



## FROM MICHAEL'S DESK

Although I am writing this just 2 days before Christmas, I realise that it will be next year before you read it. 2021. And I have just two words for 2020 - good riddance!

I consider myself fortunate. I am a British citizen, but I also have residency in both the US and France, which means that I have still been able to travel, albeit very carefully! I am in quarantine right now, having just returned from France last week. I took a covid test 2 days ago and await the results - if, as I expect, it comes back negative, I will be allowed out just in time for Christmas!

The downside of being able to travel is that I have spent 7 of the last 13 weeks in quarantine. I think I'm getting quite good at it now! It really helps to have someone you love quarantining with you.

But you can have too much of a good thing and I really miss going out to restaurants. I'm sick of wearing a mask (but I still do - religiously) and I miss hugging people. Growing up in Britain, I came to hugging late in life, but quickly came to embrace (as it were!) the ritual. It is only when it is taken away, though, that one realises the importance of simple physical contact with our fellow humans.

So, please Santa, for Christmas this year I would like everybody to get vaccinated so we can start hugging again!

Michael Induni, President

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ST. FRANCIS CHURCH, URBINO, ITALY

## REGIONAL DISCOVERY TOURS

While the hustle and bustle of large capital cities will certainly allow you to visit important museums and major monuments, it is when you roll up your sleeves and dig a little deeper that you experience the true culture of a country. Transitioning from being a "tourist" to a "traveler" often involves taking a giant leap off the beaten path and discovering the smaller, lesser-known towns and communities. Places that may have never seen a tourist bus!

The irony is not lost on us that, here at Discover Europe, we truly love to find unique places that see very few tourists – and then bring people there. Of course, there is a difference between bringing a small group of respectful, interested travelers and descending on a village with a bus load of fifty camera-snapping tourists. Don't get us wrong, we have nothing against the popular hot spots and we do visit them on many of our tours. However, as an organization, we appreciate and understand the yearning that many of our travelers have to find somewhere authentic, somewhere that truly represents the thousands of years of culture that have led up to and created the modern country that we are visiting. There is something so satisfying about exploring a new destination and leaving feeling like it's your new home away from home.

We have been arranging this type of tour for many years now and we've recently added a few more to our arsenal, which we are calling our "Regional Discoveries." These are all tours that have been carefully designed by people who live in that area and now call it home. Many of our friends and tour guides now live in out-of-the-way places in Europe and want to share their love of their region with our travelers: Gavin




MALLORCA



Miller in Mallorca, Fiona Bennett in the Marche of Italy, Prof. Murray McClennan in Asturias, Northern Spain and, of course, our own Michael Induni, in his beloved second home in the Ariège region of Southern France. To visit a destination and spend the duration of the tour in one hotel, taking day trips out into the surrounding areas, allows you to get an in-depth understanding of the region and the people who live there.

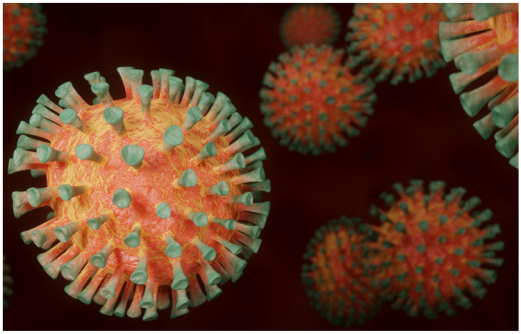


This is also particularly appealing in the current circumstances, because staying in just one hotel limits the number of different people that you're coming into contact with and allows for more freedom to skip activities and have independent exploration. And we make sure that the one hotel is somewhere very special!

Whether it's a week nestled in a French Chateau, time in a castle in the Marche, or a converted palace in Asturias exploring this untouched corner of Spain, we promise we'll take you somewhere you never thought you'd find. Just look for the  symbol on our tour calendar for our Regional Discovery tours.

## WHY YOU SHOULD SIGN UP NOW

While our crystal ball is still fairly murky, we're becoming more and more optimistic that the prospect for travel in the near future is improving. As we are writing this newsletter, the vaccines are being distributed and administered across the country. This will mean a great deal for the fight against the pandemic and will, hopefully, mean that life will return to "normal" again and we will be free to travel once more. By the time you receive this newsletter, things could be looking quite different already!



