



EUROPA
NOSTRA

Heritage Tours 2019





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Walter Hagg
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Heritage Tours 2019:

Milan & Lake Como
17-22 May 2019

Jutland & Funen
8-14 September 2019

Exploring Extramadura
14-20 October 2018

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Villa Dosso Pisani, Como



Dear Members,

Not many of you may know this, but the Europa Nostra Heritage Tours have a long and respectable history of very special voyages, giving much pleasure to many of our members over a period of nearly 60 years. Once again, we are delighted to be able to offer you three original and exciting tours for next year.

In May, we shall give you the opportunity to pay private visits to a number of unique locations in Milan and Lake Como, thanks to the connections of Europa Nostra. Fittingly, attending an opera performance at La Scala will be part of the rich programme of the tour, as will be a number of select visits to impressive palazzi, country villas and other exceptional places.

In September some of the lesser known parts of Denmark will be visited when touring the attractive countryside of Jutland and Funen. We shall explore a superb variety of alluring private castles, mansions and further sights. Numerous families have agreed to open their houses and gardens exclusively to us. This tour will offer a singular opportunity to take in the many charms of that special Danish environment.

The final tour will take place in October and will show us another less travelled part of Europe, namely the Extremadura of Spain. This region is steeped in rich history, including that of many 'Conquistadores', and offers a stunning mix of fascinating towns and remarkable private properties. This non-routine tour will

give you a rare chance to get an impression of a most intriguing part of Spain, often overlooked.

However, sadly, the 2019 tours will be the last. For a variety of reasons, including dwindling support, leading to decreasing financial results and even some cancellation of tours, the decision had to be taken, with much regret, that the Europa Nostra Heritage Tours will cease as from 2020.

We do hope that you will enjoy these last opportunities to see some parts of Europe with the added attraction of that special Europa Nostra touch, and we look forward to welcoming many of you on these tours.

On behalf of the Europa Nostra Heritage Tours Committee I wish you some very good travels with us in 2019 and thank you wholeheartedly for your much appreciated patronage over so many years. Notwithstanding the discontinuation of the tours, we trust you will remain a Europa Nostra Member for a long time to come, thus prolonging your support of the vital work of our organisation.

Tom Henkemans
Chairman of the Heritage Tours Committee



Villa Erba, Lake Como

Milan & Lake Como

17–22 May 2019

Visitors are often surprised by the stately elegance of the historic centre of Milan and by its artistic importance. Italy's capital of fashion and industry has much to offer and members will have privileged access to private homes in and around the city, as well as the opportunity to attend an opera performance at La Scala. We conclude, by way of contrast, with a relaxing stay on Lake Como. The astonishing natural beauty of the lake, sung by the ancients and the Romantic poets alike, is unsurpassed and unspoilt.

On the first afternoon, we will be shown around the treasured historic archives of Ricordi, the musical publishing house, in the Palazzo di Brera. Later we hope to be received for drinks at a superb private palace, which has been the home of the founder of the Fondo Ambiente Italiano for many years. This will be followed by dinner at a Milanese mansion dating from the 16th century, conceived as a 'grande casa da nobile'. We will be hosted by the owner, Conte Mario Emanuele Cicogna Mozzoni.

An introductory morning walk will feature the exterior of the flamboyant Duomo, the fascinating Ambrosian Library and Picture Gallery and Bramante's illusionistic perspective at the basilica of San Satiro. After viewing the Museo del Novecento, lunch will be at the restaurant, overlooking the main square. Thereafter there will be some free time to explore Milan's inviting centre on your own. This evening we

hope to have drinks at a private palazzo with old master paintings and a garden dating from the Napoleonic era.

On Sunday morning we will pass the prominent Castello Sforzesco, seat of the ruling family in the 15th century, on our way to admire Leonardo da Vinci's celebrated 'Last Supper' in the Refectory of Santa Maria delle Grazie. Nearby, we will be shown the 'Vigna di Leonardo', the frescoed halls of the restored Casa degli Atellani, bought by Lorenzo the Magnificent in 1490, and the hidden private garden of Casa Ucelli di Nemi, a former convent cloister. Close by is the church of San Maurizio Maggiore, overlooked by most tourists, containing vivid frescoes by Bernardino Luini. A short drive brings us to Villa Manzoni, the evocative former home of the celebrated 19th-century novelist, where we will be guests of Marchesa Berlingieri for lunch. In the evening we have been invited to drinks at a private home before attending a performance of Mozart's 'Idomeneo' at the magnificent opera house, La Scala.

