkeling in azure Mediterranean waters, historical discoveries of antiquity (in situ) with the insights from an expert archaeologist, as well as immersion into Turkish culture including the people and the food, dining sumptuously both on the gulet and in hand-picked mountain restaurants - and relaxing on the boat as we cruised. ”

Walking & Cruising Western Lycia

Jane Turner
AUS



“ We chose Peter Sommer’s Cruising the Aegean: from Kos to Patmos because of our love of the Greek Islands and classical archeology. Peter’s travel team arranged a beautiful, educational, as well as very relaxing trip. We were so fortunate to have two expert guides, as our local guide Tassos, is a specialist in Byzantine archaeology. Our expert guide, Tony Spawforth is an accomplished author and expert on classical history. He was delightful and had a great sense of humor. This was our first time on a gulet, and we thoroughly enjoyed the barefoot experience, delicious family style meals, camaraderie with fellow passengers and guides, and being pampered by the excellent crew. Peter Sommer’s cruises are definitely a repeater and we are already planning next year’s cruise. ”

Cruising the Aegean from Kos to Patmos

John & Laurie
Gosch
USA



“ This was a great combination of cruising the Carian coast of Turkey and walking in the coastal hills. We visited many remote ancient sites and our guide was extremely personable and informative. It was well organized and special care was taken to ensure that everyone was well looked after. The Captain and his crew were very friendly and helpful, and the food was always excellent with lots of local wine. A very enjoyable and informative week. ”

Walking and Cruising the Carian Coast

Anthony Boulton
CAN



“ A frequent visitor to Greece, I had never before been to Macedonia and I was awed by the its beauty, its lush countryside and verdant, mountainous west. It is impossible to overstate the wow factor of the museum at Vergina, now enclosing the tomb of king Philip II and the rich treasure found there. There were the expected highlights of the tour, but there were so many other treats and the ferry day-trip to the isle of Thasos was a lovely change of pace. Our guides Maria and Paul were extremely knowledgeable, considerate and good company. The food was splendid and we all appreciated the lengths Maria had gone to to order for us local dishes in each of the towns we visited. ”

Exploring Macedonia

Stella Graham
UK



“ Based in a beautiful hotel in Bath with daily excursions to archaeological sites, magnificent cathedrals, Roman baths & villas, Stonehenge at dawn from the inner sanctum, Avebury circles, etc. All the while being escorted by Paul Beston whose knowledge of each site seemed endless. ”

Exploring Wessex

Rodney Hoare
AUS



“ Our gulet cruise of east Turkey was comfortable, very well organised, with a brilliant guide and tour manager and crew, good food and good company. ”

Cruising the Lycian Shore

Sir Gerald Warner
UK



“ A 14-day trip along the Carian Coast of Turkey, visiting archaeological sites, wineries, villages, etc. Everything about the trip was wonderful. The food on the boat was truly excellent; traditional Turkish dishes, cooked by a masterful chef. All 13 of us on board were dazzled. Wonderful swimming in bays along the coast, two or three times a day. Archaeological sites were fascinating and our guides on board were excellent companions. ”

Private Gulet Charter

John Boyd
USA



“ Fantastic trip. The boat was comfortable and well maintained; the crew were attendant and helpful and the food was fabulous. The visits to the archaeological sites were very well organized and our guides were excellent. Our archaeological guide, Philip, was knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and an excellent presenter. Our local guide, Ayup, kept us informed on local foods, wines, and traditions. It was, by far, the best trip I have ever taken. ”

Cruising the Carian Coast - Aegean to Mediterranean

Elaine Sullivan
USA



“ A gulet trip in Croatia, stopping at numerous historic sites, with a fabulous guide, Mislav, on board and with a wonderful crew. Many great meals both on and off the boat. A comprehensive look at both the history and culture of this beautiful and interesting region. I highly recommend both this trip and Peter Sommer Travels. ”

Cruising Dalmatia from Dubrovnik to Split

Deborah Ware
USA



“ One of the best vacations I’ve ever had. The opportunities for swimming, kayaking, and hiking were all exceptional. The food was excellent and something of a miracle given the size of the gulet kitchen. The group was very congenial and a pleasure to be with. ”

Cruising Western Lycia

Prof. Kathleen
Dracup
USA



“ The gulet cruise was phenomenal and I will go on one again! I learned so much from the inland tours and the interaction with other guests of the cruise. One highlight was visiting an oyster harvesting operation on a floating barge. Now I understand why oysters are so expensive and will love them even more! ”

Gastronomic Gulet Cruise In Croatia

June
Thormodsgard
USA



“ I knew that Peter Sommer’s tours have attracted excellent reviews but the experience more than matched my high expectations. Each day was a delightful blend of cruising along the beautiful Turkish coast, fascinating excursions to visit amazing ancient sites, swimming in sheltered bays and long evenings around the table with excellent food, wine and new found friends. Everything was arranged at a relaxed and comfortable pace. Our trips ashore visited a series of increasingly spectacular ancient cities which were brought to life by our enthusiastic and very knowledgeable expert guide. It was a perfect holiday and many thanks to everyone involved. It turned out to be a life affirming experience. ”

Cruising to Ephesus

Peter Glynn
UK



“ Cruising the Coast of Dalmatia was the perfect adventure. A beautiful mahogany boat, wonderful crew and guide, fabulous food on board, interesting ports of call...the seven days just flew by. We travel quite a bit and this was the best trip my husband and I have ever been on. Each island visited was fascinating in its own right. We will be back for another Peter Sommer trip. ”

Private Gulet Charter

Cordelia
Andrews
USA



“ A fantastic holiday, the entertaining and knowledgeable guides made the history come alive and did an excellent job in explaining Sicily’s complex past. The historical sites were all amazing and beautifully scenic with abundant wild flowers. All the accommodation was very good and the food everywhere was exceptional. ”

Exploring Sicily

Stephanie Shore
USA



“ We traveled by gulet along the Dalmatian coast, anchoring near important archaeological sites, cities with ancient origins and a National Park along the way. It was wonderful! Our guide, Filip, was extremely knowledgeable about all historical eras we encountered. He was energetic, funny, very sociable, attentive - a tremendous asset to both the social and the educational aspects of the trip. ”

Cruising Dalmatia from Šibenik To Zadar

Kenneth Gabard



“ A wonderful week spent walking sections of Hadrian’s Wall learning about it’s construction, occupation, and reincarnation into other local buildings. The tour is led by an experienced archaeologist and the group is the perfect size to have in-depth technical discussions with the tour guide and other members regarding the archaeology, history, and geology of the Wall features. A physical workout for the legs, a mental workout for the brain, and a vacation for the soul. ”

Walking Hadrian’s Wall

James Covington
USA



“ This was a remarkably well-organized two-week tour of the principal historical sites in the Peloponnese accompanied by two indefatigable and very knowledgeable guides. Such a tour, or anything approaching it in depth and breadth (including the accomodations), would have been impossible to arrange on one’s own and was by far the best tour of any sort that I’ve encountered. ”

Exploring the Peloponnese

Michael
Nossaman
USA

OUR EXPERT GUIDES



PETER SOMMER

Peter studied Ancient History and Archaeology at Birmingham University before completing a Masters on the archaeology of Central Asia. He has taught at Birmingham University and Istanbul's Boğaziçi University. Two years into a PhD at University College London, on the archaeology of northwest Turkey, he was lured into television to work on *In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great* (BBC/PBS). An award-winning documentary

producer/director, Peter has worked around the world for many acclaimed series. Peter is also a freelance writer and speaker who gives talks about travel, history and filmmaking.



PAUL BESTON

Inspired by finding a musket-ball in Gibraltar, Paul spent his childhood drawing Spartans, watching historical documentaries and devouring archaeology books. Certain that life ought to revolve around his passion for the ancient world he studied Ancient History at King's College, London, gaining a first and then earned a distinction in his Masters. Alongside lecturing posts at King's and Royal Holloway in London, he

has acted as an historical adviser for TV including HBO's *Fire from Heaven*. He has a particular passion for Late Antiquity, Roman Britain and the Near East.



MARCELLO BAGLIONI

Marcello first began his love affair with Italian food and wine as an 8 year old sous-chef in the kitchen of his father's Italian restaurant in Hollywood, California. He ended up going into the food business, working as the manager of a successful catering company, before moving to Sicily where he lived for almost two decades, immersing himself into the island's history, food and culture. Marcello set himself up as a one man Sicilian culinary-

cultural specialist, focusing on 'Slow Food' and 'Slow Travel'. He's been selected as Sicily's top travel specialist by Condé Nast Traveller magazine and one of their World's Top 126 Travel Specialists.



DR. MICHAEL METCALFE

Michael earned his PhD at University College London, focusing on the ancient Greek cities of western Turkey. For many years Michael was Assistant Professor in Ancient History at The Mediterranean Center for Arts and Sciences in Sicily, before joining Peter Sommer Travels. He is currently involved in the study of Greek and Latin inscriptions from all over the Mediterranean. He co-edited the *Blue Guide to the Aegean Islands* and

is contributing editor of the new edition of the *Blue Guide to Sicily*. Michael speaks Greek, Italian and Turkish. Not only is he 'enthusiastic, charming and knowledgeable' he is also a natural born organiser.



SERDAR AKERDEM

Peter has been working with Serdar since 1999. A man of many talents, not only is he a highly experienced location manager and tour guide, Serdar is a genteel, enthusiastic and knowledgeable archaeologist. He has lectured at a number of Turkish universities, and excavated and surveyed widely along Turkey's southern shore, including important work at Patara, Tlos, and Kaunos.

His major passions are Roman architecture and maritime archaeology. With his intimate understanding of the Turkish language, culture, and of course ancient sites, Serdar is a very valued tour leader.



DR. RICHARD BAYLISS

After a degree in archaeology Richard lived in Turkey working at the British Institute in Ankara as a resident archaeologist. He has travelled widely around the country over many years, surveying and excavating many celebrated sites. His PhD focused on the rise of Christianity in the Roman cities of Asia Minor (modern Turkey). After lecturing at Newcastle University, Richard has gone on to work in building design and heritage

conservation. An experienced tour leader, he has led a wide range of groups on our tours in Turkey. Noted for his knowledge and enthusiasm, he is an exciting and popular specialist guide.

OUR EXPERT GUIDES



PROF. JULIAN BENNETT

Julian studied Archaeology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne and has excavated in Britain, Germany, Romania and Turkey. He has taught at Bilkent University in Ankara since 1995 and has a particular interest in the history, archaeology and architecture of Roman and Byzantine Anatolia. Julian has appeared in TV documentaries for the BBC, The History Channel and National Geographic. A well-travelled and experienced tour

leader, he has escorted groups throughout the Mediterranean for institutions such as the Smithsonian and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



FILIP BUDIĆ

Steeped in the history and archaeology of Croatia, Filip has walked and travelled extensively across the mainland, coast and islands of his homeland. Passionate about history and archaeology he has worked on multiple excavations and surveys throughout Croatia as well as at sites in Kosovo, Germany, Greece, Israel and the Russian Federation. Filip holds a BA and MA in Archaeology from the University of Zagreb, where

he has won numerous awards and where he is currently completing his PhD. A true enthusiast and charming host, he has long expertise guiding in Croatia, Greece, Sicily and Turkey.



PROF. JIM CROW

Jim Crow is Professor of Classical Archaeology at Edinburgh University with special research interests in Byzantine Archaeology and Roman Frontier Studies. A graduate of Birmingham and Newcastle Universities he has worked in Turkey for over twenty years and recently completed a major research project on the Water Supply of Byzantine Constantinople and the city's hinterland fortification system 'the Anastasian Wall'. He

directed the archaeological excavations on Hadrian's Wall for the National Trust for some 5 years earlier in his career, and has led study tours to Istanbul and lectured on gulet cruises and for Cunard.



