MEET THE REAL PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

Explore History

TRAVEL INTO THE PAST

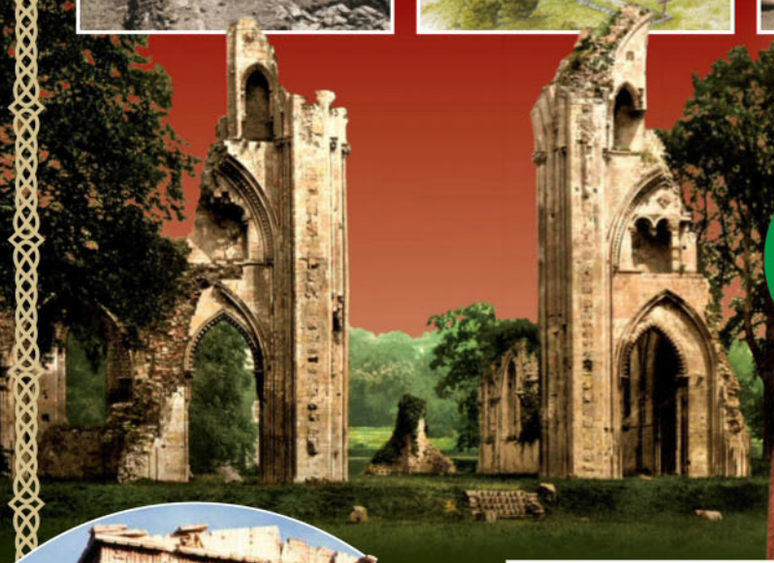
RESCUING THE SS GREAT BRITAIN

The ship's epic journey home, from wreck to restored beauty

UNEARTHING THE MYTH

KING ARTHUR

New discoveries that reveal the life and legends of Glastonbury's earliest monks



5 of England's best stately homes

A weekend in Ancient Athens

How you can find an authentic ancient experience

The Gulag rewriting history

Perm-36 museum's fight to tell the real story of Russia's labour camps

New life for Mumbai's Opera House

Inside the project that took Mumbai's iconic building from faded to glorious

Hull's hidden stories uncovered

From pioneering pilots to anti-slavery campaigns, discover Hull's proud past

PLUS AUGUSTUS PITT RIVERS ✳ CEMETERIES IN PARIS ✳ KATHMANDU'S TEMPLES
TREASURES OF NEW ZEALAND'S NATIONAL MUSEUM ✳ COPENHAGEN'S PALACES ✳ AND MUCH MORE...

Future
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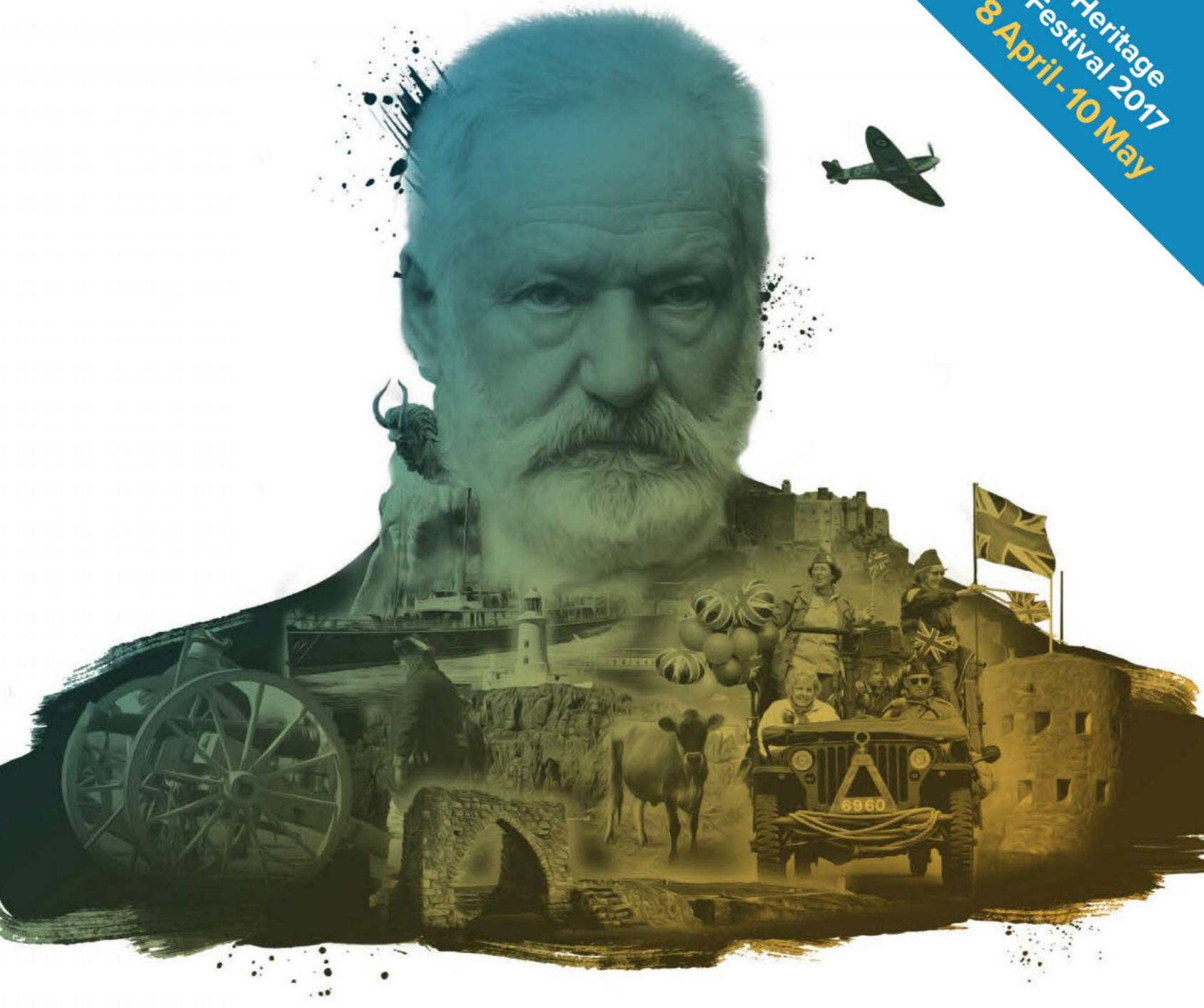
Heritage Festival 2017
8 April - 10 May



What will you discover?

A Heritage Festival of heroes, myths and legends awaits...

The Channel Islands are steeped in history. Discover their heroes. Meet Victor Hugo, a French author exiled in Guernsey for 15 years. Visit his eclectic island home and see where he wrote "Les Miserables". Inspired by the beauty of the island, he famously dedicated his work (Toilers of the Sea) to Guernsey.

WIN!

WIN a historical tour through the Channel Islands this spring. To enter visit:
www.visitchannelislands.com

CHANNEL ISLANDS
• HERITAGE FESTIVAL •

WELCOME to Explore History

When it comes to mythology and legend in British history, it is surely King Arthur who reigns supreme. Whether it's the tale of the Holy Grail, the evocative camaraderie of the Round Table or the question of where he is buried, Arthurian legend is captivating. We consider his role at the site of Britain's earliest known monks on page 20.

We look to Russia's relationship with its own history, in search of the truth about Perm's Gulag museum, Perm-36 on page 28, then go beyond to the historic Opera House of Mumbai to see the results of its restoration on page 42, and dive into the buccaneering stories of the Caribbean's infamous pirates (page 36).

Unfortunately, this will be the last issue of **Explore History**, so the team and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for joining us on this journey into the past. We hope you have enjoyed discovering stories from around the world as much as we have enjoyed telling them.

Alex

Alex Hoskins

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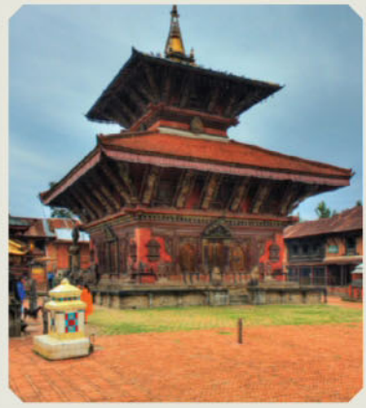
KING ARTHUR

020 Delve into the Arthurian legend surrounding the site where Britain's first monks were recently discovered

Mini Guides

091 Quick, practical guides to the best places you can visit on a theme, whether it's castles, museums or beyond

- Castles in Copenhagen
- Georgian stately homes
- Historic cemeteries in Paris
- Churches in Dumfries and Galloway
- Temples in Kathmandu



EXPLORE THE ISSUE

INFOCUS

Osaka Castle, Japan

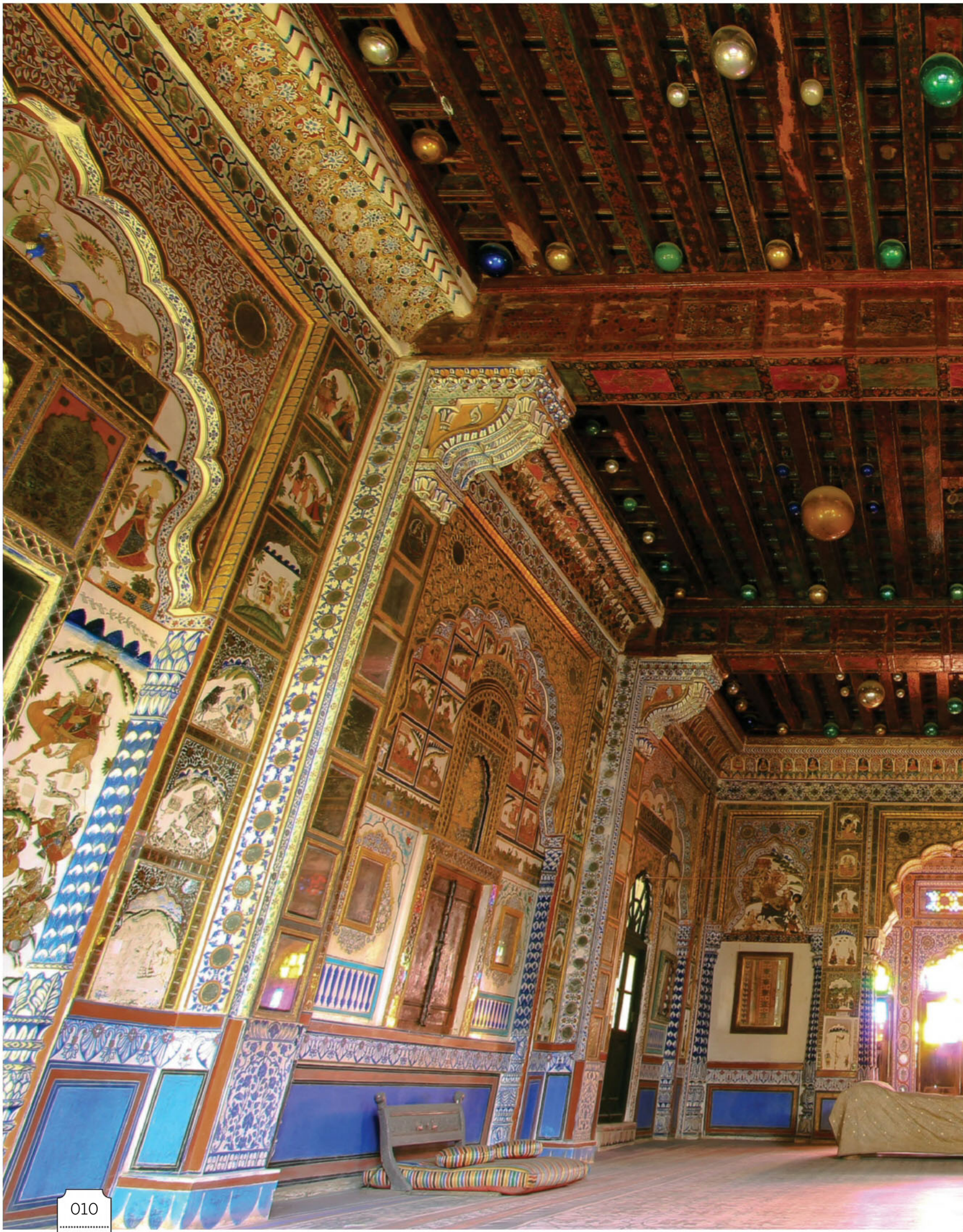
Osaka's enduring symbol was built in the 16th century, on the site of a former temple. It was commissioned by Hideyoshi Toyotomi, and his design was completed in 1597. Upon Toyotomi's death, the castle passed to his son, Hideyori Toyotomi, and in 1600, Tokugawa Ieyasu, a rival shogun, filled the moat of the castle, negating one of its primary defences, though it was later restored.

INFOCUS

Reculver Towers, Kent, England

What remains of the 12th-century monastic church at Reculver, Kent, has long been a coastal landmark.

The site was originally settled by the Romans, though much of their history is uncertain due to coastal erosion. In the 7th century, an Anglo-Saxon monastery took over, making use of the existing battlements. By the 10th century, the monastery was Reculver's parish church, and improvements, including the towers, were added in the 12th century.



INFOCUS

Mehrangarh fort, Jaipur, India

Atop a hill in Rajasthan stands one of the region's largest castles, the majestic Mehrangarh fort. At the time of construction, the hill was known locally as Bhaurcheeria, or the mountain of birds. However, Mehrangarh can be roughly translated as 'sun-fort', placing its purpose firmly in the sky.

Within the fort are several palaces, known as the mirror palace, flower palace and pearl palace, among others.

UNCOVERED:

Lost city discovered in Welsh field of dreams

Archaeologist who spent life savings hopes to put Medieval Trellech on the modern tourist map

An archaeology graduate who spent his life savings buying a Monmouthshire field because he thought that there may be Medieval remains under the surface is hoping that he can turn it into a tourist attraction.

Stuart Wilson bought the land for £32,000 in 2004 and has spent more than a decade excavating the Medieval city. Now he is applying for planning permission for a camp site and interpretation centre to tell visitors about the lost city of Trellech, and is hoping for it to be open by the summer of 2018.

Wilson's interest in the site was originally sparked in 2002 when a local farmer told the Monmouth Archaeological Society about pottery that had been found in molehills on his land. Two years later, when a nearby field came up for sale, the then 25-year-old Wilson took a punt in the hope that it contained more archaeological remains. "People thought I was mad and really I should have bought a house rather than a field," Wilson said. "But it turned out to be the best decision of my life. I don't regret it at all."

Trellech was founded by the noble de Clare family in the 13th century as a place to manufacture weapons, armour and other military equipment. The population grew rapidly, reaching a peak of 10,000 – a quarter of the size of London – within 25 years. However, the city was attacked by both English and Welsh forces and was ravaged by disease. After Owain Glyndŵr razed the city in the early 15th century it fell into ruin; Trellech's short but spectacular life as an urban centre was over.

Most archaeologists believed that the Medieval settlement was built over by the modern village of Trellech, between Tintern and Monmouth, but Wilson thought that the Medieval centre might be pinpointed

The remarkable finds point to Trellech being a major urban settlement

Stuart Wilson, here with historian and presenter Dan Snow, voices no regrets about his purchase

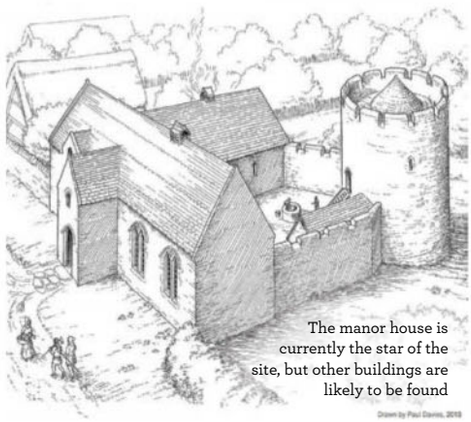
The substantial stone remains were hidden just underneath the field surface

elsewhere. "Much more experienced people were saying the city wasn't there but I was young and confident," Wilson said. "If I was right, the high street was right there in that field. It was a wonderful opportunity."

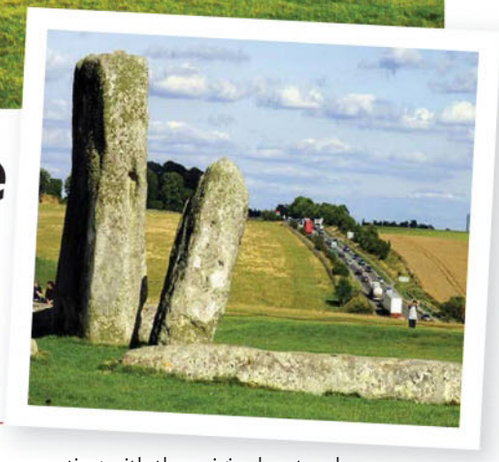
Wilson gave up his job in a toll booth and began excavating with volunteers, funding his dig with donations and running archaeological experience days. He has so far identified eight buildings, including a manor house with two halls and a courtyard enclosed by curtain walls, and a massive round tower, but Wilson thinks that there is still much more to be discovered: "I think we've only found 0.1 per cent of it."

Wilson has now asked for the council to remove a restrictive covenant on his 1.8 hectare plot and is ready to submit his plans to build a new exhibition centre and a 200-place camp site that will host visitors and volunteer excavators. "It would be adding a heritage site and will give a boost to tourism in the area," he said. "It's an opportunity to come along to dig and get experience."

It's an exciting time for the rural village; a tourist destination could make a significant contribution to the local economy. Wilson's gamble to buy the field instead of a house certainly seems to have paid off.



The manor house is currently the star of the site, but other buildings are likely to be found



Controversial Stonehenge tunnel given go-ahead

Tunnel that some campaigners claim will cause huge damage to the Stonehenge landscape is set to be built in 2020

The issue of road noise at Stonehenge has been a contentious one for many years. The A303, a main road across the south west of England, passes by (with many a nose pressed up against the glass, in the thousands of cars that traverse it daily) and the noise can be heard when visiting the historic site.

One suggested solution to this issue that has drawn various critics and supporters on either side, is for a tunnel to re-direct the traffic underground. A logical solution, perhaps – but one that has drawn questions about the impact on future archaeology at the site.

The plans are part of a £2 billion investment drive in the roads of south-west England, intended to ease some of the difficulties caused by overuse of the A303. The road was built for an expected use of 13,000 cars per day, but the current average is more like 24,000.

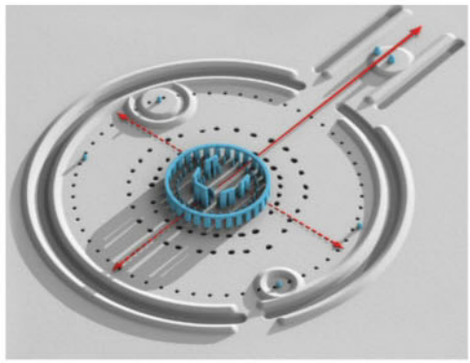
Some issues brought up by the plans include the exit and entry points of the tunnel. Too long a tunnel will mean more expense, while a shorter tunnel risks hitting some important points around the heritage site, which would be catastrophic. At the moment, the plan is for the tunnel to cover 2.9 kilometres, but this is still to be confirmed.

Many groups have expressed their concern about the plans. The Druids, who meet at the site to celebrate the summer and winter solstices, claim that it could ruin the alignment of the stones and Sun which is so key to the historical significance of the site for them.

David Jacques, a senior research fellow at the University of Buckingham, has called the plans "arrogant and outrageous." The potential for archaeological losses for future generations is great, in his opinion: "It cuts down the chances of people in the future finding out more about Stonehenge," he said. There's also the argument that the tunnel is a cynical ploy to encourage people to pay to visit the site, taking away visibility from the road.

However key heritage organisations such as Historic England, the National Trust and English Heritage (who own the site) are keen to stress that the right tunnel will be a gift for Stonehenge and its many annual visitors. Reconnecting with the original, natural landscape of Stonehenge is something most visitors and historians would welcome, and could afford us the opportunity to see the site as its original builders might have.

If the tunnel does go ahead as planned, archaeology will need to be at the forefront of plans, but it may be difficult to guarantee that important artefacts might not be lost or disturbed in the building process.



ABOVE The Stonehenge landscape extends far beyond the stones themselves, and in fact even further than this render of the site, over thousands of acres of surrounding countryside

EXPLORER'S KNAPSACK

What do you need to make sure your next expedition goes smoothly? Here's a selection of the latest accessories for your knapsack

A Short History Of Gardens by Gordon Campbell

'Garden' may seem like an incredibly broad concept to cover in a 'short' history, but Campbell has traced the trend for formalised outdoor spaces from ancient beginnings in Egypt to the present-day.

£12.99/$16.95

Spitalfields by Dan Cruickshank

Cruickshank has lived in Spitalfields in London for 40 years, and so has seen first hand the evolution of the area through the last century and beyond. In this book, he covers the history of the area and its people, from Roman times through until today.

Price: £25/$30

Gerber and Bear Grylls Pocket Compass

When out exploring, knowing south from north is a pretty basic need. This lightweight, compact, sleek compass is a perfect gadget to keep on you at all times – after all, you never know when you'll need it.

£19.99/$24.99

ZeroTouch Dashboard Mount

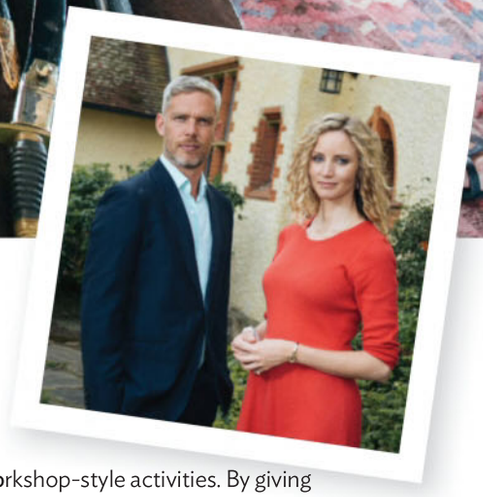
Driving to different places can be made much easier with sat nav through your phone, but seeing the route while driving safely can be a challenge. With the ZeroTouch magnetic mount, you can keep your phone handy while ensuring safe driving.

£59.99/$79.99

Infruition Sport bottle

This is the perfect way to stay hydrated when you're out and about on holidays, hikes or just at the gym. A special chamber within the bottle holds your fruit to flavour the water without effort (or sugar). The bottle is BPA free and dishwasher safe for ultimate convenience too.

£14.99/$19.99



A closer look at history

Join a familiar band of historians as they discuss their favourite topics at a new type of workshop

A number of television historians are hoping to revolutionise the way members of the public engage with history through a new programme of workshops. The brainchild of Suzannah Lipscomb, best known for her *Hidden Killers Of The Home* programmes, and Sam Willis, a familiar face to viewers of *Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History*, History Masterclass is described as a series of, "intimate, interactive opportunities to learn about history in an exquisite, historically-significant location."

Each workshop will be hosted by an expert in the field, most of whom will be familiar to anybody who watches history on television. Upcoming events include workshops with historians like Dan Jones, David Olusoga and Bettany Hughes, all of whom have featured on the box over previous months.

However, the History Masterclass team is keen to stress that it is more than a series of lectures by familiar faces. As Suzannah Lipscomb told **Explore History**, "Sam Willis and I wanted to offer an exciting new way of learning about history to the general public. For those outside higher education, public history events tend to be lectures on quite a grand scale, making the audience relatively passive, even in the presence of a great lecturer. We wanted to create opportunities for something more intimate – no more than 20 or 30 people – with leading historians, who have been picked both for their expertise and public-speaking."

Aside from talks by the expert historian, each History Masterclass includes discussions and workshop-style activities. By giving participants greater involvement in the sessions, the History Masterclass team hopes that their audience will delve deeper into the heart of their particular historical topic, period, event or life.

"The size of the group in each workshop helps to ensure that it is not simply a lecture and the group won't just be talked at," Lipscomb said. "At each History Masterclass, there is time and space for discussion, questions and debate. To accommodate this, the events are also naturally longer than a normal hour's lecture – each History Masterclass lasts 2-3 hours and delivers an in-depth and unique historical experience, in some wonderful venues, that the general public can't find elsewhere."

BELOW The lecture groups will be small in size, but big on participation

RIGHT Historians Suzannah Lipscomb and Sam Willis are behind the new venture

"I look forward to digging deep into that with all of our Masterclassers"

Prices currently range from £95 to £135 per workshop and include light refreshments. The currently scheduled History Masterclasses are all due to take place in London; at Tallow Chandlers Hall, the Army and Navy Club and the New College of the Humanities. Among those at the New College is Lipscomb's own workshop on the witch trials – although her choice of subject wasn't an easy one to make.

"I was split between the witch trials and Henry VIII, so I'll be coming back to the great man at a future History Masterclass," Lipscomb revealed. "But I am excited about discussing the multiple causes of the witchcraft accusations and prosecutions of the 16th and 17th centuries – why some 100,000 people across Europe were accused of witchcraft, and some 40,000-50,000 people were executed as witches. There are so many fascinating stories and different pieces of evidence and interpretations to consider. Above all, I think the study of witchcraft and the witch trials tells us much about the world view of the time, and I look forward to digging deep into that with our Masterclassers, and to helping change the way people think about the past."

Since each History Masterclass promises to be interactive, will there be a ducking stool and a pond involved in Lipscomb's workshop on the witch trials?

"Thankfully we'll not be recreating any of the ordeals for identifying witches." laughed Lipscomb. "Though here's a fun fact: the idea that witches were ducked on stools is not actually quite right. Scolds – women who slandered, told tales or stirred up strife – were actually the ones who were ducked. But it is true that sometimes suspected witches were put to the swimming test – held in the water with ropes to see if the waters of their baptism would accept or reject them. Our activities at the History Masterclass on the witch trials will be examining, discussing and debating historical documents and pictures to understand attitudes to alleged witches and why they were so terribly persecuted."

Only time will tell whether the History Masterclass approach will be a success, but anything that encourages the public to be more engaged with history should be welcomed. As the great historian GM Trevelyan, once wrote, "If historians neglect to educate the public, if they fail to interest it intelligently in the past, then all their historical learning is useless except insofar as it educates themselves."

