

Here at AWT we love specialised travel and it is what we do best. From adventure to archaeology, history to photography, we work with groups to provide them with bespoke tours around their special interest. And, as the 'Expert in Heritage Travel', we have many years experience in creating and organising group tours, making our expertise their resource.

We also work with a team of experts and academics who advise us or lead some of our tours. They are passionate about their subject and we are too. We share in a group's enthusiasm for a subject or place and pull out the stops to provide them with a fantastic journey. And we'll also add our own AWT touch that makes our tours so memorable.

# ANCIENT WORLD TOURS

## THE EXPERTS IN WORLD HERITAGE TRAVEL



**PRIVATE GROUP TRAVEL**



## Types of group

AWT organizes tours for schools, colleges, friends of museums groups and history societies. We are also renowned for our astronomy tours and our adventure trips to the desert. Many of our clients have been travelling with us for years and include Schools, The Friends of a variety of UK and International Museums, Ancient History Publications, Astronomy Societies, Ancient History Groups, Egyptology Societies, University and Adult Learning Groups, NADFAS and U3A members, and of course private groups of friends and family.

## Specialist groups

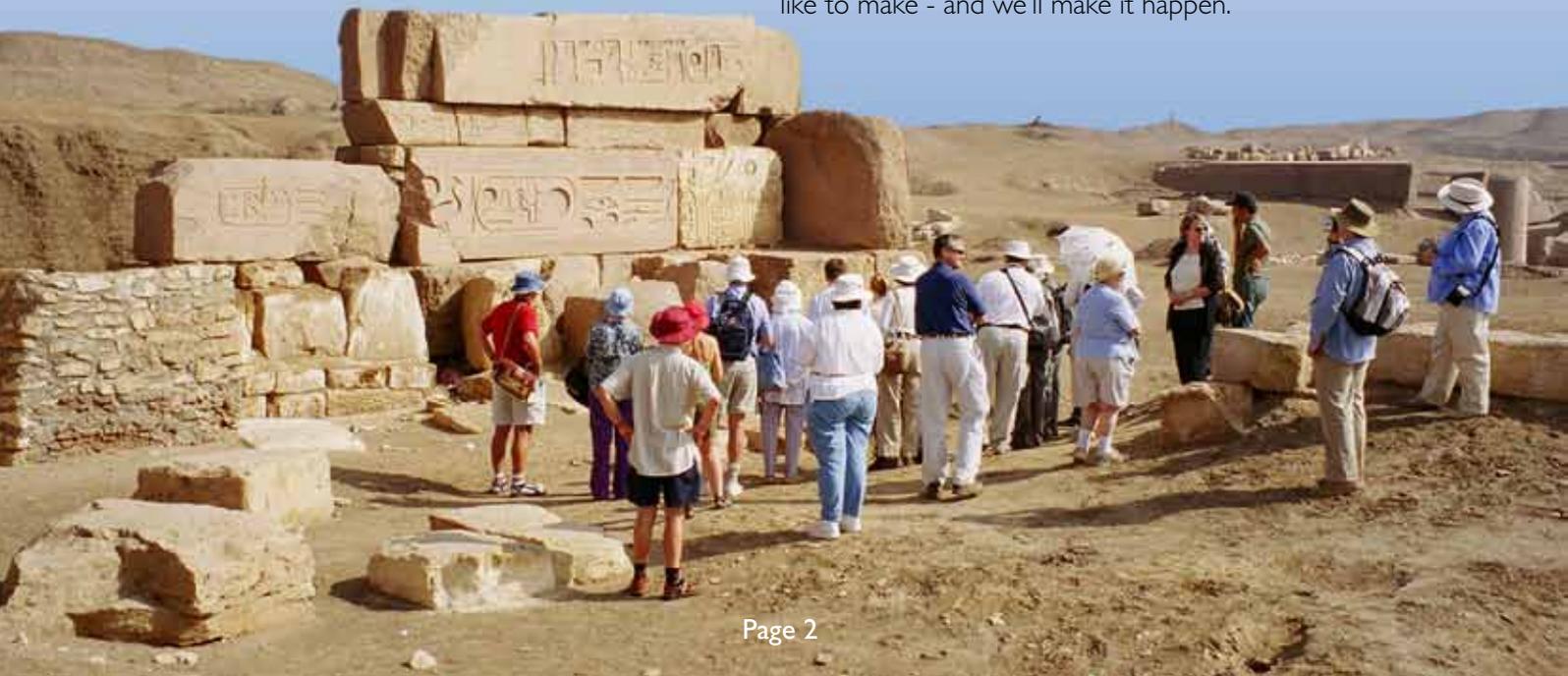
Our group tours vary from logistically complex trips for large organizations to small groups of like-minded friends with a common interest. Each and every one gets the same attention to detail. And there is no limit to what kind of group tour we can organize for you. We've done religious to sports tours and just about everything in between. We're always fascinated to find out what each group's special interest is.

