

ITINERARY ESPECIALLY PREPARED FOR
ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

to UK & Greece

Escorted by Sarah Wilkinson



Sarah Wilkinson is an Archaeologist with ten years experience. She graduated from the University of Durham (UK) in 1996 and has worked on a variety of excavations in the UK and Greece. Sarah has excavated Anglo Saxon human remains in Yorkshire; worked alongside the Time Team in Lindisfarne and assisted with a surveying and pottery research project in Greece. She is also specialised in the recovery, identification and dating of finds, particularly Roman and Medieval artefacts.

Sarah is looking forward to being able to share her experiences and is very excited to be leading this new and innovative tour which includes 4 days of digging at one of the most exciting archaeological sites in Roman Britain. No previous archaeological experience is required, as each group participant will be supervised and guided by the site director. The tour will also include a special two day guided walk exploring Hadrian's Wall with a leading Roman Military Archaeologist, Dr Mike Bishop.

June 2012

Mon 25 Christchurch/Auckland-Singapore

Depart Christchurch or Auckland for Singapore.

Tue 26 Singapore-Manchester

Arrive Singapore

Depart Singapore

On arrival at Manchester you will be met and transferred to your hotel for overnight. Remainder of day at leisure.

Tonight will be an introductory meeting with fellow tour members.

Wed 27 Manchester-York

This morning depart by coach for York. Arrive late this morning. Check in to the hotel for overnight accommodation.

7pm

Remainder of day at leisure to explore York.

Meet for a 1 hour light-hearted, early evening cruise, with entertaining stories of York's history, famous characters, ghosts and historical events.

Tonight dinner will be at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Thu 28 York-Hexham

This morning we visit Jorvik Viking Centre. Here, between 1976-81, archaeologists unearthed the site of one of the most famous and astounding discoveries of modern archaeology. Archaeologists from York Archaeological Trust revealed the houses, workshops and backyards of the Viking-Age city of Jorvik, as it stood 1,000 years ago. These incredible findings enabled the Trust to build the JORVIK Viking Centre on the very site where the excavations had taken place, creating a groundbreaking visitor experience that brings Viking-Age York back to life. This afternoon depart for Hexham for two night's accommodation. The hotel will be our base from where we explore Hadrian's Wall. This evening we will be joined by Professor Mike Bishop, a specialist in Roman and military history. Mike will deliver a brief lecture and explain our next two days exploring Hadrian's Wall, before dinner at the hotel. (B,D)

Fri 29 Hexham

Today we walk the "wall". Hadrian's Wall was built by Roman Emperor Hadrian to keep the Scottish out of Roman Britain. It is a stone and wooden fortification that spans the width of what is now Northern England. Firstly visit the Roman Army Museum at Carvoran, and then start on part of Hadrian's Wall. Walk over Walltown Crags, past great Chesters, on over Cawfield and Windshield Crags to Turret 39B, near Steel Rigg, about 10 miles in total. (B,D)

Sat 30 Hexham

Pick up where we left off yesterday at Steel Rigg. Walk along the crags to Housesteads. Continue to Carrawburgh Fort and Mithraeum, approx 7 miles in total. Here we pick up the coach and drive to Corbridge and then back to the hotel. (B,D)

July 2012

Sun 01 Durham

Today transfer to Durham to our accommodation for five nights. This is our base from where we join in the dig for four days at Binchester Roman Fort. Accommodation is at Durham Castle, one of the oldest colleges of Durham University, founded in 1832, and located in a Norman fortress. Durham Castle originated in 1072 after being commissioned by William the Conqueror. It offers the unique opportunity to stay in part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Durham Castle, together with the Cathedral, was awarded the status of a World Heritage Site in 1986 providing international recognition for this unique, historic and scenic site. Standing side by side on a prominent hill top site and encircled by the wooded slopes of the meandering River Wear, the Castle and Cathedral overlook the medieval City of Durham with its fascinating narrow streets. Enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure. Breakfast is in the medieval Great Hall. (B,D)