To find out more and see a list of upcoming History Masterclasses, visit **thehistorymasterclass.com**.

UPCOMING MASTERCLASSES

The Witch Trials
11 February, New College of the Humanities
Suzannah Lipscomb
Lipscomb and her guests will explore why witches were persecuted during the 16th and 17th centuries, looking at the role of the Reformation, the importance of elite belief, neighbourhood accusations, the process of accusation, the significance of reputation, the classic 'refusal-guilt' syndrome and the relationship between gender and witchcraft.

Illuminating the Dark Ages
1 March, New College of the Humanities
Janina Ramirez
Focusing on the intellectual life of the Anglo-Saxons, this Masterclass will reveal a vibrant, enigmatic world of texts, images, objects and individuals whose potency resonates down the centuries. From the *Lindisfarne Gospels* and to Bede and *Beowulf*, this is no 'Dark Age'.

The Crusades
21 March, The Army and Navy Club
Peter Frankopan
Drawing on written material in Medieval Greek, Arabic, Syriac, Armenian and Hebrew, Peter's History Masterclass will explain how important the story of the Crusades was in widening horizons throughout Europe, but that the familiar tale of brave knights fighting for their faith are not all that they seem.

Emma Hamilton
30 March, Tallow Chandlers Hall
Kate Williams
Emma Hamilton pushed the limit of what a woman could do in the febrile time of the Napoleonic Wars. This Masterclass explores Emma, her relationship with Nelson and her amazing life; looking in particular at her impact on society, her use of art and fashion and her relationship with 18th-century artists.

DIG ISSUES

Colonial cannon unearthed

A cannon dating from the 18th century has been found in Brunswick County, North Carolina, USA. It was found by a dredging company in the Cape Fear river, and seems to have burst, but does not have any distinctive marking. It will be kept in burlap and water until proper preservation can begin.

Scottish Neolithic artefacts

Installation of a pipeline between Saint Andrews and a nearby campus revealed a selection of exciting Neolithic tools and pottery. The tools were likely made from flint quarried in England, and may have been used for skinning hides and stripping bark from trees.

Traces of Japanese fortress

The last remains of the 17th century Sanadu Maru fortress have been found in the grounds of Osaka Castle in Honshu, Japan. It is now thought, on the basis of these findings, that the fortress, which was rectangular in shape, may have been larger than previously imagined.

Ghost of Banquo laid to rest in Scottish dig

Archaeologists unearth the surprising origin of an avenue near Tor Castle

A romantic legend linking a picturesque tree-lined avenue and a Shakespearean ghost has been dismissed once and for all by archaeologists. Instead, they have proven that the site had more humble origins when it was formed by 19th-century clay mining.

For around 150 years, the eight-metre-wide avenue, which runs through woodland near Fort William, has been known as Banquo's Walk. In Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Banquo – a semi-historical figure – is an ally of the titular king who is murdered after the witches' prophecy suggests that Banquo's descendents will take the throne. Legend asserts that Banquo once owned nearby Tor Castle, a ruined fort located close to the avenue. Banquo's Walk was said to be a monumental roadway leading to the castle.

In order to test the assumption that the avenue was a ceremonial road, professionals from AOC Archaeology joined forces with Lochaber Archaeological Society to investigate Banquo's Walk in November 2016. During the excavation of three trenches and two test pits, they were surprised to not find evidence of a road surface. Instead, excavators immediately came across traces of natural clay and sand-clay subsoil. There was definitely human activity at the site – banks on the side of the avenue were deliberately built up – but nothing was found that indicated that the area between was a roadway.

According to Clive Talbot, a member of the Lochaber Archaeological Society: "Looking at the surviving natural layers and after further excavation through the banks, we realised that the surface of Banquo's Walk had been lowered by the removal of natural deposits and the banks had been built with the upcast."

AOC Archaeology's Mary Peteranna confirmed in the site report that: "Evaluation of the soil strata, which contained a thick natural layer of clay, revealed that the best possible explanation for its construction was for use in clay extraction."

Rather than being used as an impressive approach to Tor Castle, Banquo's Walk was actually created when enterprising Victorians scraped clay from near the surface, possibly during the construction of the nearby Caledonian Canal. It certainly had nothing to do with Shakespeare's most famous ghost as Peteranna noted, "The fieldwork has dispelled 150 years of myth attached to the site."

My favourite places
Tracy Borman

Historian and Tudor specialist Tracy Borman tells us all about her favourite castles, museums and more

HEVER CASTLE

Hever Castle was the last castle I visited, just before Christmas in fact, for the amazing festive evening that they do there every year. It is a completely magical place to visit. It was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn and is currently closed until 11 February 2017, but is well worth a visit when it does reopen.

LINCOLN CASTLE

I would have to say Lincoln Castle is my all-time favourite, as it's my home city and the castle has such a fascinating – and very dark – history. I wrote about the Jacobean witch hunts that featured two sisters who were imprisoned in the castle. Like so many other innocent victims of James I's persecutions, they were hanged shortly afterwards.

NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

The last museum I visited was the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London, to see its free Nelson exhibition, which was incredible. I am very far from being a naval historian myself, but I have to say I found it absolutely fascinating, particularly the more personal artefacts they had on display.

GEFFRYE MUSEUM

The Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch is my favourite smaller museum. It is a place of beauty and endless fascination. I always feel like I'm stepping back in time when I am there, and particularly love the 18th and 19th-century displays. But those from my childhood era also bring back many happy memories... and bizarre tastes.

VENICE

I fell in love with Venice on my first visit about 15 years ago and have been back almost every year. I also spent some time living there, which was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. It is breathtakingly beautiful, wherever you look. My favourite places in the city are those you find off the beaten track.

GRIMSTHORPE CASTLE

Grimsthorpe Castle in Lincolnshire is a real hidden gem that I really love visiting. Rather like Hampton Court Palace, Grimsthorpe is a castle of two halves – one half is Tudor and the other half is baroque. The Tudor part of the castle was built in a hurry for a visit by Henry VIII, who actually failed to show up in the end!

The Private Lives Of The Tudors **(£25) by Tracy Borman is out in hardback now, published by Hodder & Stoughton**

DIGGING *FOR* TRUTH

AT BRITAIN'S FIRST MONASTERY

New archaeological excavations at Beckery Chapel close to Glastonbury are separating the real history from the legends of King Arthur

King Arthur sank to his knees before the altar. For three consecutive nights, while staying at the nearby monastery on Wearyall Hill, his sleep had been disturbed by a recurring dream telling him to visit Beckery Chapel. Now he had come. He was right to make the short journey to the small monastic church. While there, Arthur was the recipient of a powerful vision of the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus. So moved was he by the experience, that Arthur converted to Christianity and changed his banner from that of a dragon to one depicting the Virgin and Child.

It's a tale told by John of Glastonbury, a monk writing in the 14th century, but like most stories associated with King Arthur, it is little more than a fantasy. Arthur, Camelot and the Round Table have endured in our imaginations for so long because the Grail romances are set in the Anglo-Saxon era, centuries after the Roman legions left Britannia but before William the Conqueror cast his eyes on the throne. This period is commonly known as the Dark Ages for good reason – a lack of sources have left historians little to work with. It's hardly surprising that myths and legends sprout in their place. Yet recent archaeological investigations are beginning to separate fact from fiction and the real history of Beckery Chapel that has been revealed is just as intriguing as the Arthurian legends.

Over the past 150 years, historians have pieced together the tale of Beckery Chapel from a number of different sources. Place-name evidence was the first clue that suggested the chapel had a long history. The small area it was located in had been known as Beckery for a long time; the first

WORDS BY SCOTT REEVES

ABOVE King Arthur had a holy vision at Beckery Chapel according to legend, but it is a fanciful myth

"It's a tale told by John of Glastonbury but like most stories associated with King Arthur, it is little more than fantasy"

The excavations were conducted by local volunteers under the guidance of trained archaeologists

The search for King Arthur

A historical figure, a fictional hero, a military leader or a god – who was the real King Arthur?

If King Arthur really existed (and it is a particularly big if) he was probably a military leader who fought the Saxon hordes in the 5th and 6th centuries.

A chronicle written by Nennius, a Welsh cleric, is thought to be the foundation of the Arthur legend. His 9th-century work, *History Of The Britons*, describes Arthur as a military commander – not a king or even a royal – and lists 12 different battles in which Arthur fought, including the Battle of Badon where it is said that he killed 960 men. However, some believe that Nennius was recycling fictional deeds taken from ancient folklore, or that he even used some of the traditions associated with a Celtic god.

Three centuries later, another Welsh writer pushed Arthur back into the mainstream. Geoffrey of Monmouth's *The History Of The Kings Of Britain* was, according to the writer himself, based on a secret Celtic manuscript that only he was able to examine. Geoffrey waxes lyrical on the life of now-royal Arthur; describing his birth at Tintagel, his meeting with and wedding to Guinevere, the magical Merlin, the legendary sword Caliburn (that would later become known as Excalibur) and the betrayal that led to Arthur's death. Although Geoffrey let his imagination run riot, the book had a tremendous impact and more than 200 manuscripts remain in existence.

Fact and fiction had merged and the line between the two would continue to be blurred. Arthurian legends then took on a Medieval flavour with the introduction of chivalric romance, the Knights of the Round Table, the castle of Camelot and the quest for the Holy Grail. By the Victorian age, Arthur had become a hero familiar to all schoolchildren. When the Houses of Parliament were gutted by fire in 1834, scenes from Arthur's supposed life were chosen to decorate the monarch's robing room in the House of Lords. The myth of King Arthur had become far more powerful and important than his real history – if there ever was a real history in the first place.

ABOVE The Round Table was one of many myths added to the Arthur legend by medieval storytellers

RIGHT A reconstruction of how Beckery Chapel may have appeared in 880, when the last graves excavated in 2016 were first dug

"By the time the first antiquarians came along, there was nothing to be seen; if they wanted to find more, they needed to dig"

recorded use of the name was in a charter dated 670, in which the land was given to Glastonbury Abbey by the Saxon king Cenwealdh. The name may have derived from the Old English word 'Beocere', meaning 'Bee-keeper's Island'. Alternatively, it might come from the Gaelic word 'Becc-Eriu' meaning 'Little Ireland'. This second possibility is the most tantalising because other evidence suggests that Beckery Chapel had links across the Irish Sea.

The fields in which Beckery Chapel lies have been known, at different points over the last few centuries, as Bride's Mound, Bride's Hill and Bride's Hay. The 'Bride' referred to is thought to be Saint Brigid of Kildare, an Irish nun who founded a number of religious communities in Ireland in the 5th and 6th centuries. According to William of Malmesbury and John of Glastonbury, writing around 1135 and 1340 respectively, Saint Brigid travelled from Ireland to Glastonbury in 488, staying for several years in a monastery chapel on an island called 'Beokery'. The chapel, previously dedicated to Mary Magdalene, was re-dedicated to Saint Brigid.

Although the place-name evidence suggests that Beckery Chapel has a long and illustrious history, it did not avoid closure during Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries. Like other religious institutions that surrendered to the Tudor monarch, the walls of the now-superfluous structure were robbed away over successive years. Although standing ruins were noted in 1790, they disappeared soon after. By the time the first antiquarians came along there was nothing to be seen; if they wanted to find more, they needed to dig. John Morland conducted the first archaeological excavations in 1887 and began to reveal the Beckery Chapel of old.

Morland discovered a single-celled stone building dating to around 1270, the walls of which were kept upright by diagonal buttresses. The internal space, measuring 13 metres by five metres, was covered with ceramic tiles. To the north were other buildings that made up a small monastic complex.

ABOVE Sir Bedevere casts Excalibur into the water – an event that legend would have us believe happened at Beckery

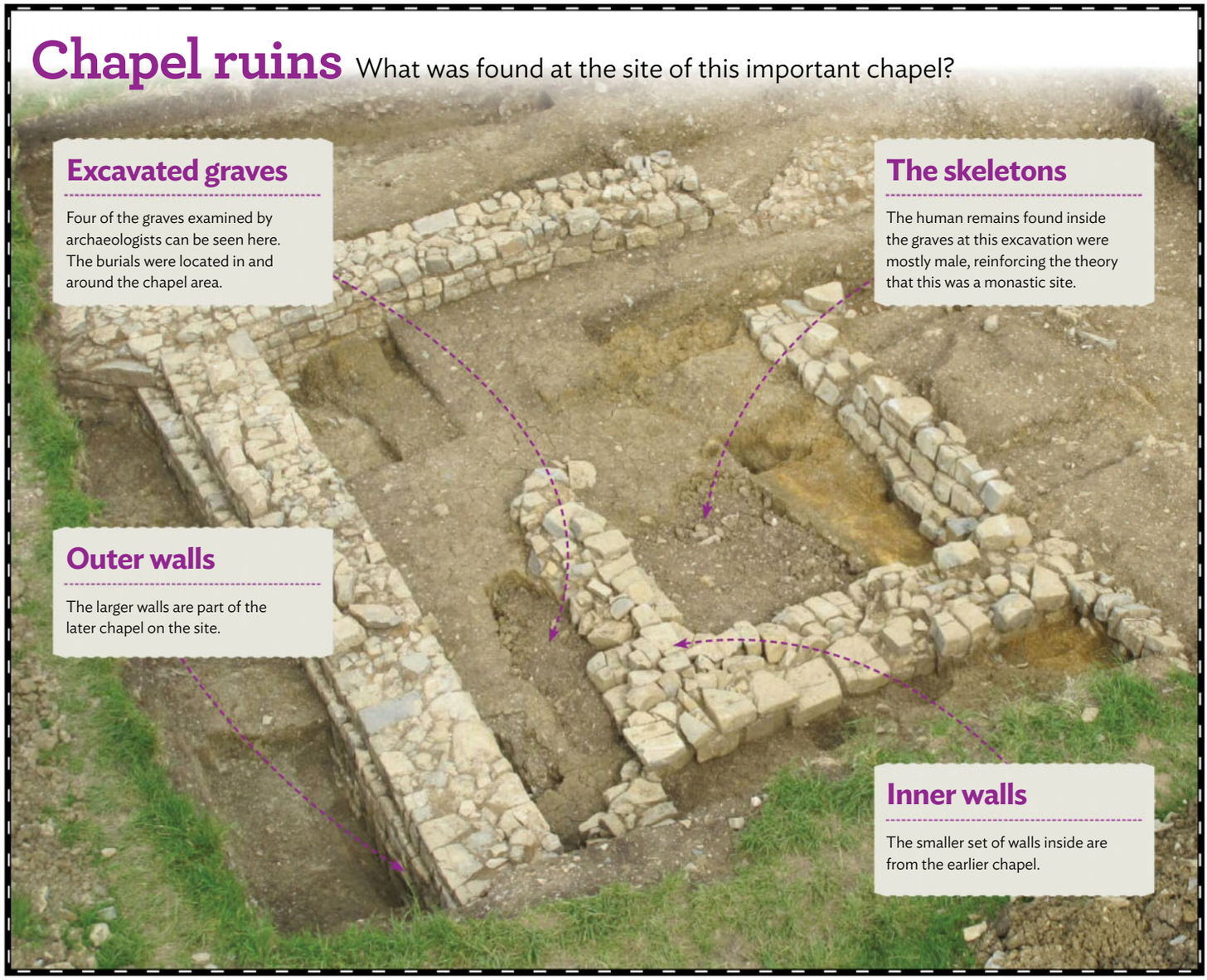
RIGHT A depiction of Arthur as king, by Charles Ermest Butler

The chapel had been extended from an earlier, smaller stone building dating to around 1000, which measured just five metres by 3.5 metres inside, that a chancel was added to. This earlier stone chapel also included a 'penitent's crawl', a hole in the south wall through which people would crawl in a search for forgiveness of their sins. Perhaps Beckery Chapel, and its penitent's crawl, was a stopping point for pilgrims en route to Glastonbury Abbey.

However, the stone chapel wasn't the first structure built on the site. Morland discovered a number of graves that he

Chapel ruins

What was found at the site of this important chapel?



thought pre-dated the stone buildings and suspected that there was an even earlier church, as the graves, "...would show us that this was a sacred Christian spot before the older chapel was built; for this and all the more perfect skeletons were orientated with the head to the west."

Morland was right. An older wooden chapel was excavated in 1967 and 1968 by Philip Rahtz, who discovered that this earliest phase was built around a stone-lined cist grave – Rahtz thought that this might be the founder of the monastic community. Several post holes suggested that there was at least one other building nearby, and a number of burials in an area enclosed by a wattle and daub fence indicated that the chapel had a cemetery associated with it. At least 63 skeletons were examined, all lying on their backs with no grave goods. One was a woman – perhaps a patron or visiting nun – and two were unsexed children. The rest were adult males, presumed to be monks who lived and prayed at Beckery.

In 2016, the South West Heritage Trust, who manage the land on behalf of Somerset County Council, decided to undertake a third archaeological investigation of Beckery Chapel. They knew that the previous excavations provided a decent overview of the site but thought that more remained to be discovered.

ABOVE Beckery was a complex site, with walls from two different phases of the stone chapel and disturbed areas of soil from earlier graves

"It has been an intriguing site for the last 50 years, since the Rahtz excavation finished," site director Richard Brunning told **Explore History**. "He found a lot of the details, including the cemetery and the chapels, but there has been no scientific dating information, from the cemetery in particular. Now with modern methods like radiocarbon dating, we can solve that problem. But the results were surprising, they weren't what we were expecting."

Most of the archaeologists' efforts were concentrated on one trench across the chapel, focusing on an area that had previously been excavated by both Morland and Rahtz. It might seem like an odd place to dig, but the South West Heritage Trust team suspected that more lay beneath. "Most of what we took out was backfill," Brunning said, "Until we got to the very lowest layers and some in-situ burials. Those had been left alone in the past, partly because they were underneath and obscured by the walls of the later

Beckery's celebrated visitors

Two famous people have been associated with Beckery Chapel for centuries – but is there any truth to the connections?

King Arthur

ABOVE King Arthur's life is shrouded in mystery, something that the monks at Glastonbury seized upon for their own gain

Who was he? A leader who led resistance against Saxon invaders in the late 5th and early 6th centuries.
Who says he went to Beckery? John of Glastonbury's *Chronicle Of Glastonbury Abbey*, written around 1340, is the first recorded mention.
What did he do? Arthur received a vision of the Virgin Mary with Jesus that contributed to him converting to Christianity. Later, shortly before his death, Arthur saw Excalibur cast into the waters around Beckery.
What other evidence is there? Medieval pilgrims flocked to Glastonbury to view the graves of Arthur and Guinevere after they were discovered there in the late 12th century.
Did Arthur really go to Beckery? Probably not. It was likely an elaborate hoax concocted by the monks of Glastonbury Abbey who needed money.

Saint Brigid of Kildare

ABOVE Some years later, Beckery Chapel was dedicated to Saint Brigid, possibly when the first stone chapel was built

Who was she? An early Irish nun born around 453 who founded a number of monasteries, including Kildare.
Who says she went to Beckery? William of Malmesbury was the first, writing it around 1135.
What did she do? According to the sources, she stayed at Beckery for a short time and after returning to Ireland she left behind, "...some of her ornaments, namely a bag, necklace, a small bell and weaving implements."
What other evidence is there? Place-name evidence suggests that the fields around the chapel have long been associated with Brigid and the dating evidence from the new grave excavations show there was a church at Beckery around 488.
Did Brigid really go to Beckery? It's difficult to say for sure, but it is a lot more likely that she did than the claim that King Arthur did.

This particular monk was more than 45 years old when he died, sometime between 425 and 579

ABOVE The unlucky monk suffered a broken arm that healed but caused a mild deformity for the rest of his life

Medieval chapel. I think Morland and Rahtz didn't want to dismantle the chapel walls, but we didn't want to take out nine-tenths of a burial, we wanted to excavate the whole thing. So we dismantled the walls and then put them back. It's quite easy to do, numbering the stones, recording and putting them back."

Aside from being able to access the burials, examining the stone foundations enabled archaeologists to add to the history of the buildings. Two stone chapel phases had previously been known about – the original stone building dating to around 1000 and a second building dating to around 1270. However, it now appears to be more complex than that. "Unfortunately, they built all these chapels in the same spot, so the latest one takes out evidence of the earlier ones," said Brunning. "But we think we have evidence of a third phase between those two. On one side there is evidence of a wall that has been robbed out. We think that this must postdate the earlier chapel but predate the latest one."

The evidence from the walls can only improve our understanding of Beckery Chapel, but the most interesting results were provided by the graves dug from underneath those walls. The remains of seven individuals were identified over the course of the three-week investigation. Six people were recovered from five graves – one grave had an extra bone from another individual – while a single jaw fragment from one person was found in the backfill previously dug in the 1960s. The state of preservation differed. The foundations of the later stone chapel punched right through the middle of two graves – the Medieval monks either didn't know that they were there, or they didn't seem to have too many qualms about disturbing the graves of their predecessors. However, three other graves survived in relatively good order.

"We had all of them radiocarbon dated and scientifically examined," said Brunning. "Of the three where we could identify the sex, all were male and mature, which fits in with what we already knew. But a few interesting things came out of the examinations. One individual had suffered a

broken upper arm. It had healed, so he suffered the injury and survived it, but it must have shortened his upper arm a bit because the bones have bonded across the top." That particular monk must have struggled after his injury because all the complete skeletons showed evidence that the individuals undertook hard physical work during their lives. The monks needed to be self sufficient and would have grown and prepared their own food – this wasn't a cushy life of prayer and contemplation.

"Evidence from carbon and nitrogen emissions can tell us about diet," Brunning continued. "The results show that all the individuals except one had a fair consumption of meat from their diet, and the one who did not was the latest chronologically. He had a more vegetarian diet – not entirely vegetarian, but more so – and that raises the hint of a possibility that there may have been a change in the dietary rules of the monastery at some point."

The skeletal evidence provided an insight to the lives of those who lived and died in the monastic community, but a bombshell was dropped when the radiocarbon results were revealed. The latest burials were inhumed up to the start of the 9th century, but the earliest dated to between 406 and 544. That means Beckery Chapel is the earliest datable monastic site in Britain – no other monastery has been discovered that pre-dates this small community in a corner of Somerset.

"There are very few early monastic sites with cemeteries that have been looked at," Brunning explains. "In the 5th and 6th centuries, these monastic institutions were starting off on a very individual basis, sometimes around one charismatic individual. Not long before, Saint Martin set up a monastic institution at Marmoutier in France, creating rules for those living a monastic life with him."

It was probably a similar situation at Beckery – a small group of individuals gathered together to devote themselves to God and chose to cut themselves off from the wider world. Beckery was a small island of hard geology in a flood plain, so it would have been surrounded by wetlands and cut off from the mainland. Isolation from the outside world was something that would be seen in subsequent monasteries that followed Beckery; notably Iona, founded at the end of the 6th century, and Lindisfarne, founded at the start of the 7th century.

The surprisingly early radiocarbon dating inevitably directs attention to the founding of Beckery Chapel, but the recent archaeological work has also shed light on the wider history of the complex. A narrow evaluation trench was placed over a building that had been pinpointed by a geophysical survey. The archaeologists who dug there pulled from the soil a large quantity of pottery dating from the late-Saxon period onwards and some imported Mediterranean pottery dating to the early 13th century.

"That suggests that the most intense period of occupation was from the late Saxon and early Norman period through to the early 13th century," Brunning explains. "Then there was a gradual decline, judging by the amount of pottery found on the site from the 14th and 15th centuries, until the final destruction at the dissolution. We have evidence that the walls of the new building were robbed out, probably in the 17th century."

The Holy Thorn in Glastonbury, which has become a symbol for both Christians and pagans

Excavators dig early monks' graves from underneath the walls of the later stone chapel

Beckery is located close to Glastonbury Tor and Wearyall Hill – both can be seen in the background

"The monks built up a whole myth around King Arthur and exploited it for their own financial gain"

A third trench, dug across an enclosure ditch, provided another shock date that caused archaeologists to reconsider the age of Beckery as an inhabited site.

"We expected the ditch to be from the 13th century but it came back as Iron Age, so there was prehistoric occupation on this little island too," Brunning revealed. "That was quite a surprise! We found quite a lot of Iron Age pottery, so there was definitely fairly intensive occupation."

It's clear that Beckery Chapel has a long history – one that eclipses that of her more famous neighbour, Glastonbury Abbey. The church was built at Glastonbury, less than 1.5 kilometres from Beckery, on the orders of King Ine of Wessex in 712, nearly 300 years after Beckery's first phase. However, Glastonbury's royal patronage soon saw it become wealthier and more powerful, overshadowing the older monastic community. Yet disaster struck in 1184, when Glastonbury Abbey was severely damaged by fire.

The grave trade

King Arthur wasn't the only famous name claimed by the monks of Glastonbury after death

The pilgrim trade could earn Medieval abbeys and monasteries a heap of money, and the monks at Glastonbury were not above some creative marketing. The idea that King Arthur may have visited Beckery Chapel and was buried at Glastonbury Abbey is widely regarded as incorrect by most historians, the product of overactive imaginations in the Abbey who hoped to encourage more pilgrims to visit. Historians are right to be suspicious – it wasn't the first time the Glastonbury monks claimed to have unearthed a famous body.

Writing in around the year 1000, one Glastonbury monk, known only by the initial 'B', recorded that Saint Patrick "ended his life happily" at Glastonbury. William of Malmesbury took up the story more than a century later, adding that Patrick founded Glastonbury Abbey and was buried there. His reported burial place was decorated with gold and silver, but most people were unconvinced that Patrick lay there, believing that he died and was buried in Ireland.

According to the monks, Glastonbury was also the resting place of Saint Dunstan. At least he definitely spent time at the Abbey – Dunstan was abbot in the 10th century – but he later became Archbishop of Canterbury and died in Kent. That didn't stop the monks claiming that Dunstan's body was moved to Glastonbury to protect it from Viking raids in 1012. The story was found to be false when his Canterbury tomb was opened in 1508 and the body of Saint Dunstan was still there.