We have high hopes that once the vaccines begin to get into general circulation, international travel will start to become an option again. And once travel is safe and the borders are open, we know that it's likely that the metaphorical flood gates will open and our tours will quickly fill with eager travelers who have had to put their plans on hold for nearly 2 years.

We have heard from many of our past travelers that they've been sitting tight and dreaming of all of the places that they would like to go once it's safe again - and so have we! While we understand that for many the idea of traveling is still uncertain, we're optimistically thinking that the time is drawing close and that you should prepare if you want to travel once we're all able. Here are some reasons why signing up early might be in your best interest.

**Small Group Sizes** - As you know, we specialize in small-group travel and have a maximum of 15 people on each of our tours. Once traveling is an option again, tours are likely to fill up quickly due to the pent-up demand. We recommend that, if there's somewhere special that you have in mind, or a specific tour you've had your eyes on, you register early to ensure that you get a place on that tour.

**Early Bird Discount** - We understand that the current global situation encourages people to wait until the last minute to sign up for trips. Not only does that risk your chosen tour being unavailable, but it also makes life more complicated for us in terms of forward planning. So we are happy to announce a new early bird incentive. If you sign up for any tours departing after September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 before March 1st, 2021 you will receive a discount of \$200 per person off your final balance (not valid with any other offers).

**Payment Protection Plan** - We also understand that it's hard to place a deposit on a tour when the future is still so uncertain. To help ease your mind (as you may have read in our last newsletter) we have created a Payment Protection Plan to ensure that you have complete financial security for your tour. This way, if you sign up for any of our tours, you would be able to cancel your participation and get a full refund, no questions asked. This way you can sign up worry-free and know that your investment is protected.

If you'd like to secure your place or have any questions about a specific tour, please don't hesitate to reach out to us by phone (866-563-7077) or email ([info@discovereuropelt.com](mailto:info@discovereuropelt.com)).



*Courtesy of Sunil Agarwal & Ajit Ninan*



## FAVORITE HOTELS

### THE OAKLEY COURT, WINDSOR, UK

The Oakley Court is a wonderful Victorian country house and is our go-to hotel for tours that spend time in Windsor. Located on the river, just outside the downtown area, this majestic property has the modern amenities of a 4-star hotel but with quintessential English charm.

The pastoral setting on the River Thames makes the Oakley Court a cozy, comfortable and luxurious location and its proximity to Heathrow Airport makes it a perfect setting for either starting out or ending your tour in England.

## WHAT'S IN A WORD?

The word "curfew" has been used a lot recently for many reasons in many different countries. Listening to it made me think - that's a strange word, I wonder where it comes from? One of the advantages of being in lockdown is that it gives you time to pursue these flights of fancy!

In fact the answer became obvious, in a way, while I was in France a few weeks ago and they announced the hours for the new "couvre-feu" - or curfew, in English. However, rather than satisfy my curiosity, this merely sparked my interest in how, what was evidently a corruption of a French term (the English are famous for that!), became the word meaning that you were not allowed out on the streets.

It turns out that the original "curfew" had a different intention. The primary fear in medieval cities, where the houses were all built of wood very close together, was not protesters taking to the streets of an evening, but fire that could quickly and easily spread from one building to those adjacent (Great Fire of London of 1666, for example). So at a certain designated time of the evening the populace was commanded to put out or cover their fires, in French, the couvre-feu.

## A NEW PUZZLE

**Q: A CHRISTMAS PUZZLE.** Most everybody knows that Father Christmas is also called Santa Claus or St. Nicholas. But what country was the original historical St. Nicholas from (modern day name please)?

To answer, go to Discover Europe's Facebook page, like the page and leave an answer. The winner, drawn at random, will receive a voucher for \$200 off any trip listed in this newsletter!



... AND A SOLUTION FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER

**Q:** "Under French law, a traditional baguette can contain only which ingredients:

- 1) Wheat flour, milk, salt and yeast
- 2) Wheat flour, water, sugar, salt and yeast
- 3) Wheat flour, milk, salt and sourdough starter
- 4) Wheat flour, water, salt and yeast

**A:** 4) Wheat flour, water, salt and yeast

Congratulations to Evangeline Ledbetter who won this puzzler!