The next day, we shall visit the splendid moated Castello Borromeo at Peschiera, with the owner, Conte Franco Borromeo. On our way north, subject to confirmation, there we will be a private lunch at a country house, full of family treasures, before arriving at our hotel overlooking Lake Como near Cernobbio. We will be received for drinks in the evening by the Reverdini family at Villa Dosso Pisani, dating from the turn of the 19th century, high above the ancient city of Como.

Exploring the lake by private motorboat is the perfect way to appreciate the attractive harbours, elegant villas and lush waterfront gardens. We will tour the enchanting Villa del Balbianello, continuing to the charming town of Bellagio for lunch and some free time. A highlight of our stay will be a buffet dinner at the beautiful Villa Erba, once home of the legendary film director, Luchino Visconti, hosted by his niece, Sig.ra Anna Gastel.

On the last day, we will be received for an early lunch by Conte Jacopo Cicogna Mozzoni at his family home, a charming Renaissance house in the Tuscan style with a frescoed courtyard and lovely terraced gardens.



Villa Balbianello, Lake Como



Casa Ucelli, Milan



Duomo, Milan

Price: €3,995
Single Room Supplement: €360

The tour price includes: Accommodation at first class hotels in Milan (3 nights) and on Lake Como (2 nights) • All meals except one dinner • Transport by private coach and private motorboat • Tickets for a performance at La Scala • Guides • Entrance fees • Taxes.

Europa Nostra Representative: Reina van Ditzhuizen
Tour Organiser: Nicola Howard

The tour starts at 16.00 on Friday 17 May at the Hotel de Ville, Milan and ends at Milan Malpensa Airport by 15.00 on Wednesday 22 May



Tranekaer Castle



Sanderumgaard Garden

Jutland & Funen

8–14 September 2019

Exploring Jutland and the rural island of Funen, we will enjoy hosted visits to some of the finest castles and manor houses in the country, thanks to personal introductions by Erik Vind, Chairman of Europa Nostra Denmark. Many of these remarkable homes have kept their lovely landscaped settings, remain in the hands of the original families and are not generally open to the public. This tour is thus an exceptional opportunity for our members to see a highly attractive part of Denmark.

We shall be welcomed at Estrup Castle by Britta Andersen, the director of the Danish Manor Museum, who will show us round and join us for an early dinner before we continue to our hotel, the family-run Sophiendal Castle at Skanderborg. The following day we shall explore the re-created Old Town of Aarhus and visit moated Rosenholm, Denmark's oldest family-owned castle. Of Renaissance appearance, it has rococo furnishings and a Baroque garden layout. The chief glory of nearby Clausholm, a beautiful late 17th century country house, is the Italianate plasterwork ceiling. Clausholm is open to the public, but we will be given special treatment by the owners Mr and Mrs Kim Berners. On the way back to Sophiendal we will pause to visit the church at Veng, the oldest monastery church in the country.

Next there will be a relaxed day's excursion south to visit Stensballegaard castle, owned by Count Henrik Ahlefeldt, with lunch at the golf club on the estate. This will be followed by a visit to Tirsbaeck Castle, beautifully set on the waterfront at Vejle, Our visit here is courtesy of Hans Henrik Algren Ussing

and his wife, who have carefully restored the old winery.

An early start on Wednesday is envisaged. First we drive south to visit the interesting museum in the ruins of the royal castle, Koldinghus, with the Director. We then continue to Schackenberg Slot, for lunch in the company of H.R.H. Prince Joachim of Denmark, by special arrangement. Afterwards we drive on to our second hotel, on the island of Funen, arriving early evening. Nearby is the beautifully-restored Baroque Hvidkilde Castle, where we will be guests of Europa Nostra member Count Christian Ahlefeldt for drinks.

We will be shown the progress of restoration at Nyborg Castle, before continuing for lunch at the beautifully-situated manor house of Hverringe, owned by Europa Nostra members Niels and Benedicte Reventlow, who are active in restoration projects. Later we will be driving south to the island of Langeland for dinner at Tranekaer Castle, where we will be greeted by Christian and Mette Ahlefeldt Laurvig.