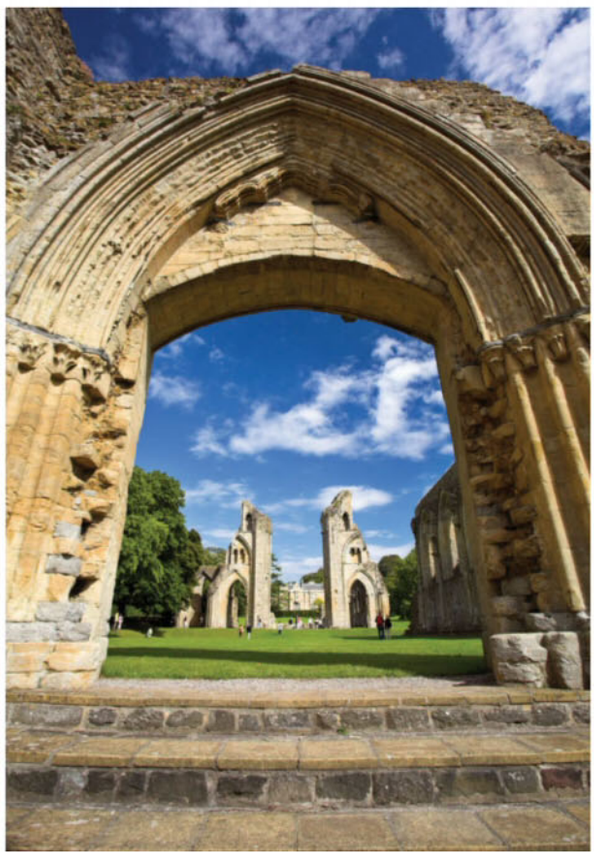
ABOVE The monks at Glastonbury Abbey appear to have played fast and loose with the truth

Here is where the myth of Arthur begins to interfere with our knowledge of the past. Seven years after the fire – just when the monks needed to find money to complete rebuilding work – two bodies, supposedly those of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere, were discovered in a deep grave. Pilgrims flooded to Glastonbury to see the legendary king, each willing to pay for the privilege. More tales followed, such as King Arthur visiting Glastonbury's ancient neighbour, Beckery, to receive a vision from the Virgin Mary.

"The monks built up a whole myth around King Arthur and exploited it for their own financial gain," Brunning said. "King Arthur's connection with Beckery has to be seen in that light – that of Glastonbury Abbey and the pilgrim trade." However, Beckery Chapel's ancient beginnings may lend more credence to the idea that Saint Brigid spent time at Beckery before returning to Ireland.

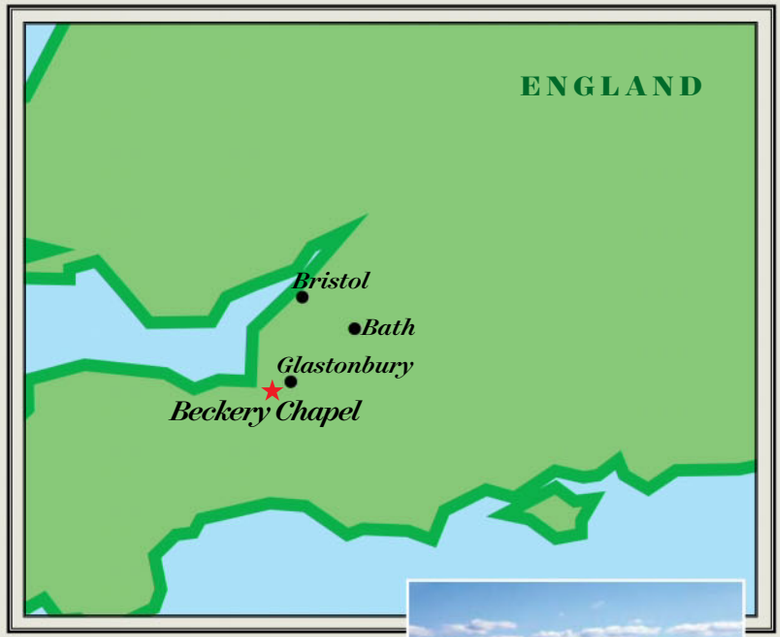
"The connection with Brigid is more intriguing and credible," Brunning noted. "It's mentioned in an earlier period and we have place-name evidence. That holds more potential for some basis in reality, and with these early dates, we now know that there was something at Beckery that Brigid could have visited."

It's difficult to compete with the legends of King Arthur. One of the Grail romances says that the mortally wounded Arthur was carried to Avalon by barge, stopping at a place that may have been Beckery to allow Sir Bedevere to throw Excalibur to the lady in the lake. It's nothing more than a story, but the monks who really did die at Beckery are now enabling archaeologists to tell the true history of Beckery Chapel, the earliest known monastery in Britain. Though there may not be a mythical king, the history is no less fascinating.



GLASTONBURY

EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS



Essential information

Beckery Chapel may be underground but there's still plenty to see in and around Glastonbury, about one kilometre from Beckery. The town is 43 kilometres south of Bristol and is best reached by the M5 and A39 (from the west) or A303 and A37 (from the east, a route which includes a drive-by of Stonehenge). Glastonbury's location and number of sites means that it would be difficult to cram everything into a day trip from London or further afield, but Bristol and Bath would also make good overnight bases.

When to visit Go any time of year, but try to avoid the congestion caused by the music festival – from 21-25 June in 2017.

Time zone UTC
Currency GBP

Where to stay

Luxury

Magdalene House
This B&B has three rooms with views of either the abbey or Wearyall Hill. Formerly part of Saint Louis Convent, the Grade II-listed period property is perfectly located for the High Street. Rooms start from £45 per person, per night.

Standard

Old Oaks Touring Park
Want to try camping but find it difficult to give up your creature comforts? The cabins at Old Oaks, a no-children campsite, offer heating, a bed, fridge, kettle and plug sockets. Hard standing pitches start from £21 in low season.

Budget

Travelodge Glastonbury
On the edge of town next to the A39, this hotel can suffer from a little traffic noise. However, it's a great option for those on a tight budget who aren't planning on spending much time in the hotel. Rooms start from around £35 per person, per night.

Links

www.glastonburytic.co.uk Visitor info from Glastonbury Tourist Information
www.swheritage.org.uk Updates from the landowners of Beckery Chapel
avalon-archaeology.com Blog from the Beckery archaeologists

03 things to see & do

Glastonbury Abbey
☐ Arthur and Guinevere may not be buried there, but the ruins of the church and lady chapel at Glastonbury Abbey are still well worth a visit.

Holy Thorn
☐ Holy Thorn, which flowers twice a year, grew miraculously from Joseph of Arimathea's staff on Wearyall Hill. Cuttings are grown at the abbey.

Glastonbury Tor
☐ Climb Glastonbury Tor, a hill overlooking the town, to view both the abbey and Beckery. Examine the only standing remains of Saint Michael's.

Exhibitions and displays at Perm-36 have been changed to focus on timber production, not political repression

STALIN RISING:

Perm-36 Museum and rewriting history

The sole surviving Gulag corrective-labour camp, now a museum, has been remodelled to fit a surge in Soviet nostalgia and nationalist fervour

WORDS BY MARTYN CONTERIO

In 2008, a Moscow television station ran an opinion poll. The aim was to find – and declare – the greatest Russian of all time. In 2002, the BBC had run a similar contest in the UK, with Winston Churchill coming out top dog. In Russia, Churchill's wartime ally Josef Stalin, was, for a good majority of the campaign, the frontrunner. The producers were alarmed by this surprise showing, and then concerned at this unexpected leaning. In a bid to stop it, they pleaded with voters to pick somebody else. In all, 50 million Russians voted in the poll, and many of them claimed Stalin as their man. Although eventually pipped by Saint Alexander Nevsky (once the subject of a 1938 propaganda feature film – famous for its recreation of a battle on ice – directed by Sergei Eisenstein), Stalin's popularity led to a discussion in the country, which fed into other areas of cultural remembrance and, indeed, cultural forgetting.

'Little Father', 'Uncle Joe' or 'Koba' was a mass-murdering dictator whose corrective-camp labour system, known as Gulag ('Glavnoe upravlenie lagerei', translated as Main Administration Camp), led to the displacement and deaths of millions. Mid-20th-century Russia and its rocket-paced progress was built on the backs, and then the bones, of the dead – when it comes to infrastructure programmes like roads and canals, that's

meant pretty much literally. But to many, Stalin was the leader who saved them from the Nazis during World War II and created a socialist country that went from an agrarian state to global superpower in a heartbeat. There was – and still is – a romantic notion to contend with: that Stalin always had the best intentions for the country and if he went wrong along the way, it was due to enemies of the people or was ultimately justifiable, a means to an end. But do the means really justify the ends, when so heavily reliant on slave labour and widespread murder? The modernisation of Russia into a superpower cost millions in lives. To suggest every single prisoner was a class enemy, a wrecker or saboteur, is preposterous. If not arrested and exiled on imaginary pretexts or crimes, they were taken at the least provocation. One man was arrested and sent to a corrective-labour camp for selling a piglet at market. He was denounced as a 'speculator'. Trumped up charges like these meant a steady stream of expendable workforces. Only the strong survived. Those who couldn't handle it were left to die and would be replaced easily enough.

The development of the Gulag system happened piecemeal and grew into an industry of total horror. There is nothing to celebrate. But unlike in post-war Nazi Germany, Russia never underwent a soul-searching phase when the USSR collapsed. Archives remained firmly shut and Stalin could never quite be depicted as one of the 20th century's great monsters, as in other western countries. For a while, the Gulag system or crimes against humanity such as the Holodomor (the state-sanctioned famine in Soviet Ukraine) were kept out of sight and out of mind. There has been no attempt by any Russian administrations to criminalise acts of the past or even recognise them as crimes. Nikolai Khrushchev's 'secret speech' to party delegates in 1956, denouncing Stalin and his rule, wasn't formally recognised by the USSR as historical fact until 1989.

ABOVE LEFT Demonstrators gather in Batumi in 1917

ABOVE RIGHT Photograph of Lenin in 1916, while he was in Switzerland

LEFT Perm-36 is the only remaining Gulag camp in tact today

ABOVE The cultural rehabilitation of dictator Josef Stalin is prevalent in today's Russia

Stalin's cultural and political rehabilitation coincided with Vladimir Putin's own increasingly authoritative approach to ruling, in role-swapping positions, which he's maintained since 1999. He's won elections, but his role in Russian politics has not gone unchallenged. It isn't so black-and-white, either. Putin has aired opinions about Stalin – that the Katyn Massacre of 1940 was a war crime ordered by Stalin and carried out by the NKVD – but he has also found the image of Stalin as a useful guiding light to re-establish Russia's superiority. The struggle between revisionism and accepted historical reality is creeping rather than a blatant, wholesale rewriting.

The October revolution of 1917 had created a new breed of criminal for the Bolsheviks: the class enemy. The biggest crime was who they were and not specifically what they had done. Tsarists (the Whites), the bourgeoisie and aristocrats are easy enough groups to understand, but also rival factions of communists and socialists, who hadn't signed up to the Bolshevik project, were targeted. Then it was farming peasants – kulaks – who needed taking down. They all had to be dealt with

The first camp

After the October Revolution, Lenin's clampdown on political enemies paved the road to the corrective-labour camp system

The Solovetsky archipelago in the White Sea region of Arctic Russia was deemed a perfect place to send what the Bolsheviks coined as 'class enemies' – later known as 'wreckers' – those who sought to undermine the revolution and sabotage, through political agitation, espionage or literature, the Soviet state.

It wasn't just Tsarists, clergy and aristocrats seen as undesirable to the state, but factions of rival socialists. Knowing he had to consolidate his grip on the country and wipe out dissent, Lenin summed up in a semi-joking quip to a comrade his intentions towards fellow revolutionaries: "It will be after we hanged the last Socialist-Revolutionary that the first Menshevik will get hanged."

In the wake of the Red Terror, instigated after a failed assassination attempt on Lenin's life, rivals were rounded up and sent to prisons, but initial results were shambolic. Word kept reaching the West, too, that comrades were being persecuted by the regime.

By early 1923, transports to Solotvesky began in earnest. Under the direct control of the Cheka, the Russian secret service, by that time known as the GPU, socialists began arriving that summer and were kept away from the other prisoners.

Granted the sort of privileges – access to books, no work detail – that would be unthinkable in later years, Solovetsky was a cruel and deadly place where murder and torture were everyday norms. It was here, too, that the 'eat-as-you-work' policy came into terrible effect. Those who were not physically strong enough were simply allowed to perish.

ABOVE Solovetsky archipelago: a bleak place, far from the civilised world

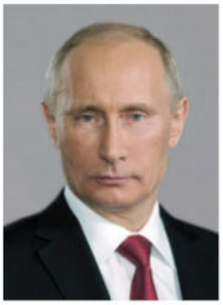
definitively to protect the revolution. The ambiguity of the language used – 'class enemy' and 'kulak' – allowed the regime plenty of leeway in making arrests and building up a propaganda campaign against them.

The British and German use of concentration camps in South Africa and Namibia provided a model for Lenin to follow. Trotsky was familiar with British concentration camps, too, because of his readings about the Boer War. Armed with their colonialist inspiration, Lenin and Trotsky – who commanded the Red Army – found an ingenious way to rid the country and land of undesirables, but also have them working for the country's interests. Now the cosseted, spoilt bourgeoisie would learn all about manual labour, sweat and toil.

In the very early days, prisons were severely overcrowded with political prisoners – colloquially known as 'zeks' (an abbreviation of 'zaklyuchennyi', Russian for 'prisoner') – and they were housed and confined in everything from empty apartment blocks to basements in government buildings. The early camps, too, operated in disarray. Anarchists and socialists were also getting word out to their friends in the west, that they were being politically purged and repressed. Facing a PR disaster, in a bid to remake the nation and forge a new path for Russia, the administration decided to send enemies into far-flung corners of the country. The largest country on earth, which stretched from Europe to the Pacific and reached the Arctic, was perfect for this.

After Lenin died in 1924, Stalin decided on rapid expansion and infrastructure-building which, in hindsight, is the sort of thing one would expect from a megalomaniac who seemed to see people in the abstract, as objects to move around and set in place for a wider project. Given the economic scale of the endeavour, costs would be an issue – and they frequently were. Camps had to be self-sustaining and as far as possible self-financed. It was an economic imperative that costs were kept down.

"With little-to-zero provisions or knowledge of the local fauna and flora, survivors resorted to eating the dead"



ABOVE Vladimir Putin, president of Russia, has made use of Soviet nostalgia for political purposes

Why have prisoners languishing in jail on the state's dime when they could be used as cheap labour in camps and colonies? Russia was resource-rich and Stalin was keen to get his hands on said resources. The forests provided near-limitless timber. There was coal and gas. Gold, too, in the Siberian wastelands where few Russians had ever tread. In some cases, prisoners took on the role of permanent exiles and colonists, as they did in the Tsarist era. They were forced to stay there. In one instance, a group of exiles was sent to swampland in northern Russia. With little-to-zero provisions or knowledge of the local fauna and flora, survivors resorted to eating the dead.

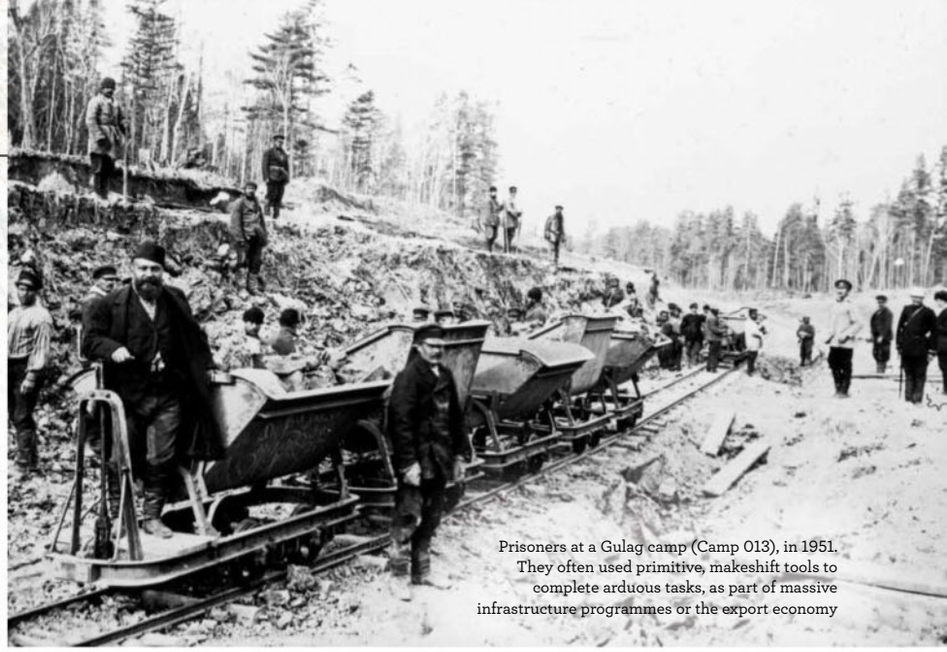
Close to the point where Russia becomes Asia is the city of Perm. From 1940 to 1957, it was renamed 'Molotov' and was, during the Cold War era, closed to all foreigners. Gulag camps were dotted all around the country, but only Perm-36 has survived almost entirely intact, through the hard efforts of volunteers and those who demand that history is not made a mockery of or rewritten to suit the aims of current administrations. Nearly all former Gulag sites and camps today are mere ruins and shells. Liquidation, demolition, thievery and nature's course have conspired to erase much of the evidence to show they were ever there at all.

Perm-36 – located 95 kilometres away from the city, in the village of Kuchino – stopped being a camp/colony in 1988, and since then has been developed as both a memorial and a museum to the Gulag system. Post-Stalin, the camp and repressions continued – they didn't suddenly stop with Uncle Joe's death in 1953. From 1995 to around 2012, when the encroaching menace

of revisionism saw the site divested of associations with Stalin and the museum effectively depoliticised, there was a shift in focus. A new government-backed administration widened the scope while removing or altering displays and exhibitions. Perm-36 was remade into a museum and memorial to the penal system – intent on beginning the story in the 17th century and therefore making much of 20th century events part of a wider tapestry. The Gulag era parts stayed but were re-configured to showcase Soviet might and success in the old days – specifically, timber production.

Since 1995, the site had operated as a museum dedicated to the history of political repression, not just Soviet prisoners of the state, which could include POWs, spies, ordinary criminals and the like. 20 years of restoration went into the project. 20 structures – predominantly made from wood – needed attention and the site covered 12,500 square kilometres. This was a passion project for the enthusiasts and volunteers who saw it as their mission to restore the place and help in understanding Russia's recent past and the communist-era crimes against its people.

From the start, however, funding was a problem and local government funding bodies proved tight-fisted. In 1998 and 2000, three buildings were selected for repair in what had been a high security zone: an infirmary, hut and administration headquarters. The estimated cost of this endeavour was 3,488,650 roubles. The museum secured a measly 1,355 roubles from the regional coffers. Attempting to restore a building damaged by fire in 2004, a job estimated at over 1 million roubles, they secured 860 in funding. To save as much money as possible and keep down costs, the museum did all its own repair work ad hoc, using the same team time and time again.



Prisoners at a Gulag camp (Camp 013), in 1951. They often used primitive, makeshift tools to complete arduous tasks, as part of massive infrastructure programmes or the export economy

"Viktor Shmyrov envisaged the site less as a sightseeing operation and more as a unique site of great historical interest"

The Perm-36 memorial and museum does have a geographical problem. It's in the middle of Russia and while not as far as the Kolyma region in the extreme north east, where only the most hardened and experienced traveller is ever likely to venture, it's still a tough place to get to, even in Russia. Things were looking up in 2004 when UNESCO advised it should be included – at least potentially – as a world heritage site. But for that to happen, there needed to be more bureaucratic wrangling and for Perm-36 to receive federal funding. The Ministry of Culture told the directors that there wasn't any money available to speed through the project and any restoration jobs, planned to fit UNESCO's demands, must be privately funded. Viktor Shmyrov, the former director removed from the post in 2014, envisaged the site less as a sightseeing operation and more as a unique site of great historical interest, at home and abroad. It would take a while to get the museum aspect of the memorial site up and running. "Being aware that, being located 'out in the woods', almost 300 kilometres away from the regional centre, the museum will take a long time to become a popular tourist site and is set up, first of all, in order to preserve a unique historic site, the world's only Gulag-era camp compound rather than for sightseeing purposes," he wrote down, as to the site's aims and plans for cultural development.

The repression against the museum started in earnest in 2012, along with other targets in Russia. It began with a general assault on NGOs and extended to other cultural outlets that received foreign money. Organisations had to be registered as 'foreign agents' – a specific Stalinist term in vogue again – and taxes raised to discourage them from operating. Memorial, a human rights organisation which ran Perm-36, as Ola Cichowlas wrote in a *New Republic* article in June 2014, found itself the centre of a 'political game'. It got worse. Gas and electricity supplies were cut off and raids took place. Because of its remit

ABOVE The museum at Perm-36, a desolate place ringing with horror and a nightmare past

LEFT Perm-36 is left almost exactly how it was left once the final prisoners were gone

Gulag sites

The corrective-camp labour system led to the deaths of millions

Solovetsky archipelago

The Solovetsky Islands corrective camps – particularly the monastery complex on Bolshoy Solovetsky – housed political prisoners from 1923 until 1939, when it was closed and became a naval base due to its proximity to Finland. The camp's prisoners were involved in forestry and later the construction of the White Sea Canal, which under Stalin was ordered to be completed in 20 months. Prisoners used very primitive tools and sometimes dug with nothing but their hands. Today, Bolshoy Solovetsky is a UNESCO world heritage site.

White Sea Canal

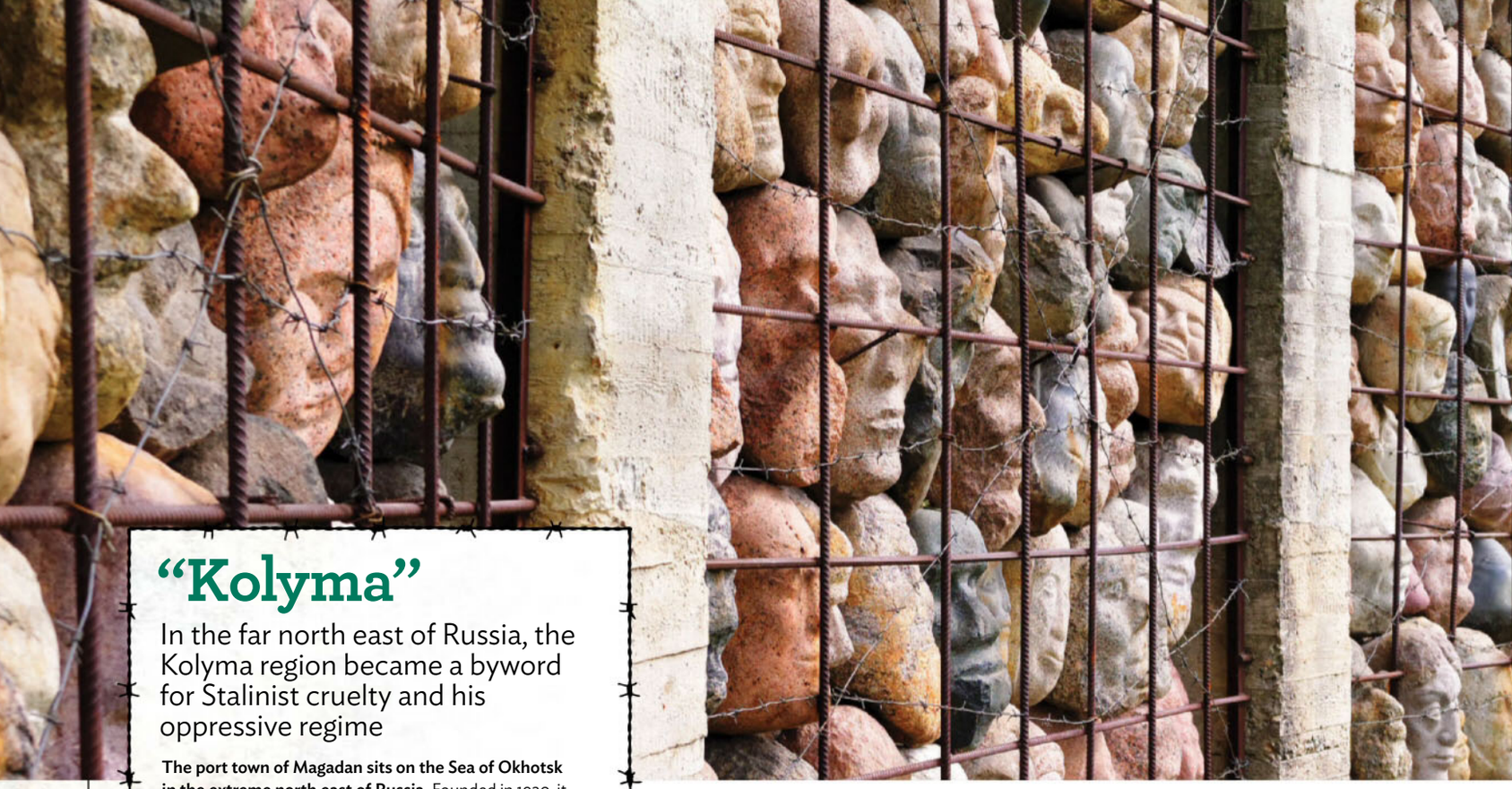
The White Sea Canal project was one of Josef Stalin's early obsessions. Overseen by SLON (Northern Camps of Special Significance), the canal stretched from Kem in the White Sea all the way to Saint Petersburg. Stalin ordered it built in 20 months. Prisoners were forced to build all construction material – from scaffolding to digging tools – by hand. 24 hours a day, prisoners toiled and were urged to work longer in reward for better rations. The canal was a Soviet triumph with a devastating human cost.

Komsomolsk-na-Amure

Celebrated as a city founded by enthusiastic communist youth workers, from Komsomol – reflected in the name given to the city – a large part of the workforce was shipped in from regional prison camps and built infrastructure and shipyards. As with so many former sites that formed Gulag camps, evidence of the corrective-labour camp system is long gone. But there are tours available that take in former quarries and cemeteries where prisoners were buried and other sites.