## A COVID CHRISTMAS ODE

by Michael Induni

*Poetry comes fine-spun from a mind at peace  
According to the Roman poet Ovid  
But such expectations needs must cease  
In this the time of Covid*

*For peace may well come dropping slow  
On Innisfree's lake isle  
But 'tis harder for the muse to flow  
When every day's a trial*

*The needless dying, the endless lying  
Have strained my Christmas cheer  
But I resolve to keep on trying  
To find comfort in a brand new year*

*The tunnel's end's in sight,  
The vaccine's coming to ease our pain  
So let's press on toward the light.  
Fingers crossed it's not a train*

*In the year of covid now gone away  
There are things that I have missed  
Family and friends held at bay  
Waiting to be hugged and kissed*

*Truth be told, it's not been bad  
This staying out of trouble  
Safe and warm with those we love  
Locked down within our bubble*

*While Jupiter and Saturn dance cheek to cheek  
In the winter sky above us  
We can find the happiness we seek  
In quarantine with those who love us*

Merry Christmas to all  
and to all a Good Night





## CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TOURS



SALZBURG

### AUSTRIA

#### VIENNA & SALZBURG

Discover the music, culture, and history of these two cities during the Christmas season.  
DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> 2021

### ENGLAND

#### TREASURE HOUSES OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

See the full glory of Britain's Stately Homes set against the backdrop of a magnificent, full-blown English spring.  
MAY 3<sup>RD</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> 2021 & MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> 2022

#### THE BEST OF ENGLISH GARDENS

Our annual homage to the Chelsea Flower Show and gardens of southern England.  
MAY 11<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> 2021 & MAY 10<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> 2022  
*Back to back with The Gardens of Ireland 2022*

#### GARDENS OF THE NORTH

Visit the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show and explore the gardens of Yorkshire and the Lake District on this horticultural adventure.  
JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> 2021



#### THE COTSWOLD HILLS

Experience the quintessential English countryside of the Cotswolds with day trips to Oxford, Stratford, Bath, and many more.  
JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> 2021 & JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> 2022



#### DISCOVERING EAST ANGLIA

Experience life in a country house hotel with popular guide Gavin Miller and explore the region in which he grew up.  
JULY 16<sup>TH</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> 2021 & JULY 15<sup>TH</sup> - 23<sup>TH</sup> 2022

#### VICTORIA & THE CROWN

Celebrate the life and legacy of Queen Victoria on this tour tracing her life from London to the Isle of Wight and Windsor.  
AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> - SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 2021

#### THE PASSIONATE GARDENER

Join garden blogger Michael B. Gordon and visit some of England's most unique gardens.  
SEPT. 2<sup>ND</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> 2021 & SEPT. 1<sup>ST</sup> - 10<sup>TH</sup> 2022

#### IN SEARCH OF THE CORN WALL

Join tour guide Gavin Miller for a trip down memory lane to his childhood family vacation destination, Cornwall.  
SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2021

#### TREASURE HOUSES OF NORTHERN ENGLAND

From Yorkshire to the Lake District, journey behind the usual tourist facade and explore the remarkable natural beauty of the north and its stately homes.  
SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> 2021

#### EXPLORING WESSEX

From the chalk downlands of Sussex to the Jurassic coast of Dorset, we will explore the most beautiful landscapes, homes, and castles in southwest England.  
SEPTEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> 2021

#### ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE

Join us for a Shakespearian-inspired tour of London, Oxford, and Stratford-upon-Avon.  
SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup> - OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> 2021

*New Tour!*

#### YORKSHIRE & THE LAKES

A collaboration with our partners at *The Cultural Concierge* for an in-depth look at regional culture and countryside.  
OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2021



YORK MINISTER

#### KENT: THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

Away from London and into the rolling hills of Kent. Enjoy brilliant and eclectic explorations from Dover to Dorking.  
OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> 2021

#### A DICKENSIAN FEAST

Dickens' London & the rolling countryside of Kent. Visit the world-famous Rochester Dickens Festival and meet his great-great-granddaughter.  
DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup> 2021

*New Tour!*

#### GARDENS OF EAST ANGLIA

Wend your way through the beautiful regi of East Anglia and enjoy special visits to a unique variety of gardens.  
JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> 2022

### FRANCE

#### NORMANDY, BRITANY, AND THE LOIRE

From the rolling beaches of Normandy to the romantic beauty of chateau country - discover one of the loveliest regions of France.  
SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> 2021