We provide our clients with flexibility, working to different budgets and creating the itinerary that fits the bill. We can also supply tour managers and experts if required. Take a following look at what we can do for the many different types of group we organize.

## School and university groups

AWT is aware of the place educational travel can play in student life. We offer Ancient History and Archaeology school tours as well Cultural and Art tours to Europe. We can work with your school curriculum and create a tour that combines educational content with the safe experience of a modern-day culture. We'll also ensure the right mix of formal discussion and learning from the teaching staff, to informal guiding from our resident experts. AWT is also keen to promote cross - cultural awareness and visits to local schools can be made by arrangement as part of your itinerary.

## Exploring Tanis - Egypt's Nile Delta



## The 2006 Eclipse - Egypt



## Astronomy World Tours

AWT are leading experts in travel for solar eclipses and we arranged



fantastic eclipse tours in 2010 to Russia and China. In 2006, our special Eclipse programmes made us one of the largest operators in Egypt, Libya and Turkey during the eclipse period. These tours were all a huge success. We were able to offer astronomers tours that were utterly unique - wonderful dark skies and easy access to remote locations unspoilt by light pollution, partnered by some of the greatest archaeology in the world.

AWT also has access to some of the UK's most well-known astronomers, and working with them, creates many different types of tour in spectacular destinations. We'd love to hear from your astronomy group or society about the trip you'd like to make - and we'll make it happen.

### Inspirational history and museum society tours

The regular societies who travel with us appreciate what our group tours do for them. We work to provide their members with a one-off exciting experience, re-invigorating the society's enthusiasm for their subject and often their membership too. We create special itineraries rich in content and a sense of a shared journey that is always great fun. Whether it is a trip to the world's great collections such as Turin, Berlin, Leiden, New York or Paris or a more daring adventure in the deep desert of Egypt, we'll create something that your society will talk about for years. We are also flexible about numbers and we can divide large groups into smaller guided groups to make viewing the sites more comfortable. We're also happy to cater to any age-range.



### Photography tours

If you run a photography group we can take any itinerary and turn it into a great photography trip. We do the research to find you near-perfect scenery and sites to photograph. We ensure our trips are entertaining, relaxing as well as a wonderful way to learn. You will have an expert guide at all times so you can fully concentrate on your group.

### Fund-raising

Whether it's a fund-raiser for your own society or a way of supporting another organization, AWT group tours can be a great way to raise funds. We typically agree a 'capitation' fee paid for each passenger booked on a trip. Clients have been able to raise thousands of pounds every year this way and have a wonderful time in the process. Not only can we supply the fundraising itinerary for you, or work with you to create your own special one, but we always supply a local guide, from our very select band of experts. We can also supply a UK Tour Manager and even your own archaeologist to accompany the tour if required.