For our final full day's programme, we have several treats. First, we will be shown Hesselagergaard Castle, one of the few Renaissance castles in Denmark, with a fantastic 16th-century ceiling. This is the private home of Henrik Blixen-Fenike. Next we shall admire the unique Romantic Garden of Sanderumgaard, with Erik and Susanne Vind, who will give us lunch at their home. The early Baroque castle of Glorup, interesting for its Napoleonic connections, is our next stop, before returning to the hotel to change. We drive north to Kerteminde for our farewell dinner at the elegant manor of Lundsgaard, where we will be hosted by Rudolf and Vini Luel.

On the way to Copenhagen Airport, we will visit Ledreborg, one of the finest Baroque houses in Denmark, with lovely interiors and collections, with Countess Silvia Munro.



Stensballegaard



Estrup castle



Schackenberg

Price: €3,990
Single Room Supplement: €350

The The tour price includes: • Accommodation at a superior hotel in Skanderborg (3 nights) and a first-class hotel in Svendborg (3 nights) • All meals • Ground transport by private coach • Guides • Entrance fees • Taxes.

Europa Nostra Representative: Walter Hagg
Tour Organiser: Antonia Lloyd Owen

The tour starts at 15.00 on Sunday 8 September at Billund Airport and ends at Copenhagen Airport by 13.30 on Saturday 14 September.



Monastery of Guadalupe



Liria Palace, Madrid

Exploring Extremadura

14–20 October 2019

With Sofia Barroso, we discover the remote and Spanish region of Extremadura, land of the Conquistadores, with its Roman remains, castles and distinctive walled towns. We will experience both imaginative architectural restoration and generous hospitality in private homes. This tour begins and ends in the capital, with some choice visits of special interest to the members of Europa Nostra.

The first afternoon we will be shown Matadero Madrid, the inspirational transformation of the old slaughterhouse into a vibrant centre for the arts. Later, a private visit to the neo-classical Liria Palace, residence of the Duke of Alba, has been arranged. The Curator, Alvaro Romero, will show us the fine collections of Old Master paintings and decorative arts. Next we shall enjoy a 'cocktail dinatoire' at the Palace of the Marquis of Santa Cruz, who will host the evening.

We leave for Extremadura in the morning, with a coffee break at the Parador of Oropesa, a medieval castle overlooking the plain of Talavera. There will also be a stop in the village of Puente del Arzobispo, to visit the workshop of local ceramicist, Jorge de la Cal. Lunch will be at the country estate of the Cavestany family, where we will be shown the remains of an old Arab medina, known as Ciudad de Vascos.

The walled city of Cáceres, with its churches and noble mansions, has been awarded UNESCO World Heritage status. The wonderful Parador of Cáceres, an atmospheric Renaissance palace in the heart of the old quarter, is our home for four nights. A morning walk will include the Co-Cathedral, the Palace of Golfines de Abajo and the Casa de las Veletas, now the provincial museum. Lunch will be at a noble private palace. At Malpartida de Cáceres we will see the restoration of a 19th-century wool laundry as the Museu Vostell, in the unique protected granite landscape of Los Barruecos.

Next there will be an excursion to the village of Guadalupe, inhabited since prehistoric times, with coffee at the medieval parador. Adjacent is the famous Royal Monastery, for centuries a place of pilgrimage. After lunch at a private home, we continue to Trujillo, 'Cradle of the Conquistadores'. Here, the Plaza Major and narrow medieval streets are lined with palaces built by explorers returning from the New World, as we shall see on a walking tour with expert Mervyn Samuel. At the Xavier de Salas Foundation in the restored Convento de la Coria, we will be welcomed by the President, Jaime de Salas.

On Friday we explore the Roman city of Mérida, including the fine mosaics in the House of Mithras and the Museum of Roman art designed by Rafael Moneo. We continue to historic Estremoz, for lunch at the beautiful Quinta do Carmo, home of Julio and Viviña Bastos. In the evening we will have tapas at Campomanes, the country estate of the Gasset family.

En route for Madrid lies the Monastery of Juste, where the emperor Charles V spent his last years. We shall be dining at the historic home of a Spanish grandee. On the last morning we plan to visit the impressive collections of the Monastery of Las Descalzas Reales, including the tapestries woven from cartoons by Rubens. We will also be shown the fine private art collection of the Granados family in the Habsburg quarter of Madrid.



Royal Monastery of Santa Maria de Guadalupe



Cáceres



San Bernadino

Price: €3,980
Single Room Supplement: €450

The tour price includes: Accommodation at a first-class hotel in Madrid (1 night) and a superior hotel in Cáceres (4 nights) and at a first class hotel in Madrid (1 further night) • All meals except two dinners • Ground transport by private coach • Guides • Entrance fees • Taxes.