#### THE CHATEAU DE CAMON

An extended stay at the magnificent Abbaye Chateau de Camon with day trips exploring the Languedoc region from Carcassonne to the high valleys of the Pyrenees.  
OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> 2021



#### THE FESTIVAL OF ROSES

A short getaway to a French Chateau for a visit to the Camon Festival of Roses! Want to stay longer? Join us for the Pilgrim's Way!  
MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> 2022



#### FOOD & WINE OF BORDEAUX

From our base near St. Emilion, this one-stop tour focuses on the delicious food & exquisite wines of this region.  
JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2022



#### A WEEK IN PROVENCE

From our base in Arles, explore the region that has everything! Food, wine, and stunning countryside await you in Provence during the beautiful lavender season.  
JULY 8<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> 2022

### GERMANY

#### THE NEW BERLIN

Explore the city that our tour guides, Matthias Kort and Sara Cereda-Kort, call home. After the fall of the wall, a modern, vibrant city is revealed!  
OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup> 2021

### GREECE

#### ANCIENT ISLANDS: CORFU & CRETE

Follow in the footsteps of *the Durrells in Corfu* and visit the birthplace of Zeus.  
JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2021

#### THE GLORY OF GREECE

Visit world-famous treasures and learn how ancient Greece has shaped modern times. Optional 4-day Greek island cruise extension.  
APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup> - MAY 2<sup>ND</sup> 2022

### HOLLAND

#### FLORAL FLANDERS

Spend a week in Amsterdam and enjoy the beauty of Holland when the tulips are in full bloom, including a special visit to the decennial Floral Floriade event.  
APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> 2022

### ICELAND

#### ICELAND PANORAMA

Enjoy summertime in Iceland on this journey of stunning natural beauty in the north, south, and west of the island.  
AUG. 8<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2021 & AUG. 13<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> 2022

#### THE LAND OF FIRE & ICE

Experience Reykjavik and the Icelandic countryside and explore the geological forces that created this unique island.  
NOVEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> 2021

### IRELAND

#### GARDENS OF IRELAND

See a thousand shades of green that make up Ireland's rich garden landscape, including a Belfast extension.  
MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> 2022

*Back to back with Best of English Gardens*



### THE ISLAND OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS

From literary haunts to dramatic seascapes, explore the country that inspired Yeats, Joyce, Beckett, Heaney and so many others  
SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> 2022



#### KILLARNEY

Enjoy a short getaway to the southern town of Killarney on this one-stop adventure.  
SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup> 2022

### ITALY

#### HIDDEN TREASURES OF THE MARCHE

Join host Sandi Tinyk (founder and owner of *Travels with Sandi*) in an Italian castle on this regional discovery tour to the Marche region of Italy with tour guide Fiona Bennett.  
SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup> - OCTOBER 2<sup>ND</sup> 2021

#### SORRENTO & THE AMALFI COAST

Described by Charles Dickens as "one succession of delights", this dramatic area has countless cultural and scenic wonders.  
OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> 2021

*Back to back with Sicily: Island Crossroads*

#### SICILY: ISLAND CROSSROADS

Visit Palermo, Agrigento, and Taormina with guided exploration and leisure time to revel in the contrasts of this ancient island, known as the Crossroads of the Mediterranean.  
OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> 2021



#### UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

Make your base in the hilltop spa town of Montecatini Terme on this "Let's Unpack" tour and explore Florence and the surrounding region  
APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> 2022



TAORMINA, SICILY

#### THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT

This region is graced with shocking beauty, which unfolds against a backdrop of semi-tropical gardens, and palatial villas.  
MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2022

*Back to back with Across the Alps*



#### SORRENTO & THE AMALFI COAST

From Mount Vesuvius to the azure grotto of Capri, join Sandi Tinyk on an exploration of the beautiful Amalfi Coast.  
JUNE 2022 (INQUIRE FOR DATES)

### PORTUGAL

#### LISBON & MADEIRA

Explore the colorful and unique capital city of Lisbon before spending time at the 5-star Belmond Reid's Palace in Madeira.  
JANUARY 29<sup>TH</sup> - FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup> 2022

### SCOTLAND

#### SKYE & THE HIGHLANDS

The breathtaking landscapes and the dramatic legends will surely have you leaving your heart in the highlands.  
JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> - JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2021

#### JOURNEY TO THE NORTHERN ISLES

Whether your interest is natural history or ancient worlds, the Orkney & Shetland Islands are a must-see destination.  
SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> 2021