Kolyma region

The Kolyma highway out of Magadan is built on the bones of the dead. Many of the villages and towns dotted around the region were built by prisoners during the 1930s and into the 1950s. Today, few glimpses of the region's deadly past remain. Some are radioactive no-go areas. Places this far east are rarely explored, but places like Spokoiny and Dneprovsky offer surviving ruins and glimpses of the Gulag camps that proliferated in the area during the Soviet heyday.



"Kolyma"

In the far north east of Russia, the Kolyma region became a byword for Stalinist cruelty and his oppressive regime

The port town of Magadan sits on the Sea of Okhotsk in the extreme north east of Russia. Founded in 1930, it became a major administrative hub for mining industries under the purview of the corrective-labour camp system in the area. It is literally a town built for and by slaves of the state and the region 'Kolyma' crystallises the brutality and horrifying conditions endured by hundreds of thousands who were forced to work there. If you were sent to Kolyma to carry out your sentence, there was the distinct possibility of never returning. Prisoners had to endure a journey of up to three months just to get there. Temperatures in wintertime plunged to -45. It wasn't unknown for prisoners' food to freeze as they ate.

The camps in these far-flung locations served dual purposes. Firstly, prisoners were extremely isolated. Some Gulag camps didn't need fences because walking into the wilderness would be a death sentence and deterrent enough. Secondly, regions like Kolyma were rich sources of minerals and materials needed to support the Soviet Union and build up the national economy.

Stalin was obsessed with turning Russia into a superpower and for that to happen massive infrastructure programmes would have to be implemented. The perfect people to do this were 'class enemies'. Since the October Revolution, mass arrests created a potential workforce and Leon Trotsky espoused the idea early on that prisoners should form work battalions. Stalin increased arrests as and when – most famously during what became known as the Great Terror – to fulfil his maniacal economic vision.

ABOVE The ruins of a uranium plant near a labour camp in the Kolyma region of Russia

"In 2015, the Levada Institute found that 52 per cent of Russians held Stalin in a positive light"

ABOVE A Moscow monument to victims of political repressions

as a memorial to political repression run by a human rights crew, which covered the entire spectrum of Soviet history, not just the Stalin era, it came up against not only what might be deemed a resurgent nationalism, spurred on further by episodes such as the Crimea crisis and the battles with the Ukraine administration, but a campaign directly against the museum. 'Locals' reported Perm-36 for 'vindicating' Ukrainian and Lithuanian nationalists for fighting the Soviet Union. The central crux, here, is that Perm-36 was considered anti-Russian and was 'rewriting history to suit its own aims', rather than offering brutal truths about the past. A 2014 television documentary stuck the knife in further, describing Perm-36's remit as "to teach children that Ukrainian fascists are not as bad as history textbooks portray them, while their grandchildren cause genocide in eastern Ukraine."

ABOVE Nobel Prize winner, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, as a prisoner in a Gulag camp, 1946. Solzhenitsyn wrote the acclaimed *The Gulag Archipelago* about his experiences

A new governor decided not to hand over any money to the museum at all in 2014 and refused to sponsor the examination needed to secure UNESCO status. Things got worse for Memorial, however, when Perm-36 was removed entirely from the government's cultural policy toward remembrance of victims of political repression. This is most interesting, because it removes the most sensitive aspect of the memorial. Public awareness programmes were abolished, too, and a national body took over the running of the camp. Shmyrov described how lumping prisoners under one blanket category offered a deliberate perversion of history: "We filmed one display. It told about the prisoners of that camp. Like any camp, it confined actual dissidents and human rights

advocates together with, literally, Nazi collaborators, as well as recidivist gangsters, and spies. The paradox is that, according to the display we filmed, there was no difference between the former and the latter, which is both immoral and unprofessional."

What the future holds for Perm-36, whether it becomes a UNESCO world heritage site or not, the lack of care towards the camp and the lack of consideration for its history – the camp is structurally being altered with walls being painted and asphalt driveways laid down – is disturbing. There has been no dialogue in modern-day Russia about its recent and distant past. Communist atrocities are disputed or rationalised.

In 2007, a government educational initiative aimed at the national curriculum proposed to teach school children that Stalin's plans and courses of action were not the result of a despotic madman who crushed opposition and repressed his people on an unimaginable scale, but rather were well thought out, understandable and sound. Even if we remove bias, political affiliation and revisionism, archival documents, sites and eyewitness accounts attest to the crimes against humanity and political oppression committed in the name of revolution and a dictator's ambitions.

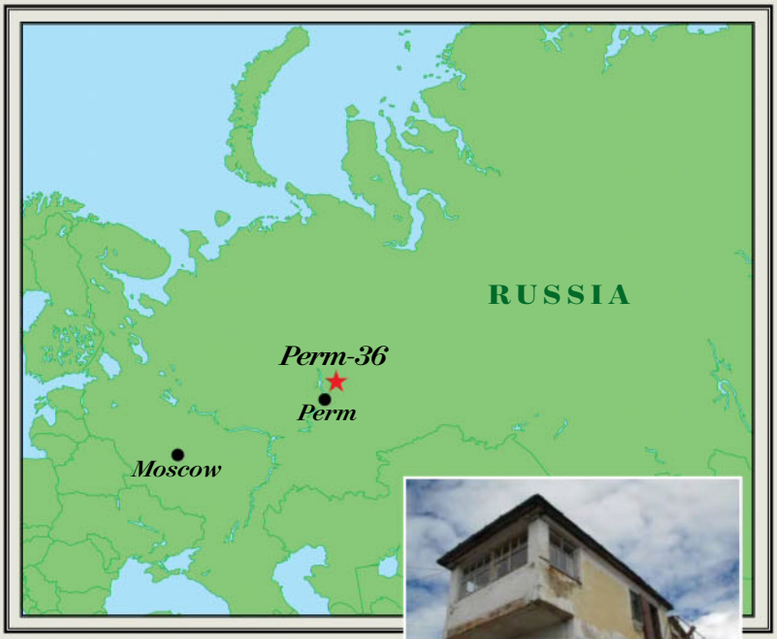
In 2015, the Levada Institute, a non-governmental polling survey body, found that 52 per cent of Russians held Stalin in a positive light. Roman Romanov, the director of a new, state-funded Gulag museum based in Moscow, told *The Independent*, in 2015, that: "Some people say it's demoralising to remember and talk about the horrors of the past. Some people say that it's better to forget – or that it was only criminals who were sent to the camps, so why memorialise them? We have to find a language with which to communicate about these things again, even if it's difficult."

There is a cultural battle being fought in today's Russia, when it comes to the act of remembrance and control of the past and its narratives. A human rights organisation running a memorial and museum for political oppression is against a vital sense of nationalistic control that the Putin administration demands and sees as politically useful. At the same time as opening the new museum in Moscow and the current president ordering a new monument to be built dedicated to the memory of the oppressed, in other parts of Russia there are celebrations of Stalin (in May 2015, a cultural centre celebrating Stalin opened in the Tver region, at the village of Khoroshevo).

It's a tale of mixed messages, in a 21st century Russia, which refuses to completely condemn Stalin as a tyrant and mass-murderer. Looking from the outside in, it looks bleak and strange. When this lack of curiosity about the past or attempts at rehabilitation affect places like Perm-36, whose purpose is to speak out for those killed by the state in the name of progress or retribution, the result is far more dangerous than having the face of Stalin emblazoned on a t-shirt, or his mug printed on a coaster, as if he's a Che Guevara type. Myth is certainly no substitute for history.

PERM-36

EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS



Essential information

Perm-36 is located 96 kilometres from Perm, near the village of Kuchino. A hire car, train or taxi can get you there. The museum offers a tour bus from Perm to Kuchino. Price of admission to the museum is 50 roubles. The city of Perm is on the very edge of European Russia and sits on the doorstep of Siberia. Getting there isn't exactly easy, but the railway sits on the Moscow to Vladivostok route, world famous as the Trans-Siberian Railway. Perm is also served by Perm International Airport with connecting flights to Moscow, Saint Petersburg and Kazan.

When to visit Spring and summer bring the most mild weather (April-August). The winter months bring lows of -16 degrees Celsius, so may be best avoided.

Time zone UTC+5:00
Currency Rouble

Where to stay

Luxury
Hilton Garden Inn Perm
A four-star hotel in the city centre, the Hilton chain offers the adventurous traveller a touch of western tradition even in a far-flung place like Perm. The centralised address means it's close to Perm's attractions. Rooms from £68 per night.

Mid-Range
Ural Hotel Perm
With its façade screaming 'Soviet Brutalist Architecture', the Ural Hotel Perm is a 393-room hotel found in the Nytvensky District. Its downtown location means it is close to Perm's state gallery and other tourist haunts. Rooms from £50 per night.

Budget
Gallery Hotel
Very close to the Kama River (Perm is situated on its southern bank) this three-star hotel is suitable for the tourist on a budget and comes with free internet (now an industry standard) and breakfast included. Rooms from £36 per night.

Links

www.uraltourism.com/perm36.php Ural Tourism website, offering travel information
permtours.com/why_perm/perm36.php Evrasia travel bureau, with info on Perm-36 and Perm
www.wmf.org/project/perm-36 World Monuments Fund website

03 things to see & do

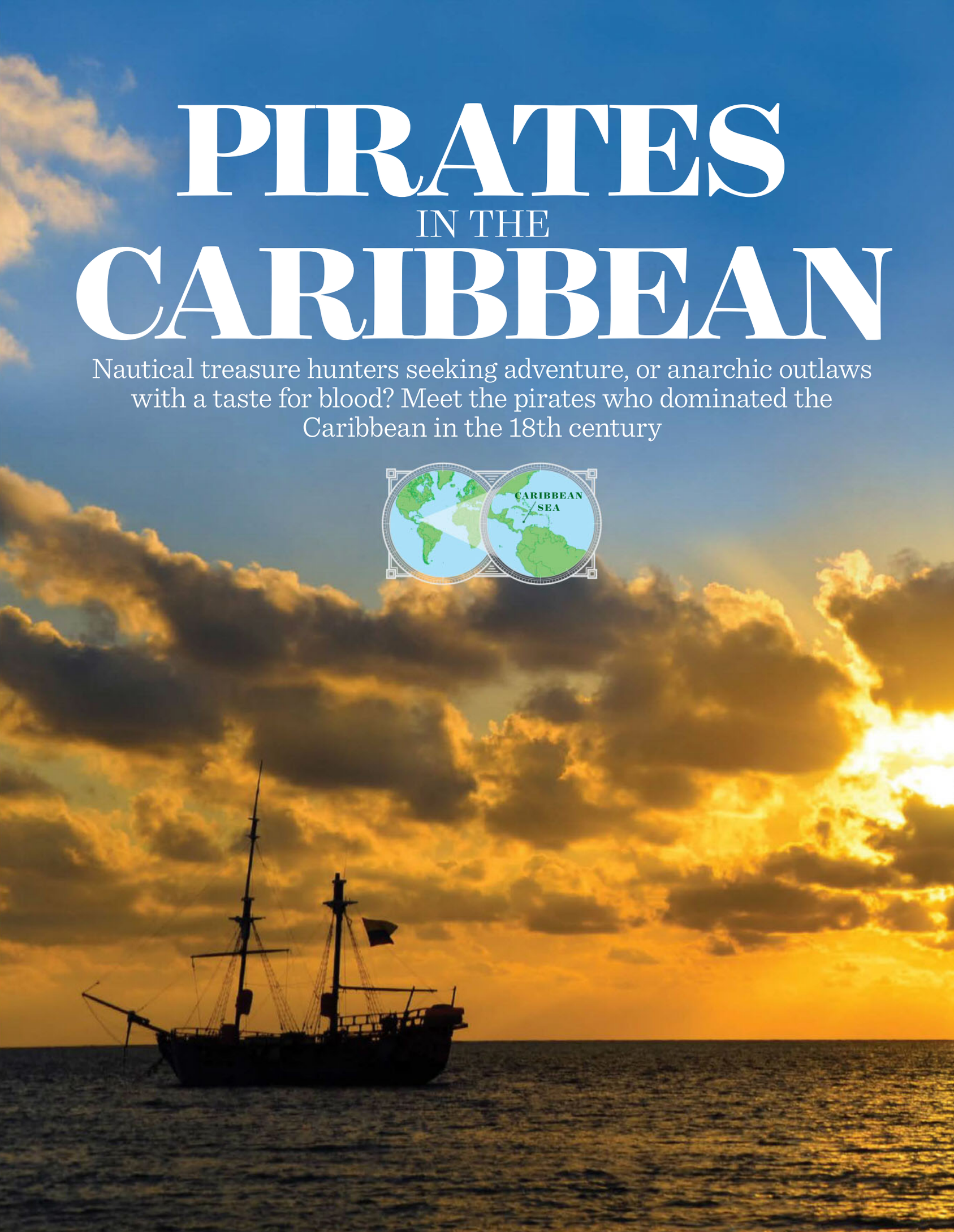
Out of this world postbox
☐ While operating as a corrective-labour camp until as late as 1988, mail was delivered here. The postbox seems an almost surreal touch.

See the cells
☐ At Perm-36, you can see reconstructions of cells where prisoners were kept. They slept on wooden bunks and discomfort must have been immense.

Invest in a guide
☐ While English is available at the site, it's worth investing in a tour guide to get a better idea of the history of Perm-36 and those imprisoned there.

PIRATES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Nautical treasure hunters seeking adventure, or anarchic outlaws with a taste for blood? Meet the pirates who dominated the Caribbean in the 18th century



Today when we think of the Caribbean, we might imagine endless golden beaches, turquoise seas and a relaxed pace of life. However, if you had set sail at the start of the 18th century and survived the long arduous journey across the Atlantic, you would not find solace and tranquillity, but instead an anarchic wilderness, overrun with pirates.

Far from the eccentric, adventure-seeking rogues that pepper our cultural imagination, pirates were violent outlaws, ready to pillage anything they could get their hands on. They often sailed in ships called sloops, which enabled them to navigate much shallower waters. At one point, these outlaws even formed their own lawless state in the Bahamas, where they could go about their ruthless looting undisturbed.

The origins of piracy lie with state governments. While piracy itself was illegal, in England state-sponsored attacks on the ships of national enemies were made lawful by Letters of Marque and Reprisal. These gave former naval officers and merchants the right to pillage enemy vessels. These privateers or buccaneers often

WORDS BY HARRY CUNNINGHAM

ABOVE Edward Teach's severed head hangs from a bowsprit

BOTTOM LEFT The Letter of Marque, which gave privateers a license to attack and pillage enemy vessels

Capture of the Pirate, Blackbeard, 1718, Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, which was painted in 1920

"He pillaged 18 kilograms of gold dust, a great quantity of brandy, elephant teeth and 14 men to beef up his crew"

targeted Spanish ships, as they controlled much of South America and the Caribbean at this time, particularly during the second half of the 17th century.

The island of Tortuga, which had not yet been colonised by Spain, became an informal buccaneer capital or 'pirates' den' during this period. A Brethren of the Coast was set up by Captain Henry Morgan – a man seen as the Maritime Robin Hood – who was famed for his exploits in Jamaica and his love of shooting wild game on deserted islands.

The Brethren of the Coast created a set of codes that would govern how the buccaneers should live. By working together, targeting trade routes and overpowering ships, these buccaneers became extremely successful. However, the age of the buccaneers would soon start to get out of hand. A law unto themselves, they soon started pillaging anything they could get their hands on, regardless of the diplomatic consequences.

Two buccaneers who were effectively responsible for bringing this era to an end were the notorious captains, Henry Avery and William Kidd. Avery, believed to have been born in Plymouth in around 1659, was a mariner on the King Charles II. When the crew of the Charles mutinied, Avery was elected as the new captain and renamed the ship The Fancy.

On the Portuguese Island of Principe, off the coast of Africa, Avery captured his first ships: two Danish vessels. He also pillaged 18 kilograms of gold dust, "a great quantity of brandy," elephant teeth and 14 Danish men to would beef up his crew.

Taking on even more men as he went, Avery headed to the Red Sea where he was joined by five other ships, one of which was captained by Thomas Tew from New York, who was well known for looting.

Today, the Caribbean is largely a tranquil holiday destination, but its past was rather more bloody

Avery's aim was to attack ships leaving Mecca on their way back from a Muslim pilgrimage to the Mughal Empire. He and his crew attacked the Ganj-i-Sawai and this time they were rewarded not just with brandy and elephant teeth, but with between 23,000 and 27,000 kilograms of gold and silver. Some accounts suggest that their attack was particularly brutal and involved torture and rape. When the Mughals returned to India to tell the tale, representatives of the East India Company in Bombay wrote to London expressing concerns about a "black cloud at court." The British government now had to act or risk losing vital trade with the Mughals.

Avery and his team sailed on to Saint Thomas in the Danish-controlled Virgin Islands, and perhaps to the Bahamas, before heading home to Britain. When they arrived, Avery's men were arrested and put on trial, one of whom, John Dann, was alleged to have had £1,045 in gold on his person (roughly £100,000 in today's money).

While his crew were found guilty and hanged at Wapping in 1696, Avery escaped and was believed to have moved to Ireland or headed home to Plymouth. However, even today, the fate of the captain is unknown.

ABOVE Henry Morgan, a prominent Welsh privateer of the 17th century

"The sensational story of ordinary men making their fortune on the high seas was lapped up by the press"

The incident brought home the risks involved with privateering for the government and it was hoped the trial of Avery's men would act as a show trial. Instead, it had the opposite effect. The sensational story of ordinary men making their fortune on the high seas, visiting exotic lands and eluding justice, was lapped up by the press.

Nevertheless, the exploits of another privateer turned pirate – a character many believe has been treated unfairly by history – would really capture the public's imagination, and launch the so-called golden age.

Captain William Kidd, an experienced sailor turned privateer, set off from London in 1696, armed with his ship the Adventure Galley and his own Letters of Marque signed by King William III. With the backing of a group of businessmen and nobles, Kidd was to turn pirate on the pirates and re-claim stolen loot, with William III receiving a ten per cent share in the profits.

However, it did not quite work out that way. Pirates at the end of the 17th century sailed on a well-known route called the Pirate Round. Pirates would cross the Atlantic, sail around the Cape of Good Hope and then make a stop either in Madagascar itself or on the small island of Île Sainte-Marie. Here they would boost supplies and congregate, before they headed off up the coast of Africa towards the Red Sea and then onto India where Mogul ships were a-plenty.

Kidd set sail for Madagascar, but soon caused suspicion because instead of stopping off at Saint Mary's

ABOVE The pirate Captain John Avery, taking the Great Mogul's ship

ABOVE La Crique beach, in Île Sainte-Marie (known in English as Saint Mary's) near Madagascar

ABOVE This painting depicts pirates attacking an English naval vessel

– the obvious place to catch pirates when their guard was down – he was spotted by naval ships carrying on further north to the Comoro Islands. The pirate hunter had turned pirate himself.

Nevertheless, some argue that Kidd's conversion to piracy was not necessarily his own doing: a third of his crew perished with cholera and all of his replacements turned out to be pirates. With nothing to show for months of work, Kidd followed in Avery's footsteps and headed straight for the Red Sea where he plundered the wealthy Quedagh Merchant before heading back to Madagascar.

Kidd sailed back to the relative sanctity of the Caribbean, stopping first in Anguilla and then to Saint Thomas, before heading to Puerto Rico and Hispaniola.

It was while on Anguilla that Kidd heard that the British government had declared him a pirate and had issued a warrant for his arrest. Historian Rebecca Simon believes he was a scapegoat. She argues that the government had to show they were taking piracy seriously after the Moguls threatened to cut off trade, which could have bankrupted the East India Company.

Kidd's friend, Lord Bellomont, the governor of Colonial New York and Massachusetts, who had also been part of the consortium that had hired him, lured him to America, pretending to offer him refuge. Kidd fell for the trap and was then arrested and transported back to England where he was tried, found guilty and hanged.

The trial and capture of Kidd, however, did little to dissuade privateers and mariners from going rogue. In

ABOVE Captain Kidd depicted in a scene, welcoming women on board to see his ship in New York

ABOVE William III saw the piracy act come into action during his reign

Kidd's treasure

Some of the treasure captured by William Kidd, one of the most notorious of all pirates, has recently been uncovered by divers

The privateer is said to have acquired a vast treasure when he turned to piracy but by the time he was arrested, the infamous loot had vanished.

During his incarceration, Kidd wrote to Sir Robert Harley, the Commons Speaker of the time, offering the location of his £100,000 loot (which is about £10.5 million in today's money) if his sentence was commuted; unfortunately for him the offer was declined.

The so called Kidd-Palmer charts, discovered by Hubert Palmer in a bureau purportedly from Kidd's ship The Adventure Galley – which was purchased in 1935 – allegedly pointed to the treasure being in the China Sea.

The charts vanished in 1957, as has any evidence of a historical evaluation by the British Museum, who were long purported to have verified the charts as genuine.

Other islands that have been searched include Oak Island, Nova Scotia, Hon Tre Lon, Vietnam and Bonaire, the Lesser Antilles. Kidd was known to have stopped off in the Caribbean to unload The Quedagh Merchant and his letter to Harley implies the treasure is in the West Indies.

In 2015, divers believed they had found treasure from the Adventure Galley, off the coast of Madagascar. The UN, however, dismissed the discovery, stating that the silver bar the divers had discovered was 95 per cent lead and the wreck is a broken port construction.

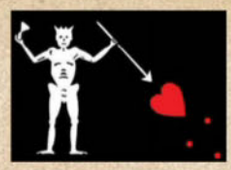
ABOVE William Kidd and his buried treasure

fact, once again it had the opposite effect. Newspapers turned Kidd into a celebrity and transcripts of his trial sold out, while rumours spread that Avery had escaped to a utopian pirate republic in the Caribbean where Kidd's treasure allegedly lay hidden.

While there is no evidence of Avery re-emerging there, it is certainly true that ex-naval men, now unemployed at the end of the Spanish War of Succession, began to congregate in the Bahamas where the sugar and slave trades were booming. They lived by their own pirate code, setting up what Marcus Rediker describes as, "...an early social security system, promising to reimburse each other for loss of body parts."

The Bahamas, however, was certainly not a meritocratic utopia if you were a local. The pirates looted whatever they could, burned down houses of settlers and reportedly even raped local women. By 1716, pirates in Nassau outnumbered citizens by ten to one. Some describe it as a pirate's republic; others condemned Nassau as a failed state.

The closest thing the pirates had to a leader was Captain Benjamin Horingold, another privateer who we have very little background information about. Captain Horingold, however, was the subject of an effective coup when he refused to attack English – now British – ships.



ABOVE Blackbeard's black flag encapsulates his vicious, brutal reputation. A white skeleton holds an hourglass in one hand, signalling that your time in this world is running out while the other hand holds an arrow pointing at a bloody red heart

ABOVE The Queen Anne's Revenge frigate, famously Blackbeard's flagship

The pirates reasoned that most of the ships coming in and out of the Caribbean were British and carried the biggest loots, since Britain was increasingly the dominant force in the Caribbean by this time.

Indeed once they started raiding British ships, the pirates of Nassau captured 70 per cent of all the treasure that would be looted in the pirate era.

It's no surprise, then, that all the big names congregated in Nassau during the 1710s, including the most notorious pirate of them all: Blackbeard. We cannot be certain of his real name, though multiple sources give variations on Edward Teach. What we do know is that Blackbeard was a contemporary of Horingold and gained a reputation for his courage, brutality and striking appearance: he sported a dirty, long and tangled beard, tangled into knots, and would place lit matches under his hat. Indeed, the contemporary pirate biographer Charles

"By 1716, pirates in Nassau outnumbered citizens by ten to one. Some described it as pirate's republic"

ABOVE Nassau Harbour in the late 19th century

ABOVE Pirates boarding a Spanish vessel in the dead of night. Taken from *Lives of the Most Notorious Pirates* by Charles Johnson

Edward Teach, known as the formidable Blackbeard

Wreck of the Queen Anne's Revenge

The discovery of Blackbeard's ship boosted our understanding of this infamous yet mysterious figure

Blackbeard's ship was discovered after cannons and other artefacts were salvaged from the coast of North Carolina in 1996.

Originally a French slave vessel known as La Concorde, the ship is known to have made just three journeys.

In 1717, having set sail from Nantes, near Brittany in France, and stopping off in Africa to pick up slaves, it was attacked by Blackbeard about 160 kilometres from Martinique. With some of the crew having already perished, and Blackbeard boasting two ships with a total of 150 men and 20 cannons, Captain Pierre Dossett did not stand a chance. He surrendered the ship to the pirate.

After stopping on the island of Bequia, Blackbeard renamed the ship, unloaded the slaves and some, but not all, of the crew.

With the newly-named Queen Anne's Revenge, Blackbeard took ships in Saint Vincent, Saint Lucia, Nevis, Antigua and Hispaniola. In South Carolina, he blockaded Charleston's port for a week.

When Blackbeard headed to Beaufort Inlet, North Carolina, the Queen Anne's Revenge finally met its end when it ran aground in the notoriously shallow waters.

Today you can visit the North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort, which houses more than 300 artefacts from the wreckage.

ABOVE Raising artefacts from the Queen Anne's Revenge wreck site

ABOVE Illustration of Captain Kidd burying his Bible, because – according to legend – of its opposition to his way of life

LEFT The life of a pirate was not easy, with violence and theft a part of the job

Johnson wrote that Blackbeard, "...frightened America more than any comet that had appeared there a long time" and that he was, "...altogether such a figure, that imagination cannot form an idea of a fury from hell to look more frightful."

By now the situation in the Caribbean was out of hand. The British had to act. They made a former privateer, Woodes Rogers, governor of the Bahamas and ordered him to bring back law and order. However, fighting every single pirate who had made Nassau their base would have been an insurmountable task. Instead a compromise was reached. If a pirate would agree to switch sides to work for the government and go after other pirates, they would be offered a pardon. Captain Horingold accepted such a pardon from the British government and agreed to start hunting down his former partners in crime.