### Adventure travel

An AWT adventure tour can show you parts of the world still inaccessible to other companies. Our deep desert expeditions to both Gilf Kebir, made famous by the film 'The English Patient' and the Great Sand Sea of Egypt are unique in the UK market. On these desert trips, four-wheel-drive vehicles transport you through desolate and unspoilt landscapes, whilst comfortable desert camps, wonderful al fresco meals and fascinating conversation show you the AWT touch. We also know that nothing will prepare you for the magic of the desert sky, which is why we want to take you there. And if you prefer hotel accommodation, we also have a selection of grand oasis-hopping tours in Egypt's Western Desert. Visit Siwa, Kharga, Dakhla and Bahariya all stunning locations. And we hunt out the unknown and undiscovered in other places too. From Persia's forgotten temples and abandoned medieval towns to the mountains of Peru, our adventure tours are full of surprise and magic.



### Friends and family

It might be a silver wedding anniversary, a special birthday or even a family reunion; AWT is ready to make your event a special one. Groups of friends travel with us all the time and we can cater for almost every taste. We can provide a tour with the best a country has to offer, followed by a relaxing beach holiday extension. We have organized Nile Cruises, wildlife safaris, family diving holidays and, of course, our forte, explorations of the great ancient sites of the world. We'll pull a special party together for a family member in an unforgettable location. We also know how to keep a secret - so if you want to give someone the surprise of a lifetime, just talk to us. ?



**Where does AWT go?**

Well, in short, anywhere! Call us and tell us where you want to go however to take advantage of our special rates, ideally, you might like to consider the following destinations: Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, Malta, Peru, Sudan, Morocco, Iran, European cities, or any of the Worlds greatest Museum Collections.

**Working with the best**

We are now ABTA and ATOL bonded through a partnership with Voyages Jules Verne, one of the UK's largest high quality tour operators and this provides many benefits to our clients. You will have complete peace of mind about the quality of your tour, the assurance of the bonding and the experience of one of the world's most frequently awarded travel companies. No one, however, especially in Egypt, has the expertise and contacts of AWT itself, as our wonderful itineraries and excellent feedback from passengers demonstrate repeatedly.

**What can we expect to see?**

Our aim is to show you the most well-known sites of each country but then give you that little extra. We add to the core of a country's best sites off-the-beaten-track places that other tour companies just don't do. You'll see places that not even other archeologists have necessarily seen. Sites like the Hibis temple at Kharga Oasis; or the magical walk, above the Valley of the Kings, over the mountain of Meretsegar - whose name means 'She Who Loves Silence'. Takht e-Suleiman 'The Throne of Solomon' high up in the Zagros Mountains has captivated our clients as has Beidha in Jordan, one of the oldest settlements on earth with a truly amazing atmosphere. And nothing beats the magnificent sunset over the White Desert on the edge of the Sahara. We know how amazing some hidden sites are and we know how to get to them. Let us provide you with unforgettable experiences in exceptional surroundings in the company of like-minded people.



Hibis Temple - Egypt



Prof Kent Weeks leading a group over Meretsegar

**Special access**

AWT is famous for visiting the parts that other travel companies cannot reach! With our excellent relations with many of the world's antiquities organizations, we can obtain private access to wonderful sites that may have been closed to the public for years. There's nothing quite like the atmosphere of a specially opened temple or tomb, explained by a dedicated and knowledgeable local inspector. Start from the position that no site is closed to an AWT group and we'll take it from there and see what we can arrange.

**Transport and hotel standards**

The standard of transport, accommodation and food can vary according to budget - we will do as you ask. In general, AWT operates in 4 and 5 star hotels where we can, as contracts with our travel partners mean we get special rates. In Egypt, for example, we use the Winter Palace Hotel in Luxor - an Edwardian hotel steeped in history.



Beidha Neolithic village

If we go off the beaten track then we use the best hotels available. Sometimes we use basic oasis hotels with basic facilities; sometimes we use desert camps (great fun) and sometimes the hotel will be a five-star deluxe palace! It all depends on what is available in the destination of your choice. There are some things we insist on as an absolute minimum; cleanliness, helpful staff and a good standard of food.