*New Tour!*

#### CASTLES OF THE HIGHLANDS

Starting in Inverness, take an in-depth look at the highlands and the castles and historic homes that dot the dramatic landscape.  
MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup> 2022

*Back to back with Backroads of Northern Britain*

#### LORDS OF THE SEA KINGDOM

Island hop and explore the ancient kingdom of the Lords of the Isles. We visit the Inner Hebrides and travel up Scotland's west coast.  
JULY 22<sup>ND</sup> - 31<sup>ST</sup> 2022

### SPAIN

#### THE PILGRIM'S WAY

Trace the Way of St. James on the ancient pilgrimage route along the north coast of Spain from Bilbao to Santiago.  
SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> - OCT 5<sup>TH</sup> 2021 &  
MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> 2022

*Back to back with Along the Pyrenees 2022*



#### THANKSGIVING IN MALLORCA

An extended stay in Sóller, with day trips to Deia, Palma, and Valldemossa. Enjoy Thanksgiving dinner Mallorcan style - and you don't have to do the dishes!  
NOVEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup> - 28<sup>TH</sup> 2021



#### THE REAL MALLORCA

Gavin Miller shares the wonders of his adopted home - the jewel of the Mediterranean, both real and royal.  
MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> 2022

### WALES

#### WALES & THE WELSH BORDERS

Ancient market towns, mountain peaks, coastal villages, and romantic ruins characterize this journey into the heart of ancient Wales, led by native Welsh tour guide Adrian Metcalfe.  
SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> 2021

### MULTI-COUNTRY TOURS

#### ART & GASTRONOMY IN FLANDERS

Enjoy an off-season adventure to Holland and Belgium and indulge in the food, ales, and art that make this region famous.  
NOVEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2021

#### FROM LONDON TO PARIS

A winter getaway to these culturally rich capitals. Enjoy special visits within the cities as well as day trips into the countryside.  
JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> 2022

### ACROSS THE ALPS

Beginning with a stay by the Italian Lakes, this tour then heads up into Switzerland and crosses the Alps through Austria, and into Bavaria, ending in Munich.  
MAY 12<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> 2022

### ALONG THE PYRENEES

Hear some of the most fascinating legends that Europe can muster all while enjoying the incredible mountain scenery of the Pyrenees mountains.  
MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> - 25<sup>TH</sup> 2022

*New Tour!*

#### BACKROADS OF NORTHERN BRITAIN

From the Scottish lowlands to Northern England, explore the landscape, history, and castles that make up the Borders between Scotland and England.  
JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> - 12<sup>TH</sup> 2022

*Back to back with Castles of the Highlands*

#### JEWELS OF EASTERN EUROPE

Budapest, Vienna & Prague. Enjoy a blend of time in these historic cities with excursions to sites of rural charm and beauty.  
JULY 14<sup>TH</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> 2022

### SCANDINAVIA

Discover the best of Scandinavia with stays in Copenhagen, Oslo, and Stockholm.  
AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup> 2022

### CHANNEL CROSSINGS

Crisscrossing the English Channel, travel to the islands of Jersey and Guernsey, across the beaches of Normandy, on to the elegance of Paris and back to London via the Chunnel.  
AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> - SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> 2022



*Indicates a "Regional Discovery" tour. These tours focus on one particular region, often staying in just one hotel, and exploring the surrounding countryside.*

*New Tour!*

*Indicates a tour that is new to our newsletter, although some have been run previously as private or sponsored tours.*

## CUSTOM TOURS

In addition to those listed here, Discover Europe also runs tours that are custom-designed for a variety of organizations such as Smith College, Tufts University, Vassar College and many others. Although these "sponsored" tours are not listed here, they are often available to non-members upon request.

Discover Europe can also organize private tours for groups of 2 to 20. Please contact us for details.



## LONGER GETAWAYS

We've received requests from many of our clients wishing that we had longer tours available, because, for many, the most stressful and least appealing part of traveling is the long international flight. To accommodate those that wish to stay longer in Europe, we've planned our 2022 calendar carefully to allow for back-to-back tours. This way you can choose to either take an individual tour, or combine two together to make for one longer tour! Here are a few examples of tours that are designed to fit together!