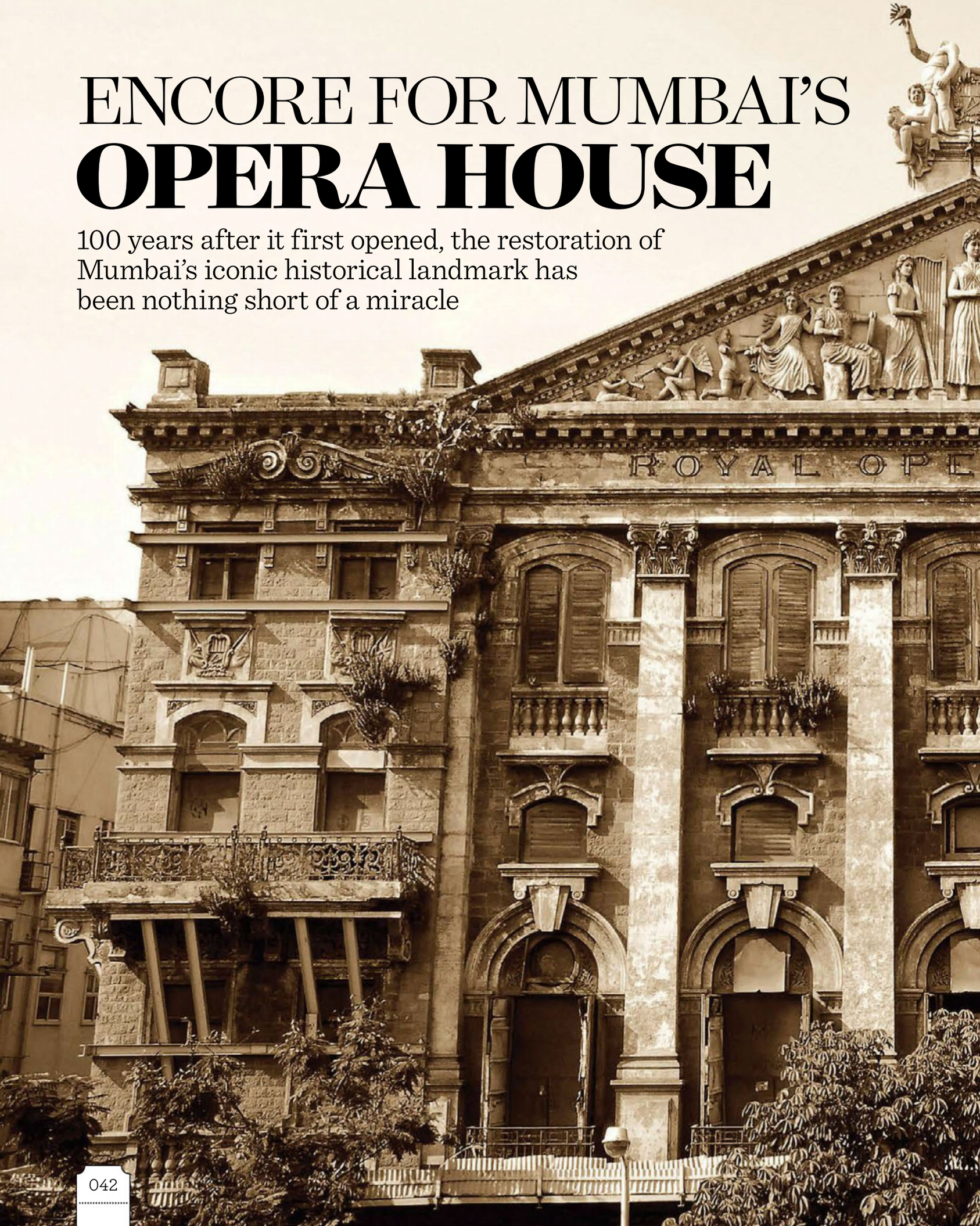
For a while, Blackbeard also accepted a pardon from the governor of North Carolina, and he settled down in Bath Town. However, this wasn't to last long and soon, Captain Blackbeard was back to his old ways.

He met his end at Ocracoke Inlet when the Governor of Virginia sent Royal Navy Lieutenant Robert Maynard to bring him down. On 22 November 1718, in an infamous bloody showdown aboard Blackbeard's ship, one of Maynard's crew put an end to the notorious pirate by hacking off his head.

After Blackbeard's death, piracy fell into decline. Without a base or the camaraderie of the major players, it no longer seemed so attractive a venture. The pirates that weren't caught absconded on their ships and disappeared into the ether, never to be heard of again, leaving generations of us to fantasise about their lives on the run in exotic lands.

ENCORE FOR MUMBAI'S **OPERA HOUSE**

100 years after it first opened, the restoration of Mumbai's iconic historical landmark has been nothing short of a miracle



“Fewer still knew that this landmark that lay in disrepair was once a symbol of the city’s glory days”

WORDS BY JANHAVI ACHAREKAR

When you enter Mumbai’s Royal Opera House, the twinkle of its grand chandeliers lights up an ornate ivory ceiling embellished with gold. The light accentuates the sheen of two marble statuettes that gaze ponderingly upon a foyer that looks exactly as it did 100 years ago. As you make your way to the box stalls, turn your glance upwards and the faces of Shakespeare and George Bernard Shaw, among other intellectuals, smile at you kindly from their place on a dome rimmed with lights. On your way out, after you have admired your own reflection in the rococo mirror hemmed in with stuccowork, be sure to climb up the staircase for a dramatic view of the proscenium stage from the Grand Balcony. Then, for a reality check, make your way to the terrace for a view of the busy streets below.

Until recently, a visit to Mumbai’s ‘Opera House’ implied a trip to a busy commercial district that housed the city’s diamond bourse. Few knew of the existence of the heritage building from which the district derived its name; the dilapidated structure was a blind spot. Fewer still knew that this landmark that lay in disrepair was once a symbol of the city’s glory days. Then, in October 2016, its centennial year, this magnificent representative of baroque architecture was restored to its former splendour and was opened to the public.

Curtain call

When the foundation stone of the Opera House was laid in 1910, the city was the centre of industry and commerce. Bombay – as it was known then – was also where theatre, classical music and art flourished. Not far from the

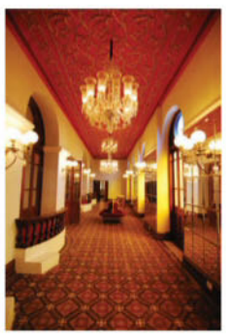
location of the Opera House was the neighbourhood of Girgaum, which had set the stage for the burgeoning Indian theatre of the time that comprised Marathi, Gujarati, Marwari and Parsi musicals. These were colonial times and while there were venues for European theatrical productions, the city lacked an opera house.

The existence of the Royal Opera House was made possible by the duo of Maurice E Bandmann, a theatrical manager from Calcutta, and Jehangir Framji Karaka, a Parsi who was in the coal broking business. Although it was eventually completed by 1916, it hosted its first performance in 1911, opening for King George V and Queen Mary's visit to Bombay.

The building's imposing façade – crowned by a sculpted frieze of angels, cherubs, musicians and a likeness of Shakespeare – presided over its bustling neighbourhood. With its Corinthian capitals, ornate cast iron railings, timber awnings and louvred doors, it earned a reputation as one of the finest buildings of the time. The interiors were equally resplendent. Upon entry, visitors were bedazzled by the gilded stuccowork, exquisite murals and glittering crystal 'Sans Souci' chandeliers. The entrance domes bore frescoes of playwrights and thinkers; the chandeliers came from the mansion – called Sans Souci – of the philanthropist David Sassoon, a wealthy Iraqi Jew based in the city, who had made his fortune in the cotton and opium trades.

"The location itself was a landmark," says city historian Deepak Rao. He emphasises the historical importance of another building that continues to stand proudly just around the corner from the Opera House

ABOVE The project restored the beauty and magnificence that the Royal Opera House once boasted



ABOVE A stroll down the red-hued corridor of the second-floor foyer

Dawn of cinema in India

The city of Bombay gave rise to Indian cinema in which the Opera House played a major role

Cinema arrived in India with the screening of the Lumière Brothers's pictures at Bombay's Watson Hotel in 1896, shortly after their first screening in Paris. The films caused a sensation and were followed by a few early films made by Indian filmmakers including a documentary on wrestlers and the recording of a play.

Dadasaheb Phalke is credited with the first full-length Indian feature film, *Raja Harishchandra* (1913), a film based on a story from Hindu mythology. The film became immensely popular, paving the way for the success of Indian cinema. Madan Theatre was a pioneering film production company that hired foreign directors to make films such as *Nala Damayanti* (1920). Ardeshir Irani's *Alam Ara* (1931), a love story in Hindi/Urdu, was India's first talkie, beating Madan's *Shirin-Farhad* by a few days. Tamil films such as *Kalidas* followed closely in their heels.

With the popularity of films, theatres soon turned into cinemas. Often, there was an overlap; the Coronation Theatre in Girgaum that screened *Raja Harischandra* also hosted a performance by the famous Calcutta singer Gauhar Jaan. Meanwhile, the Royal Opera House screened landmark films like *Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje* (1955) by the noted filmmaker V Shantaram. After gaining independence in 1947, Indian cinema came into its own with films like *Do Bigha Zameen* (1952), *Pyaasa* (1957) and parallel cinema by Bengali filmmakers Satyajit Ray and Ritwik Ghatak.

ABOVE The poster of *Alam Ara*, India's first talkie

– Kutch Castle. Built in 1912, this contemporary of the Opera House was owned by the royal family of the kingdom of Kutch (located in the present-day state of Gujarat). Urban planning from that time created new routes that connected disparate areas of the city. One such connection included Sandhurst Road in the area. "Kutch Castle and the Royal Opera House have stood the test of time. Together with Sandhurst Road, they have witnessed a significant time in the city's history from political movements to religious processions," says Rao.

The Opera House had opened with much fanfare, its large entrance receiving many a horse-drawn carriage from which alighted its British and European patrons, together with Parsis who had acquired the European sensibility. "Inside, the theatre was accommodated with 26 boxes and orchestra stalls furnished with cane chairs. Each floor had a separate refreshment room and bar and a promenade for taking the air during intervals," describes the noted Mumbai historian Sharda Dwivedi in her book, *Bombay: The Cities Within*. According to historical research quoted by Dwivedi, the dressing rooms were fitted with hot and cold shower baths, while the building was fitted with inhalers that drew fresh air from the garden into channels bearing blocks of ice, which extended under passages to all parts of the theatre. The roof of the building also had a number of extractors to expel impure air.

Yet, only a year after its completion, the building was forced to double up as a cinema owing to the tremendous popularity of the new medium. In 1925, British Pathé – producer of newsreels and documentaries – rented the theatre and began to screen its films there. Then from 1929 to 1932, Madan's Theatre leased the Opera House to various theatrical concerns like the Parsi Elphinstone Dramatic Company, says Dwivedi. The Opera House served as a venue to some of the greatest Indian artistes of its times, including the actor-singer Bal Gandharva, who reigned supreme over Marathi theatre for more than three decades, and Prithviraj Kapoor – the doyen of Indian theatre and cinema. It also served as a film set to several iconic Indian films.

However, the advent of the talkies turned it entirely into a cinema. The ownership of the building changed hands to include Ideal Pictures in 1935, and eventually, the Maharaja of Gondal in 1952 (with whose family the ownership rests today). Its fortunes took a downturn in the 1980s when the popularity of cinema itself began to wane, with the arrival of video players, and it remained in disuse. The structure gradually deteriorated beyond recognition, weathered and made fragile by the city's heavy monsoon rains and humidity.

Act II

The restoration of the Opera House was a Herculean feat, initiated by the Gondals and undertaken by Abha Narain Lambah (ANL) Associates. Beside the need for drastic structural repairs, the theatre had been refurbished in the 1970s when several old design elements had been discarded and more modern ones were introduced. The project began with the piecing together of historical details for a vision of the original theatre; archival photographs and history books played a major role in the visualisation of its design. So did serendipity.

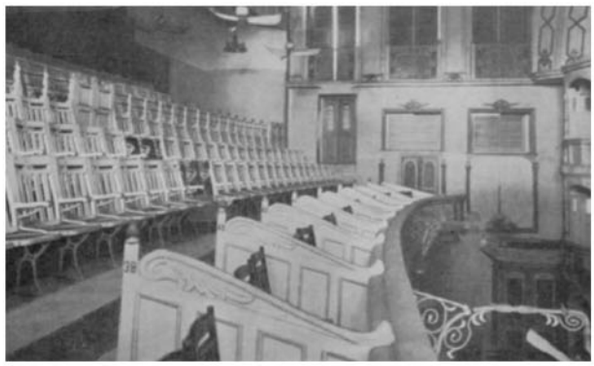
ABOVE The central entrance to the auditorium from the foyer

ABOVE Opera House curator Asad Lalljee

An Australian professor, in the possession of pictures from an old publication, contacted ANL Associates giving them a clue about the ceiling design and the historic 'Sans Souci' chandeliers. While the original chandeliers were eventually located, the statuettes in the foyer were not. An ANL Associates employee, driving by in a cab shortly before the reopening of the theatre, caught a glimpse of two very similar sculptures in an antique store. These now remain safely ensconced at the entrance to the stalls, where the original sculptures once stood. Even the beautiful stained glass canopies in the foyer, covered with paint and grime, were accidentally discovered while being cleaned, as were some seats and other elements in the theatre. Through it all, the Gondals were in constant touch, sharing photographs in their possession and other details. The family has since provided much of the furniture and lighting.

The greatest challenge faced by conservation architect Abha Narain Lambah and her team was the adaptation of the old design to meet modern requirements. Inside the auditorium, the old mounted wall fans have been replaced with lights as the theatre is now air-conditioned, while the side balconies were sacrificed in order to install electrical requirements.

"We struggled with fire standards and services such as air-conditioning and lighting. Even to find the right acoustic fabric that could absorb sound and was fire-



RIGHT In the refurbishment, the fans on the ceiling above the theatre were replaced with modern-day air conditioning

BELOW While the original statues were lost, an ANL Associates employee spotted two similar sculptures in an antique store

rated at the same time, was a complicated process," confesses a team member. However, these and other hurdles were crossed successfully with the help of innumerable people, including leading specialists and experts from specific fields.

While the original ceiling of the auditorium was built on the principle of the horn of a gramophone, ensuring that sound carried perfectly to the various levels, international acoustics consultant Richard Nowell was brought in to make further improvements. On his recommendation, the carpeted concrete slope of the floor was replaced with wooden steps, and while the original windows were retained, they had to be acoustically treated. Similarly, art conservationists, such as Anupam Sah from Mumbai's CSMVS Museum, were brought in to restore paintings, stained glass and even chandeliers. Although the panel paintings – in keeping with the theme of the Terpischore fresco that once existed above the central dome – in the foyer could not be salvaged, students of Mumbai's reputed Sir JJ School of Art reproduced them.

Today, the restored theatre shows off its original Minton tile flooring and plasterwork. The original ticket counter and three green rooms are fully functional as are its six royal boxes, 575 seats and ten box seats. The bathrooms, with their beautiful tiles and murals, too, are beautiful works of art. All of the baroque hardware, even all the way down to the door handles, has been sourced from around the world.

Campaign to save historic Mumbai

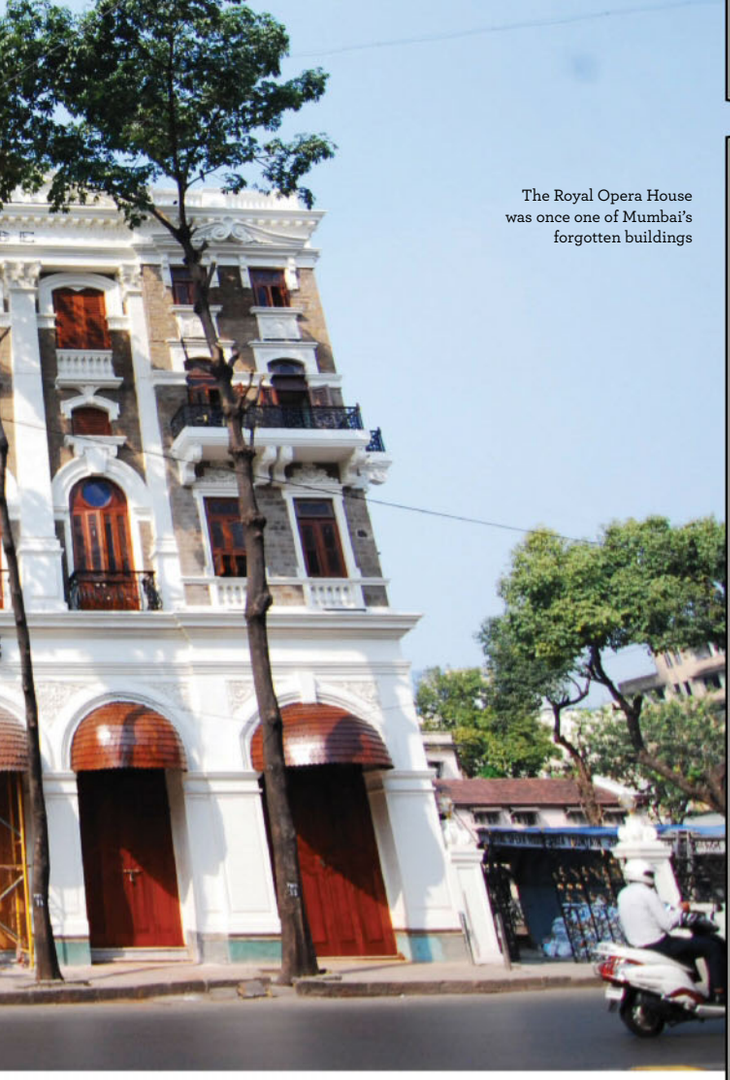
India's leading conservation architect and her eponymous firm are associated with many prominent restoration projects

Abha Narain Lambah is an award-winning conservation architect who has authored various books on architecture. A consultant to ICCROM, UNITAR, World Monuments Fund, Global Heritage Fund and Archaeological Survey of India, she is associated with some of India's most prominent architectural restoration projects.

Her firm Abha Narain Lambah (ANL) Associates specialises in architectural conservation, building restoration and retrofit, museum design, historic interiors, preparation of urban and regional level management plans, conservation assessment studies, urban signage and street furniture. Some of the projects undertaken include historic monuments, public and educational buildings, historic palaces and hotels, heritage homes, museums as well as urban infrastructure. It has won eight UNESCO Asia Pacific Awards for conservation projects across India.

ANL Associates has worked on the restoration of formidable historic sites such as the Buddhist monuments of Ladakh, the medieval UNESCO World Heritage site of Hampi, early-20th century structures in Bengal and the Victorian buildings of Mumbai among several others. In Mumbai itself, the firm has been involved in the restoration of 19th-century public buildings such as the Municipal Head Office, University Convocation Hall, Crawford Market, Old Secretariat, Bombay High Court, the Asiatic Library and the Royal Opera House among others. It has worked on several museum projects including the Mani Bhavan Gandhi Museum and the CSMVS Museum of Mumbai.

ABOVE Conservation architect Abha Narain Lambah



The Royal Opera House was once one of Mumbai's forgotten buildings

"The stunning second floor foyer, with its red-and-gold ceiling and chandeliers, is my favourite part of the building," says curator Asad Lalljee, who is responsible for the programming of cultural events. The programme will be in keeping with the ethos and spirit of the original.

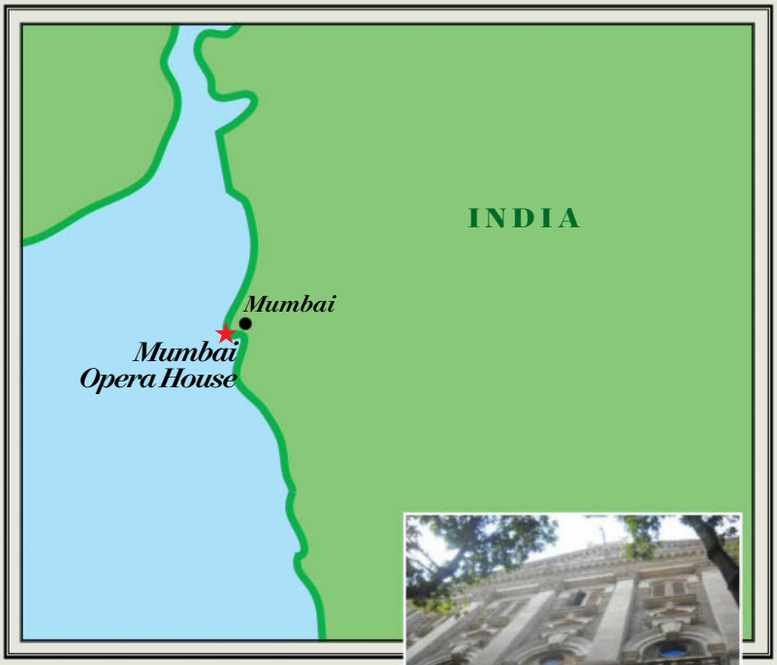
"We are hoping to have operatic performances that will firmly re-establish the Royal Opera House Mumbai as an opera space of international quality and a cultural venue par excellence," says Ashish Doshi, director of the Royal Opera House.

The building has an outdoor space that houses a now-deserted, enclosed refreshment area marked by the signage 'Royal Opera House Soda Fountain (1916)'. Plans are afoot, says Lalljee, for two cafés and an outdoor installation space here. In the near future, visitors can also expect a photo gallery and a curated walkthrough within the Opera House and around the neighbourhood.

In a fitting tribute to its operatic and cinematic history, the Opera House finally reopened with the MAMI (Mumbai Academy of the Moving Image) Film Festival on 20 October 2016. This was followed by a private performance the next day by Indian-born British soprano Patricia Rozario (accompanied by her husband Mark Troop on the piano) for the guests of the Maharaja of Gondal, Jyotendrasinhji Jadeja. As operatic arias led to a grand finale, the city's swish set clinked glasses with royalty from around the country. Its spirit revived, the Opera House entered its second act and an iconic historical landmark was reborn.

MUMBAI OPERA HOUSE

EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS



Essential information

Located on Mama Parmanand Marg in Mumbai, better known as the Opera House district, the Royal Opera House Mumbai is easily reached from Charni Road Station on the Western suburban train line. The building is a short walk from the station. Alternatively, it's just as easy and quick to take a local taxi. Mumbai is known for its expensive accommodation, with the better options concentrated in the South Mumbai region and around the airports. Most recommended are about three kilometres from the Royal Opera House.

When to visit November to March is the season for pleasant weather and cultural activity in Mumbai.

Time zone UTC+5.30
Currency INR

Where to stay

Luxury
Hotel Marine Plaza
One of Mumbai's premier five-star hotels, its rooms command a fine view of the sea and the row of streetlights known as the 'Queen's Necklace'. It has two restaurants and a pub. Double sea-facing rooms start from £120 per night.

Mid-Range
The Ambassador
Once a landmark for jazz aficionados, this art deco hotel boasted the first revolving restaurant in Mumbai – the Pearl of the Orient – which is still open but no longer revolves. Deluxe double rooms start from £100 per night.

Budget
West End Hotel
This retro-look hotel is right in the heart of Mumbai, however, it is located off the hustle and bustle of the main road. The services it offers exceed the expectations of similar low-cost hotels. Double rooms start from £78 per night.

Links

royaloperahouse.in/ Official site of the Royal Opera House Mumbai
www.csmvs.in/ Official site of Mumbai's premier museum
www.avidlearning.in/ Official site of Avid, a cultural body led by curator Asad Lalljee

03 things to see & do

Frescoes on the entrance domes
☐ The frescoes on the three entrance domes of the lobby feature painted portraits of poets, authors and musicians.

Booking the right seats
☐ The wooden panelled family boxes of the ground floor stalls hark back to days when families were seated in semi-private partially-enclosed spaces.

Second floor foyer
☐ Make sure to take a stroll down the second floor foyer during the intermission. Beautiful chandeliers illuminate the corridor's red hues.

THE AMAZING RESCUE OF SS GREAT BRITAIN

Ask almost any Bristolian of the right age, and they will be able to tell you where they were when the ss Great Britain came home.

WORDS BY NICK WYKE

"It was just one of those events that has an amazing emotional resonance for the people who witnessed it – the drama of that return must have been really compelling," says Kate Rambridge, head of interpretation at the ss Great Britain Trust.

It's a view echoed by retired ship pilot Terry Russell, who recalls on that day in July 1970 "...something sort of took hold of the population of Bristol and they sort of came alive and they certainly took the ss Great Britain to their hearts." Exactly 137 years earlier, to the day, Isambard Kingdom Brunel's second steam ship, the ss Great Britain, was launched in the presence of Prince Albert, who had travelled from London to Bristol on the master engineer's Great Western Railway. The launch reportedly required two bottles of champagne after the first fell into the dock.

The world's first super-sized ocean liner was the most technologically advanced steam ship of its time. Iron-hulled and driven by screw propulsion, it set new standards in travel and raised the bar in terms of engineering and speed. Its launch was a statement that Britain was not only still a major maritime player, but a global economic power like no other.