### **How do we get around?**

Our groups always have preferential private travel - dedicated transport from the airport to the hotel and to all the sites throughout the tour. There's no waiting for another group to join; no visiting a dozen other hotels on the way to and from the airport and no worries about the security of your personal possessions on board. We also always try to provide onboard facilities to take the worry out of long journeys. We use comfortable four-wheeled-drive vehicles - the indestructible Toyota Land Cruiser - for those really out-of-the-way places that some of our groups just can't resist (neither can we!).

### **What will it cost?**

Almost certainly less than you'd think. Group travel with AWT can cost as little as £350 per person for a weekend museum trip and is rarely more than £1,950 per person for a week's full blown ancient world extravaganza. Of course, it does depend how many days you want to be away, what kind of holiday you'd like, the number of free places required and how many sites you'd like to visit. We are however very competitive and given what we generally include in our holidays, we are very good value for money. Our unusual itineraries are unmatched by any other company. Our portfolio of happy clients, many of whom have travelled with us ten times or more tells us that we are getting something right. Your holiday price will always include air fares, private transportation, all site entrance tickets, the services of a local guide, tour manager and archaeologist (if required) and hotel accommodation based on a share in a twin room on a bed and breakfast basis. We can arrange optional excursions for those who don't find the itinerary demanding enough at a small additional cost and locally arranged specials are always possible. If you prefer to take your own International flights we can meet you on arrival at your chosen destination and transfer you to your hotel.

### **How do I request a price?**

All you need to do is contact us with some general information about your requirements and we'll do the rest. We can visit you or your organization to discuss options and ensure that you're getting exactly what you



The Winter Palace - Luxor



Adventure awaits

need. In general, you should think about some of the following things as these are the questions we're likely to ask. If you don't know the answer to any of these - don't worry, we'll work through them together:

How many people do you think will be travelling with you as a minimum? What itinerary would you like to follow - or would you like us to create one for you? How many days are you aiming for, what grade of hotel would you like and what, of course, would you like to see? The answers to these questions will get us working on a sample quote and itinerary for you to look at. Most of our quotes will include a free place for the organizer. Don't forget the potential for fund-raising too.

### **Can I recce the tour in advance?**

Certainly! You might use one of the free places of your trip to do the itinerary in advance of the tour itself if you wanted to check the hotels and sites etc. You pay in advance for the recce which is then deducted from the overall price of the holiday on departure.

### **Meal plans**

All our quotes include breakfast as standard. Lunch and dinner can be included in the quote according to your wishes. There are some remote destinations where we recommend full board as a matter of course.