Europa Nostra Representative: Robert Engels
Tour Organiser: Sofia Barroso

The tour starts on Monday 14 October at the Hotel Pavilions, Madrid at 16.00 and ends at Madrid Airport by 15.30 on Sunday 20 October.

Europa Nostra



Civil society in action for Europe's heritage

Since 1963, we have celebrated, protected and lobbied for Europe's heritage. Europa Nostra is the most representative heritage organisation in Europe with members from over 40 countries. Our pan-European federation of heritage NGOs is supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals.

In partnership with the European Commission, our organisation runs Europe's top heritage Awards scheme. The **EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards** celebrates best practices in conservation, research, dedicated service, and education, training and awareness-raising. Since its launch in 2002, 485 outstanding heritage accomplishments from 34 countries have been recognised.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's most threatened monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the **7 Most Endangered programme**, in collaboration with the European Investment Bank Institute. Since its launch in 2013, 29 threatened heritage landmarks from 19 countries have been listed.

Our organisation contributes to the development of **European strategies and policies related to heritage** through a structured dialogue with the European institutions.

Europa Nostra is an official partner of the **European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018**. Our organisation co-hosted the first ever **European Cultural Heritage Summit** in **Berlin** from 18-24 June. The Summit, with the motto "Sharing Heritage - Sharing Values", comprised 67 events and assembled some 1,500 participants from all over Europe. It culminated with the presentation of the "**Berlin Call to Action: Cultural Heritage for the Future of Europe**", which has already been endorsed by over 1,100 organisations and individuals. Everybody is invited to **sign the Berlin Call on the Europa Nostra website**. On the occasion of the Year, Europa Nostra and its President, Maestro **Plácido Domingo**, launched the **#Ode2Joy Challenge**, for which anybody can record and **share his or her creation on the social media by 9 May 2019**. In addition to these important initiatives, Europa Nostra has organised numerous events and activities and is contributing to sustaining the legacy of the European Year beyond 2018.

Find out more and join us:

www.europanostra.org

Making a booking

Making a booking

As places on each of the three tours are limited, especially single accommodation, we recommend that initially you telephone us on **0044 (0)20 7386 4690** or email us on **info@specialtours.co.uk** to make a reservation.

Thereafter, please complete the booking form and forward it to The Ultimate Travel Company Limited. At this stage a non-refundable deposit of €350 per person is required, payable by bank transfer or debit / credit card as indicated on the booking form. We have the facility to accept payment by most major credit and debit cards and are now able to take these payments in Euros at no additional charge. If you are booking less than eight weeks prior to departure the full cost of the tour is payable.

On receipt of your booking form and deposit we will confirm your booking in writing, then no less than 10 weeks before departure we shall send you further information relevant to the tour you have booked, together with a final invoice which will also show any surcharges due (if applicable). You must pay the invoice within 14 days of the invoice date otherwise we reserve the right to treat the booking as cancelled and apply the cancellation conditions as set out below.

Your travel documents will be dispatched approximately 10 days before the date on which the tour actually begins.

Fitness to travel

Whilst we do not impose any age limitations on joining a tour, participants must be reasonably fit. The very nature of the sightseeing involved in our tours (and the difficulties of direct access by coach in various places) means that a considerable amount of walking and standing is unavoidable on almost all tours. We regret that our tours are not suitable for people who have difficulty in walking, may require wheelchair assistance at any time, or are unable to keep pace with the group.

If you are in any doubt as to the suitability of a tour, please make this known to us before you book and we will advise you accordingly. The Ultimate Travel Company reserves the right to decline a reservation without necessarily giving a reason.

Passport, Visas & Health

All clients are personally responsible for ensuring that they have a valid passport / identity card, any required visa, and conform to the health regulations required by the relevant country.

Booking Conditions

The tours featured in this brochure are operated by Specialtours at The Ultimate Travel Company Limited, which is registered in England under company number 3528325.

Suppliers

The Ultimate Travel Company Limited acts only as agent for the owners of accommodation and services provided, for all carriers by air or otherwise and for road transport proprietors, and all bookings must be accepted subject to the ticket or transport conditions and regulations of the carriers or transport proprietors, and also subject to the laws of the country in which such carriage or other facility is required.

