

Press release – 10th December 2018
For immediate release

Top 5 cultural tours for 2019 *From Versailles to the Veneto, and from Leipzig to Lincoln*

Château de Versailles.

Spend four days exploring the palace (and gardens) that put others in the shade, including Vaux-le-Vicomte, the château that inspired it. Acclaimed historian Professor Tony Spawforth, author of *Versailles: A Biography of a Palace*, leads the trip.

£990pp (two sharing) includes 3* hotel, dinner and drinks, private coach travel from Paris, entrances and taxes. Departs 29 March 2019 (4 days).

<https://www.culturaltravel.co.uk/chateau-de-versailles>

Wagner's Ring in Leipzig

Visit Germany's 'city of music', which is undergoing a renaissance as artists and innovators move in from Berlin, for this production of Wagner's masterpiece. The trip includes a night in Wagner's hometown of Bayreuth and talks on the opera by BBC broadcaster Stephen Johnson.

£1,950pp (two sharing) includes 4* hotels, two dinners with drinks, category 2 opera tickets, private coach travel, entrances and taxes. Departs 30 April 2019 (7 days).

<https://www.culturaltravel.co.uk/wagner-ring-leipzig>

Art Treasures of Venice

Spend 5 days in Venice with art historian and Venice resident Dr Susan Steer, specialist in the city's Renaissance altarpieces. The trip includes a private, evening visit to the Basilica di San Marco.

£1,065pp (two sharing) includes 3* hotel, dinner with drinks, vaporetto pass, entrances and taxes. Departs 8 February 2019 (5 days).

<https://www.culturaltravel.co.uk/art-treasures-venice>

Villas of the Veneto

A 5-day trip visiting Palladio's most important villas and buildings around Vicenza, many of which are difficult to access for individuals. The trip includes Palladio's most famous work, Villa La Rotonda and La Malcontenta, one of his loveliest creations, accompanied throughout by art historian Dr Michael Douglas-Scott.

£1,160pp (two sharing) includes 4* hotel in Vicenza, dinner with wine, private coach travel, entrances and taxes. Departs 6 June 2019 (5 days).

<https://www.culturaltravel.co.uk/villas-of-the-veneto>

Cathedrals and Abbeys of the North

A cluster of medieval buildings set in glorious countryside that rank among the greatest in Europe.

Visit York Minster, Beverley Minster, Lincoln Cathedral, Rievaulx Abbey, Durham Cathedral and Ripon Cathedral with architectural historian Jon Cannon.

£905pp (two sharing) includes 3* hotel in York, dinner with wine, private coach travel, entrances and taxes. Departs 28 June 2019.

<https://www.culturaltravel.co.uk/cathedrals-abbeyes-of-the-north>

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For further information please contact Liz Brown at press@culturaltravel.co.uk or 020 3370 1988.

Notes to editors:

the **CULTURAL** **TRAVEL** CO

The Cultural Travel Company is a new tour operator, offering exceptional cultural travel experiences at affordable prices. Accompanied by first-rate speakers, we explore many of the cultural highlights of Europe and the UK. Art, architecture, archaeology, history and music are all on the menu, and on each carefully-paced itinerary there's a mix of guided tours, lively lectures, group dinners and free time.

We set up The Cultural Travel Company to deliver inspiring trips, art journeys, and historical learning at reasonable prices. We have achieved fantastic value for money by focusing on the core ingredients, using sensible hotels, cutting the frills and allowing greater freedom than is usual on this sort of trip.

The Cultural Travel Company is a division of Martin Randall Travel, Britain's largest and most innovative specialist in cultural tours. For nearly 30 years Martin Randall Travel have offered immaculately-planned tours across the globe. We draw on the same experience and expertise and share their unrivalled pool of speakers.