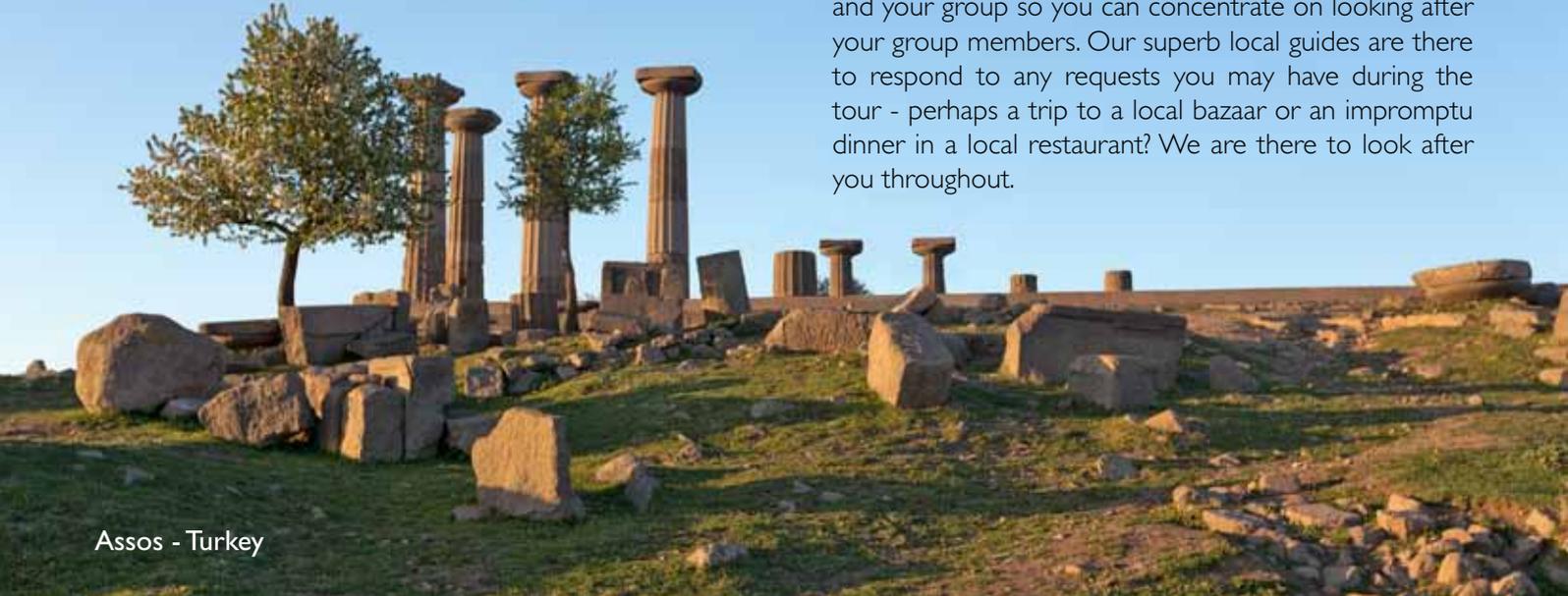
The White Desert - Egypt

## What about marketing our tour?

We can help you with this if required, preparing both A4 marketing sheets for your tours and itinerary booklets for your passengers. We can also, if appropriate make a contribution to your printing and postage costs. Your tour can even be put up on our website to attract additional members to your society or group as part of the programme. We can even use your own branding if you wish to create a professional image for the trip. We are guided by your wishes in all things and we work tirelessly to create the right image for your expedition.

## Operations

Once an itinerary has been agreed and the marketing material created, AWT takes care of everything. We handle all the bookings for you, invoicing and itinerary booklets. Once on the tour, your Tour Manager or Guide will take care of everything, liaising with the local ground agents, checking you into the hotels, making sure the transport is there to take you to the sites and the entrance tickets are purchased. We deal with any operational matters during each day's activities. Our job is to look after you and your group so you can concentrate on looking after your group members. Our superb local guides are there to respond to any requests you may have during the tour - perhaps a trip to a local bazaar or an impromptu dinner in a local restaurant? We are there to look after you throughout.



Assos - Turkey

## What our clients think of us?

Receiving feedback from our passengers provides us with valuable information that lets us know how we're performing. Here are some extracts from some of the passenger letters we have received from previous trips. We know that word of mouth is the strongest recommendation we can receive and we're always happy to provide specific references from passengers and group tour organizers on request.

*'Thank you so much for doing such a superb job of making sure that our holiday to Egypt was so enjoyable. My wife and I had an absolutely wonderful time, and I'm sure it wouldn't have been anything like the same without all the hard work that you put in.'* AJ

*'I thoroughly enjoyed the eclipse tour to Cappadocia. It was a pleasure travelling with this wonderful group of people to this interesting area. The guides and experts did an excellent job & I am so glad that the group had good views of the eclipse...'* DR

*'Very many thanks for a brilliant Eclipse trip to Egypt, the eclipse itself was superb of course, but the whole trip was great fun with a very good group of people. All of the 'officials', Dylan, Lisette and Medhat did a superb job.'* GP

*'We have now returned from our holiday and can only say what an amazing experience the whole tour was. The memories will live with me for ever and the way that everything slotted into place was a credit to AWT.'* LG

*'Well done indeed - the future is in the stars. I wanted to tell you how brilliant Libya turned out. Faultless and fun Tour Managing and our expert was tops - a real feather in the cap for AWT.'* RP