MISLAV FILEŠ

Mislav was born in Zagreb and after high school enrolled as an Archaeology undergraduate, carrying on through graduate years to his PhD. He is currently at the University of Zagreb. He has received Excellence Awards from the Faculty of Humanities and Social sciences for both undergraduate and graduate work. He was also awarded a scholarship of excellence from the City of Zagreb for undergraduate and postgraduate

studies as well as the award for excellence in PhD studies from the Department of Archaeology.



DR. MARIA GIRTZI

Born in Thessaloniki, Maria is an Archaeologist and professional tour guide. She studied Archaeology and Art at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and did her postgraduate studies on Greek Archaeology (MA and PhD) at the University of Birmingham in the UK. She has taught History, Archaeology and Art history at the Universities of Thrace, Birmingham (UK), Cornell (USA), the Hellenic Open University

and the Open University of Cyprus as well as working as a field archaeologist on excavations in Macedonia, Thrace and on Crete. Maria is the author of the book "Historical Topography of Ancient Macedonia".



PROF. OLIVIER HENRY

Olivier holds a degree in ancient history, two masters degrees in ancient history and classical archaeology and a PhD from the University of Bordeaux. After a couple of years at the University of Illinois, lecturing on ancient architecture, he worked at the French Institute for Anatolian Studies. He later held the Chair of Excellence in "Anatolian Archaeology" at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. Olivier has

been the Excavation Director at Labraunda since 2012. Fluent in French, English and Turkish, he also has a strong interest in Greece and Sicily. He is Professor of Greek Art and Archaeology at the University of Lyon.



LUCIA IACONO

Born and bred in Siracusa (Sicily), Lucia studied for a BA in foreign languages and literature at the University of Catania. She is a qualified tourist guide, specialising initially in the South-Eastern provinces of Ragusa and Siracusa. Lucia has over 20 years' experience in this field, but still works with the same passion and enthusiasm with which she began. She loves introducing people to the unbelievable wealth of art, archaeology

and culture that Sicily has to offer and is always on the lookout for something new, exciting and interesting that reveals the true quirks of Sicilian culture.



PROF. IVANA JEVTIC

Growing up in the former Yugoslavia, Ivana nurtured a passion for art and developed a particular interest for the history of the Balkans. She studied art history at the University of Belgrade before receiving her PhD at the University of Paris I-Panthéon Sorbonne. A specialist in Byzantine art, architecture and history, Ivana has been teaching in Istanbul at Koç University since 2010. Ivana has escorted many of

our guests in Istanbul over the years and received high praise. Not only has she led numerous tours in Croatia, she is internationally accomplished having led tours throughout Greece and Turkey.

OUR EXPERT GUIDES



NOTA KARAMAOUNA

Nota has a degree in Archaeology and Art History and a Masters in Byzantine Archaeology, and has been travelling to Turkey, especially Cappadocia, for many years, captivated by its multicultural history, the spectacular landscape and the warm local hospitality. Nota has excavated and surveyed at a number of sites in Cappadocia and elsewhere in Turkey and at sites in Greece, ranging from the island of Kos to central Athens. Alongside her academic studies she has worked for a specialist Byzantine photo library and the Byzantine Museum of Athens.



PROF. TONY SPAWFORTH

Tony Spawforth is an Emeritus Professor of Ancient History at Newcastle University, UK, Visiting Fellow at the British School at Athens (2015) and a former fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. A freelance writer, lecturer and well-known television broadcaster his published books include *Greece: An Oxford Archaeological Guide*, *The Complete Greek Temples*, *The Oxford Classical Dictionary* and the best-selling

Versailles: A Biography of a Palace. Tony has excavated on Crete and Sicily and has considerable experience as a tour leader across the Mediterranean.



PROF. GRAHAM OLIVER

Graham undertook both his undergraduate and doctoral studies in Classics at Oxford University before moving to The University of Liverpool in 1994, where he taught until 2013. He then moved to Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island where he is Professor of Classics, Chair of Classics and Professor of History. Fluent in French and Greek, Graham has lectured in the USA and throughout Europe to audiences of all ages. He

believes passionately in bringing history and the ancient world to life, and has worked and travelled extensively in the Mediterranean and led numerous groups around the region's archaeological sites. We are delighted Graham can share his knowledge and enthusiasm with our guests.



DR. NIGEL SPIVEY

Nigel is a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge University, where he teaches Classical Art and Archaeology. His research interests cover the breadth of the Greek and Roman world and he has excavated at several Etruscan sites. His books include *The Ancient Olympics*, *Greek Art* and *Panorama of the Classical World*. Nigel is a renowned TV presenter, whose credits include the BBC's *How Art Made the World*, *Kings and Queens*

and *Heroes of World War II*. Nigel has been leading tours for us for many years and his knowledge and passion make him an ideal guide in bringing the ancient world to life.



ANASTASIOS PAPAPOPOULOS

As an archaeologist, Anastasios has dug a huge variety of sites in Greece, covering thousands of years of its history – everything from the Neolithic to the medieval Byzantine era, particularly in his beloved north. He has a degree in history, an MA in Byzantine Archaeology and is studying for a PhD at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Having excavated widely, he has turned his encyclopaedic knowledge in a new direction and become a

licensed guide. As well as working with us, he designs his own cultural tours in and around Thessaloniki with an extraordinary array of themes encompassing a phenomenal historical sweep.



DR. PETER TOMKINS

Peter fell in love with Crete in 1991 on a gap year spent travelling in Greece. After reading Classics at Oxford, the call of Cretan prehistory became too great to ignore and, after an MA in Archaeology at University College London, there followed a PhD thesis on the Cretan Neolithic at the University of Sheffield. Since then, he has held a series of research and teaching posts at universities and research institutions in the U.K., Belgium, Greece

and Italy. He is a specialist on the Neolithic and Bronze Age of the Aegean with a focus on Crete.



GULET CRUISES

CRUISING THROUGH HISTORY

The shores we travel along offer some of the most spectacular cruising in the Mediterranean, Aegean, Adriatic Seas, replete with stunning views and beautiful coves. Studded with antiquities, large stretches of these coastlines, (especially along Turkey's south coast), remain largely undeveloped, still lapped by the clear waters on which the great names of the classical world once sailed: Pericles, Julius Caesar, St. Paul...

As we cruise on Homer's 'wine-dark sea', or set off to explore the stunning interior, we enter a forgotten land and discover a lost world of temples, tombs and theatres. In many places you can literally stroll through an olive grove, stumble upon a Roman temple still standing proud and have the place all to yourself.

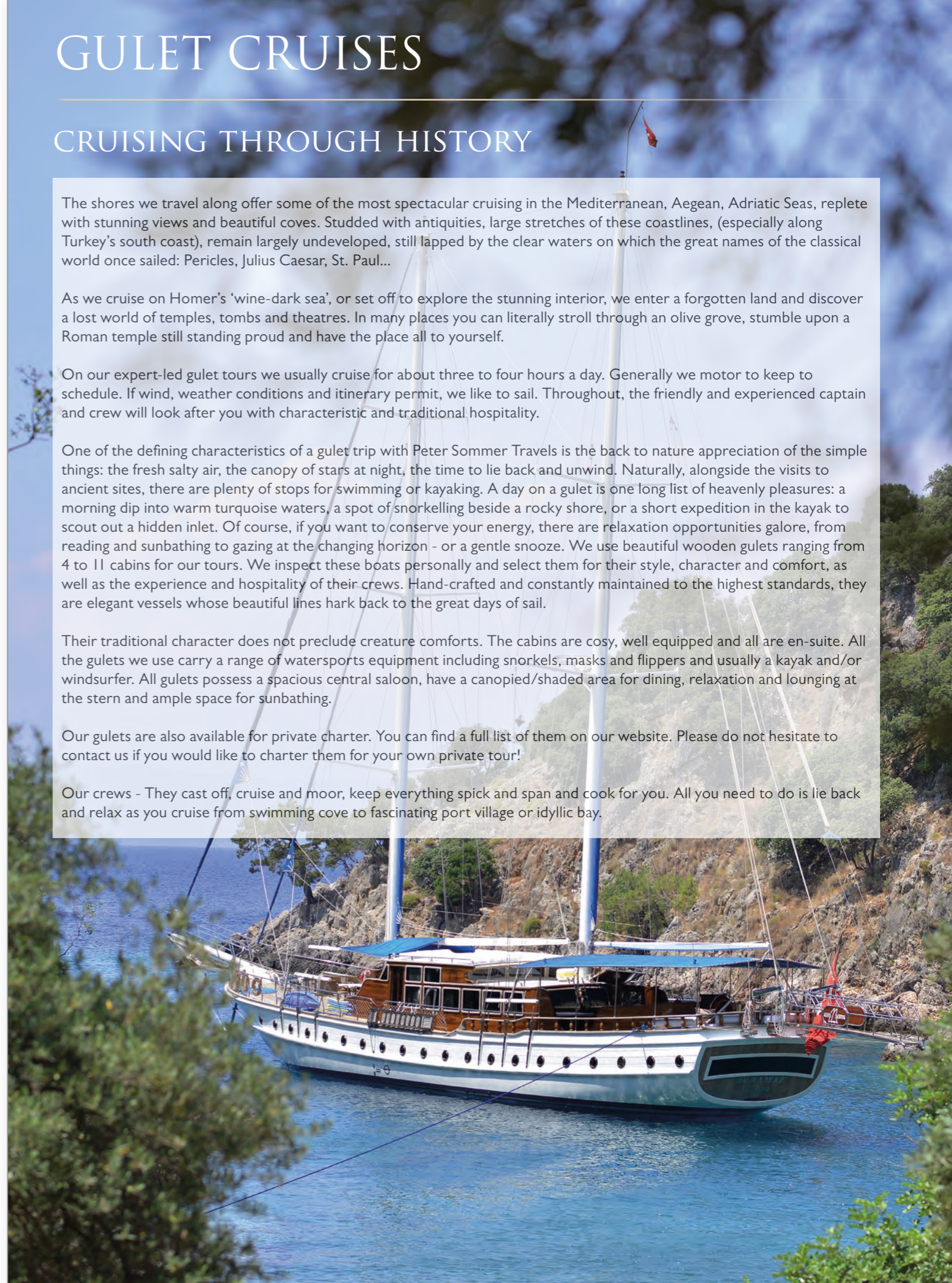
On our expert-led gulet tours we usually cruise for about three to four hours a day. Generally we motor to keep to schedule. If wind, weather conditions and itinerary permit, we like to sail. Throughout, the friendly and experienced captain and crew will look after you with characteristic and traditional hospitality.

One of the defining characteristics of a gulet trip with Peter Sommer Travels is the back to nature appreciation of the simple things: the fresh salty air, the canopy of stars at night, the time to lie back and unwind. Naturally, alongside the visits to ancient sites, there are plenty of stops for swimming or kayaking. A day on a gulet is one long list of heavenly pleasures: a morning dip into warm turquoise waters, a spot of snorkelling beside a rocky shore, or a short expedition in the kayak to scout out a hidden inlet. Of course, if you want to conserve your energy, there are relaxation opportunities galore, from reading and sunbathing to gazing at the changing horizon - or a gentle snooze. We use beautiful wooden gulets ranging from 4 to 11 cabins for our tours. We inspect these boats personally and select them for their style, character and comfort, as well as the experience and hospitality of their crews. Hand-crafted and constantly maintained to the highest standards, they are elegant vessels whose beautiful lines hark back to the great days of sail.