*Plus we'll be offering you a \$200 discount for signing up for back-to-back tours!*

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### THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT + ACROSS THE ALPS

MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> 2022

From the lakes to the mountains - this trip combination brings you some of the most dramatic and beautiful scenery in Europe. Starting in Northern Italy, you will spend time in the breathtaking beauty of the Italian Lake District before winding your way through the imposing Alps of Switzerland and Austria. We end our tour in Munich.

If you enjoy scenic drives and have the yearning to see multiple different countries in one getaway, this tour might be the perfect combination.



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### CASTLES OF THE HIGHLANDS + BACKROADS OF NORTHERN BRITAIN

MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> 2022

These two brand new tours on our calendar pair perfectly together. Starting in Inverness, you'll explore the highlands, with stays on the Islands of Skye and Mull, while visiting some of the awe-inspiring castles and ruins that dot the countryside. The tour ends at the Castle Hotel in Stirling.

From there, you'll join the *Backroads of Northern Britain* tour in Edinburgh and travel south into England to explore the border region between the countries, visiting some of the highlights that this rugged area has to offer. History, castle ruins, beautiful gardens and magnificent scenery abound on this back-to-back adventure through Northern Britain.

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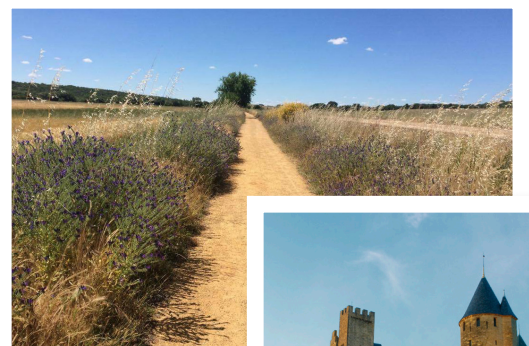
### ALONG THE PYRENEES + THE PILGRIM'S WAY

*+ LONG WEEKEND PRE-TRIP EXTENSION FOR THE CAMON ROSE FESTIVAL!*

MAY 16<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup> 2022

Rich with ancient history, the Pyrenean mountain range, which forms a natural border between France and Spain, is a cultural melting pot - from Catalonia in the east to the Basque region at the western end of the mountain chain. This combination of tours will explore the varied culture and incredible scenery of the Pyrenees and then travel into Northern Spain following the Camino de Santiago - the Pilgrims' Way - from Bilbao to Santiago de Compostela.

There is also the option of extending the tour with a few days in Camon at the start to join the festivities of the annual Camon Rose Festival. Camon is known as "The Village of Roses."





## TRAVELER SPOTLIGHT - GAVIN MILLER

"We loved this trip. Gavin was an awesome guide/teacher. It was a great trip. The Château was very special and we would recommend the trip to anyone interested in history and France."

*Lee T. on The Château de Camon*



"In 2016 I was on a tour with Gavin Miller. It was Southeastern England. We were staying in Canterbury and went to Dover Castle, Hever Castle, Ightham Mote and more. It was a wonderful trip! One of my best memories is that Gavin, knowing I love cats, when we passed this place, pulled in and said "you have 10 minutes." I did some shopping and was so pleased. That is just one of the things that make Gavin and Discover Europe so special!"

*Julia M. on Kent: the Garden of England*



## THE WILD ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND

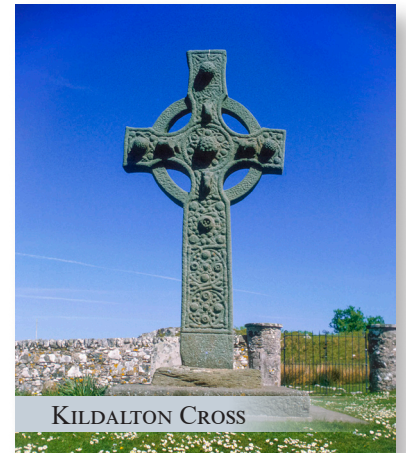
Scattered off the coast of Scotland are over 790 islands, only 94 of which are inhabited. Each island has a unique, rugged beauty and what inhabitants there are, are fiercely independent. From the ancient neolithic history found in the Orkney Islands to the Viking heritage of the Hebrides in the west - they are truly worth a visit.