*'This is a great big thank-you to yourself and everybody who made this positively the best holiday we have ever had! Everything went smoothly from start to finish.'* EH

*'I was thrilled to go on the tour to Luxor... We had a fascinating time, enjoying so many exciting experiences and with the delightful and excellent specialist guide. We had plenty of time to explore... the AWT choice of hotel was excellent... Lake Nasser was delightful and relaxing and we thoroughly enjoyed it. The crew and service of the Nubian Sea were first class, the climax of the tour, the slow approach to Abu Simbel, was literally breathtaking. I am extremely exuberant about the whole holiday - it really did merit praise.'* LA.

*'Full marks for attention to every detail. I loved the choice of sites to visit. I felt the pace and balance between organized and free time was as near perfect as possible.'* HMcl

*'The whole tour was faultless and, I must say, the food and service was exceptional. I thoroughly enjoyed the excursions off the beaten track. In addition I found the lectures fascinating and beautifully illustrated. I am eager to get out there again!'* JH.

*'What a splendid holiday! Both unusual and highly enjoyable. I am most grateful to AWT for organising it so well. What made the whole thing even more enjoyable was the company. I hope to meet up again on another AWT trip.'* MP.

# Sample Group Tour Itineraries

## An Egyptology group to Sinai

A 9-day tour rich in archeological sites, our Egyptology group flew to Cairo to visit the Giza plateau's Sphinx, Valley Temple of Khafre and Great Pyramids. Next four-wheel-drive vehicles transported them south into the Memphite Necropolis where they explored the step-pyramid complex of Sakkara, the Red pyramid of Dashur, the Black Pyramid of Amenemhat and the Bent Pyramid and its valley temple. Leaving Cairo for the Eastern Delta, they explored the excavations of Qantir and Tell ed-Daba, and the royal tombs and Temple of Amun at Tanis. After overnighing by the Suez Canal, they visited Tell el-Ratabah (biblical Pithom) and Tell el-Maskhuta (biblical Succoth) before crossing the Suez Canal by underground tunnel. Heading off into the Sinai wilderness, the group camped for 2 nights and explored the Temple of Hathor at Serabit el-Khadim, experienced sunrise on the Mountain of God and a visit to St. Catherine's Monastery. A wonderful day and night relaxing by the pool at Sharm el-Sheik finished off this memorable tour.

## A Textile Tour

This 7-day tour for a professional association provided fascinating insight into the bustling and magical city of Cairo. Concentrating on arts and crafts - particularly textiles, it also added in some archeological and historical sites, starting with the Great Treasury at the Cairo Museum. Next the rambling bazaar of Khan el-Khalili and its fascinating workshops showed our group the art of Egyptian tent and towel making. A morning was then spent at the Giza Plateau, followed by a visit to a traditional carpet factory and the famous textile village of Kerdassa. A free day was given to browse Cairo's fabulous array of textile shops, with a lunch organized at Heliopolis. Next a day spent in Old Cairo and its Coptic quarter, with visits to the Coptic museum, a beautiful historic house with a private collection of furnishings and a trip to a cotton museum. The group's last day featured a relaxing morning by the pool, a convivial lunch at the Naguib-Mahfouz restaurant and a final trip to the historic house Beit Haraway and the outstanding craft centre at Bataneya. Our group left Cairo thoroughly satisfied and their suitcases full!