Their traditional character does not preclude creature comforts. The cabins are cosy, well equipped and all are en-suite. All the gulets we use carry a range of watersports equipment including snorkels, masks and flippers and usually a kayak and/or windsurfer. All gulets possess a spacious central saloon, have a canopied/shaded area for dining, relaxation and lounging at the stern and ample space for sunbathing.

Our gulets are also available for private charter. You can find a full list of them on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to charter them for your own private tour!

Our crews - They cast off, cruise and moor, keep everything spick and span and cook for you. All you need to do is lie back and relax as you cruise from swimming cove to fascinating port village or idyllic bay.





EXPLORING TOURS

Starting with our Exploring Crete and Exploring Sicily several years ago, we have introduced a new and original type of travel experience and we have spent years establishing and honing their characteristics. Our 'Exploring Tours' are now a distinctive and much-praised speciality available in Turkey, Greece, Italy, and the UK. Based on our long experience in the field, they are designed to be the best-prepared cultural tours available.

We provide expert knowledge: our guides, be they academic scholars or local experts, have spent years travelling, researching, living and working in the regions we present. Our 'Exploring Tours' are the result of painstaking preparation and attention to detail, founded in intimate knowledge of a region: they are normally the result not just of years of preparation, but of decades of engagement with an area.

They are characterised by our tour experts' love for the regions travelled and their passionate ambition to present our guests with the best, the most interesting, the most insightful, the most authentic experience of an area, its history, its nature and its tradition, but also its contemporary life, brought together in a lively and approachable narrative. We apply a holistic view of land and culture, bringing landscape, historic sites, gastronomic experiences and much more together in a connected narrative and a series of hands-on (or feet-on) experiences of the region and its ancient sites.

On our 'Exploring Tours', our guests enjoy the most careful selection of accommodations in fine city hotels, historic buildings, agritouristic properties, traditional village inns and so on, chosen not for the convenience of the tour operator, but to offer the most insightful, authentic and memorable experience in the region travelled. Likewise, they get many opportunities to sample the best and most authentic local cuisine at carefully-chosen restaurants, based on local produce – another key way to experience a region, along with carefully-selected wine tastings.

A key ingredient that goes into these trips is bold outside the box thinking: always favouring the best experience – the most interesting story, the best dishes, the most beautiful and informative site tours, the most characteristic accommodation – over commercial convenience. Our 'Exploring Tours' are perfect as a profound introduction for a visitor who has never been to the region, but they are also a superb next step for the connoisseur, the person familiar with an area from previous travels.

Our 'Exploring Tours' are all of this: the best-prepared combination of the geography, nature, culture, archaeology, history, gastronomy, tradition of a place, accompanied and told by experts who know the region intimately. We normally schedule these trips at the perfect travel seasons, when the weather conditions are ideal to fully enjoy the region in question. In Turkey, Greece and Italy, that means we favour the Mediterranean's brilliant spring (April/May), when landscapes are strewn with wild flowers, or the luscious late summer/early autumn (September/October), when the summer heat and the summer crowds have been and gone and a balmy calm prevails for many golden weeks. In the UK, we use the summer months (June, July and August).

Join us for one of these unique experiences, of knowing exactly where you are in time and space and context, and of experiencing and enjoying it to the utmost. Exploring in the true sense of the word: that's what we do at Peter Sommer Travels.

FAMILY TOURS

“ONE OF THE 3 BEST FAMILY HOLIDAYS OF A LIFETIME” - CONDÉ NAST TRAVELLER

“ONE OF THE 20 BEST FAMILY HOLIDAYS” - THE TIMES

Our family holidays are designed to be relaxing and stimulating, fascinating and fun for all ages.

What could be more fun for your family than to experience an unforgettable real-life adventure, exploring ancient mysteries and glorious landscapes, playing and relaxing, while travelling on a wooden boat? And what could be a better holiday for you than to share all that joy in a perfectly stress-free setting?

We started organising expert-led cultural gulet cruises for families a number of years ago, as many of our guests had asked us to create tours they could enjoy together with their children and grandchildren. Since then, they have become a regular feature of our yearly tours – and one of our favourites! Like our other escorted tours, Peter Sommer Travels' family holidays are cultural gulet cruises, led by an expert guide. Visits to ancient sites will take you and your children deep into the past and offer you a vivid and hands-on glimpse of antiquity.

You'll explore the world of the Greeks and Romans in colourful detail, from the grand scale of culture and history to the nitty-gritty of daily life: what they ate, how they built temples or homes, what their toilets were like, how they were treated at the doctor's and lots of fun facts. All this and more in places boasting some of the era's finest artistic and architectural achievements.

Alongside our archaeological adventures, there is the sheer joy of the cruise itself, gliding across the sea aboard a beautiful traditional Turkish gulet. Our gulet holidays offer plenty of opportunities for guests of all ages to swim, kayak or snorkel in azure waters, to lie back and read as the world goes by, to observe the perfectly clear sky at night (perhaps even some shooting stars) and to enjoy the delicious home-cooked food freshly prepared on board. When we hike off into the hills, we're almost certain to encounter goats, tortoises and various creepy-crawlies and while at sea there is always the chance we'll see dolphins and turtles!

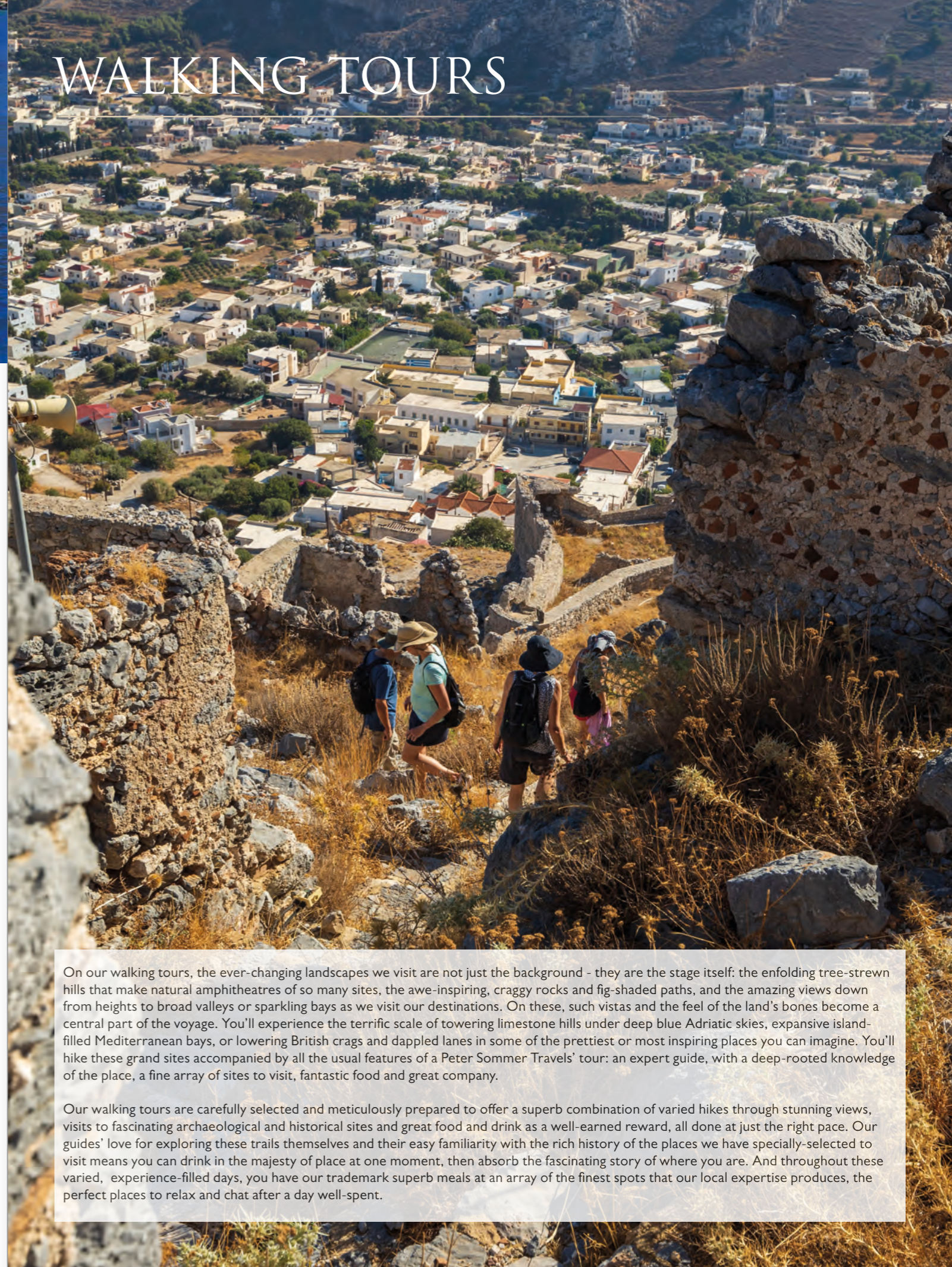
Our scheduled family tour for 2021 is *Cruising the Aegean: From Kos to Patmos*. A family adventure that offer a complete panorama of the ancient world as well as time to play, swim, snorkel, read, sunbathe, nap, or simply enjoy the beautiful boat and the wonderful scenery in the company of friends and loved ones.

“We had the most remarkable family tour with Peter Sommer Travels. Not only was everything perfect, but we felt, in every instance, that our guides and our gulet crew truly cared about us, and did their best to make this trip memorable. For our well-traveled children (aged 9 and 6) this definitely has become the most eye-opening, adventurous, and stunning journey of their life.”

Ilya Strebulaev, USA



WALKING TOURS



On our walking tours, the ever-changing landscapes we visit are not just the background - they are the stage itself: the enfolding tree-strewn hills that make natural amphitheatres of so many sites, the awe-inspiring, craggy rocks and fig-shaded paths, and the amazing views down from heights to broad valleys or sparkling bays as we visit our destinations. On these, such vistas and the feel of the land's bones become a central part of the voyage. You'll experience the terrific scale of towering limestone hills under deep blue Adriatic skies, expansive island-filled Mediterranean bays, or lowering British crags and dappled lanes in some of the prettiest or most inspiring places you can imagine. You'll hike these grand sites accompanied by all the usual features of a Peter Sommer Travels' tour: an expert guide, with a deep-rooted knowledge of the place, a fine array of sites to visit, fantastic food and great company.

Our walking tours are carefully selected and meticulously prepared to offer a superb combination of varied hikes through stunning views, visits to fascinating archaeological and historical sites and great food and drink as a well-earned reward, all done at just the right pace. Our guides' love for exploring these trails themselves and their easy familiarity with the rich history of the places we have specially-selected to visit means you can drink in the majesty of place at one moment, then absorb the fascinating story of where you are. And throughout these varied, experience-filled days, you have our trademark superb meals at an array of the finest spots that our local expertise produces, the perfect places to relax and chat after a day well-spent.

Kalymnos, Greece

FOOD TOURS

WE TAKE FOOD VERY SERIOUSLY



Along with the sites and itineraries, good food plays a key role in the design of our tours and cruises. For us, meals are much more than a practical necessity: they are a pleasure to be shared with our guests and moreover a central aspect in experiencing the local culture and the area's gastronomic wealth. In that sense, each of our itineraries is a culinary exploration.

On our gulet cruises, the on-board cooks freshly prepare a wonderful variety of dishes in the ship's galley using fine local ingredients. These daily delights are complemented by shore meals in excellent and atmospheric restaurants and tavernas along the itinerary.

On our land and city tours, you'll enjoy meals at a range of carefully selected venues, usually our guides' personal favourites, based on in-depth local knowledge. They represent the full scope of the region's culinary achievements and specialities, ranging from authentic "home cooking" to truly gourmet food, always rooted in local tradition and based on the strengths of the area's produce.