Things to do: explore the Castle; visit St Cuthbert's remains in the Cathedral; hire a rowing boat and explore the River Wear; visit the Archaeological Museum, or stroll through the Botanic Gardens. Take a short train ride to the magnificent City of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne or shop 'til you drop at the Metrocentre, Europe's biggest mall. Enjoy a delicious pint of real ale at the smallest and friendliest pub in Durham, The Shakespeare Tavern. The pub dates back to 1190 - there have even been reports of ghostly goings on and paranormal investigations!



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Mon 02 Durham

Today we start our four day digging experience at Binchester. Tonight dinner is in the Senate room of Durham Castle (*pictured middle above*). (B)

Binchester (Roman Vinovia) was one of a chain of forts established in the mid-late 70s of the first century along Dere Street, the main north-south Roman road east of the Pennines and the principal route to Scotland. It guarded the crossing of the River Wear and its remains lie on the northern outskirts of Bishop Auckland. Only a tiny fraction of the 10 acre (4 hectare) fort and its extensive civil settlement has been investigated although we know from inscriptions that for part of its history at least the garrison consisted of the ala Vettonum from Spain and the cuneus Frisiorum from what is now the Netherlands, both cavalry units. Part of a bath-house was revealed in 1815 and the remainder was excavated and put on public display in the 1980s by Durham County Council. This was the private baths-suite of the commanding officer and was attached to his residence.

Building on its track-record of collaborative projects, Durham County Council's Archaeology Section has entered into a partnership with the Department of Archaeology at Durham University, the Department of Archaeology at Stanford University and local archaeological societies to undertake a new, five year programme of excavation at Binchester of which the third season was completed in 2011. Two areas are being investigated; a barrack and adjacent sections of the defences in the east corner of the fort and a portion of the civil settlement beyond the south-east gatehouse. One of the most important discoveries so far is widespread evidence – in the form of working surfaces and pits – of continued occupation of the site well into the fifth century.

03-05 Durham

Part of the “dig”. (B)

Fri 06 Durham-Manchester-Athens

Transfer to Manchester Airport for your flights to Athens via London. Welcome to Greece. On arrival at Athens Airport you will be met and transferred to the Philippos Hotel for overnight. (B)

Sat 07 Athens-Heraklion

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Heraklion. 0800/0850. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel for two night's accommodation. Depart for Knossos for a morning tour of the largest Bronze Age Archaeological site in Crete and probably the ceremonial and political centre of the Minoan civilisation and culture. The palace appears as a maze of workrooms, living spaces, and store rooms close to a central square. Detailed images of Cretan life in the late Bronze Age are provided by images on the walls of this palace. This afternoon visit Heraklion Museum. Dinner is at a local restaurant this evening. (B,D)

Sun 08 Heraklion-Chania

Depart for Chania to your hotel for two night's accommodation. The drive takes approximately four hours. This afternoon is at leisure. (B)

Mon 09 Chania

This morning visit Souda Bay and the pristine Commonwealth War Cemetery, where about 1500



British, New Zealand and Australian soldiers who lost their lives in the Battle of Crete are buried. This afternoon is at leisure. (B)

Tue 10 Chania-Athens

This morning transfer to Chania Airport for your flight to Athens for overnight. Remainder of morning at leisure. This afternoon Sarah will take you for a guided tour of the Athens New Acropolis Museum by foot. This evening dinner will be at your own expense at one of the many delightful tavernas in the Plaka area. (B)

Wed 11 Athens-Itea

This morning depart for the ancient region of Boeotia (2 hours). Boeotia was one of the earliest inhabited regions in prehistoric Greece. Many Greek ancient legends seem to originate in this region. Two nights accommodation in Itea.
Take part in a cooking lesson of local specialities. (B,D)

