



MARTIN RANDALL TRAVEL

ART • ARCHITECTURE • GASTRONOMY • ARCHAEOLOGY • HISTORY • MUSIC • LITERATURE

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Press release – 20 December 2019

For immediate release

Where to go in 2020 on an expert led cultural tour

From following in the footsteps of Raphael during his 500th anniversary year, to a gardens tour visiting the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May, Martin Randall Travel shares their top recommendations for where to go on a [cultural tour in 2020](#).

January in Malta

[Valletta Baroque Festival](#)

Music & art in the heart of the Mediterranean

17–24 January 2020

A celebration of Baroque music in one of the most complete and compact of Baroque cities. Award-winning journalist, Juliet Rix, leads this eight-day tour which combines performances from world-class musicians with guided tours of Malta's principle archaeological and architectural sites. There are six concerts included in the price, with highlights including the Abchordis Ensemble performing Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater*, the Ghislieri Choir & Consort and Nicholas Mulroy.

Prices from £3,170 pp (two sharing) includes return LHR flights, 5-star hotel accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer, and all taxes and tips.

For further information and to book, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit

www.martinrandall.com/valletta-baroque-festival

February in India

[Architecture of the British Raj](#)

Evolution of styles in Mumbai, Kolkata & Delhi

1–12 February 2020

70 years after independence, many Indian cities still look astonishingly British. Kolkata is an open museum of stuccoed Neoclassicism. Mumbai ranks as the world's finest Gothic Revival city, while New Delhi is a paragon of low-density town planning. Over twelve days, the tour visits many of the finest buildings of the Raj, following India's path from trading post to prized

Imperial possession – with one eye always on the powerful influence of the country's climate, architectural forms and talent. Led by architectural historian Anthony Peers.

Prices from £5,470 pp (two sharing) includes airport transfers, domestic flights (Mumbai to Kolkata and Kolkata to Delhi), accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer, and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/architecture-of-the-british-raj

March in Italy (500 years since the death of Raphael)

[Raphael 500](#)

Celebrating five centuries: a pilgrimage from Urbino to Rome

16–22 March 2020

Marking 500 years since the death of the Renaissance master Raffaello Sanzio, this seven-day tour journeys from his birthplace in Urbino to the places he lived and worked in Florence and Rome. In the Italian capital, visit the Scuderie del Quirinale palace where a special exhibition to commemorate this anniversary brings together works from major collections worldwide. An evening private visit to the Vatican to see Raphael's paintings and frescoes includes the Transfiguration, his last great altarpiece. See also Michelangelo's frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. The tour poignantly ends with a visit to the ancient Roman Pantheon, home to Raphael's tomb.

Prices from £3,240 pp (two sharing) includes accommodation, return LHR flights, travel by rail (first class) between Florence and Rome, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/raphael-500

April in USA (150th anniversary at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art)

[East Coast Galleries](#)

From Boston to Washington DC

29 April–12 May 2020

The East Coast offers superb art in marvellous galleries, as well as classic New England scenery. From Boston to Washington DC, this tour covers all the major institutions (Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, the National Gallery of Art in DC) as well as lesser-known gems, such as The Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, with its extraordinary collection of Impressionists and Post-Impressionists. In New York, visit MoMA – recently reopened after a 4-month renovation – and the Met, which is celebrating 150 years since its foundation with a special exhibition and the reopening of the British Galleries. There is also time for some independent exploring.

Prices from £7,120 pp (two sharing) includes accommodation, return LHR flights, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/east-coast-galleries

May in England (RHS Chelsea Flower Show, including RHS membership)

[New English Gardens & RHS Chelsea](#)

Exuberant design and planting schemes at the cutting edge

15–20 May 2020

There is no doubting the climax of this tour: Members' Day at the world's most prestigious horticultural show, RHS Chelsea. But the overture is almost as thrilling. It focuses on the transformation of the English Garden, pioneered by the likes of Harold Nicholson and Vita Sackville-West at Sissinghurst, and Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter. Better plant management, longer seasons, new emphasis on structure, seedheads and grasses: all are considered while visiting cutting-edge private gardens, such as Follers Manor and Sarah Raven's garden, as well as the new plantings at RHS Wisley.

Prices from £2,590 pp (two sharing) includes accommodation, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer, RHS membership, and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/new-english-gardens-and-rhs-chelsea

June in Sweden

[Gastronomic Sweden](#)

Nordic gastronomy from land to sea

12–19 June 2020

This 8-day gastronomic tour considers Swedish cuisine from every angle; the salting and smoking of the Vikings, the freshness of New Nordic Cuisine, as you travel between the oyster-rich waters of the west to the fertile plains of the south. Variety is key, and reflects the country's vast range of flora and fauna. A few more unexpected treats are included too. Falafel in Malmö, locally-produced wine in Skåne and foraged berries in the countryside: they all have their place in the Swedish pantry.

Prices from £3,770 pp (two sharing) includes accommodation, return LHR flights, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer, and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/gastronomic-sweden

July in France

[Music in the Loire Valley](#)

Renaissance to Romantic – nine concerts in magnificent châteaux and historic venues in the Garden of France

7–13 July 2020

Celebrating the French Renaissance, a series of nine private concerts are performed in the glorious châteaux of the Loire, including those at Blois, Chambord and Chenonceaux, with music chosen to echo the entertainments of royal patrons. Another is in the orangery at Villandry, one of the most famous gardens in the world, with the concert taking place in a vaulted cave off a private part of the garden. Musicians of the highest calibre from Britain and France include; the Ensemble Clément Janequin, I Fagiolini, Gothic Voices and Contrapunctus, Les Pléiades and Les Musiciens de Saint Julien.