There are countless delights you will taste on our tours: succulent fish, freshly grilled or barbecued, accompanied by a whole array of refreshing dips and salads; stuffed roast lamb prepared especially for us on a small Greek island; authentic pizza served in a tiny Neapolitan restaurant; fresh pomegranates, cherries or peaches just picked from the tree; subtly seasoned Turkish meatballs on a rooftop terrace overlooking Old Istanbul; delicate stuffed zucchini flowers in a Cretan mountain village; organic olives and their aromatic oil; handmade Turkish baklava; the sweet baby tomatoes of Santorini; freshly caught crab overlooking the Northumberland Coast; mature, tangy cheddars and ripe local cheeses from the West Country, fresh scallops or oysters from Ireland's wild Atlantic Coast or the whole range of handmade Italian pasta...

If gastronomy is a special interest of yours, you should join one of our designated culinary itineraries - but every one of our tours is a pleasure for all the senses!



Designated Gastronomic Tours

For the "foodies" among our guests, we offer a growing range of special gastronomy-themed tours and cruises. Like all our trips, they are centred on expert-guided visits to important and beautiful ancient sites. At the same time, they offer you a deeper understanding of the local culinary tradition. By exploring local markets, picking wild foods, visiting traditional producers and participating in the preparation of delicious meals, you will gain a profound insight and knowledge of a region's culinary culture.



FOOD TOURS

WE TAKE WINE VERY SERIOUSLY

Wine: Ancient Tradition and Local Culture

Wine culture goes back to the Bronze Age and was a central aspect of Greek and Roman life, society and culture. Today, wine still holds a distinctive and evocative role in the areas we travel. Italy is famed for its venerable vintages; Greece has recently rediscovered and redeveloped its ancient tradition of advanced viticulture; Dalmatia is famous for its deep dark reds grown on precipitous slopes to catch hundreds of hours of sunlight and its reflection from the sea below; Turkey has fledgling but dynamic wine producers and the UK's wine industry is flourishing with sparkling wines becoming a speciality.



On all our tours, we serve a select range of wines representing the products of the country we travel. When we visit wine-producing regions, we also organise wine tastings at hand-picked estates. It is our firm conviction that savouring and enjoying local wines is a key way to appreciate a region's culture - an experience we love to share with our guests.



PRIVATE TOURS

Are you looking for a very special holiday - a uniquely memorable experience to share with your loved ones, your family, your friends, or your colleagues? If so, a Peter Sommer Travels' private tour is your ideal choice!

Peter Sommer Travels' tailor-made trips are renowned for their carefully crafted itineraries and the superlative knowledge and skills of the guides who lead them. They are crafted by people who have devoted their lives to travelling as extensively as possible through the cities and regions of Greece and Italy, Turkey and Croatia, the UK and Ireland. They have explored the numerous archaeological sites and museums, strolled through the many towns and villages, walked the country lanes and hiking routes and have sought out the very best food and wine on offer in each and every season.

If you and your family or friends would like to take advantage of this experience, we would be delighted to create a specially arranged expert-led tour, perfectly suited to your precise interests and desires. You can choose a land tour or a private gulet charter or a combination of the two. Working closely with you to determine the perfect shape your trip should take, we will craft an itinerary that contains everything that you wish for, together with experiences and sights that you would never otherwise have known existed. Our expert guides and local guides look forward to welcoming you.

BY SEA

Our private charters feature the same qualities that distinguish our scheduled gulet cruises: comfortable and stylish boats, painstakingly prepared itineraries, a perfectly balanced mix of relaxation and activity and of course - delicious food, all accompanied by our expert guides and local guides. Our charters are available from late spring (April/May) to early autumn (September/October). Charter prices vary according to the season. Since the best boats book up well in advance we recommend you get in touch as early as you can.

We provide a range of fully crewed boats, maintained to the highest safety standards, ranging from 4 to 11 cabins (6 to 20 guests). You can follow one of our established itineraries, modify it to suit your personal interests, or ask us to design your dream tour from scratch. We will then organise everything: the fully-crewed boat, airport transfers, access and transport to the sites, and of course meals on board and ashore.

BY LAND

Our tailor-made expert-led land tours can focus on a single region or city, or we can create an itinerary for you that weaves together several different regions within one country e.g. Athens and Crete in Greece, Istanbul and Cappadocia in Turkey, Sicily and Rome in Italy, Zagreb or Dubrovnik in Croatia and many of the regional centres across the United Kingdom and Ireland. Maybe you'd like to combine the highlights of several different countries, such as a tour of the classical capitals of Europe, combining Rome with Athens and London?

From boutique hotels and country houses to 5-star hotels, we will find the accommodation that suits your needs. We pride ourselves on our flexibility and capacity to arrange all aspects of your journey so you can sit back and relax knowing everything is taken care of. Whatever your interests, we can create a tour to suit your tastes and desires.



PRIVATE CHARTERS IN CROATIA

Croatia's Adriatic Coast is a superb area for boating; due to the country's complex geography and many islands (there are over 1,000 islands, islets and reefs), Croatia's coastline is the third longest on the entire Mediterranean (after Greece and Italy). Encompassing three of the country's historical regions, Istria, Croatia Proper and Dalmatia, the area offers an extraordinarily rich variety of experiences. Remote coves and popular beaches, tranquil historical towns and upmarket resorts, rocky slopes and lush forests: there is much to discover for any traveller, no matter what their tastes and interests might be. Croatia's geographic diversity is complemented by its unusually varied history, making this stretch of shore a meeting place and melting pot of many peoples and cultures throughout time, scattering the coast with a treasure trove of rich historical and archaeological heritage.

Are you dreaming of a trip that allows you to experience and explore a fascinating historical region, but also to relax and simply enjoy yourself? In that case, you should consider a private gulet charter with Peter Sommer Travels in Croatia. While our scheduled tours in Croatia follow set itineraries, a private charter is designed according to your very own wishes and ideas, making it an immensely personal high-quality option, your very own trip. We provide a lovely gulet with a seasoned crew as well as Peter Sommer Travels' trademark team of expert guides. We make you aware of what options, routes and site visits are available, and in a process of careful preparation we create your dream holiday.

"We were exceptionally well looked after and there was something for everyone be it swimming in a secluded bay, to chilling with a G&T on the foredeck to scrambling over ancient ruins with a guide who was both funny and interesting. I would thoroughly recommend Peter Sommer private charters to anyone who wants a break from the modern world with a service that is truly personal."

Randall Gordon-Duff, UK



PRIVATE CHARTERS IN GREECE

The Greek islands are justly famed for their history, their relaxed pace of life, fresh and healthy cuisine, their rugged landscapes and the beautiful seas that surround them. A prime destination for sailing holidays and gulet cruises, their lively harbour towns, evocative ruins and beautiful museums provide something for everyone; and each island has a distinctive character of its own.

The Dodecanese, stretching in a scattered row along the Turkish coast, are a fascinating region to visit. Retaining much of their traditional outlook, these islands are distinguished by a genuine and generous hospitality and wonderful local cuisine, as well as their magnificent scenery that varies from verdant valleys to starkly rocky shores, even including a still-rumbling volcano, and by a surprising wealth of historical sites from many periods and superb museums. With one or two weeks to hand, a cruise through these islands is an ever-changing feast for the senses that can be indulged in from late May to early October. The famous Cycladic islands are the iconic image of insular Greece, with their villages of blue-and-white painted churches and houses, their distinctive landscapes set between sea, rocks and sky and their world-renowned archaeological sites. They can be difficult to navigate during the high-summer months when a strong prevailing wind blows through the central Aegean, but are a perfect destination in May, June and September.

Only a handful of gulets operate from Greek ports, leaving most of the market to the larger and more flexible Turkish gulet fleet. However, all Turkish gulets that cruise through the Greek islands must, by law, begin and end their trip in Turkish ports. As the major Dodecanese islands are all located within a few hours of a Turkish port, it is easy to cruise among them for nearly all of a one- or two-week trip. In fact, they are so close that we often visit one or two of them on private cruises that are otherwise focussed entirely on the delights of the Turkish coastline!



PRIVATE CHARTERS IN TURKEY

The coastal waters of south-western Turkey are renowned for their gentle waves and predictable seasonal winds. They have consequently become a haven for waterborne vacations and the growing gulet industry has led to the development of new marinas and harbours to complement the small coastal towns and villages that have dotted this coastline from time immemorial.

The choice of gulets in Turkey is unrivalled in scope and quality, as are the number of cruising itineraries that can be tailor-made for you. The principal cruising area stretches from Kuşadası (the modern port for ancient Ephesus) located half-way up the country's western coast, to the bustling city of Antalya near the mid-point of its southern shore.

The famously clean and clear waters of the Turquoise Coast from Bodrum to Antalya provide the perfect conditions for swimming, kayaking and snorkelling and this opportunity is gratefully taken advantage of on all of our cruises in the area.

The Carian coast of Turkey is an untouched and verdant delight to the senses, perfect for a relaxing cruise visiting spectacular sites such as grandiose Knidos, or off-the-beaten-track gems such as the seaside fortress of Loryma, still only reachable on foot or by boat.

The Lycian shore, home to iconic funerary monuments set in glorious isolation, has a wealth of beautiful coves and bays in which your gulet can drop anchor for the night, together with some lively harbour towns for those interested in indulging in some evening entertainment ashore.

On the western coast you can visit a string of world-famous ancient cities including Ephesus, Priene and Miletus, enjoying the greatest highlights of the ancient world from the relaxed comfort of your gulet.

A one- or two-week gulet cruise along any of these coastlines can easily be combined with a visit to one or more of the Greek islands that lie tantalisingly off-shore, giving you the opportunity to experience two of the most timeless cultures of the Mediterranean.



OUR GULETS

CROATIA



NAUTILUS - 8 CABINS

8 double Up to 12 guests Refit 2014 Length: 31m (101ft)

Nautilus is a magnificent, bright and airy gulet, a light and rather modern interior style in contrast to the darker wooden character of traditional gulets and is fitted out with all standard mod cons including a hot tub jacuzzi on deck. Although she has rigging, she does not sail but is one of the largest and most spacious gulets in Croatia



CROATIA - 7 CABINS

4 double, 3 twin Up to 12 guests Built 1998 Length: 32m (105ft)

Made of beautiful timber, she can accommodate up to 12 guests in 4 doubles and 3 twins. She is one of the largest gulets available in Croatia, with copious deck space throughout, open for sunbathing in the front and covered at the back. Her special features include a jacuzzi on the front deck.



LIBRA - 6 CABINS

6 double Up to 12 guests Refit 2014 Length: 34m (110ft)

Libra is an elegant and cosy classic gulet, ideal for comfortable travel characterised by the use of beautiful mahogany. She has 6 double cabins, offering accommodation for up to 12 guests and generous space is available on the front and stern decks.



KADENA - 6 CABINS

1 master, 1 double Up to 12 guests Built 1998 Length: 32m (105ft)
2 twin, 2 triple

Kadena is a gorgeous gulet and one of the largest in Croatia. With 6 elegant and well-appointed cabins, she can accommodate up to 12 guests in comfort and style. She provides ample space above and below decks so you can relax in splendour as you cruise along the Adriatic coast.



AURUM - 6 CABINS

6 double Up to 12 guests Refit 2015 Length: 33m (108ft)

Aurum is a fine high-end gulet based on the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia. With 6 double cabins, she has space for up to 12 guests. Her lovely mahogany finish, comfortable furnishings and ample deck space, including a panoramic fly bridge, make her a wonderful choice for exploring the region's coast and islands.