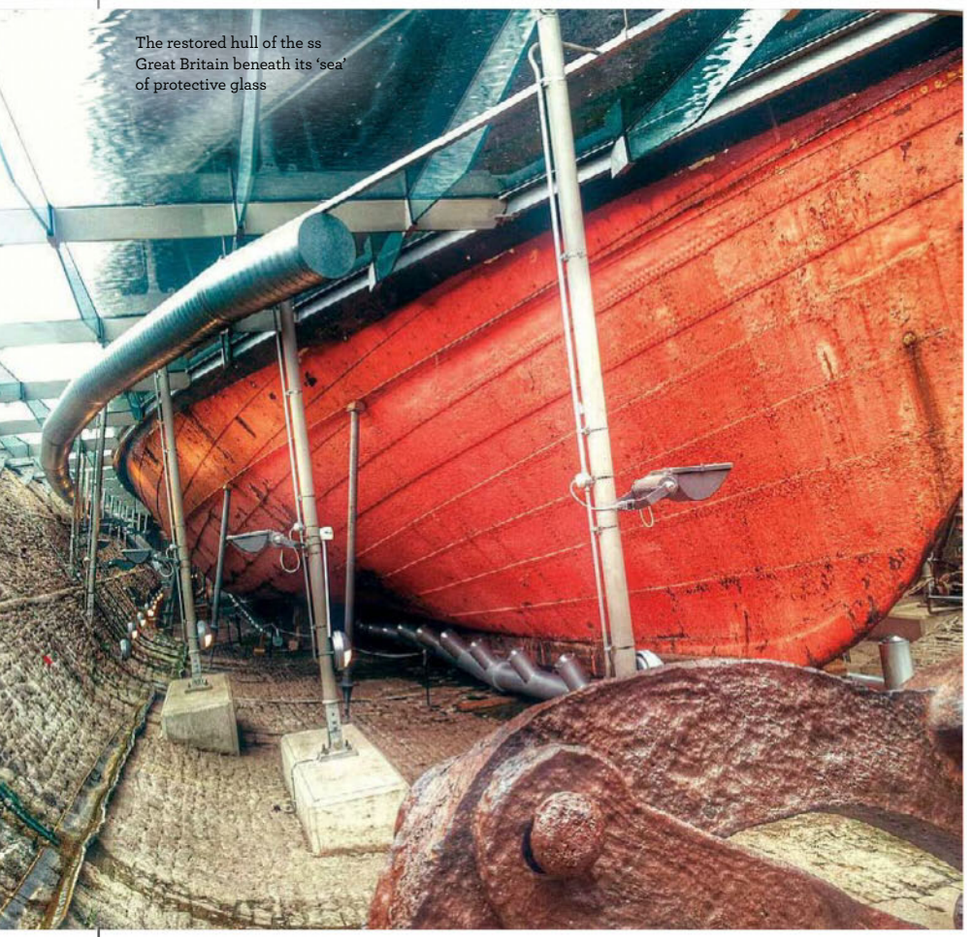
The ss Great Britain was, in the words of the accomplished naval architect Dr Ewan Corlett – who would later play such a

Against all odds and stranded on the other side of the world, a handful of bold visionaries salvaged the rusting hulk of the mighty ss Great Britain and brought it back home to Bristol to be restored to its original glory

vital part in the ship's eventual return to these shores – like the supersonic Concorde of its day. As well as its ground-breaking six-bladed propeller system, which was turbo-charged by step-up chain gearing linking the engine and drive shaft, it was the first ship with a remote-indicating electric log, the first capable of lowering all masts in a head wind and the first with a double bottom. In fact, it was so ahead of its time that the steam hammer had to be invented to cope with the raw materials needed to build the ship.

At 98 metres long and 15 metres in the beam, it was almost three times the size of any previous merchant ship. The six masts, named after the weekdays from Monday to Saturday, were cut back to five in 1847, and finally to three in 1853. When

What was left of the ship, being towed on the River Avon in 1970



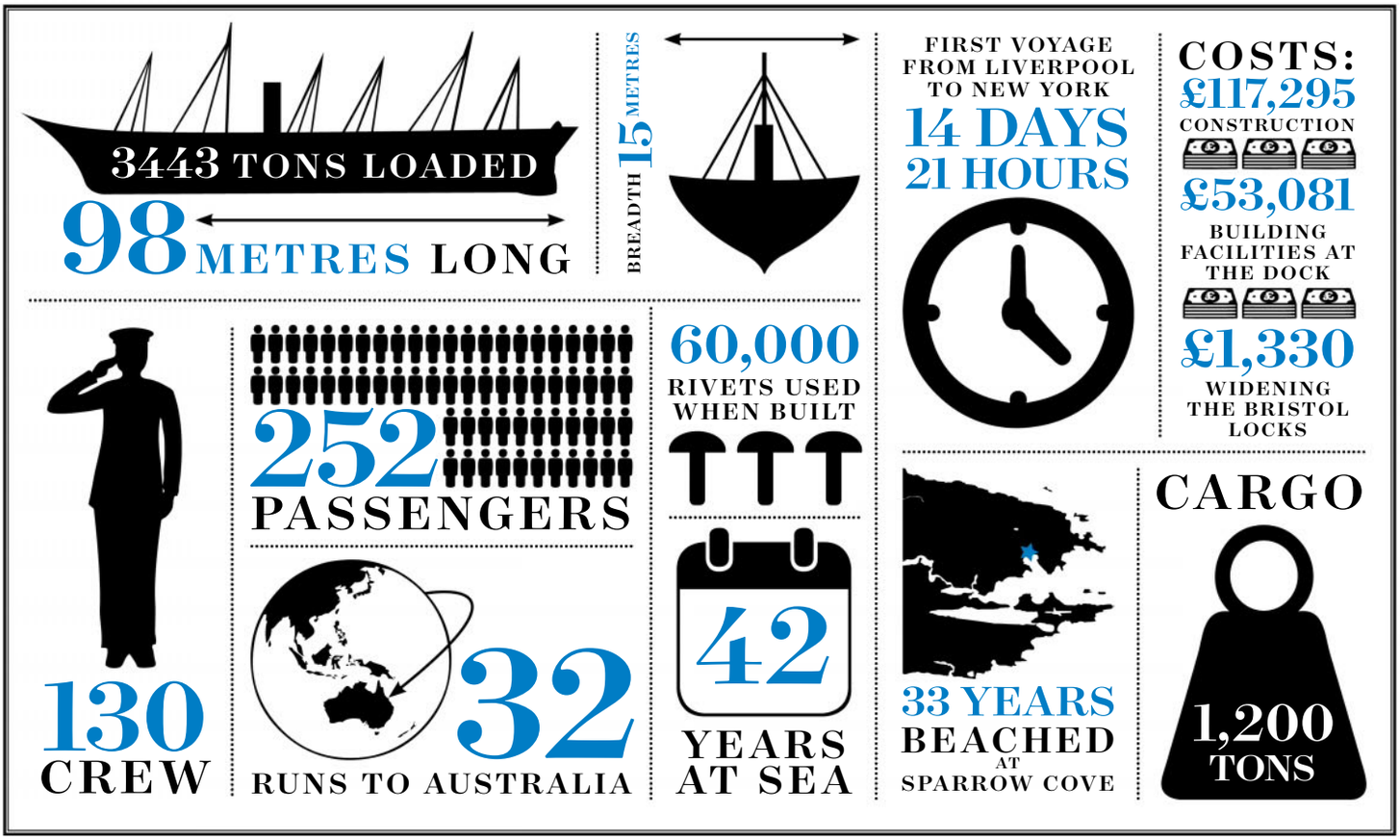
The restored hull of the ss Great Britain beneath its 'sea' of protective glass

it was transformed into a full sailing ship in 1882, a wooden sheathing was fitted, possibly to protect the hull against damage by open-hold cargo carriers.

The 3,600 ton steam ship had cost the Great Western Steam-Ship Company (GWSC) £171,375, including £1,330, four shillings and nine pence for the alteration to locks in Bristol's floating harbour – a grand total of approximately £7.5 million today. When the ship was sold as a wreck to the Falkland Islands Company in 1886, the value had dropped to £3,000 – about £180,000 in current terms.

In 42 years at sea, it sailed back and forth across the Atlantic, travelled 32 times to Australia with emigrants (as well as carrying the first 'All England' cricket team to Melbourne in 1861), served as a troop ship in the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny, and finally became a sailing ship, carrying coal to the Pacific Coast of the Americas. Disaster struck on its 47th voyage in 1886. As it was rounding Cape Horn, the captain was forced to run for shelter after storm damage caused the decks to leak and put the hull under tremendous strain. Once in Port Stanley harbour, in the Falklands, it was written off as a wreck. The Falkland Islands Company bought the hulk and crudely adapted it as a floating coal and wool store until 1937, when it was towed six kilometres to Sparrow Cove, a remote bay near Port William, and scuttled – deliberately sunk – by making holes in the stern and bow with crowbars. An inglorious demise for such a pioneering vessel.

After more than 30 years beached in the Falklands, the audacious rescue began to repair and raise the damaged ship from the seabed and bring it 13,000 kilometres home on a perilous journey across the Atlantic.



Launch of the revolutionary SS Great Britain, designed by engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel at Bristol in 1843

So how was this remarkable feat achieved? Was it even possible to recover a ship of this size and rotten condition from such an inhospitable and remote location?

Once dormant in the Falklands, it seemed unlikely that the ship would see its namesake again. The rusting remains of the hull were in bad shape – riddled with holes and scarred by a huge crack, which ran from top to bottom and was almost 30 centimetres wide. It had been stripped bare by trophy hunters who'd left just three huge masts and a yardarm.

The salvage team had to hatch a plan, urgently. First, the ship needed to be raised from the seabed and brought to shore. Chief among the dozen or so key players in the ship's hands-on rescue was Dr Ewan Corlett. His interest in the ss Great Britain had been piqued when he received a rather attractive painting of the ship. The gift spurred him to spend 20 years researching it, before eventually writing to *The Times* in early 1968 advocating a salvage operation. The letter began to raise public awareness around the sad fate of one of Brunel's masterpieces and ultimately caught the attention of the patriotic property tycoon, Sir 'Union' Jack Hayward, who had recently bought Lundy Island for the National Trust. A committee was formed and Hayward provided funds for the salvage operation and the ship's restoration.

With finance secured, later that year Corlett accompanied a team of divers from HMS Endurance to survey the wreck. The results convinced him that the hulk was relatively sound, but there was serious concern about a crack on the starboard side. The crack had spread to the base of the keel, just short of the double bottom, and he was aware that, in a worst-case scenario, if the stern twisted, the ship could split in two.

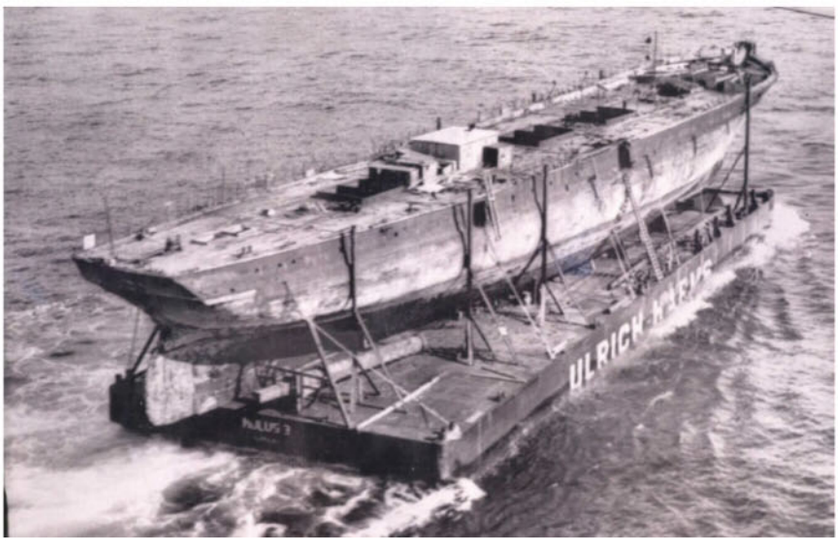
Lord Strathcona, who officially accepted the ship from the Governor of the Falkland Islands in 1970, was horrified when he went on board, "...to find that where the crack was, you could stand on it and feel the ship moving on either side."

Corlett was also concerned that the massive mast could snap and come crashing down on to the deck, which would have essentially scuppered the mission. Thankfully, a pair of hardy local fishermen worked in risky conditions to hammer new wedges around the base of the mast. This bought the salvage team some time and ensured that the five-ton yard would not swing out of control in high winds.

"Leslie 'Spike' O'Neil visited the ship and reported that there was about an 80 per cent chance it would float again"

ABOVE A plaque commemorating the fallen mizzen mast at Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands

BELOW The ss Great Britain before restoration, being towed across the sea on a giant pontoon



Around the same time Leslie 'Spike' O'Neil, chief officer for Risdon Beazley, a British salvage company partnered with German specialists Ulrich Harms, visited the ship and reported that there was about an 80 per cent chance it would float again.

A strategy began to take shape: to patch the holes in the hulk, repair the crack, pump out the water and float it sufficiently to manoeuvre a submersible pontoon underneath and then raise it out of the water for the record-breaking tow home across the Atlantic. The use of a submersible pontoon in salvage work had only been developed two years earlier in Germany by Ulrich Harms. The salvage team took heart, though, when the crack survived the harshest winter for years in 1969.

Not everyone was convinced it was either possible or advisable. A number of locals felt the ship would be better left in situ, where it would provide a welcome boost to the tourist trade, and the Duke of Edinburgh would later say: "The idea of towing a ship on a platform up the Atlantic seemed to me to be absolutely bloody lunacy."

As to be expected on such a complex project, not everything went to plan. With limited resources and in a race against time, the team had to be inventive. Falklands Radio was commandeered to make a last-minute appeal to islanders to donate old foam and kapok mattresses, which were stuffed into the crack and held in place with plywood to make the leaky steam ship watertight. It was a traditional naval 'hack' dating back to the Battle of Trafalgar, and it did the job.

Meanwhile, in early 1970, Captain Hans Hertzog had been chartered by O'Neil to bring a flotilla comprising the 724 ton converted stern trawler Varius II and his 2,667 ton, 80-metre by 24-metre pontoon, Mulus III, on a short tow across the Atlantic to the Falklands.

To refloat the ship, a team of divers braved the icy sub-Antarctic waters to patch the larger external holes with

plywood. At the same time, O'Neil reinforced the decks above the crack by bolting on solid, inch-thick steel plates and prepared to lighten and stabilise the ship by removing the mighty masts – said to be the largest sailing ship masts ever made – by using cranes erected on the adjacent pontoon.

The main and fore masts rose a towering 19 metres above deck level and were rooted three metres below. It was a risky operation that involved a royal marine scaling the main mast to cut the yard free, and saw rotten sections of timber crack and crash through the deck house. Lord Strathcona later wrote that this was, "...unfortunate... we had that very morning finished patching up the deck house to use as a store and traditional British workman's tea shed."

On the whole, as Dr Corlett had hoped, the masts, each made up of four separate pitch pine trunks, were in sound condition. The mizzen was left behind but the main and foremasts were secured to the pontoon ready to be transported back to Britain. 3,000 tons of water was then pumped out of the ship and a few minor repairs were made to sections of the hulk that had been difficult to reach when it had been beached. Finally, the ss Great Britain was afloat again. Vicious weather made the early stages of the re-float extra challenging but by 10 April, the gale force winds had dissipated and the ship was towed out to the pontoon.

The most important task now was to calculate accurately the draught of the modified ship. There was some disagreement among the team, which was resolved by taking the pontoon into deeper water. The next day, at high tide, the vast, rusting hulk was towed forward to be floated over the Mulus III, only for its keel to ground with just seven metres to go. The team were so near, yet so far.

ABOVE The ss Great Britain was the first major steamship to take advantage of screw propulsion rather than the traditional paddles

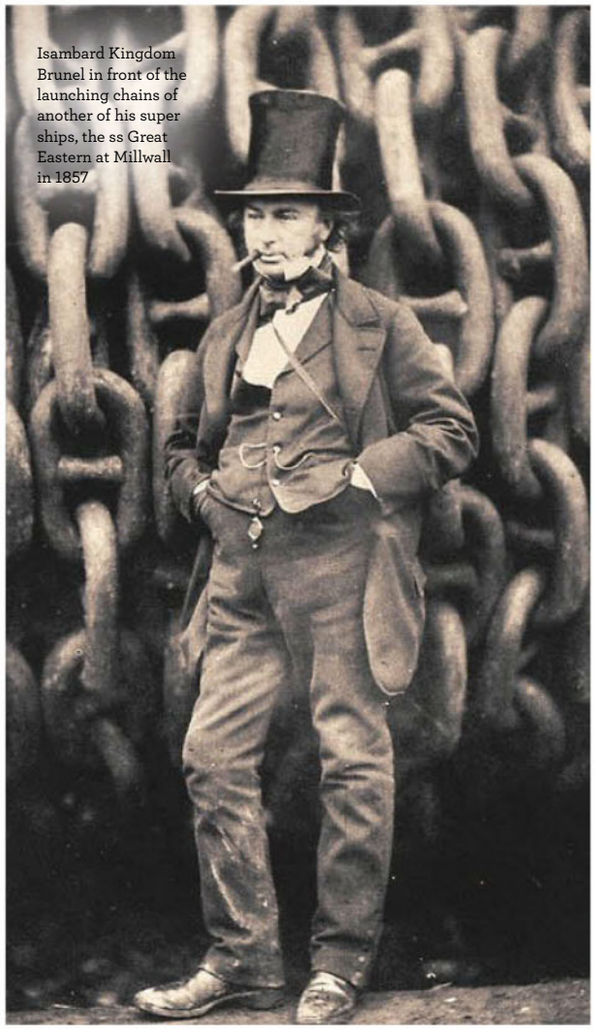
Eventually, after the removal of thick mud that had built up in the bottom of the ship and a slightly higher evening tide, the iron ship settled on the pontoon as the tide began to fall. Incredibly, it was precisely 33 years to the hour that the Great Britain had been beached in Sparrow Cove.

On 24 April, Captain Hertzog chugged out of Sparrow Cove with the Great Britain harnessed on to Mulus III. Snow blizzards and gale force winds, gusting to 45 knots, followed the flotilla as it left Port Stanley behind to the fading cheers of islanders and the bells of Christchurch Cathedral. Hertzog set off with it on short tow and then gradually lengthened it after they pulled through a period of terrible weather not long after leaving. The 13,000-kilometre passage was the longest tow of its kind ever made. The flotilla docked briefly in Montevideo, Uruguay, where they were greeted by journalists, and then in Barry Dock, South Wales, where tugs from Bristol took charge.

The ss Great Britain arrived back home to Bristol's port of Avonmouth on midsummer's day in 1970. At the docks, cracks

"Blizzards and gale force winds followed the flotilla as it left Port Stanley behind to the fading cheers of islanders"

BELOW The museum ship in its dry dock in Bristol



Isambard Kingdom Brunel in front of the launching chains of another of his super ships, the ss Great Eastern at Millwall in 1857

in its hull were repaired with steel plates and it was floated off the pontoon. For the final leg of the journey, it was brought up the River Avon on its own hull, with a diving team on hand to patch up leaks and mind the pumps.

Having been successfully raised and carried across the Atlantic, the team faced a final tricky phase of the journey. "Perhaps the most anxious task was that of the pilots and tugboat skippers who brought the ship – now floated off the pontoon and bearing its own fragile weight – up the Avon and back home to Bristol. Any impact or abrasion sustained on this journey might have negated all the previous care and effort," says Kate Rambridge.

It was towed along the Avon's treacherous banks and famed Horse Shoe Bend into the city where, on 19 July, the anniversary of its maiden departure 127 years earlier, thousands of people packed the dockside and waved Union Jacks from Brunel's world-famous Clifton Suspension Bridge.

"To see two of Britain's most treasured achievements together for the first time certainly served to highlight the incredible impact that Brunel had on the city," says Dr Matthew Tanner, director and chief executive of the ss Great Britain Trust.

The husband of a reigning monarch was once again present, this time in the form of the Duke of Edinburgh, who had lent his support to the campaign from its early days. It was

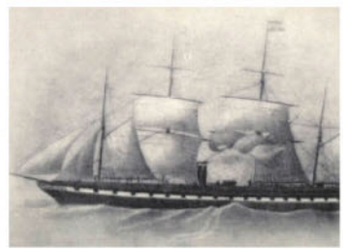
THE MANY LIVES OF THE SS GREAT BRITAIN

The ss Great Britain was a chameleon of a ship, modifying its build and use multiple times during its service at sea

The world's greatest transatlantic passenger steam ship

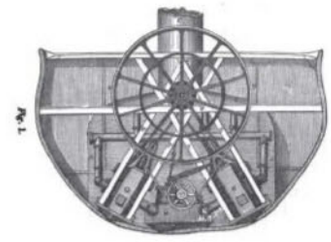
The ss Great Britain changed history when it set sail on its first voyage, from Liverpool to New York in 1845. The 5,360 kilometres were covered in 14 days and 21 hours at an average speed of 9.4 knots (or about 17 kilometres per hour), crushing the previous speed record for this journey. However, on only its fifth voyage across the Atlantic the ship ran aground in Dundrum Bay, County Down, Ireland. Brunel was furious to find her abandoned to the elements and wrote: "The finest ship in the world has been left and is lying like a useless saucepan kicking about on the most exposed shore that you can imagine." Eventually it was towed away for repairs and sold for £18,000 to a consortium of Bristol and Lancashire merchants.

Gold diggers' clipper: to Australia and back for 24 years



Purchased by Gibbs, Bright & Company of Liverpool in 1850, the ss Great Britain was adapted for runs to Australia. The engine, propeller and rudder were replaced, her masts reduced to four and twin funnels installed. Part of her regular cargo would be gold and it was given six hefty guns to protect it. Accommodation was altered to allow for more cargo space below and an extra upper deck was built, doubling the ship's capacity to 730 passengers, of whom 50 would be in first class. The first voyage to Melbourne in 1852 was completed in 83 days. Eventually, the two funnels were replaced with a single small one, and the ship was fitted with three square-rigged masts and a large bowsprit. These masts were all replaced in a refit in 1857 and a new stern frame was installed. During this time, the ship was twice requisitioned to carry troops – first in 1855-56 for the Crimean War, and then again in 1857 to go to Bombay during the Indian Mutiny. In 1861, it carried the first-ever all-England cricket team to play a test match series in Australia.

California bound cargo windjammer



In 1876, the ss Great Britain was laid up and offered for sale. In 1882, it was bought by Antony Gibbs, Sons & Co of Liverpool, for use as a cargo ship. The passenger accommodation and engines were removed and three cargo loading hatches were installed. For extra strength, thick pitch pine cladding was bolted around the iron hull between low and high loading marks. In this form, the ship carried Welsh coal to San Francisco and returned with wheat. These voyages around Cape Horn were often slow and gruelling, taking more than a year to complete. In February 1886, the Great Britain sailed from Cardiff for Panama on Voyage No 47. On 18 April, as it neared Cape Horn, the ship hit trouble in high winds and turbulent seas and the captain was forced reluctantly to turn back to the Falkland Islands.

A grounded storage hulk

Once at Port Stanley, it was decided that repairs would be prohibitively costly and the Great Britain was sold for a fraction of its original value to the Falkland Islands Company for use as a storage hulk. An access door was cut through the main deck planks so the ship could be used for storing coal and wool. The ship floated in Stanley Harbour for some 50 years, but by 1937, it had outlived her use and was replaced with another condemned sailing ship, the Fennia. The hulk was towed to Sparrow Cove and the following day its sides were punctured and it slumped to the seabed.

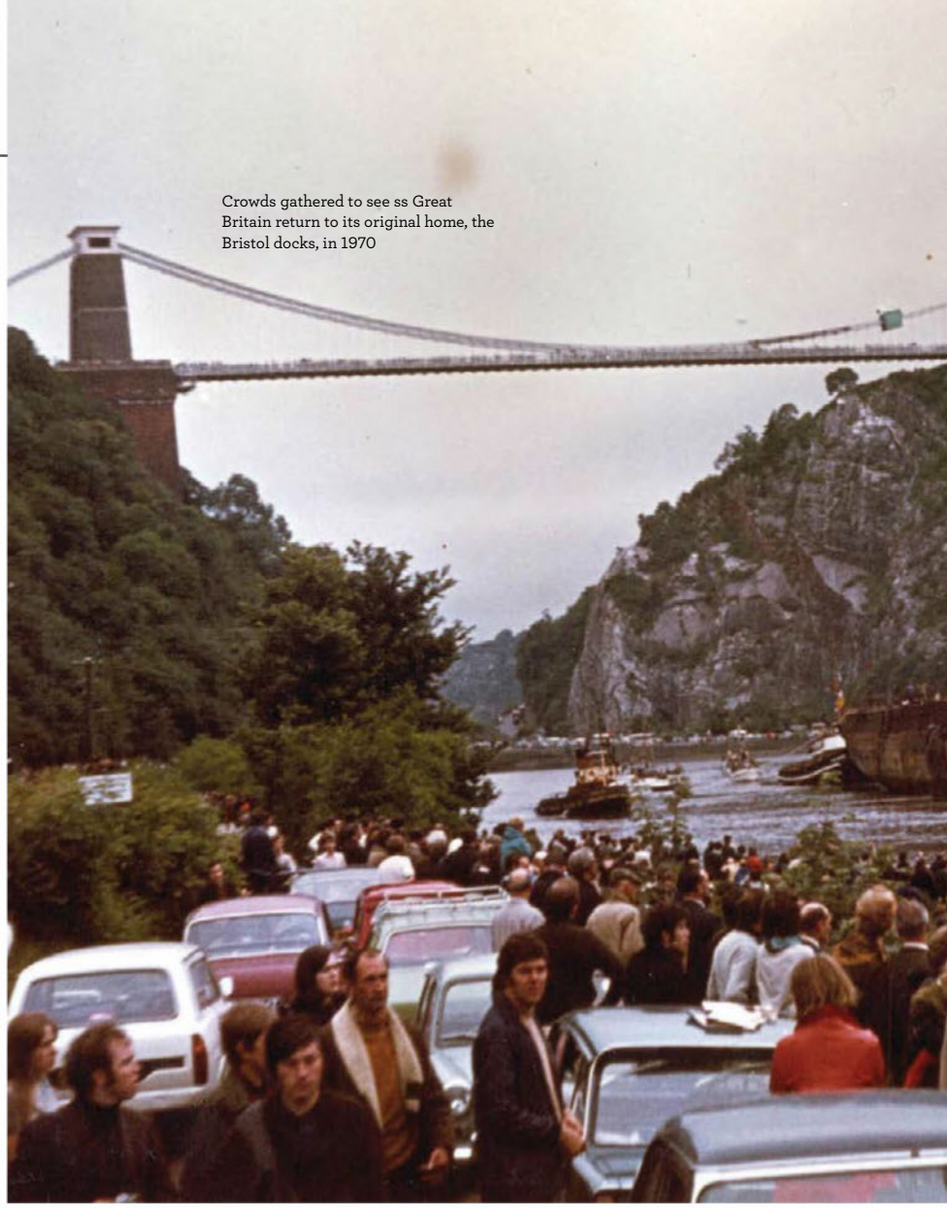
a moving climax to a dramatic journey home full of suspense and adventure. But it would take another 40 years after its homecoming to restore the ship to its former glory.