Prices from £3,110 pp (two sharing) including nine private concerts, accommodation with a choice of 4-star hotels, a choice of return Eurostar trains (London-Paris), travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by an expert lecturer and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/loire

August in Germany (250 years since death of Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, 27 March)

[Franconia](#)

Art and architecture in Germany's medieval heartland

17–24 August 2020

This unspoilt region of southern Germany was the heart of the medieval German kingdom. Travelling through its lovely towns and countryside from Würzburg to Nuremberg, visit outstanding examples of medieval art and architecture (including, in Bamberg Cathedral, the Romanesque sculpture known as the Bamberg Rider). With 2020 marking 250 years since the artists death; Tiepolo's ceiling in the Baroque Würzburg Residenz is a highlight, and there is an all-day excursion to Bayreuth. Led by art historian Dr Jarl Kremeier.

Prices from £2,870 pp (two sharing) includes 4-star hotel accommodation, return LHR flights, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer, and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/franconia

September in Italy (100 years since birth of director Federico Fellini, 20 Jan)

[Rome on Film](#)

Cinema & the Eternal City

7–12 September 2020

This six-day tour explores the various ways in which Rome has been immortalised on film. Through guided location visits, illustrated lectures and group discussions, explore the works of directors from across the globe and their distinctive approaches to the Eternal City. Screenings of selected films with post-film discussions, include Federico Fellini's *Roma* in a private cinema at the Villa Borghese (during the 100th anniversary year since the directors birth). Includes a visit to *Cinecittà*, the nerve centre of Italian cinema and the largest film studio in Europe. Led by Italian film expert, Dr Pasquale Iannone.

Prices from £2,780 pp (two sharing) includes accommodation, return LHR flights, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/rome-on-film

October in Morocco

[Morocco](#)

Cities & empires

3–14 October 2020

Madrasas, souks and kasbahs: together, they build a picture of historic wealth and cultural vitality on this 12-day tour of the land of the setting sun. Stay overnight in Ouarzazate and Erfoud in the High Atlas, stopping on route to see the celebrated kasbar villages and the glittering medieval city of Sigilmassa, with an evening excursion over the sand dunes to see the desert of Merzouga at sunset. The Roman city of Volubilis. Andalusian-influenced Tetouan, Fez, Tangier and Marrakech are also all on the itinerary.

Prices from £4,580 pp (two sharing) includes accommodation, return London flights, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/morocco-cities-and-empires

November in Italy (includes a private concert in the Basilica di San Marco)

Venice: Pageantry & Piety

Seven concerts of Venetian music in palaces, churches, great halls and St Mark's Basilica
2–7 November 2020

The highlight of a lifetime, this six-day festival reaches a glorious culmination with a private concert in the Basilica di San Marco, where Monteverdi's '1610 Vespers' performed by Andrew Parrott and the Taverner Consort, provides a fitting finale. Presenting a unique opportunity to hear the authentic sound of La Serenissima during seven private concerts in seven contrasting venues, participating ensembles are among the world leaders in Venetian repertoire. Includes expert lectures on the music as well as optional walks in the company of art historians.

Prices from £3,340 pp (two sharing) including seven private concerts, a choice of 4- and 5-star accommodation, a choice of return flights (London-Venice), water taxi transfers and unlimited use of the vaporetta, most meals with drinks, talks by expert lecturers and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/venice-pageantry-and-piety

December in Argentina & Chile (500 years since the European discovery of Patagonia)

Patagonia: 'Uttermost Part of the Earth'

History, legends, landscapes and wildlife in southern Argentina & Chile

26 November–11 December 2020

In the 500th anniversary of its discovery by Europeans, Patagonia still exists for many of us as much in myths, fiction and travellers' tales as it does in reality. History and culture are the foci of this tour, but other major threads are animal, ornithological and topographical. To watch wildlife where few others venture, the tour travels to the Punta Ninfa promontory, where the afternoon is spent on a private beach amongst 6,000 Magellanic penguins and their chicks. Other features of the sixteen-day tour include a special performance by a Welsh choir; visits to the Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, Palaeological and Maritime Museums; and time amidst the infamous Tierra del Fuego National Park and the glacier district.

Prices from £8,170 pp (two sharing) includes accommodation, 4 domestic flights in Argentina and Chile, travel by private coach, most meals with drinks, talks by the lecturer and all taxes and tips.

For further information, please call **020 8742 3355** or visit www.martinrandall.com/patagonia-uttermost-part-of-the-earth

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For further information please contact [Liz Brown](#) or [Lucy Stickling](#) on 020 3948 9743.

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Notes to editors:

Martin Randall Travel is the leading specialist in cultural tours, organising a unique series of all-inclusive music festivals and around 300 small-group tours every year in the UK, continental Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, Central Asia, India, China, Japan, the Americas and Australasia.

All aspects of our cultural tours have been carefully researched, tried and arranged by members of MRT staff, including the most authentic restaurants and comfortable hotels. There are no hidden extras. The price covers nearly everything, including wine with meals and all tips. We do not levy surcharges for fuel or for any other reason.

Martin Randall Travel has won numerous awards, most recently *Best Special Interest Holiday Company* (2019) at the British Travel Awards.