### HERE ARE A FEW OF OUR FAVORITES:

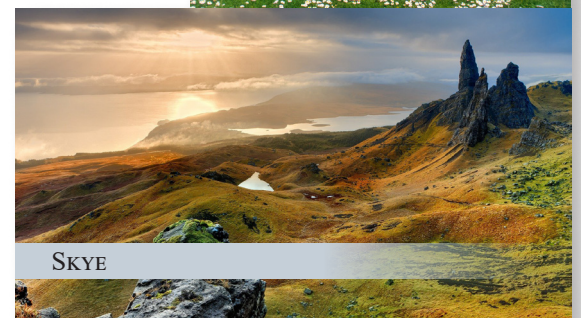
**ISLE OF ISLAY** - The Isle of Islay, pronounced "eye-luh," is called the Queen of the Hebrides. It's famous for beautiful sandy beaches, diverse birdlife and distinctive malt whiskies (it currently has 8 world-renowned distilleries). It is home to both monuments of the past as well as a thriving modern society. While you're here, make sure to visit the Kildalton Cross, an intricately carved Celtic cross which dates back to the 8th century. It is thought to be the oldest Celtic cross surviving in Scotland. Our tour *Lords of the Sea Kingdom* (July 22 - 31, 2022) visits Islay.

**THE ISLE OF SKYE** - One of our favorite places in Scotland, this dramatic island is the epitome of the highlands. It's characterized by mountainous landscapes, beautiful coastlines and scenic waterfall pools called "Fairy Pools." Our tours *Skye & the Highlands* (June 24 - July 4, 2021) and *Castles of the Highlands* (May 26 - June 4, 2022) both visit Skye.

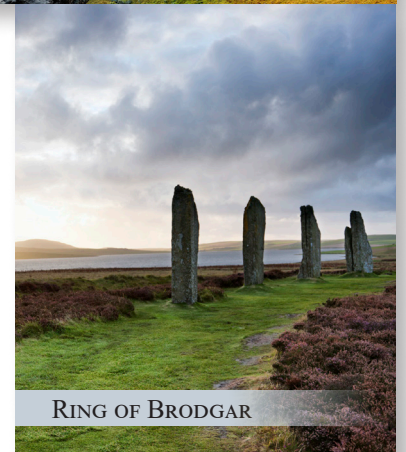
**ORKNEY & SHETLAND ISLANDS** - Off the northern tip of Scotland, you can travel back in time 6,000 years with a visit to the Orkneys and the Shetlands. Rich in ancient history, they are full of magical, evocative Neolithic sites, such as the Standing Stones of Stenness, Skara Brae, Northern Europe's best-preserved neolithic village, and the Ring of Brodgar, which is estimated to have taken 80,000 man-hours to construct. Our tour *Journey to the Northern Isles* (September 2 - 11, 2021) visits the Orkneys and the Shetlands.



KILDALTON CROSS



SKYE



RING OF BRODGAR





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# INTO THE HEART OF EUROPE

THE NEWSLETTER OF DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.

122 Island St.  
Keene, NH 03431

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



CHRISTMAS IN CANTERBURY

## EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHT: GARDEN SHOWS

Garden tours have been a Discover Europe specialty since we began in 2001. Last year was the first time that we have not had at least one group (often as many as 4!) visiting the Chelsea Flower Show - and then only because it was cancelled. From the tulip fields of Holland to lavender fields in Provence, from landscaped gardens in England to the formal gardens of France, we have, throughout the years, taken visitors to gardens in England, Italy, Belgium, Spain, Eastern Europe, Ireland, Scotland, Holland and France.



Photo Courtesy of Floriade Expo

In 2022, there is a special opportunity - the Floriade! Held every 10 years in the Netherlands, the Floriade is an outstanding international garden festival and exhibition. In 2022, it will be held just outside Amsterdam in the city of Almere and the theme is "Growing Green Cities." It will be the 23rd AIPH world horticultural exhibition and the seventh Floriade.



KEUKENHOF GARDENS

A living library of trees, plants and flowers known, as The Arboretum, meanders through the park. You can literally walk from A to Z through this exceptional collection created by Dutch growers. What makes all the trees, plants and flowers in the arboretum so special is that they all contribute to healthier, greener cities. They can, for instance purify or cool air, attract birds and butterflies or contribute tasty nuts or fruit. The trees and plants are all planted in alphabetical order, based on the botanical name. Join us at the Floriade on our tour *Floral Flanders* (April 18 - 28, 2022).