Dr Corlett hoped to restore the exterior to Brunel's original 1843 design, including the six masts. But time was running out. Despite being in a dry dock, researchers from Cardiff University estimated that corrosion from 127 years in salt water could destroy the ship within a few years. "The conservation project for the ss Great Britain, once it was safely back home, has proved to be a challenging adventure all of its own," says Tanner.

Historic ships are notoriously difficult to preserve and maintain. They are often too large to be housed indoors and yet too vulnerable to be exposed indefinitely to the elements. By 1998, the ss Great Britain's condition was anything but ship-shape. A team was charged with converting it into a compelling and accessible museum, preserving the ship in a sustainable way for future generations to enjoy.

They decided to seal the ship below the waterline to prevent further corrosion of the wrought iron plates. This involved fitting a glass plate around the ship to keep it water and airtight. Beneath the glass, a giant dehumidification chamber maintains a relative air humidity of 20 per cent – equivalent to that of the Arizona Desert – meaning that corrosion cannot take place.

The hardier upper sections of the hull were cleaned using high-pressure water jets and then covered with anti-corrosion paint to protect it from the elements. Fibreglass patches were removed and the holes were filled with resin to recreate the hull's shape. After eight years' work, it was 're-launched' in July 2005, and now stands resplendent in the Great Western Dock on the site where it was built, ready for visitors to learn its incredible story.



Crowds gathered to see ss Great Britain return to its original home, the Bristol docks, in 1970

FINDING THE DUNDRUM BAY 'SHIPWRECK' SITE

Advanced survey reveals long lost location of the sunken ss Great Britain

Until two years ago, the site where the ss Great Britain was grounded for nearly a year during her fifth voyage to New York in 1846 had eluded archaeologists.

The ship became stuck in shallow water in Dundrum Bay, Northern Ireland, after its captain mistook the lighthouse at St John's Point for the one on the Isle of Man. Fortunately no-one was injured and the passengers were evacuated.

Although a number of artists captured the scene of the ship high and dry on the sands, no accurate position was recorded at the time. It might have been that the effect of Brunel's revolutionary iron hulls on the magnetic compass was not fully understood at the time. The ss Great Britain was eventually emptied out, salvaged and towed back to Liverpool where it was soon put back into service.

Long suspecting that the countless items removed to lighten the ship during the salvage operation could remain buried on the beach, a team from the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Bristol and the ss Great Britain Trust began their quest. In September 2014 they waited for exceptionally low tides to survey vast areas of Tyrella Beach, close to Newcastle, County Down. Over the course of a week, they used advanced geophysical techniques such as magnetometry to detect metal debris.

The team were both surprised and delighted with the results. "We actually located a huge doughnut ring of debris that fitted exactly the shape of the ship, and faced the precise direction contemporary accounts said it lay," said project leader Professor Mark Horton from the University of Bristol.

In addition to huge amounts of metal, a linear feature was also found that probably represents the breakwater, constructed on Brunel's orders, in order to protect the ship from storms.

ABOVE The rescue of the ss Great Britain in 1847 was one of the most innovative salvage operations of its time

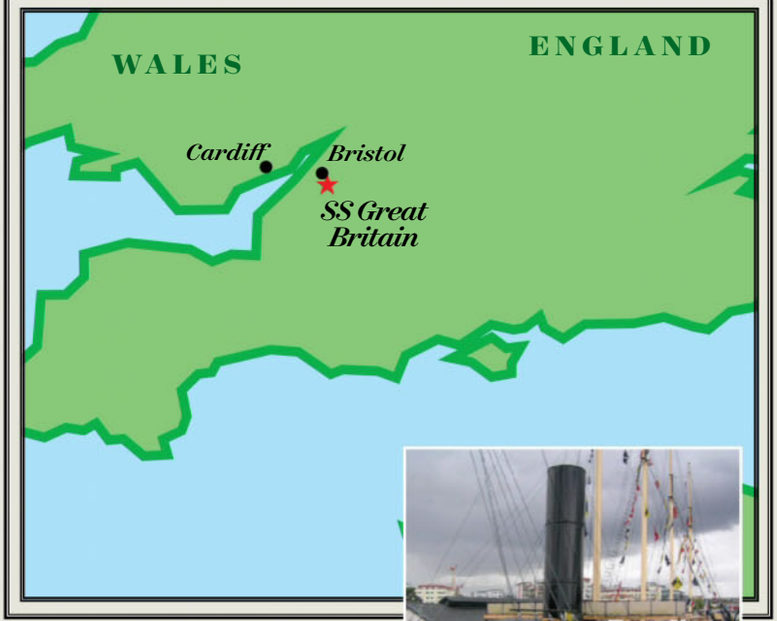
Today, Brunel's ss Great Britain is a museum and a popular tourist attraction, with more than 200,000 visitors a year. In 2006 it received the prestigious Gulbenkian Museum of the Year award. The interior spaces have been restored and refurbished to convey the stories of those who travelled and worked on board. From luxurious first-class cabins and cramped third-class bunks complete with simulated stenches of stale ale and sweaty laundry, to the doctor's surgery and kitchens, visitors can board the ship and experience what life was like for the thousands of passengers who travelled on the ss Great Britain.

"Without the endeavours of a small band of incredible people who were able to bring home this national treasure, against all the odds, Bristol would be missing an essential and enduring testament to its industrial and engineering history," says Tanner.

What about the ultimate engineer in the Age of Industry? "Brunel would certainly have been proud to see the ss Great Britain looking as resplendent today as it did on launch in 1843," says Rambridge, "but given his creative drive, it is perhaps the innovative engineering projects, such as the glass 'sea', the fully-working replica 'Vee' engine, and the building of Being Brunel, a national museum dedicated to celebrating his life and works, which he would most want to cast an eye over." No doubt Brunel would have raised his top hat to that.

SS GREAT BRITAIN

EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS



Essential information

Tickets can be purchased on site or online and allow free unlimited return visits for a year. Entry is £14 for adults and £8 for children and discounts are available for senior citizens and students. Ticket price includes the use of free audio guides, allowing you to listen to the true stories of the passengers and crew. All areas of the site (Dry Dock, Dockyard Museum, Brunel Institute and ship) are accessible for wheelchair users and to avoid the uneven cobblestones at the main gate there is an alternative entrance by the Dockyard Cafe Bar. There are lively social events, story telling and educational programmes on offer to visitors of all ages.

When to visit ss Great Britain is open every day except for the 24 and 25 December and the second Monday in January.

Time zone UTC
Currency GBP

Where to stay

Luxury
Number Thirty Eight Clifton
Situated on the edge of Clifton Village overlooking the Downs, this B&B offers ten impeccably decorated rooms in a Georgian townhouse, many with rooftop city views. Rooms start from £115 per night.

Mid-range
Brooks Guesthouse
This boutique guesthouse is handily located near the harbour. Its most adventurous accommodation is three British-made, Airstream-style Rocket caravans kitted out and perched in a roof garden. 16ft Rocket from £59 per night.

Budget
YHA Bristol
Share a dorm or a private room for two with a view of the harbour at this quayside youth hostel in a converted, red-brick grain warehouse. The hostel has its own restaurant and the ss Great Britain is just a short stroll away. From £25 per person.

Links

www.ssgreatbritain.org The official site of the SS Great Britain
www.ssgreatbritain.org/story/incredible-journey Well-crafted animation of the ship's
twitter.com/ssgreatbritain Lively Twitter feed keeps you updated on events and anniversaries

03 things to see & do

Scale the rigging
☐ For those with a head for heights, don't miss the opportunity to climb the ship's rigging and gain a unique and stunning view of Bristol.

Dry Dock
☐ Be sure to visit the Dry Dock where you can walk alongside the ship's magnificent hull, sealed within the dock by a huge glass plate.

Dockyard Museum
☐ Follow the timeline at the Dockyard Museum that chronicles the ship's remarkable history. See the ship's bells and graffiti carved by the crew.

HULL'S HIDDEN HISTORY

It's the UK City of Culture for 2017, so this is the ideal time to discover Kingston-upon-Hull's surprisingly rich history

WORDS BY REBECCA FORD

If ever a city were defined by its geographical position, it is surely Kingston upon Hull. Situated on the mighty Humber estuary, where the rivers of the Midlands and Yorkshire flow into the chill waters of the North Sea, it started life as a port and remains one to this day. It is unlike anywhere else in Yorkshire and has a character that is all its own – the air imbued with a salty tang and the streets redolent with a myriad of stories of merchants, sailors, monarchs and campaigners, fascinating histories of determinedly independent people. It feels somehow unfinished – a city that's renewing itself, where anything could happen.

Monks' port

Hull – or Wyke as it was originally named – started life in the late 12th century. It was founded by the monks of Meaux Abbey, a Cistercian house situated around 11 kilometres north in the valley of the River Hull. The Cistercians were successful sheep farmers and needed a convenient port so they could export their valuable supplies of wool. This uninhabited estuarine site (the name derived from the Scandinavian 'vik' or creek) served the purpose perfectly – goods could be easily transported to northern Europe and the port thrived. It played an early part in English history when wool from surrounding monasteries was collated here – a monastic contribution to the £100,000 ransom that was required to free Richard I from the clutches of the Holy Roman Emperor, who had taken him prisoner. While wool was exported, wine was imported – royalty and senior clergy both making the most of the opportunity to taste fine wines from Europe.

A century later, when Edward I was looking for a supply port in the north, Wyke's strategic position made it an obvious choice and in 1293, he purchased the site from the monks of Meaux Abbey – renaming it Kings Town upon Hull

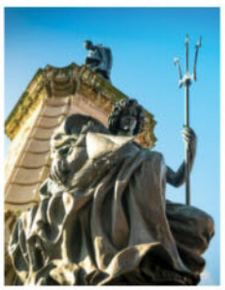
The Deep, an aquarium and sea life centre, overlooks the marina

(which morphed into today's Kingston upon Hull). The king later issued a Royal Charter granting the right to hold two markets a week and an annual fair (a lucrative privilege) and construction work began on a new quay, a mint and exchange, as well as houses for his officials. In addition to trading wool and wine, the port was deployed as a provisioning base for Edward's military campaigns in Scotland – food, timber and men were sent by ship to his northern armies and garrisons.

Hull continued to grow as a port, and by the 14th century was exporting raw materials and foodstuffs such as lead, grain, textiles, honey and wool, while imports from Scandinavia and the Baltic included iron-ore, timber, dried stockfish, furs and even falcons for the king. It became a Hanseatic port – the Hanseatic League being a confederation of merchant guilds and towns that began in Lubeck, northern Germany and dominated Baltic maritime trade for hundreds of years, though it was at its peak in the 15th century. The word 'hanse', or hansa, meant convoy, and the merchants aggressively protected their trade routes.

Like other seafaring centres, Hull also played a prominent role in the whaling trade. The first whalers sailed from here in 1594, after Greenland was discovered, and by the late 18th century, large numbers of whaling ships were setting off to the Arctic to return with carcasses, which provided whalebone and oil that was used in various industrial processes until supplanted by cheaper coal, gas and steel. Between 1815 and 1825, more than 2,000 men were employed in the whaling industry. Whaling later declined but was replaced by fishing, with trawlers sailing from Hull to exploit the rich fish stocks of the North Sea and Iceland – that industry flourished until the 1970s, when the 'cod wars' with Iceland brought about its collapse. The development of canals and later railways, only added to Hull's vitality. In 1795, Manchester merchants who used it to export their stocks of cotton velvet declared it to be 'the key through which our manufacturers can alone find a passage for the markets of Germany, Switzerland and the borders of Italy'.

"Hull was the first place to show hostility to Charles and it is thought to have been the spark that ignited the Civil War"



ABOVE An allegorical figure, part of a statue in Hull's Victoria Square

Stepping stone to the Atlantic

Of course, ports don't just bring in goods, they also bring in people and Hull has always tended to look outwards, away from Yorkshire and over to Europe. Today it has a thriving Polish community; a Dutch influence can still be discerned in its buildings and in years past, there were many Scandinavian residents. However, the advent of steamships in the mid 19th century made Hull a real international hub. Steamships made the previously cramped and perilous crossing from Europe quicker, safer and more comfortable than ever. Shipping lines began to offer regular passenger services and the port soon became an important staging post. Emigrants from Denmark, Russia, Finland, Germany, Sweden and Norway sailed to Hull, where trains were laid on to transport them to the UK ports of Southampton, Glasgow and Liverpool. There they were able to board ships that took them on to America, Canada, South Africa and even Australia. Between 1836 and 1914, around 2.5 million people travelled through Hull on their way to a new life in the new world.

Parliamentary stronghold

Strategically important seaports are always highly prized in wartime, so it was inevitable that Hull should play a part in the English Civil War. It had been heavily fortified during the reign of Edward I, who built the first city wall and Henry VIII later increased its defences, building a castle and more fortifications – some of the materials being re-used stone from Meaux Abbey, which Henry had recently demolished in the Dissolution.

Early in January 1642, as the relationship between Charles I and parliament grew increasingly fractious, both sides attempted to take control of the town. Not only was Hull in a strategic position, it also had a huge arsenal of weapons and ammunition. The king appointed the Earl of Newcastle as governor with Captain Legge as his assistant, while parliament named Sir John Hotham as governor backed up by his son, Captain John Hotham. It looked at first as if Hull, independent as ever, would refuse to co-operate with either side; the corporation was unwilling to yield to outside interference and initially refused admission to troops led either by Newcastle or Hotham. They eventually allowed Hotham access, but only after an express command from Parliament.

In April 1642 Charles, who had established a northern base in royalist York, set out for Hull in an attempt to secure the arsenal for himself. However, in an extraordinary act of defiance, Sir John Hotham closed the gates and refused to let him in. Local legend has it that he made the decision after a meeting at his house on Silver Street, which is now the White Harte Inn. Hotham stood on the walls by the Beverley Gate and openly defied Charles, arguing with his king (who, it must be remembered, claimed divine right to the throne) and keeping the monarch waiting for five hours until Charles eventually had to give in and leave. The king declared the governor a traitor, but offered Hotham a pardon if he would change his mind. Hotham refused. Hull was the first place to show open hostility to Charles and the incident is thought by many to have been the spark that ignited the Civil War.

That summer, Charles tried again to seize the arsenal and sent troops to Hull, which was besieged for around three

ABOVE Sir John Hotham, who was high sheriff of Yorkshire between 1634-35

BELOW A map from *Gent's History of Hull*, dating from around 1735

Holy Trinity Church

This 700 year old church is the largest parish church in England. Holy Trinity church was founded by Edward I after he purchased the port of Wyke from the monks of Meaux Abbey. Hull sits on clay, so there is no readily available building stone – consequently the church was built of brick – and has some of the earliest medieval brickwork in the country. In later years, merchants left their own imprint on the building widening the chancel, adding a perpendicular nave and endowing various chantry chapels. During the period of the Commonwealth, the church was divided in two – townspeople worshipping on one side of a wall and garrison soldiers on another. The church was known to the Restoration poet Andrew Marvell, once MP for Hull, as well as William Wilberforce who was baptised in the font – still in use today. The Victorians remodelled the church in Gothic style, adding stained glass windows which were sadly damaged during a Zeppelin raid in 1916. The building is so imposing that many visitors to Hull comment on the city's fine cathedral. In recognition of its beauty and inspirational story, Holy Trinity will become a Minster in 2017 – a title given to large or important churches and putting it on a par with more famous and celebrated structures such as York Minster.

ABOVE Hull's Holy Trinity Church is thought to be the largest by area of all English Parish Churches

weeks. Yet although they mounted a bombardment and tried to prevent supplies getting through, Hull fought back and Charles's forces had to withdraw. By 1643, the Hothams were losing their enthusiasm for the parliamentary cause and communicating in secret with Royalists. However, the corporation suspected treachery. Troops were sent to secure the town and Sir John Hotham and his son were arrested. Lord Fairfax, the prominent parliamentarian, became governor. In September and October, Hull – by now the only major settlement in Yorkshire that Charles had not secured – was besieged again, this time for around five weeks by troops led by the Earl of Newcastle. The walls were bombarded, but from too far distance to do much damage. Fairfax ordered that the sluices be opened, allowing the Humber to break its banks and flood the surrounding land, and warships arrived to control the estuary and bring in supplies. On 26 September, Cromwell arrived with reinforcements and the siege was finally lifted on 12 October. The old town walls were rediscovered during excavations in the 1980s and the remains of the Beverley Gate can now be seen between Carr Lane and Whitefriargate. A potent symbol of this city's spirit, locals always point them out with pride.

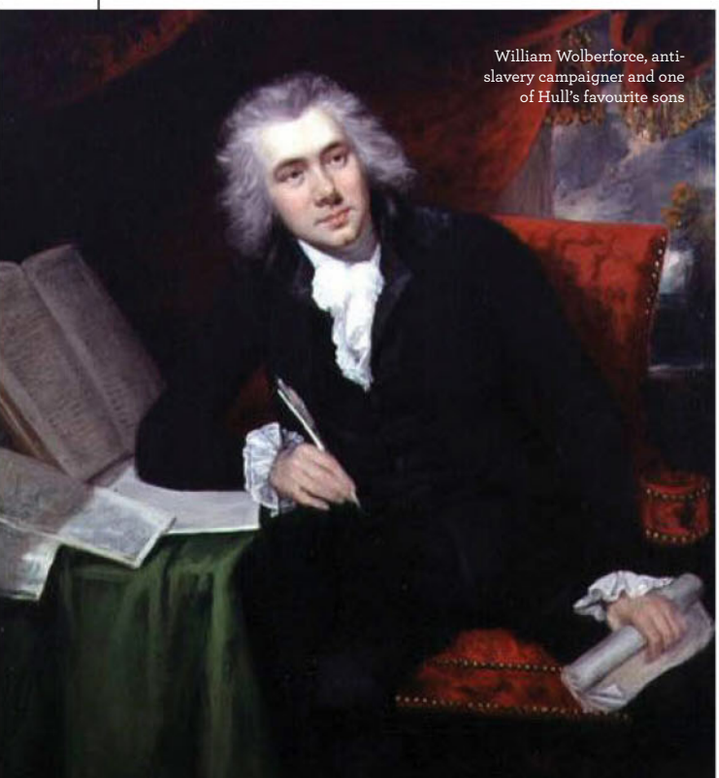
A port apart

Unlike other ports such as Liverpool and Bristol, Hull does not appear to have been directly involved in the slave trade – although products of slavery such as sugar, coffee and rum would have been available to wealthy residents. This was a port that looked east to the fragrant forests of Scandinavia, not west to the slave plantations. It also liked to go its own way, its people not afraid to thumb their nose at authority when they felt it necessary. Perhaps these factors played their part in shaping the character of the city's most famous son: the anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce.

Wilberforce was born in Hull in 1759. The son of a prosperous merchant, he attended the local grammar school until his father died – after which he was sent to live for a time with his aunt and uncle in London, who introduced him to the non-conformist thinking of the Methodists. Alarmed at her son's exposure to such radical religion, his more conservative mother hauled him back to Hull when he was 12. However, he was wealthy and independent and could not be shielded from new ideas for long – the family home, for one thing, was on the riverside and offered a continually shifting scene of ships and sails, produce and people.

Wilberforce went to Saint John's College, Cambridge where he appears to have enjoyed a lively social life, playing cards, gambling, singing and going to the theatre. His friends included William Wordsworth's uncle, Fletcher Christian's brother (HMS Bounty, captured in that notorious mutiny, was

ABOVE The scene in the Market Place, Kingston-upon-Hull, c.1882



William Wolberforce, anti-slavery campaigner and one of Hull's favourite sons

BELOW The birthplace and home of William Wilberforce, in Hull, dating from 1759

ABOVE The Beverley Gate plaque marking its historic location in Hull

ABOVE The *Voyage* sculpture by Icelandic artist Steinunn Thorarinsdottir looks out to sea

built in Hull) and William Pitt, the Younger – who went on to become prime minister.

Wilberforce and Pitt both had political ambitions and honed their debating skills by watching sessions in the House of Commons. Pitt encouraged his friend to stand for parliament and in 1780 at the age of 21, Wilberforce became MP for Hull; he sat, appropriately, neither as a Whig nor a Tory but as an independent. A few years later, in 1784, he also became MP for Yorkshire, which was one of the largest constituencies in the country. Although rather weak and small in stature, he was a compelling and powerful orator. James Boswell, Samuel Johnson's biographer, saw him speak and declared that although he looked like a "shrimp" at first, as he listened, he grew and grew until the shrimp "became a whale." His voice was considered so melodious that he was known as 'the nightingale of the Commons'.

Wealthy and well-connected, Wilberforce relished the good life and appeared to have forgotten his early interest in non-conformism, apparently declaring that such views were only held by 'vulgar or at least uninformed enthusiastic persons'. However, after he became MP for Yorkshire, he toured the south of France with a childhood friend from Hull, Isaac Milner, who challenged his views and made him rethink his attitude to life and religion entirely. The following year they travelled together again and Wilberforce soon became a committed Christian – a non-conformist too.

His faith informed his politics and he became involved in various moral and social campaigns, which ranged from advocating prison reform and better working conditions for chimney sweeps, to founding the Society for the Suppression of Vice and helping to establish the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (which later became the RSPCA).

Most notably, he became a passionate anti-slavery campaigner, making his first abolitionist speech to the House of Commons in 1789 and repeatedly presenting a bill to parliament to end the British slave trade – it was finally passed in 1807. It is said that the Bristol merchants, mired in the slave trade, hated him.

Wilberforce continued to work towards the outlawing of slavery itself and just before he died in July 1833, he heard that the Abolition of Slavery bill was going to be passed. He was given a state funeral and buried in Westminster Abbey. Within days of his death, his home town of Hull had launched a public subscription for a permanent monument to be built in celebration of his life and his work. Visitors can still see it today – a 27-metre column with a 3.5-metre statue of Wilberforce perched on top. It no longer stands in its original position by Princes Dock, but now overlooks Queens Gardens, while his former home, Wilberforce House on High Street, is now a museum.

"Wilberforce relished the good life and appeared to have forgotten his early interest in non-conformism"

Poet's corner

BELOW Hull's statue of Philip Larkin at the city's train station

The poet Philip Larkin (1922-1985), recently commemorated in Westminster Abbey, was librarian at the University of Hull for more than 30 years and his work was inspired and informed by this 'isolate city spread over water', and the quiet churches and villages of its rural hinterland. He took up his post in 1955 and stayed until his death, living in an attic flat in Pearson Park and later in a 1950s house in Newland Park. He said that Hull suited him as it was: "...a little on the edge of things. I rather like being on the edge of things." There is a Larkin Trail through the city and countryside, with 25 specially commissioned artworks at various sites connected to his life and work. Places include Paragon station, starting point for the train journey to London he describes in *Whitsun Weddings*; the City Hall, which features in *Broadcast* and even Marks and Spencer, a visit to which in 1961 is said to have inspired his poem *The Large Cool Store*. Larkin, who turned down the post of Poet Laureate in 1984, loved to cycle around the quiet villages of the Humber estuary and he is buried in the municipal cemetery in Cottingham on the outskirts of the city.

Evidence of the WWI air raid on Hull in June 1915

Wonderful Amy

Of all the famous names associated with Hull, the most glamorous must surely be the pioneering aviator Amy Johnson who was born here in 1903 and whose statue stands in the city centre. The daughter of a local fish merchant, her first home was on Saint George's Road (now marked with a blue plaque), a street long associated with the fishing industry, although the family later moved to other parts of the city – first Boulevard, then Alliance Avenue and finally Park Avenue before relocating to Bridlington in 1931. Each move represented a rise in the family fortunes and social status.

After studying at Sheffield University, Amy returned to Hull to take a secretarial course and, in 1926, took her first flight in an airplane. She was instantly hooked, declaring "I would have liked to have done some stunts". When she went to work in London the following year, she took up flying and after her first six lessons wrote home saying: "I have an immense belief in the future of flying". In 1930, less than year after her first solo flight and having flown no further than

Wartime destruction

Hull's strategic importance has been both a blessing and a curse. In World War I, the city was an easy target and bombed at least eight times by Zeppelins, the first assault coming in June 1915 and the last in August 1918. It was nicknamed the Forgotten Blitz. The raids destroyed buildings, started terrifying fires and killed 43 people, including 17 children – a further 13 people died of shock. Not all the raids were planned, but occurred when Zeppelins were unable to make their target inland and dropped their bombs before they all returned home.

In World War II, Hull suffered once again. The presence of the port – where the merchant navy was stationed – the dockyard and the railways made it an obvious target, while the gleam of the vast Humber estuary also made it easy to find. As in World War I, Hull provided a convenient location on which enemy planes could drop leftover bombs before flying back to the fatherland. Many termed it 'bomb alley'. Between 1939 and 1945, the city suffered 82 air raids – the most devastating coming between March and May 1941; around 1,200 people died and 95 per cent of its houses were destroyed. Tragic stories abound – one six-year-old boy died after he crept into a cupboard to hide and accidentally turned on a gas tap. Yet although it endured the heaviest bombing outside London, its suffering was barely acknowledged. Reporting restrictions of the time meant that it was simply referred to as a 'northern coastal town'.

After the war ended, regeneration was urgently required and an ambitious – and expensive – plan was devised by the architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Patrick Abercrombie. It proposed, among other things, to build a new railway terminus; widen and deepen the River Hull; move the fishing community; enlarge the industrial areas and remodel the main traffic routes. The plan was rejected but a new one was not produced until 1956 and redevelopment was slow – even today there is at least one bomb site that remains – now doing duty as a car park. Locals are currently raising money to erect a memorial to all the civilians who died in the war – ensuring that their names, at least, will not be forgotten.