## A Large Conference Tour in Cairo

We were able to put together an exciting programme for this large private group, a regular client, combining in-depth site visits in the morning to compliment our Cairo Egyptology conference taking place in the afternoons. The 8-day tour began with an introduction to the treasures of the Cairo Museum and a trip to Sakkara and its famous step-pyramid. We then dedicated a whole morning



Moses Mountain - Sinai



Local colour

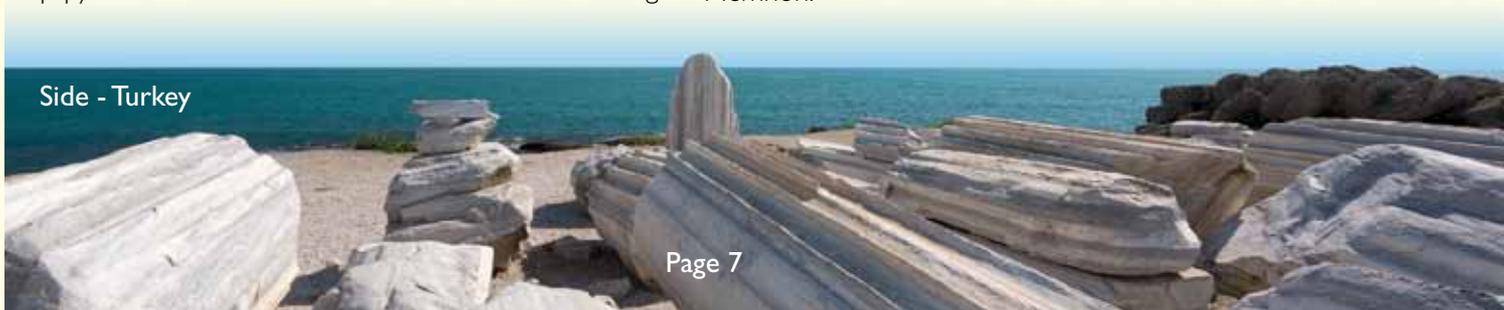
to Giza, including a special private visit to the first Dynasty Necropolis and Workmen's Village. A full day in the Nile Delta gave the group an opportunity to explore the fascinating and ancient cities of Avaris and Pi-Ramess, and then they headed South West for an exploration of the pyramids and mastabas at Dashur, Meidum and the very rarely visited Lisht. Following a morning at leisure in Cairo, the group enjoyed the conference's final day forum, not to mention the gala dinner.



The Giza Plateau - Egypt

## History Society Tour

Their tour offered a comprehensive survey of Egypt's sites - some off the beaten track, covering considerable distances comfortably. The 10-day tour flew to Cairo to visit the Cairo Museum, Dashur and Sakkara as well as enjoy the Sound and Light Show at Giza. Alexandria followed with visits to the so-called Pompey pillar, the catacombs of Kom el Shugafa and the Museum. Next they drove to their base in Middle Egypt, el-Minya, where they explored archaeology sites at Karanis, Sheikh Ibada (Antinoopolis), Ashmunein and Tuna el Gebel. A train journey then took them south to Aswan on the Nile, where they sailed to the island of Philae and the Temple of Isis, as well as visiting the excellent Nubia Museum. A final coach journey to Luxor and the West Bank finished off their trip, with comprehensive explorations of the Temple of Horus at Edfu and in Luxor, the Valley of the Kings, the Mortuary Temple of Ramesses III at Medinet Habu and the Colossi of Memnon.



Side - Turkey

# Sample Group Tour Itineraries

## Astronomy – 2008 Eclipse In China

Our astronomy tours provided perfect dark skies for observing the heavens as well as unforgettable viewing locations. The itinerary below shows you how we mix star-gazing and heritage.

A 12-day tour flew to Beijing to visit the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, and then flew on to Urumqi and transferred at Turpan to explore the old oasis city. From there visits to ancient ruins, Buddhist caves and irrigation systems on the edge of the mighty Taklimakan desert. The tour then continued to the pleasant town of Hami, the base for the eclipse. On the eclipse day, groups drove to the Yiwu area and the chosen eclipse site. From Hami the journey skirted the Gobi Desert and transferred to Dunhuang for more wonderful sightseeing at the famous grottoes and lakes of the region. From there, the group flew to Xian to visit the legendary terracotta warriors, returning back to the UK the next day.