MALENA - 5 CABINS

4 double, 1 twin Up to 10 guests Built 1995 Length: 26m (85ft)

Malena is a 26 metre classically designed gulet. Air-conditioned throughout, she offers spacious accommodation for up to 10 guests in 4 double cabins & 1 twin cabins. Each cabin has its own private bathroom with shower.



DOLCE VITA - 5 CABINS

2 master, 2 double Up to 10 guests Refit 2015 Length: 34m (110ft)
1 triple

A luxury-class gulet offering spacious accommodation and great style. Her 2 master, 2 double and 1 triple (double & single bed) cabins are beautifully crafted from mahogany and come equipped with TV, DVD player and minibar. She even has a jacuzzi on deck.



OUR GULETS

GREECE & TURKEY



TERSANE 8 - 14 CABINS

6 double, 4 twin Up to 28 guests Refit 2020 Length: 42m (138ft)
4 triple

Tersane 8 is a comfortable and spacious 14 cabin gulet ideal for large groups and families. She has 6 double, 4 triple and 4 twin cabins. She has a large lounge and ample seating areas both at the front and rear of the boat and throughout the vessel as well as sun decks. She has traditional woodwork throughout and is full of character.



AEGEAN CLIPPER - 11 CABINS

5 double, 6 twin Up to 22 guests Built 1999 Length: 41m (134ft)

The largest gulet we regularly use (she has a 33m-long deck), she is truly magnificent and is kept in gleaming condition by her Owner/Captain Ergün, who has a vast wealth of experience of cruising in Turkey, Greece and beyond.



KAYHAN 11 - 10 CABINS

6 double, 4 twin Up to 20 guests Built 2002 Length: 34m (110ft)

One of the gulets we use most frequently for our scheduled tours and one that we have been working with for well over a decade. She is impressively large, with an enormous flybridge, offering a great deal of deck space to relax in comfort, while also retaining the elegant lines and character of a traditional gulet. All cabins are en-suite and equipped with modern conveniences like air conditioning and hair dryers.



HOLIDAY 10 - 10 CABINS

6 double, 2 twin, Up to 22 guests Refit 2020 Length: 39m (128ft)
2 triple

Holiday 10 is a stylish and elegant gulet. Designed to a high degree throughout, she has two outdoor dining areas, comfortable saloon, en-suite bathrooms and air-conditioning. She is spacious with great facilities and ideal for large groups.



SUNWORLD IX - 8 CABINS

4 double, 4 triple Up to 20 guests Built 1999 Length: 30m (98ft)

A gorgeous gulet that is perfectly suited to host large or small groups on all of our Turkish and Greek tours. She is elegant, spacious and of classic design with beautiful mahogany fittings and stylish furnishings.



SULTAN A - 8 CABINS

6 double, 2 twin Up to 16 guests Built 1995 Length: 28m (92ft)

Hand-crafted from mulberry, mahogany and teak, this beautiful gulet unites traditional character with modern conveniences. One of our most popular gulets for private charters, she is frequently requested by name by guests who return year after year.



OĞUZ BEY - 8 CABINS

2 master, 2 double Up to 20 guests Refit 2014 Length: 32m (105ft)
4 twin

A classical, traditional gulet beautifully refitted in 2014 with elegant interiors, contemporary decor and comfortable cabins. She is spacious with plenty of room for relaxing on deck and ideal for exploring the Greek Islands or coast of Turkey.



SUNWORLD 8 - 8 CABINS

5 double, 2 twin Up to 17 guests Refit 2009 Length: 30m (98.5ft)
1 triple

Virtually identical to her sister ship (the Sunworld IX) this is a splendid gulet with gorgeous mahogany woodwork. She provides ample space above and below decks where you can relax in comfort while cruising or at anchor.



KAYA GÜNERİ 3 - 8 CABINS

4 double, 4 twin Up to 16 guests Built 2001 Length: 29m (95ft)

A spacious and pretty gulet, Kaya Güneri 3 offers air-conditioned comfort with a saloon and bar. She has a spacious and comfortable aft deck with cushions, outdoor dining facilities and sun deck. Elegant and full of character she is perfectly designed for private charters for smaller groups and families.



MATINA - 8 CABINS

2 double, 4 twin Up to 18 guests Refit 2018 Length: 38m (124ft)
2 triple

Matina is one of the very few Greek owned and operated gulets and one of the absolute top of the range gulets in all Greece. She is a luxurious traditional wooden gulet and one of the largest and most spacious. She is fully equipped, stylish and beautifully designed.



QUEEN OF SALMAKIS - 8 CABINS

2 masters, 4 double Up to 18 guests Built 2019 Length: 39m (128ft)
2 triple

The Queen of Salmakis is a luxury class gulet offering modern and spacious accommodation. Each cabin also has a large modern en suite bathroom. She is fully equipped with all amenities and has the added luxury of a jacuzzi on deck as well as an assortment of water toys.

OUR GULETS

GREECE & TURKEY



FLAS VII - 8 CABINS

2 master, 4 double Up to 17 guests Refit 2014 Length: 33.5m (110ft)
2 twin

Flas VII is ideal for large families or groups of friends. She has spacious fore, side and aft decks, outdoor dining space, cushioned lounging areas and sun mattresses. The elegant interior and cabins have high ceilings, generous storage space, and roomy en suite bathrooms. The interior also has a lounge, cushioned seating areas and indoor dining.



NORTHWIND - 8 CABINS

4 double, 4 twin Up to 16 guests Refit 2018 Length: 33.5m (110ft)

Northwind is a classically styled Turkish gulet based in Rhodes and sails under the Greek flag. She is a great choice for family groups who want to cruise in style and comfort in the Greek Islands. She is well equipped with en-suite bathrooms, air-conditioning and plenty of deck space for sunbathing and relaxing.



ATHEN.A - 8 CABINS

6 double, 2 twin Up to 16 guests Built 2013 Length: 32m (105ft)

Athen.A is a high-quality Greek flagged gulet. All cabins are air-conditioned. There are generous indoor and outdoor dining areas, and the air-conditioned saloon has TV, DVD and a music system. There is also a large sun deck with mats as well as a covered seating area in the stern. She is full of character and is fitted out with all standard mod cons.



PRENSES LILA - 8 CABINS

6 double, 2 twin Up to 16 guests Refit 2012 Length: 36m (118ft)

Prenses lila is a popular 8 cabin gulet, ideal for large groups and families on our expert led cruises. She can accommodate 16 guests in 6 double and two twin cabins, all en-suite, generous in size and fitted with all mod cons. On deck there are two dining tables, fore and aft, and plenty of comfortable seating for relaxing, reading and enjoying drinks at sunset.



KAYA GÜNERI 1 - 7 CABINS

2 double, 2 twin Up to 14 guests Built 1997 Length: 26m (85ft)
3 triple

Spacious and comfortable, Kaya Güneri 1 is air-conditioned, with saloon and bar, outdoor dining facilities and sun deck. Full of character she is perfectly designed for private charters for smaller groups and families.



KAYA GÜNERI V - 6 CABINS

2 master, 2 double Up to 12 guests Built 2009 Length: 39.5m (130ft)
2 twin

A high-class gulet, the Kaya Güneri V is elegant and very stylish. She is beautifully crafted with spacious cabins made from mahogany and her crew will ensure that your time on board is truly memorable.



LA REINE - 6 CABINS

2 double, 4 twin Up to 12 guests Refit 2019 Length: 24m (79ft)

La Reine is a classical gulet perfect for private charters in the Greek Islands. She has a great lounge area with large windows, spacious decks with shaded areas, en suite bathrooms and air-conditioning. She is fully equipped with a range of water toys.



CEVRI HASAN 4 - 6 CABINS

4 double, 2 twin Up to 12 guests Refit 2015 Length: 25m (82ft)

Stylish and comfortable Cevri Hasan 4 has ample seating areas and a sun deck at the front and dining space at the back, she is a great choice for families and groups of friends.



GEMIBAŞI - 4 CABINS

1 master, 3 double Up to 8 guests Refit 2008 Length: 23m (75ft)

This elegant gulet has 1 master cabin and 3 doubles (1 with an upper bunk). The en suite bathrooms have electric toilets, wash basin and shower and all modern conveniences. She is stylish, characterful and perfect for a relaxing tailor-made private gulet charter for a family or small group accompanied by an expert guide.



DISCOVER ITALY



MAPS

ITALY



EXPLORING SICILY

“Excellent itinerary; great hotels; wonderful sites to visit; a great group of fellow travellers from all around the world; and, finally, an excellent local guide and outstanding academic leader.”
Stephen White, UK

An unforgettable encounter with the island’s long history and culture, where honey-coloured ancient temples lie amid orange groves and almond trees.



A GASTRONOMIC TOUR OF SICILY

“An unforgettable experience leaving me thirsting for more. A wonderfully balanced experience of food, wine, history, walking, and places, all done at an unhurried pace.”
Marcella Steinbauer, SA

Eastern Sicily is home to a wonderfully vibrant culinary tradition thanks to its abundant and delicious local produce and a vast range of cooking styles drawn from the many peoples who graced these shores.



EXPLORING ROME

“I went to Rome with Peter Sommer Travels, not only because they explore its usual ancient ruins, but because they take you to many other surprising sites too. Our accommodations at the Donna Camilla Savelli hotel seemed like a little oasis in the bustling City. Paul Beston seemed to know every stone of ancient Rome. He had an answer to all our questions, which were many. Afterwards a friend and I went to Florence and our comment was: ‘We are missing Paul, he would know the history behind this building! We wished he were there!’ ”
Monica Von Meerheimb, CAN

Consuls, emperors and popes have decided the continent’s destiny from here and the rich heritage of Rome’s history is inscribed in every street and stone, in the very fabric of the city, waiting to be discovered.



Equestrian Statue of Marcus Aurelius, Capitoline Museum



EXPLORING SICILY

APR 16 - APR 29



MAY 7 - MAY 20

TOUR GUIDE APR: PROF. OLIVIER HENRY & ANDREA GIARDINA - £5,665 PER PERSON / SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: £850

TOUR GUIDES MAY: PAUL BESTON & ANDREA GIARDINA - £5,665 PER PERSON / SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: £850

INCLUDES ALL MEALS EXCEPT 2 LUNCHESS AND 2 DINNERS



MODERATE



The Motya Charioteer

Lying at the heart of the Mediterranean and commanding the narrow sea-lanes that connect east to west and north to south, Sicily attracted merchants, seafarers and settlers from every point of the compass.

The passage of time and a host of invaders have bequeathed a wealth of archaeological sites and monuments to the island. Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Arabs, Normans, Byzantines and Aragonese have all left their enduring legacy on Sicily in the form of rich and diverse cultural and culinary traditions.

This tour provides an unforgettable encounter with the island's long history and culture. Not only does it take in the wonderfully preserved remains of the Greek, Roman and Phoenician cities that stud its coasts, where honey-coloured ancient temples lie amid orange groves and almond trees, it also explores the baroque towns that hug its steep hills and the great modern metropolis, Palermo. The temple-crowned cities of Selinunte and Agrigento, and the ancient island-city of Motya, now rest in a serene splendour belying their dramatic and turbulent histories. From the heights of Erice, home to Venus, Goddess of love, you will see the majestic sweep of the coast, before travelling east to the vine-clad slopes of Mount Etna. As well as its historical riches, the island is a place of immense natural beauty and diversity. We traverse its many varied landscapes filled with springtime flowers and enjoy a number of pleasant walks to savour the romantic vistas.

Sicily's picturesque and historic towns are a feast for the senses, and there will be plenty of time to explore their piazzas and meandering streets, or sample their increasingly renowned and varied wines before ending your day in atmospheric hotels or grand rural estates set in the heart of the Sicilian countryside. Our tour is complemented by excellent meals in specially chosen restaurants, wineries and local trattoria, highlighting some of Sicily's richest gastronomic traditions.