Thu 12 Itea-Delphi-Itea

This morning depart for Delphi, the ancient sanctuary of Apollo. En route you will walk for approximately two hours along an ancient pathway for the Port of Delphi (walk optional – or transfer directly to Delphi). Visit the Museum in which one can see among other archaeological treasures, the unique bronze Charioteer, proceed through the sacred way to the Athenian treasury. Visit the Temple of Apollo and the Castalia Spring. Return to the hotel for overnight. (B,D)

Fri 13 Itea - Meteora

This morning visit the Archaeological Museum of Coins in Amfissa and then an olive farm before continuing to Meteora for overnight. Dinner at the hotel this evening. (B,D)

Sat 14 Meteora- Athens

Meteora is included on the UNESCO World Heritage list. It is one of the largest and most important complexes of Eastern Orthodox Monasteries in Greece. The six monasteries are built on natural sandstone rock pillars, high atop the cliffs, which were originally built for hermit monks in the 9thC. Visit one of the monasteries this morning. This afternoon return to Athens for overnight. Tonight is a farewell dinner for the group. (B,D)

Sun 15 Athens-Singapore

Transfer to Athens Airport.
Depart on your Singapore airlines flight to Singapore
Arrive Singapore. Connect with your flight to New Zealand.

Mon 16 Auckland or Christchurch

Welcome home.

TOUR COST: \$11,995 per person share twin

Single supplement \$1695 per person

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Escorted by Sarah Wilkinson
- Economy class airfares on Singapore Airlines Christchurch or Auckland-Manchester // Athens-Christchurch or Auckland
- Sectors Manchester-London-Athens-Heraklion



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- Ticket taxes
- All transfers airport - hotel return
- Transport in air-conditioned coaches
- English speaking guides
- Accommodation with private facilities
- Sightseeing as specified
- Breakfasts daily
- Dinners as specified
- Entrance fees as specified
- Travel notes

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- Personal Expenses
- Insurance (compulsory)
- Departure and airport taxes
- Late check out
- Porterage & tipping

NOTES:

Sightseeing

Generally takes place in the cooler periods of the day ie early morning or late afternoon therefore on occasion some early starts may be necessary to avoid the heat. Sightseeing on Cruise boats is not on a private basis - this is operated by the cruise company and you will be allocated a guide and small group for sightseeing upon embarkation. All other sightseeing unless specified is on a private basis.

Hotel check-in/out times are normally IN: 2pm/OUT: 12noon

The only way to guarantee an early check-in or late check-out is to pre-book the night before (early check-in) or night after (late check-out). Otherwise early check-in and late check-out are subject to availability when you are there.

Non Smoking Rooms: *As a policy Innovative Travel request non smoking rooms for all guests. These rooms are requested and are subject to availability.*

Tipping

Please remember that tipping is an accepted practice throughout the world. In the majority of countries tipping acts as a supplement to a basic wage. It is however discretionary. If you believe you have received efficient service, then service should be rewarded. In order to assist you in determining a fair and reasonable tip Innovative Travel have provided guidelines in the comprehensive travel notes provided in your documentation.

On a lighter note

Please remember that religious beliefs, traditional customs and daily manners may differ from country to country, these may seem quite strange at first. These idiosyncrasies are part of what makes travelling a special experience. Please be patient if you think things are happening a different pace than you are used to and respect the differences in culture.

If you need assistance relating to travel arrangements provided, please contact our Local Agent immediately as they are there to assist you. The Local Agents details are listed on your itinerary and vouchers. Please note it is easier and often faster for them to assist you initially.

Tour conditions, cancellation and amendment fees as per Ancient Kingdoms brochure.

Travel Advisory Information can change at any time and we suggest clients refer to The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Travel Trade Advisory website at www.safetravel.govt.nz prior to departure for the latest up to date information and general advice regarding the countries you are visiting.

100% cancellation fees will be charged for all bookings cancelled less than 14 days before departure. No refund is available for cancellation after commencement or on any services not used.



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