

Archaeological Tours Introduces NEW 2019 Packages

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For more than forty years, **Archaeological Tours** has been setting the standard of what constitutes a great archaeological and historical study tour. With the announcement of the company's 2019 programs, three new destinations never before featured by Archaeological Tours - **Western China, Tunisia & Morocco, and the Baltics** - will join the ranks of itineraries carefully curated and led by their expert scholars, distinguished field researchers who have the gift for bringing a destination to life!

The 15 day **Tunisia & Morocco: From the Phoenicians to the Berbers** itinerary (pricing from \$4,950 per person, double, excluding international airfare) will be led by Dr. Caroline Goodson, a University Senior Lecturer at Cambridge. Dr. Goodson explains, "For the past 15 years, I have been exploring the formation of early medieval societies in the post-Roman world, especially Italy and North Africa. My research concentrates on the nature of power in these places, looking at how different groups positioned themselves as successors of the Romans' past glories or innovators in a new world order." The tour, *departing March 25, 2019*, will include such highlights as visiting:

- Carthage, founded by the Phoenicians in the 9th century BCE and today a World Heritage Site;
- Kairouan, a holy pilgrimage city renowned for its Great Mosque and medina;
- National Bardo Museum, a Tunisian Heritage landmark;
- Morocco's Islamic Imperial cities of Rabat, Meknes, Fes and Marrakech;
- Excavations of Volubilis, the outpost at the heart of the ancient Roman-Berber kingdom of Mauretania.

The 19 day **Western China: Relics of the Silk Road** itinerary (pricing from \$8,770 per person, double, excluding international airfare) will be led by Professor Craig Benjamin, an Associate Professor in the History Department at Grand Valley State University in Michigan where he teaches courses in ancient Central and East Asian history and on the Silk Roads.

The tour, *departing May 24, 2019*, will explore the ancient Silk Road Route through Western China's challenging terrain, and visit the caravan city oases of Dunhuang, Turpan, Urumqi, Hotan and Kashgar. Highlights include:

- Exploring Bezeklik's great Cave of 1,000 Buddha's - an amazing cave grotto complex dating from the 5th to the 14th centuries;
- Wandering the Mogao Cliff cave chapels near Dunhuang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site;
- Visiting Jiayuguan Fort, western starting point of the Ming Great Wall and key pass on the ancient Silk Road;
- Discovering the archaeology among the historic ruins of Jiaohe and the citadel of Gochang
- Viewing the iconic Terracotta Warriors, depicting the armies of Qn Shi Huang, first Emperor of China.

The 14 day **Lithuania, Latvia & Estonia: Along the Baltic Shores** itinerary (pricing from \$5,230 per person, double, excluding international airfare) will be led by Professor John Hines, School of History and Archaeology at Cardiff University, a specialist in the archaeology of the early medieval period, particularly the material culture and literature of the Vikings. The Baltic States' turbulent past of conquest and partition over the centuries is explored on the tour, *departing June 4, 2019*, through a balanced program of visits to museums (Vilnius' Amber Museum, Archaeological Institute Museum and Āraiši Archaeological Park in Tallinn) and major medieval castles including:

- Lithuania's Kernavė Medieval Complex, where hillforts, settlements and burial sites show activity from the Stone Age to the Middle Ages;
- Lithuania's enchanting Medieval lake castle of Trakai, whose stunning island setting hides a long and surprisingly violent history;
- Latvia's picture-book Medieval town of Kuldīga and its castle, along with Grobiņa Medieval Castle

To learn more, please visit: <https://www.archaeological-tours.com/>