Cancellation

You or any member of your party may cancel your tour at any time providing that the cancellation is made by the person who signed the booking form and is communicated in writing. Cancellation charges, based upon the length of time prior to departure when said cancellation is received, will apply. The sum due, shown below, is stated as a percentage of the total tour cost.

More than 70 days	Deposit
69 to 30 days	50%
29 to 15 days	75%
14 days or less	100%

If you are obliged to cancel you may, with reasonable notice, transfer your booking to a third party who satisfies any conditions necessary to take that tour; in which case we reserve the right to levy an administration charge.

Alterations by The Ultimate Travel Company

We will do our utmost to provide the tour arrangements that have been confirmed, but we must retain the right to modify or cancel any tour, flight schedule, accommodation or arrangement should unforeseen circumstances amounting to 'force majeure' arise. In such circumstance we will inform you as soon as possible, and, should the change be such that it alters the nature of the tour, we will give you the choice of an alternative tour or a full refund of all monies paid. In recognition we will absorb all financial loss, except personal expenditure, consequent upon cancellation due to 'force majeure'. We shall not cancel any tour for reason of political tension or natural disaster unless specifically recommended to do so by the relevant government office.

Tour Cancellation

The price of a tour is based on a varying minimum number of passengers travelling. If the minimum number is not reached, at least 8 weeks prior to the scheduled departure date we will either cancel the tour and offer a full refund, or we may propose a supplementary charge which, subject to passengers agreement, will enable the tour to operate.

Our Liabilities

We do not exclude or limit any liability to our clients which may arise from proven negligence by any person employed directly by us or by our suppliers and subcontractors, servants or agents of the same whilst acting in the course or their employment (other than air and sea carriers performing any domestic internal or international carriage of whatsoever kind) in respect of death, bodily injury or illness. Such liabilities shall be subject to English law and all proceedings shall be within the exclusive domain of the English courts. We shall endeavour to afford general assistance to our clients in the event of illness, injury or death during the period of the tour. We accept responsibility for ensuring that all parts of the tour are supplied as described and that all services shall reach a reasonable standard. These obligations and responsibilities shall be limited to where international conventions in respect of air or sea carriers apply. We do not assume responsibility for loss or expense due to war, riot, strike, terrorist activity or natural disaster.

Travel Insurance

We believe travel insurance is essential and reserve the right to cancel a booking if cover is not obtained. Care should be taken to ensure you have adequate cover particularly for cancellation and emergency repatriation in the event of medical problems.

Complaints & Arbitration

We endeavour to resolve any complaints on the spot, however if the matter cannot be resolved please write our Managing Director, Nick Van Gruisen, within 14 days of the end of the tour. We will endeavour to resolve the problem as promptly as possible. In the unlikely event that the problem is not amicably resolved the case may be referred to arbitration, if the customer so wishes, under a special Scheme arranged by the Association of British Travel Agents and provided by CEDR Solve, Europe's leading commercial and workplace mediation service.

The scheme provides for a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone with restricted liability on the customer in respect of costs.

The Scheme does not apply to claims for an amount greater than €5,000 per person. There is also a limit of €25,000 per booking form. Neither does it apply to claims which are solely in respect of physical injury or illness or their consequences. The Scheme can however deal with compensation claims which include an element of minor injury or illness subject to a limit of €1,500 on the amount the arbitrator can award per person in respect of this element. The application for arbitration and Statement of Claim must be received by ABTA, who will forward them to CEDR Solve, within eighteen months of the date of return from the holiday. Outside this time limit arbitration under the Scheme may still be available if the company agrees, but the ABTA Code does not require such agreement. Full details will be provided on request or can be obtained from the ABTA website (www.abta.com).

Baggage & Personal Effects

These remain your responsibility and risk at all times.

Final Note

The tour organiser, in conjunction with the appropriate medical advice if applicable and in consultation with Europa Nostra, has the right to disqualify any client at any time during the course of the tour, if considered necessary for the medical well being or safety of the individual or in the tour organiser's opinion, the client's actions are materially affecting the enjoyment of the tour for the remainder of the group. Any decision with regard to any reimbursement for any part of the tour not completed will be decided between the Managing Director of The Ultimate Travel Company Limited and the tour organiser.

Data Protection Statement

Please be assured that we have measures in place to protect the personal booking information held by us.

Full details of our data protection policy are available upon request.

For further details and reservations
please contact:

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