Mount Etna - Sicily

## Archaeology in Sicilia

Arriving in Palermo, the tour visited the Royal Palace, archaeology museum and the Capuchin Convent catacombs, and the Norman cathedral at Monreale. Heading next for magnificent remains at Selinunte, they stopped en route at the isolated hilltop temple of Segesta, the maritime ruins at Erice and visited the ruins on the island of Motya. At Selinunte, they explored this major classical site of the world, including the incredibly well-preserved Temple of Concord. Next they explored the Roman Villa at Piazza Armenira, the Hellenistic remains at Morgantina and travelled onto the ancient city of Syracuse, where the tour explored the Greek theatre, temples and visited its archaeology museum and cathedral. A fascinating drive through heart-breaking scenery took them to the gorge of Pantalica and its prehistoric cliff-hewn tombs. Descending from the mountains to the coastal plane, the group ended their jam-packed 9-day tour at Taormina, where they spent a day relaxing or taking up the option to visit Mount Etna before returning home.

The total eclipse approaches



Edfu Temple - Egypt



## AS Level Group to Egypt

Having chosen Egypt for a general educational tour, we provided spectacular monuments and contemporary culture for this group of older students. Flying into Luxor, they explored the West Bank's Theban Necropolis, Valley of the Kings, Temple of Hatshepsut and the Colossi of Memnon. Next they took a Nile cruise to Edfu to see the Temple of Horus and Kom Ombo, overnighing in Aswan. The High Dam, the unfinished obelisk and lovely temple of Philae as well sailing by Felucca to see the botanical garden and Agha Khan Mausoleum came next. They then flew to Cairo for the Giza Plateau complex, the Sphinx and ride on the camels, with an afternoon trip to Sakkara and its step-pyramid. They finished their 8-day trip with a visit to the Egyptian Museum, the citadel of Saladin and the Mohamed Ali Mosque. We organized a final evening at a famous jazz club to give these students a taste of Cairo's vibrant modern-day nightlife before leaving for the UK.

## School Itinerary in France

This 8-day school tour combined general WW2 history and for some older students, History of Art. Sailing to Caen, the group explored the Normandy D-day beaches and the famous Pointe du Hoc, where US rangers scaled 100 metre-high cliffs. The group also visited the US and UK war cemeteries and made museum trips to Arranches, where remains of the allies' artificial harbour are still visible, and the moving Peace Exhibition at Caen. Next we made our way south to the charming town of Tours, our base in the Loire Valley to visit the Renaissance chateau at Chambord, Chenonceau and Amboise. In the evenings we organized specially supervised activities including an alcohol-free disco. Finally we made our way to Paris via a visit to Fontainebleau, completing our Renaissance Architecture studies. In Paris we enjoyed a night-time trip to the Eiffel Tower and a morning at the Louvre museum viewing 17th century art, before taking the late afternoon Eurostar train back to London.

Terracotta Army - Xian China



# Contact AWT

Use our website as inspiration and a starting point from which we can work to create the ideal tour for you and your group. You can also download the entire AWT brochure and forward it to other members of your group for their comments and ideas. Extra paper copies are available of both our brochure and this document - just drop us a line at the address below or email: [groups@ancient.co.uk](mailto:groups@ancient.co.uk) and we'll mail them out to you or your colleagues straightaway.

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## Group Request Form

Tell us what you have in mind. The form below will be helpful as they are all questions we'll be asking when you get in touch. If you don't know exactly what you need then please contact us and we'll help define your requirements.

Name of Group / Organisation:	
Contact Person:	Email:
Telephone:	Mobile:

<b>Nature of Trip:</b> (Special Interest / Fund raising etc)			
Destination Country:	Proposed Date:		
Preferred Number of Nights:	Proposed Group Size:		
<b>Hotel Grade:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Star	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Star	<input type="checkbox"/> Deluxe
<b>Meal Plan</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Room and Breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> Half Board	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Board
Do you require the following services?:	<input type="checkbox"/> Expert	<input type="checkbox"/> Tour Manager	

Where would you like to go? Anything special you'd like to see? Please let us have as much information as possible:

