

Press release – 26th July 2018
For immediate release

2019 trips now on sale

Europe's finest art, architecture & music in the company of experts

The Cultural Travel Company's 2019 programme includes new tours to **Leeds Opera North**, **Versailles** and **Wagner's Ring Cycle in Budapest**, alongside some of our most popular tours to Florence, Venice, Pompeii and Sicily, among others.

These short, immersive tours offer a well-balanced mix of escorted visits, lively lectures and time for independent exploration. A local tour manager is on hand to assist with logistics, and pre- and post-tour extensions are easily arranged.

Some of the destinations and highlights are as follows:

[Château de Versailles – the power and glory of France](#)

Join Professor Emeritus in Ancient History Tony Spawforth on this trip to Versailles, spending four days considering every aspect of its artistic and horticultural triumphs, as well as Vaux-le-Vicomte, the château that inspired it.

From £990 (pp, two sharing) includes accommodation, breakfasts & 1 dinner, admissions, private coach and the lecturer's talks. Departs 29 March 2019.

[Great French Châteaux – castles and gardens of the Loire](#)

Chartered horticulturalist Steven Desmond leads this 4-day trip to the châteaux of the Loire, visiting one of the jewels of the French Renaissance, a recently restored Château d'Azay le Rideau, and Villandry, made famous by its kitchen garden.

From £1,095 (pp, two sharing) includes accommodation, breakfasts and 1 dinner, private coach, admissions & the lecturer's talks. Departs 21 June 2019.

[Sicily: Conquests and Cultures](#)

Art historian Dr Luca Leoncini leads this 9-day trip to the Mediterranean's largest island, home to the world's greatest concentration of Byzantine mosaics, a cluster of Greek temples and a unique combination of Islamic, Byzantine and Norman architecture evident throughout the cities of Palermo, Agrigento and Syracuse included in the trip.

From £1,795 (pp, two sharing) includes accommodation, breakfasts, 1 dinner, private coach, admissions and the lecturer's talks. Departs 12 May 2019.

[Power and Patronage in Florence](#)

A carefully-paced tour led by Renaissance specialist Dr Kevin Childs, this trip explores the breadth and depth of Florence's achievements, from Massaccio's frescoes in the Brancacci Chapel to Michelangelo's Medici tombs.

From £1,025 (pp, two sharing) includes accommodation, breakfasts, 1 dinner, private coach, admissions and the lecturer's talks.

[Art Treasures of Venice – the visual splendour of La Serenissima](#)

Art historian – and Venice resident – Dr Susan Steer leads this 5-day trip to Venice, including the glittering mosaics of San Marco during an out of hours private tour, Tintoretto's ravishing ceiling frescos at Ca' Rezzonico, and the city's main art gallery, the Accademia.

From £1,065 (pp, two sharing) includes accommodation, breakfasts, 1 dinner, admissions, vaporetto pass and the lecturer's talks. Departs 8 February 2018.

Music tours

[Celebrating Mozart – the Mozart Week festival in Salzburg](#)

Salzburg's *Mozartwoche* in January with author and renowned harpsichordist Professor John Irving, enjoying some of the finest modern interpreters of Mozart's music. Our trip includes six performances, with an exciting line-up of established stars and fresh young talent.

From £1,825 (pp, two sharing) includes six concerts, accommodation, breakfasts & 1 dinner, the lecturer and tour manager's assistance. Departs 24 January 2019.

[The Ring in Budapest – Wagner on the banks of the Danube](#)

This acclaimed production of Wagner's Ring cycle returns to the Hungarian capital in 2019, with Ádám Fischer the inspirational artistic leader and conductor. In between the concerts there is time to visit Budapest's key sights, and a private concert at the Liszt Academy. Musicologist and dramaturg Simon Rees gives lectures on the Ring Cycle and its history.

£1,225 (pp, two sharing) includes 3 hotel accommodation, 1 dinner with wine, opera tickets for 4 performances, private coach travel and the lecturer's talks. Departs 12 June 2019.*

For further information and to book, please call **020 3370 1988** or visit www.culturaltravel.co.uk

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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 Company offers 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.