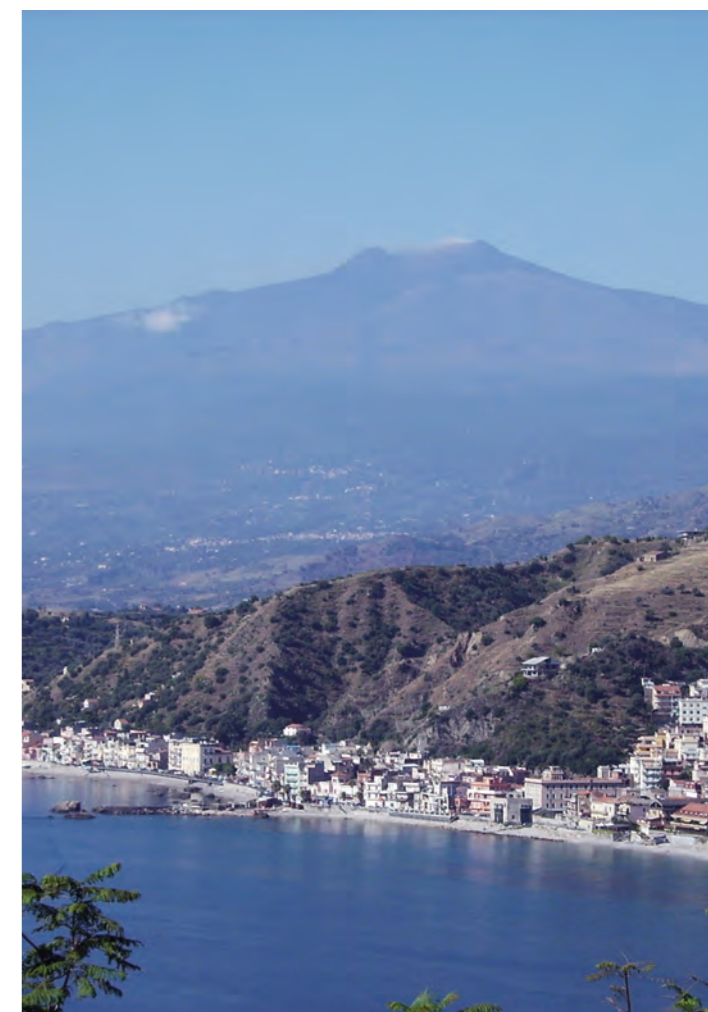
The expert guides who will accompany you on the tour both know Sicily intimately. Their in-depth knowledge and love of the island will be your shortcut to a superb experience of one of Europe's most celebrated destinations.





EXPLORING SICILY

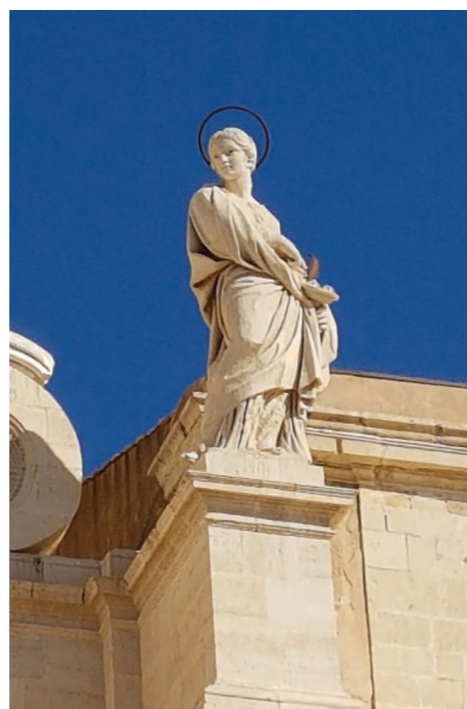
- Day 1:** Transfer from Catania airport approx. 45 minutes away to Siracusa, ancient Syracuse, one of the most important of all ancient Greek cities. The evening begins with a walking tour of Ortigia and welcome dinner.
- Day 2:** A short journey up the beautiful Anapo valley brings us to the World Heritage Site of Pantalica, an enormous late Bronze Age necropolis, with its many tombs honeycombing the rocky hills. After indulging in a traditional Sicilian country lunch near the town of Palazzolo Acreide, we visit the hill-top site of the Greek colony of Akrai before returning to Siracusa. The evening will be free to explore more of the city, sample the local specialities and dine at a restaurant of your choice.
- Day 3:** A day in Siracusa. We begin with the Archaeological Park, planted with gloriously scented lemon groves, which contains some of Syracuse's finest ancient monuments, including a Greek theatre that remains in occasional use today. Syracuse's darker history can be witnessed at first hand in the extensive quarries, excavated by armies of slaves, where we will enter the famed Ear of Dionysius with its unusual acoustics. We then find our way to a different hypogean treasure, making our way beneath the attractively ruined church of St John the Baptist to find atmospheric medieval remains and, deeper still, startling broad subterranean highways flanked by hundreds of niches and tombs where the city's earliest Christians found rest together in the Roman period. After a morning of unforgettable sights, we will enjoy a relaxing lunch before visiting the Paolo Orsi Archaeological Museum. The rest of the afternoon and evening will be free to explore more of the city, sample the local specialities and dine at a restaurant of your choice.
- Day 4:** A full day of exploration begins with a journey south to the lovely Baroque town of Modica, rising steeply in terraces from the valley floor. Fortified by its unique chocolate, derived from the original Aztec recipe, we carry on to the Greek city of Gela on the south coast, to view its extraordinarily well-preserved city walls and get our first glimpse of the long sandy southern beaches. We finish the day in Palma di Montechiaro.
- Day 5:** A free morning to relax in the superb Agriturismo and enjoy its extensive grounds before heading to the medieval and modern centre of Agrigento to enjoy a sumptuous lunch, stroll through its streets, admire its churches and civic architecture, and pause at the Santo Spirito convent to try some of the nuns' delicious cakes and biscuits.
- Day 6:** The morning is spent exploring the heart of Agrigento, ancient Akragas, a Greek city famed for its wealth and extravagant spending. The collection of Classical temples here is one of the finest to be seen anywhere in the Mediterranean. In the afternoon, we complete our tour of the ancient city and its renowned museum, and enjoy a relaxing dinner in beautiful surroundings.
- Day 7:** A drive along the coast through Montalbano country brings us to the breath-taking ancient site of Selinunte and its famous temples, devastated by the Carthaginians in 409 BC. In the afternoon we take a leisurely walk through the ancient quarry of the Cava di Cusa, where column drums still lie unfinished in an attractive landscape of olive groves and vineyards.
- Day 8:** We continue to Sicily's western coast and take a short boat trip to the island site of Motya, a major Phoenician city destroyed by Dionysius of Syracuse in 398 BC. The extensive remains of the city include the Tophet (a cemetery for children sacrificed to their gods) and, in the on-site museum, the Motya Charioteer, one of the most celebrated Classical Greek sculptures. After Motya, we travel to Marsala to enjoy a sumptuous lunch, and then to ancient Lilybaeum and the Baglio Anselmi Archaeological Museum to view the well-preserved remains of a Carthaginian ship and the beautiful finds from this ancient multi-cultural city, many of which retain their original painted decoration.
- Day 9:** Our first stop is the mediaeval town of Erice where you are free to take lunch at a restaurant of your choice and to take in the sweeping panoramic vistas from its heights. We continue on to the ancient city of Segesta, with its fine Doric temple in a tranquil and beautiful setting, and the stunning views from its beautiful little theatre on the adjacent hillside and finish the day in Palermo.
- Day 10:** We begin the day with a walking tour of central Palermo designed to orientate you in the bustling and lively capital city of the island – quite a change of pace from the quiet tranquility of the last few days! A major highlight is the spectacular Archaeological Museum filled with the very best finds from the sites that you have so recently visited. The afternoon is entirely given over to free time in which you can explore the markets and shops, enjoy some street food, find a restaurant for dinner, see a puppet show or visit some of the city's attractive medieval churches and nineteenth century opera houses. You are free this evening to dine at your leisure.





EXPLORING SICILY

- Day 11:** In the morning we take a short drive to Monreale where we will visit Monreale's 12th Century Cathedral, one of the finest Norman churches, blessed with a beautiful golden cycle of Byzantine-style mosaics. After absorbing the splendid view of Palermo below, we head on to the Greek city of Himera (site of two enormous battles that changed the history of the entire island) and end the day with a relaxing late afternoon at our hotel in the rolling hills at the foot of the Madonie Mountains on the north coast.
- Day 12:** We journey into the interior to visit the lovely archaeological museum of Aidone and have lunch in a renowned local restaurant. In the afternoon we visit the sprawling and opulent Roman villa of Piazza Armerina, with its world-famous mosaics, and then continue on to our final accommodation of the tour in the centre of Catania.
- Day 13:** Having caught many glimpses of Mount Etna in the distance, we finally visit it for a guided hike on the volcano's slopes before refreshing ourselves at a nearby restaurant. Afterwards we visit our final site, the dramatically situated Greek and Roman city of Taormina, perched above a beautiful stretch of coast.
- Day 14:** Transfer to Catania airport, just over 20 minutes drive away.



HOW TO BOOK

GO BACK TO BACK

FROM SPLIT TO DUBROVNIK
MAY 25 - JUN 1

CRUISING THE CARIAN COAST
MAY 26 - JUN 2

SOMETHING SIMILAR

EXPLORING THE PELOPONNESE

EXPLORING CRETE

EXPLORING MACEDONIA

EXTEND YOUR STAY

THE HEART OF THE ETERNAL CITY

ROME OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



A GASTRONOMIC TOUR OF SICILY



SEP 21 - SEP 28



TOUR GUIDE: LUCIA IACONO - £3,995 PER PERSON / SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: £395
INCLUDES ALL MEALS EXCEPT 2 DINNERS



Eastern Sicily is home to a vibrant culinary tradition that mixes delicious local produce with cooking styles drawn from its many foreign rulers, from the Byzantines to the Arabs, and from the Normans to the Spanish.

The rolling hills and fertile plains produce seemingly unlimited quantities of fresh fruit, nuts and vegetables, while abundant flocks and herds produce delicious cheeses and meats. These riches are surrounded by plentiful fishing grounds, filling the market stalls with an enormous range of marine delicacies. To complete the picture, Sicily now produces some of the most highly regarded new wines in Europe, the perfect accompaniment to its long-renowned ices, fruit drinks and digestifs. This veritable cornucopia of delights provides all the ingredients for a magnificent voyage of cultural and gastronomic discovery.

The modern cuisine is one of the defining creations of the uniquely diverse past of this great island and its history, culture and archaeology will be fundamental elements of our journey. As we travel through the ever-changing landscapes of Eastern Sicily we will discover how the Bronze Age civilizations left their mark on the rolling hills of Pantalica (one of several UNESCO World Heritage sites we will be visiting on this tour); we will walk through an elegant Roman farmhouse with world-famous mosaics at Piazza Armerina; and we will sample almond granitas in Noto, one of the most beautiful baroque towns in Europe.

Your guide on this tour has lived and worked in this region for many years. She has drawn deeply on her personal knowledge of land and people to bring to you a tour that combines practical cooking experience with highlights of the region's cuisine and visits to key historical and cultural sites.

As this Sicily food tour relies so closely on seasonal produce, the itinerary may change slightly to take advantage of the best culinary delights on offer. We are certain that any food and wine lover will be in raptures over this week-long cultural and gastronomic feast.



A GASTRONOMIC TOUR OF SICILY

- Day 1:** Arrival in Catania. Transfer from the airport to our hotel in Siracusa approximately 45 minutes away. Welcome drinks and dinner as we introduce you to some of the tastes and flavours of Sicily.
- Day 2:** The day begins with a drive to Palazzolo Acreide, where we visit the Archaeological Park. Afterwards we head to a nearby olive farm where the owners are producing award-winning organic extra virgin olive oil from native, centuries-old, olive trees. We tour the farm before enjoying a wonderful lunch of local delicacies. We return to Ortygia in the late afternoon and, after a brief rest, enjoy a Sicilian wine-tasting aperitivo with a local expert Sommelier.
- Day 3:** We meet our culinary expert for a stroll through Ortygia's bustling food market. Under his guidance we sample the local produce in preparation for a private cooking class in his restaurant. In the afternoon we will explore the city's long history and visit the Syracuse Archaeological Park before taking a walking tour of the historic centre as the sun sets. The evening is free to dine at your leisure.
- Day 4:** The day begins with a tour of the beautiful baroque town of Noto and a granita tasting. Later we head to an artisanal Dairy Farm where we take an exclusive tour before experiencing a rustic Sicilian lunch. In the afternoon we head for Ragusa, check in to our hotel and take an early-evening stroll around the historic centre of Ragusa Ibla before dinner.
- Day 5:** A day to delight the senses begins with a walking tour of the historical centre of Scicli, and a visit to a beautiful herb farm for an aromatic tour that will inspire cooks and gardeners alike. The visit will conclude with a tasting lunch, on a terrace overlooking the beautiful southern coast. In the afternoon we visit Modica for a demonstration of traditional Modicano chocolate making. In the late afternoon we return to Ragusa and the evening is free for you to dine at leisure.
- Day 6:** We journey to Vizzini to visit and tour a fabulous biodiversity farm before meeting up with our expert chef and rolling up our sleeves for a pasta-making class followed by a splendid lunch. We then continue on to Mt Etna to check into our final hotel and, after some time to relax, enjoy a wine tasting and dinner.
- Day 7:** We spend the morning walking on Mt. Etna in the company of an expert volcanologist. We'll stroll through verdant woods of pine and silver birch before ascending to a lunar landscape of lava flows and ash filled craters with incredible views all around. Afterwards we visit a local winery to enjoy a rustic lunch and sample the award-winning wines that thrive on Etna's slopes in the company of an expert Sommelier. A last chance to relax, then a sumptuous farewell dinner.
- Day 8:** Transfer to Catania airport, just over an hour's drive away.



HOW TO BOOK

GO BACK TO BACK
 GASTRONOMIC CRUISE IN CROATIA
 SEP 28 - OCT 5

CRUISING WESTERN LYCIA
 SEP 28 - OCT 5

WALKING & CRUISING THE CARIAN COAST
 SEP 29 - OCT 6

SOMETHING SIMILAR
 GASTRONOMIC CRUISE IN TURKEY

GASTRONOMIC CRUISE IN CROATIA

A TURKISH ODYSSEY

EXTEND YOUR STAY
 THE HEART OF THE ETERNAL CITY

ROME OFF THE BEATEN TRACK





EXPLORING ROME



NOV 3 - NOV 10



TOUR GUIDES: PAUL BESTON & VALERIA LENUZZA - £3,995 PER PERSON / SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: £795
INCLUDES ALL MEALS EXCEPT 2 DINNERS



It's impossible to describe a Rome tour without a sense of amazement and pleasure. First of all it comes from the immense historical significance of the place. Here, consuls, emperors and popes decided a continent's destiny. Here you stand where every street has meaning, where something pivotal happened in every square. Walking for just moments will take you from the scant archaeological traces of the first settlement and places linked to the legendary founders, to sweeping views crammed with the mighty remains of the greatest power of antiquity. At the height of its empire Rome was a super-city controlling the lands from Scotland in the north to the Sahara in the south, and from Portugal in the west to Armenia in the east, the only time this vast territory was ever ruled by a single power. Everywhere you look bears that imprint and leaves you stunned.

Our tour puts you where names seared into our collective memories literally stood and made history: the Scipios, Pompey and Cicero, Caesar and Antony. We walk through the works of Augustus, Claudius, Trajan and Hadrian, of Constantine and Nero, places bound up with the lives of St Paul, Livia, the Borgias, Colonna and Medici, Raphael, Michelangelo ... the sheer range of makers of history, art and culture whose traces we follow is staggering. Is there any place with a more breath-taking roll call of associations?

Amazement also comes from the surpassing beauty everywhere one turns, and from buildings that impress by sheer scale and engineering brilliance or from their almost unfathomable artistry. Each corner turned, every new view brings a colossal wealth of outstanding sights, from the familiar to hidden surprises. They make for a city of amazingly rich complexity; one that's very easy to see and be awed by, but one where it's easy to miss so much that is fulfilling. Our tour helps you untangle the densely woven layers of the city's remains – you won't just see Rome with us, you'll come away knowing it. It's the most profound and worthwhile way to see the city.

We take you to the greatest and most famous sites and tease out their full story and meaning, but go beyond the basic script of other tours to tell you the full, rich history of every location. To bring out hidden details in the life of the place, and hidden nooks and objects in even the most famous spots and museums to make for a far more satisfying encounter than you might otherwise settle for. And we take you to places that, while less well-known and free of crowds are every bit as impressive and memorable as what's to be found on itineraries less passionate about this city's wonders.

(And we go beyond, too: one of the highlights for many people is our journey down to the unbelievable expanse of Rome's great port, Ostia, where whole ancient streetscapes are preserved, filled with ancient eateries still with traces of their wall-paint, and of houseblocks where you can follow the traces of Roman families up flights of stairs as far as second floors and gaze out over whole ancient neighbourhoods in stupendous states of preservation.)

One of the great pleasures of leading this tour is hearing the gasp as people arrive at our hotel and get their first glimpse of its spectacular seventeenth century façade. Even our residence is the work of a master – the distinctive genius of Borromini, baroque in style but singular and wonderful in appearance and an absolute pleasure to call home during our stay. We're in Rome's most atmospheric district, Trastevere, wrapped in high-walled seclusion if we wish, but with a vivid and rejuvenating culture of restaurants and bars in easily and companionable reach. One of the city's most famous churches, the city walls and a lovely view from the banks of the Tiber lie at the end of the shortest of walks. There's no better home-base from which to build memories, there's no way to do it more rewardingly and comprehensively than by Exploring Rome with us.



Fontaine of the Four Rivers





EXPLORING ROME

Day 1: Transfer from the airport. Rome Fiumicino is about 30 minutes away. Our hotel, the Donna Camilla Savelli, once part of the convent of Santa Maria dei Sette Dolori is an early highlight: a beautiful baroque work with a distinctive brick façade, set in a walled enclosure in Rome's wonderful Trastevere district. An area set back a little from the city's bustle, but where Rome's most pleasant evening atmosphere can be experienced a stone's throw away, if you want it; and all very conveniently close to the Tiber within easy reach of the city's most historic streets.

Day 2: In a city as filled as Rome is with history and wonderful monuments of unsurpassable beauty, no slow build-up is necessary. We begin with a magnificent overture, a banquet for the senses, a full-scale assault of vistas and buildings, associations and stories. The ancient Romans intended exactly this effect – to stun the onlooker with Rome's eternal majesty. We join generations of previous pilgrims in falling under the city's spell, and so we begin with Rome's ancient heart, the Forum Romanum (the 'Roman Forum' proper). It's a surprisingly small space hemmed in by the great rocks of the Capitoline and Palatine hills, a natural arena where the greatest names of Roman history fought for power and prestige. Amidst an extraordinary concentration of famed and marvellous buildings jostling for space, with little to disentangle their history for the unaided traveller, we introduce the city, civilisation and empire of Rome amid stunning surroundings. Overshadowed by the might of the Temple of Venus and Rome, the House of the Vestals, the Arch of Titus and the awesome columns of the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina, we bring the city's story to life, making sure to bring out the hidden and less-well-known sites and stories the average visitor, and the average tour, miss. And with every step you have to remind yourself that you walk where Antony spoke over Caesar's body, where Cicero delivered stinging orations, and the legions processed in triumph. You're in Rome!

We pass on to the newly-accessible imperial forums, vast works from the peak of the empire's power where some of the most lavish buildings and artworks of the emperors displayed their might, culture, and their care for the populace. It all makes for an absolutely extraordinary and unforgettable morning. After lunch, we continue with the marvels by visiting the Flavian Amphitheatre, the Colosseum so intertwined with the fate and image of Rome. We trace the well-worn footsteps of the Romans and rise out as they did to see the lofty tiers soaring over the central ellipse, where gladiators – and emperors – sought the crowd's roaring approval. And with this, the day is still not done. We finish with one of Rome's finest imperial monuments, which fittingly seals the day by marking a turning point in its history. The Arch of Constantine, the first Christian emperor, covered with reliefs representing his victory, and others taken from earlier monuments of past glories.

A day where you've seen more than you might in a week. And yet this is just the beginning of your tour.



Day 3: We're called back to the fringes of yesterday's marvels to visit the transformational works of the emperor Trajan. We begin with his famous column, wrapped in fine spiralling sculpture depicting his conquests on the Danube, which any reader of Roman history will recognise as the go-to images of Roman power for legions of publishers. We then visit what the spoils of empire funded: one of the best of Rome's ancient sites, but one that is surprisingly little known, or noted, by most modern visitors. Their loss, but you won't miss out. In this, the magnificent Markets of Trajan, we walk down complete Roman streets miraculously preserved, and into a giant ancient hall left almost intact amid all that has happened over nearly two millennia since it was built. We walk past Roman shops and offices on the original street surface with fine views over the imperial forums and the Capitoline Hill, and see some of the amazing finds and artworks that once adorned the area.

The rest of the day is given over to the first Emperor, Augustus. We stand in the presence of perhaps the most delicately beautiful and famous decoration the city offers, the altar known as the Ara Pacis. Sculpted on every surface with reliefs by the finest craftsmen of the Augustan age, it's set in a fantastic modern museum which sets it off perfectly. We complete the Augustan story by viewing his huge, newly-restored mausoleum. Our intent is to go inside, but if the current temporary closure is still in place, we'll complete our day with a visit to the magnificent Piazza Navona, with its stupendous fountains with intertwining statuary, masterpieces of the baroque, and something of an ancient secret in its story. Fortunately, in Rome, even the back-ups would be first tier draws elsewhere!

Day 4: Our morning begins at the foot of the Campidoglio, where the outlandish genius of the Vittoriano monument towers above us, perhaps the most famous symbol of the modern capital. We view it and the ancient remains at its base before ascending. But ascending to what, and on what? Our target is among the world's greatest and oldest collections, the Capitoline Museums. Here since the fifteenth century, it stands on the potent history of the Capitoline Hill, where some of the city's finest monuments, some incorporated into the structure, stood, and where some of Rome's earliest foundational stories took place. And we get there via stairs that are themselves the work of Michelangelo, like much of the museum complex. Once again, Rome impresses with how ever-present the marvellous is. Inside, we have a cornucopia of famed works to see. It's hard to pick out even a few, but shall we just mention the Dying Gaul, the equestrian Marcus Aurelius, the colossal head of Constantine and Commodus' bust, wreathed in Hercules' lionskin? And then there's perhaps the finest view of the Forum....

After a lunch no doubt filled with talk about what we've seen, we turn to an equally splendid afternoon. A short walk takes us to the Sacred Area of the Largo Argentina – another of Rome's newly-opened archaeological spots. We see some of the city's most venerable temples and hear some of the site's secrets before moving on.

And we move on to, there's no other way to put it, the most wonderful building in existence: Hadrian's Pantheon. Words are almost pointless here: you'll know what we mean when you're standing there on its glossy marble floor, unable to prevent yourself looking up to the height of its extraordinary dome and the oculus open to the sky, mouth open and your entire body about to rotate in obedience with the building's unspoken command, as you think: "I'm never going to forget this."

Since we have to leave the Pantheon at some point, the rest of our day takes us through the city's famed and elegant Campus Martius district, centrepiece for imperial monuments and refined Renaissance palaces. Our short walking tour takes in the colossal Hadrianeum and brings us to the Column of Marcus, a companion and contrast to that of Trajan, marking harder times for Rome, and concealing from all but the most-aware visitor, one of Rome's nicest depictions of divine intervention. We'll help you find it.





EXPLORING ROME

Day 5: We take a day outside the City to see what enabled such a colossus to function at the height of empire. Driving down to the coast, we come to the huge archaeological site that is Ostia Antica, the ancient port of Rome. Once again, it's difficult to do full justice to the place. Here we have a vast ancient city, street after street stretching into the distance, with structural preservation on a level to match Pompeii. We pass through the ancient necropolis into a complete Roman cityscape, taking in the city's fast-food bars, its fantastically-preserved Mithraic temples, and even the barracks of its firefighters, all rising well above our heads. We pass through baths and past the huge capitol, we walk up to the first and second floors of apartment buildings and stand awestruck at the business complex of its main piazza, where the offices are all decorated with mosaics of elephants and ships, dolphins and stevedores that are simply heart-warmingly charming and unforgettable.

On our return to the city, there are some wonderfully pretty monuments of the Roman republic to view near the Forum Boarium, a connection to a famous movie, and then it's back to our nearby hotel.

Day 6: Rome's store of spectacular ancient structures is by no means exhausted, as we prove with a visit to the gargantuan imperial entertainment complex, the Baths of Caracalla. Feeling almost too huge to be ancient, this sprawling masterpiece in red brick bears traces of what was once almost outrageously extravagant decoration in marble with wonderful mosaic floors - black-and-white and polychrome - everywhere, niches for some of the greatest statuary in Rome in every towering wall and huge pools for the citizenry to bathe in the emperor's care. And, if you know where to look, signs of how the patrons idled away their time. We journey a little further away from the centre, through the mighty walls of Aurelian to just outside the ancient city. Here, we head underground to the oldest and most famous of the city's catacombs, with endless galleries bearing the small recesses of early Christian graves before we end with superb built and painted 'pagan' tombs, and a place of surpassing importance to early Christians. On our return within the walls, we finish the day with a lesser-known gem of Roman museums, the Centrale Montemartini. This is a wonderful collection of some absolutely outstanding pieces, some connected to places we've already visited, some magnificently new to us - in an outlandish context that should not work, but triumphantly succeeds. A perfect end to a great day.

Day 7: Our final day, and we turn - in part - from imperial Rome to Papal Rome. We feast on the wondrous collections of the Vatican Museums, a mesmerising array of some of the most famous wonders from Antiquity, and a few more recent masterpieces that you just may have heard of. Gallery after gallery brings yet more astounding works - the Laocoon, imperial sarcophagi in rich-hued porphyry, colossal statues of gods, emperors and empresses, the Apollo Belvedere and the inspirational Belvedere torso, all in spaces - the Raphael Rooms! - that are themselves frescoed masterworks of the greatest artists and architects. We arrive at the sublime Sistine Chapel, the culmination of an unforgettable display. Once more, the day is far from over. We depart the museums via St Peter's itself and marvel at Michelangelo's Pietà and Bernini's sumptuous baldacchino, not to mention the perfection of the façade and square outside before heading for our final lunch together. In the afternoon, we bid the city farewell in a perfect spot, the Castel Sant'Angelo. Originally the tomb of Hadrian, later a Papal fortress, prison and residence, it perfectly summarises our visit and provides the most atmospheric envoi imaginable.

Day 8: Transfers away from Rome, pending our inevitable returns.

HOW TO BOOK

SOMETHING SIMILAR

EXPLORING THE PELOPONNESE

EXPLORING CRETE

EXPLORING MACEDONIA

EXTEND YOUR STAY

THE HEART OF THE ETERNAL CITY

ROME OFF THE BEATEN TRACK



EXTEND YOUR STAY



ADD-ON TOURS IN ITALY

We have created two tours that offer you the chance to extend your travels before or after your land tour in Italy. Whether you have never travelled to Rome before, or if you have been multiple times, we have the perfect itinerary for you. Of course, if you see something that you want to change, or would prefer to include instead, or if you have less or more time in which to travel, please just let us know and we will craft an itinerary just for you.

THE HEART OF THE ETERNAL CITY

Rome has been the pivot of so many of the world's great historical events, the node of so much culture that it's easy to find approaching it quite daunting. Where do you begin? What are the key places to visit to make the most of your time without being rushed? How can a new visitor avoid missing some hidden gem when hurrying along the well-trodden tourist paths? How, in short, can you take in the magnificence of the eternal city at the right pace, without having to think of where to get the right food and wine? That's what this tour will give you. We have designed it for those new to the city, who want a strong cultural and historical introduction to the city in a shorter space of time than our normal tours, while maintaining the same reliable level of expertise and the full aesthetic and sensory experience you'd expect. If you've been before but want to gain a deeper appreciation of the city's most iconic monuments and most telling back stories that comes with our expert guides, this tour is also for you.

Visiting the Roman Forum, we'll carry you from the earliest days of Rome and the foundation of the Republic, through its violent death-throes and the rise of the Empire and the end of the ancient world. You'll see the great and lavish monuments of the emperors, built to their own glory or for the entertainment of their people, whose remains inspired the centuries after the empire fell. The exquisite Pantheon and the majestic Colosseum filled them with awe, as they will you. The later ages of Rome's history won't be neglected – you'll see the refined churches of the early medieval period and the wondrous architecture and painted chapels of the Rome of Michelangelo, as well as the intricately carved fountains and pious ecclesiastical sculpture of the Renaissance and Baroque city. A city with so much to offer should be appreciated, not rushed.



ROME OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

For those who have seen Rome before and want to go beyond the main sites, or see some of what's new, we offer the perfect way to extend your stay in Italy. This exhilarating tour allows you to encounter some of Rome's great archaeological sites away from the main routes, brings you some of her finest and most impressive museums, and takes you to areas even at the centre that have been newly excavated or extended. Here, with our usual carefully chosen fine dining and great wines, with expert guides by your side, is the best way to make sure that your next visit to Rome isn't the same as your last. You'll encounter the vast edifices of the Roman emperors, even the streets of the ancient city. You'll see some of the greatest collections of ancient art and architecture, from some of the largest and most breathtaking Roman mosaics and reliefs beset with a myriad of figures, to some of the finest celebrated bronze sculpture in the world set amidst unforgettable and surprising backdrops.

The glories of medieval, Renaissance and early modern Rome are a rich part of our story, and you'll find plenty of places to immerse yourself in their unsurpassed brilliance. After seeing the sumptuously rich collection of the Villa Borghese in its beautiful parkland and the opulent and towering church of St John Lateran, you'll see why papal Rome breathed authority and power both politically and artistically and drew pilgrims from around the world. At the serene Protestant Cemetery, you'll find where some of the more famed of them found rest, nestling incongruously under an ancient Roman pyramid, contrasting the calm atmosphere of this pretty space with the touching subterranean memorials of the early Christian catacombs. From beneath the city to the heights of its great towers and domes, accompanied by authoritative admirers of this fantastic place, there's no more rewarding and enjoyable way to expand your acquaintance with Eternal Rome.

BOOKING FORM

Please complete form in block capitals

Name of tour

Departure date

Travellers' names:
(Please complete with title & name as detailed in your passport):

Title First Names Surname

Nationality Date of Birth

Passport No. Issue Date Expiry Date

Title First Names Surname

Nationality Date of Birth

Passport No. Issue Date Expiry Date

Address

Postcode/Zip

Tel (H) (W)

Mobile Email

Gulet Tours: Cabin preferred: Single Double Twin

Land Tours: Room preferred: Single Double Twin

Travel insurance: Name of insurer

Policy No. Emergency Tel No.

Next of kin: (or contact in case of emergency)

Relationship Tel.

Deposit payment: £550 per person - non refundable

Bank transfer for: Credit card for:

HEALTH & SPECIAL DIETARY REQUESTS:

Do you have any disability or medical condition which might prevent you from participating in the tour? Do you have any health related or medical dietary requirements. Please give fuller details by email if necessary:

FOOD PREFERENCES:

Are there any particular foods that you dislike or prefer not to eat?

Personal Data, Marketing Preferences and Use of Images

- I don't currently receive newsletters from Peter Sommer Travels and would like to receive them.
- I agree to the details supplied on this form being retained for use in future bookings.
- I agree that Peter Sommer Travels can use photos that may include me in their printed materials and/or for use online (including social media).
- I have read and agreed to the booking conditions and privacy policy on behalf of all those listed above and hereby confirm my booking.

Signature Date

GENERAL INFORMATION

✳ Visas

Turkish visas are required for all tours in Turkey and some gulet cruises in Greece. Visas are easily obtained online at www.evisa.gov.tr and must be purchased before you travel.

Citizens of European Union or Schengen Treaty member states need no visa for Greece, Croatia or Italy. Those from the United States, Canada and Australia do not need to apply for a visa to visit Greece, Croatia or Italy for trips of less than 90 days duration.

United Kingdom citizens will not need a visa for short trips to most EU countries. You'll be able to stay for up to 90 days in any 180-day period. Different rules apply to Croatia. If you visit Croatia, visits to other EU countries will not count towards the 90-day total. Other nationalities should contact their local consulate or ask us for further advice.

✳ Health

Guidelines laid down by the UK Department of Health say you do not require any specific inoculations for the areas covered in these tours.

✳ Payment Protection

We are a Member of ABTA, membership number Y6151. Peter Sommer Travels Ltd. has provided a Bond held by ABTA to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. All passengers booking with us are fully protected as detailed in the ABTA Bond for their initial deposit and balance payments made, in the unlikely event of cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to our insolvency.

✳ Data Protection and Use of Images

In order to provide your holiday, we need to collect certain personal details from you and as appropriate, pass these on to suppliers and other third parties. We would like to keep and use these details for the purpose of sending you our brochure and other marketing material in the future. Full details of our data protection policy can be found on our website.

We often take photographs or videos during a tour for publicity purposes. Naturally we like to have some photos that include our lovely guests. We like to use these images in our brochure, other printed materials and on our website. We may also send them to the news media for PR. We need your permission to do this and would be most grateful if you would let us use the photographs taken during a tour that may include you. Rest assured we do not use guests' names together with the photographs.



Picture Acknowledgements:

In addition to our own photographs and those supplied by; The GNT0, The National Trust, English Heritage, VisitEngland, Visit Scotland, The Irish Tourist Board, The Croatian Tourist Board, and © Crown copyright 2018 (Visit Wales), many of the images in this brochure and on our website were very kindly sent in by our guides and guests. Many thanks to you all.



PETER SOMMER TRAVELS

"A PERFECT COMBINATION OF INTELLECTUAL, AESTHETIC, SENSUAL AND PHYSICAL EXPERIENCES."

Cynthia Seybolt, USA

TOUR OPERATOR OF THE YEAR
AITO (THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT TOUR OPERATORS)

Tel: UK +44 (0)1600 888220
Tel: US toll free +1 855 4433027
Email: info@petersommer.com
Web: www.petersommer.com
Chippenham House, 102 Monnow St,
Monmouth, NP25 3EQ, UK