Pioneering pilot Amy Johnson, one of Hull's most famous figures

London to Hull, she set off from Croydon aerodrome for Darwin, Australia. Conditions were atrocious at times – during a gale she had to land in the desert, then stack her luggage against 'Jason', her plane, to prevent it being blown away – but she persisted, declaring: "This is just an ordinary flight, except that it is longer. Every woman will be doing this in five years' time." When she returned to Hull she was greeted like royalty, with flags, cheering crowds and a banquet.

Amy Johnson continued to make record breaking flights until war broke out, when she joined the Air Transport Auxiliary, delivering aircraft for the RAF. She died in 1941, after the plane she was flying crashed into the Thames Estuary. Her body was never recovered. Some say she was on a secret mission, or shot down by 'friendly fire'. Others think she got lost during bad weather. She was only going from Blackpool to Oxford. In Hull City Hall you can see the Amy Johnson Cup for Courage, a trophy that she presented to the city and which is awarded – usually annually – to a Hull child for an act of bravery.

Cream phoneboxes

Visit Hull and you can't fail to notice the rather chic, cream coloured phoneboxes that dot the city streets. They're cream rather than red because Hull is the only city in the UK that runs its own telephone system. It has done so since the late 1890s as it never came under the Post Office monopoly – the city corporation controlled the telephones instead. The boxes, the same iconic K6 structures as those designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, were originally painted green and white but later became the more elegant cream. The crown which adorned the red boxes on other British streets was removed. Once known as Hull Telephones, the telephone system was forcibly privatised in the late 20th century and is now known as KC (Kingston Communications). It is still independent of other networks and all land lines in Hull are served by KC, which also provides the city's broadband services.

ABOVE Cream K6 phone boxes, which were originally green and white, stand outside the post office

HULL

EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS

Essential information

Kingston-upon-Hull is in the East Riding of Yorkshire and can be reached by direct trains from London Kings Cross and Manchester Piccadilly. Paragon Interchange is the main transport interchange and coaches also run here from London. P&O Ferries run services to Rotterdam and Zeebrugge in northern Europe, while Humberside Airport is a 30 minute drive away. For tourist information call the Tourist Information Centre on 01482 300306 or see Visit Hull and East Yorkshire www.visithullandeastyorkshire.com.

When to visit Pretty much any day in 2017 has to be the time to visit Hull, as there are events planned throughout the year. For further information see website below.

Time zone UTC
Currency GBP

Where to stay

Luxury
North Star Club
www.northstarclub.co.uk
Self-catering woodland glamping 'suites' near Sancton, Beverley. They provide a serene contrast to the bustle of the city centre. Rates for a four-person suite for a two-night weekend start from £395.

Mid-range
Toll Cottage, 297 Northgate, Cottingham
www.thetollcottage.co.uk
Cosy B&B in an 18th-century cottage with three separately designed rooms in the village of Cottingham where Philip Larkin is buried. Standard double rooms start from £75 per night.

Budget
Premier Inn City Centre, Tower Steet
www.premierinn.com
A reliable chain hotel with comfortable rooms conveniently close to the city's main attractions. There is free parking and free Wi-Fi. Double rooms start from £47 per night.

Links

www.hull2017.co.uk The official site of the City of Culture 2017, with events and more
www.hullcc.gov.uk/museumcollections/events/ Events and information on Hull's museums
www.yorkshire.com The official site of Yorkshire's tourist board, with up-to-date information

03 things to see & do

Sewerby Hall and Gardens
☐ Take a visit to this fine Georgian mansion near Bridlington, which is the home to a fascinating collection of Amy Johnson memorabilia.

The Ferrens Art Gallery
☐ Its permanent collection includes works by David Hockney and Stanley Spencer. It will be hosting the Turner Prize in 2017.

Take a walking tour
☐ Blue badge guide Paul Scholfield will bring the city alive and show you its Medieval streets, as well as its sparkling new attractions.

CITY GUIDE

TO

ANCIENT ATHENS

A visit to Athens reveals an ancient hub of thought, where you can trace the origin of ideas at the heart of modern life

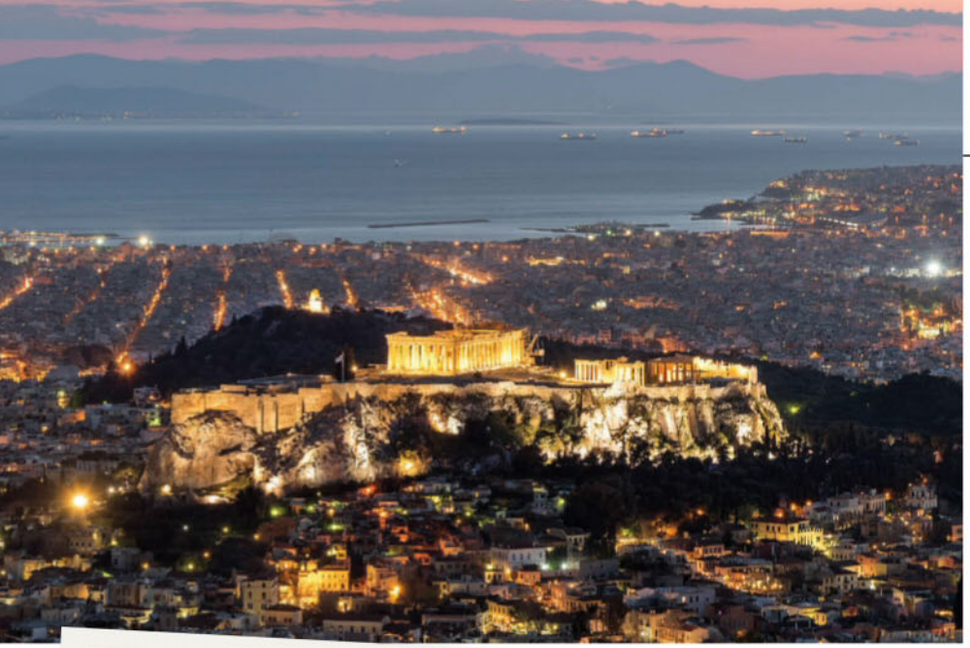
WORDS BY MARISSA TEJADA

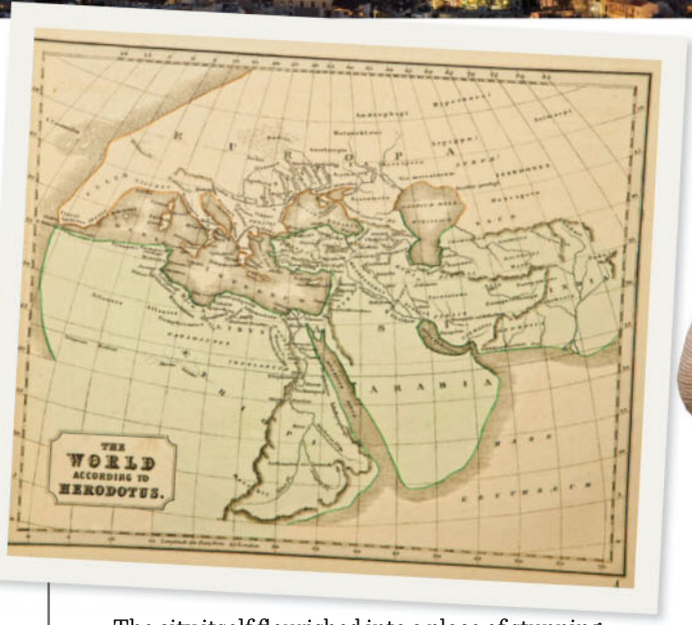
As the birthplace of Western civilisation, democracy and philosophy, the ancient sites of Athens are undeniably important. Representing these very ideas is the city's eternal core, the Acropolis, the icon of the city that continues to tower over the beautiful urban landscape.

Our modern admiration for, and sheer fascination with Greece's ancient world shines on the Golden Age of Athens, which flourished under the leadership of military general, talented orator and statesman Pericles (ruler from 461 to 429 BCE).

This era was a time of peace, political hegemony, economic growth and flourishing culture.

However, it was to be the trying times of war that sparked the greatest years of Athenian history. It began with the Persians capturing the city in 480 BCE. In response, Athens and its allies formed the Delian League, a military alliance focused on withstanding the Persian threat in order to keep the liberated Asian Greek cities free. Following a failed attack on the Persians in Egypt in 454 BCE, the Delian League's treasury was moved from Delos Island to Athens, and Pericles was elected strategos (military leader). It worked; military victory over the Persians aligned the independent city-states that became the powerful Athenian empire. Pericles rebuilt his city with money from the treasury coffers, placing Athenians on a public payroll and funding a strong military force.





LEFT Ancient map that shows the world according to Herodotus

TOP RIGHT A relief depicting figures from Ancient Greek mythology

ABOVE Theatre mask from 2nd century BCE, ancient Athens

The city itself flourished into a place of stunning classic beauty. To honour the goddess Athena, for whom the city is named, Pericles rebuilt the Acropolis in gleaming white marble in 449 BCE. On the flat top of the revered rocky hill, the glory of the Parthenon was unveiled, including a gigantic elephant ivory and gold statue of Athena. The intricately sculpted, roof-supporting caryatids (marble female figures) graced the new Erechtheum, and the Temple of Athena Nike became the first Ionic shrine dedicated to the goddess. Two leading architects, Iktinos and Kallikrates, designed many of the important buildings on the Acropolis. Another great feat was the completion of the parallel Long Walls. With a corridor 170 meters wide, the walls connected Athens to its port city of Piraeus.

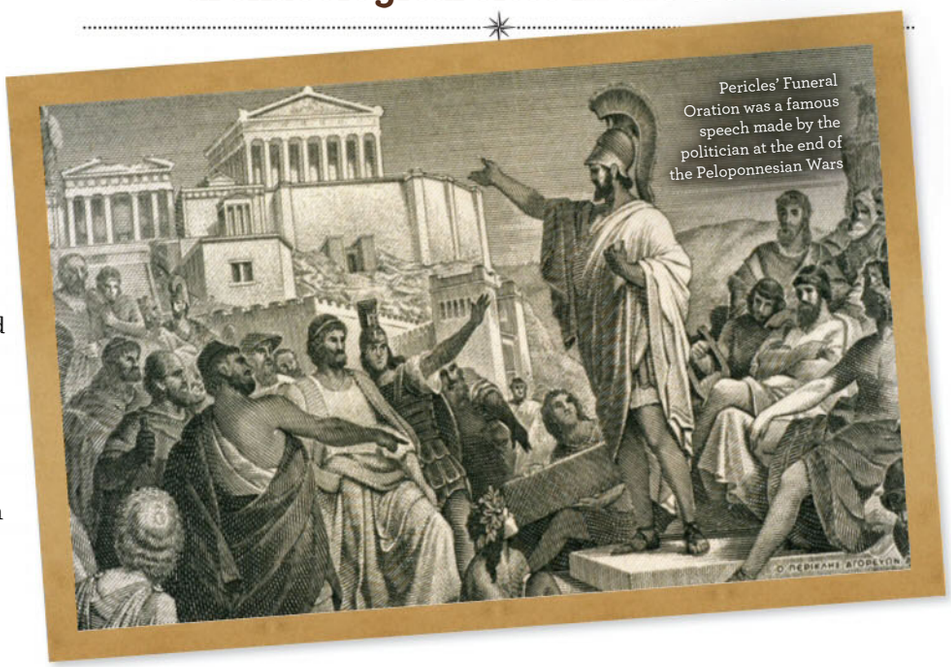
At the foot of the Acropolis, the newly constructed Theatre of Dionysus came alive with performances. Athenians, who felt it was their civic duty to attend as many dramas as possible, flocked to the theatre regularly. During the Golden Age, Greek tragedies were written and directed by luminaries such as Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides. Historians such as Herodotus, Xenophon and Thucydides spread their innovative thoughts and ideas as well as the physician Hippocrates, who is considered the father of Western medicine. The sculptures of Phidias and Myron set an unsurpassed standard in art form. So many great minds during this era exemplify that the ever-competitive Greeks reached higher levels of innovation in their field by seeing the bar raised in other areas.

The neighbouring city-state of Sparta made sure that Athens did not revel in its glory for long. Three decades of war ensued, known as the Peloponnesian Wars (431-404 BCE), with Sparta gaining the upper hand. Yet, 4th century BCE was still was the time of great orators and philosophers including Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Historians argue that the downfall of Athens was exemplified by the death sentence Socrates received for the crime of corrupting the city's youth with his ideas.

After Athens lost the Peloponnesian Wars and its position as the premier city-state in Greece, the city never quite gained the same glory again. Like other city-states, Athens was conquered by Philip II of Macedon in 338 BCE. After Philip was assassinated, his son Alexander the Great rose to become the greatest conqueror of the ancient world. Alexander favoured Athens over other city-states but after his untimely death, Athens was passed over into the hands of his successive generals.

Within three centuries, the Romans took control by sacking Athens and pulling down the Long Walls by 88

"Today, 2,500 years since it was built, the Acropolis remains one of the most visited archaeological sites in the world"

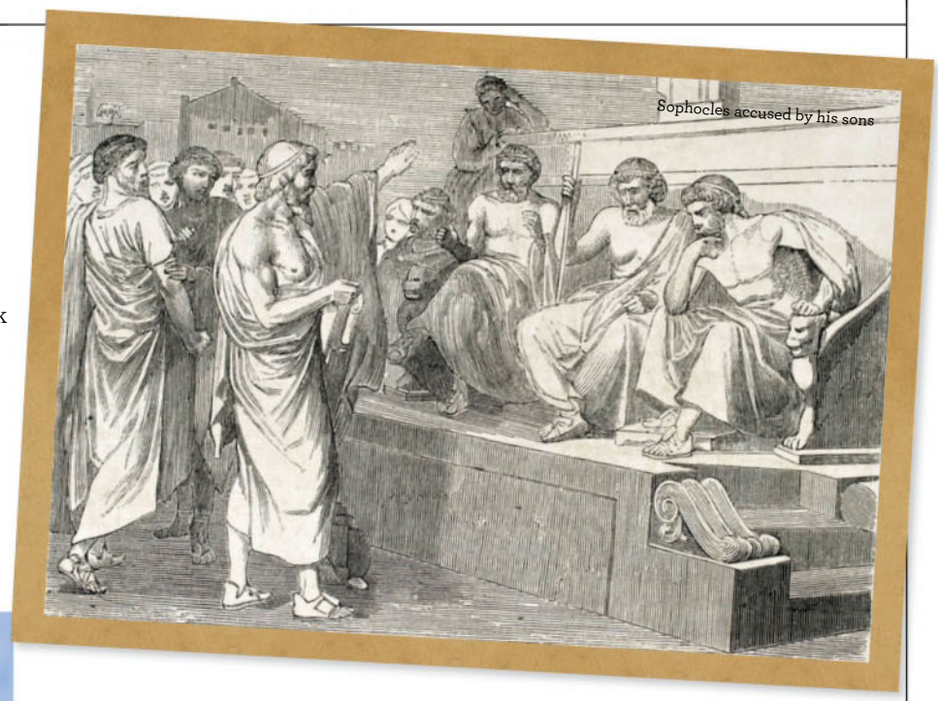


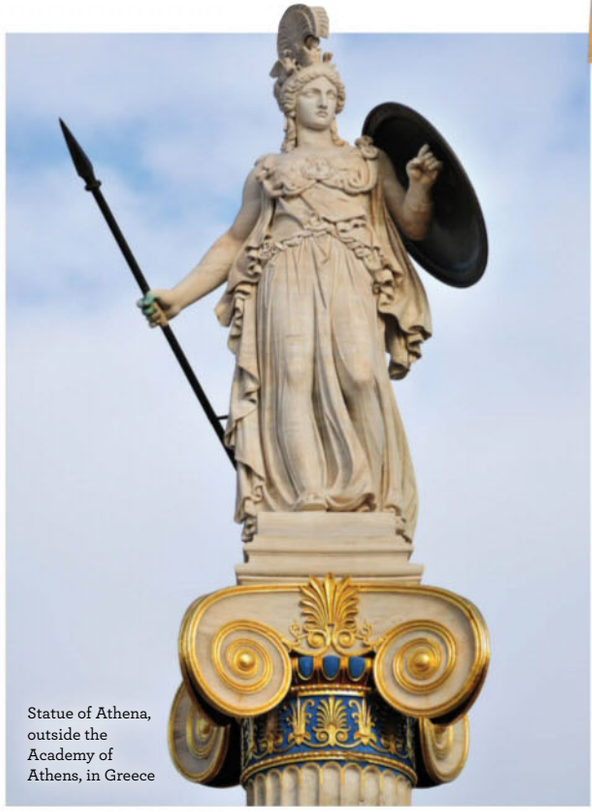
Pericles' Funeral Oration was a famous speech made by the politician at the end of the Peloponnesian Wars

BCE. Despite this, Athens prospered under Roman rule, remaining an important cultural and intellectual centre. Wealthy young Romans attended schools in Athens and the Roman elite all spoke Greek.

Roman emperors also built impressive structures. Emperor Hadrian constructed the massive Temple of Olympian Zeus, the monumental gateway known as the Arch of Hadrian and engineered an aqueduct. The magnificent Odeon of Herodes Atticus, built by the Greek aristocrat and Roman senator, was constructed at the base of the Acropolis and remains a performance centre today. The Romans also built their own fine marbled Roman Agora (commercial centre) featuring the Tower of the Winds, one of the earliest weather observatories.

When the Emperor Justinian closed the schools of philosophy in 529, the city declined into an outpost of the Byzantine Empire and temples were converted into Christian churches. By 1204, the Crusaders had captured Athens and invasions of the great ancient city would continue by the Franks, Catalans, Florentines and Venetians over the year. Under a 400-year Turkish occupation that followed, the Parthenon was converted into a mosque.


Sophocles accused by his sons


Statue of Athena, outside the Academy of Athens, in Greece

BELOW Intricate Ancient Greek coins

BELOW Ancient sculpture found near the Acropolis

Today, 2,500 years since it was built, the Acropolis remains one of the most visited archaeological sites in the world. It continues to undergo a slow, carefully detailed but steady restoration. Every day, travellers from across the world make their own modern pilgrimage to ascend its steps and stand in what was once the beating heart of a civilisation that has made an everlasting impact on Western human thought and culture. 70 metres above the city, the views of Athens continue to inspire.

With thousands of years of history behind it, Athens has grown into its own as a unique metropolis where the archaic and modern converge, yet still sync together. However, one panoramic look at the city and it is undeniable that the feats and splendour of the ancient world still define the identity and culture of the modern Greek capital.

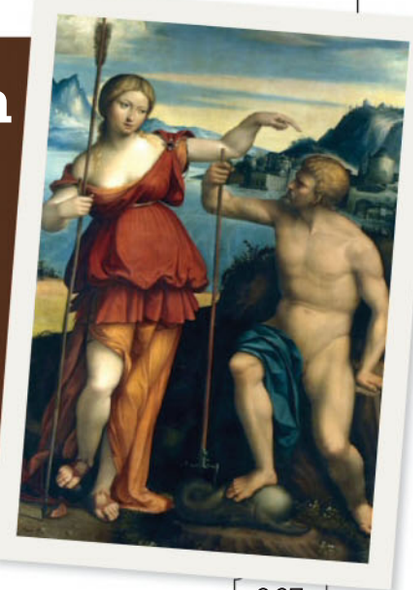
The contest of Poseidon and Athena

Only one Greek god could name the great city – but how did Athena bag the win?

One of ancient Greece's most compelling myths tells how Athens came to be called Athens. The first king of Athens, Cecrops, held a contest between two Olympian gods who wanted the right to name the great city. Poseidon, the god of the sea and Athena, the goddess of wisdom, would offer a truly valuable gift for the citizens and Cecrops would choose the more worthy one. Poseidon struck his massive trident into the earth, which burst through to the waters of the sea over which Poseidon ruled, showing that he would offer the city significant naval power. However, the people didn't appreciate that they couldn't drink the salt water.

Athena buried something in the ground, which grew into an olive tree, a symbol of prosperity and peace. The Athenians deemed it as the most useful gift. It would give them olives, themselves a source of sustenance – oil for lamps and for food – and also wood for shelter and boats.

Cecrops deemed Athena's gift by far the better of the two and so she was declared the winner, the patron deity of Athens and protector of the city. The Greek world worshipped her as Athena Polias (Athena of the city). Her sacred owl, which she kept on her shoulder, represented wisdom and knowledge and quickly became associated with the city of Athens as well.



Things to see

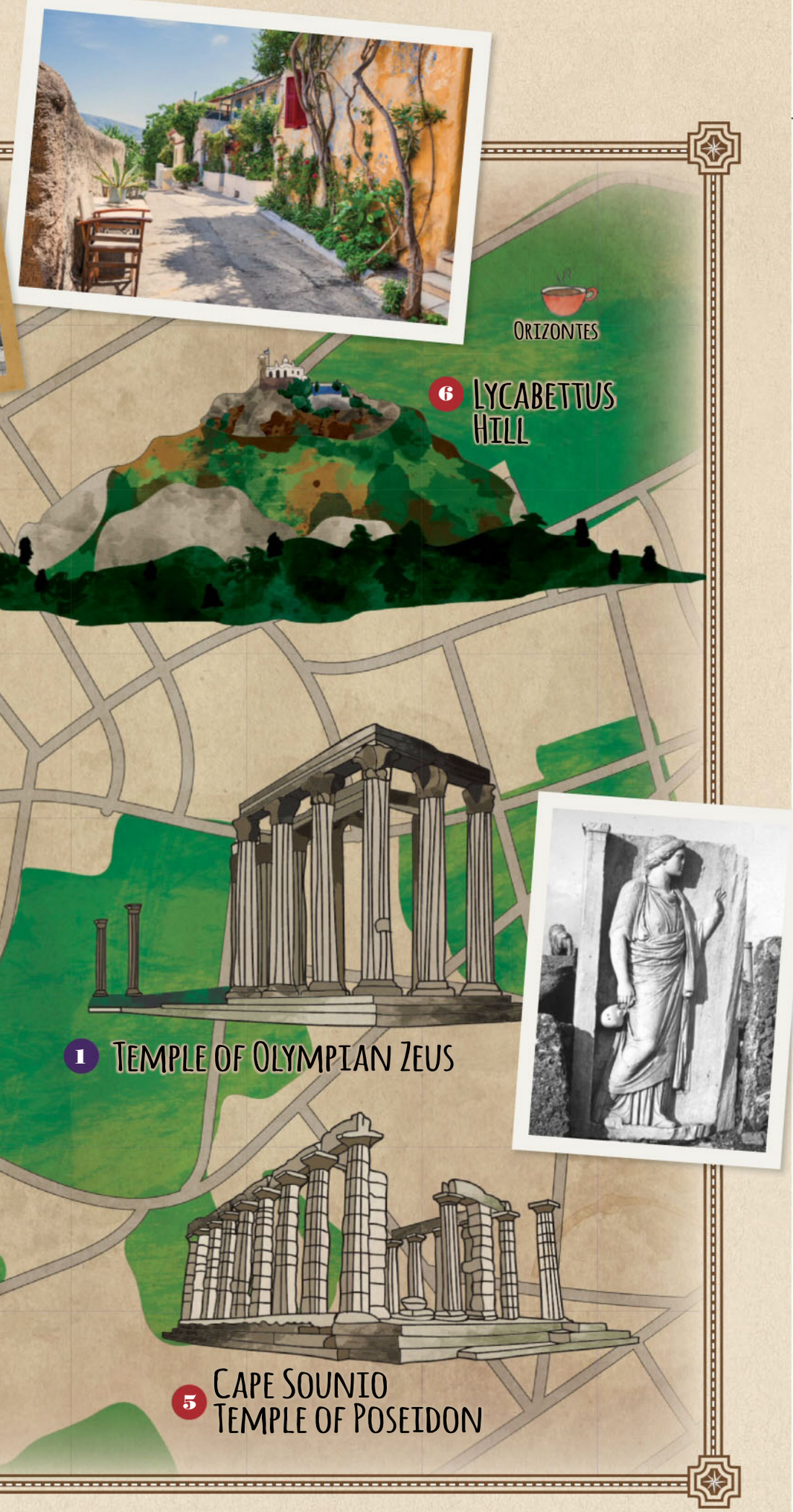
3 Kerameikos

Ancient Agora and the Temple of Hephaestus 4

The Grande Bretagne

7 Acropolis and Acropolis Museum

2 Theatre of Herodes Atticus



1 Temple of Olympian Zeus

The Temple of Olympian Zeus was the largest temple built during Ancient Greece. The ambitious layout began under the rule of the Athenian tyrants who wanted the site to be the greatest temple in the ancient world, similar in design to the huge temples that were being built in Asia Minor. However, the ideas of democracy changed this mentality and Athenians believed such a grand temple would be a symbol of tyranny, so construction stopped. It wasn't until the 2nd century, almost 700 years after the project had begun, that the temple reached completion under the reign of Roman Emperor Hadrian. Made of fine Pentelian marble, it featured a huge gold and ivory statue of Zeus and an equally large one of Hadrian himself. A wall was built around the temple that displayed Hadrian's portraits as offerings from the cities of Greece.

The Temple of Olympian Zeus, in all of its glory, didn't last long. It fell into decay after a barbarian invasion in the 3rd century. Over time, its fine materials were taken to build other structures and now, none of its grand interiors remain. Only 15 of the 124 Corinthian columns can be admired today, each one an impressive 17 meters high. In 1852, one column blew over during a storm and is still lying where it fell. The Arch of Hadrian, a monumental Roman triumphal gate, survives on the same site as the Temple of Olympian Zeus. The site is open from 8am until 3pm everyday and costs €6 for adults.

The Theatre of Herodes of Atticus could seat up to 5,000 people

2 Theatre of Herodes Atticus

The Theatre of Herodes Atticus, also known as the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, sits on the south slope of the Acropolis. The Roman philosopher, teacher and senator, Tiberius Claudius Atticus Herodes, built the amphitheatre in remembrance of his wife Aspasia Annia Regilla, who died in 160 CE. It was the third Odeon to be built in Athens and was distinctively Roman in contrast to the nearby Theatre of Dionysus, which was built in the 6th century BCE.

Completed with a wide 381-metre radius, the semi-circular roofed amphitheatre served many festivals, seating about 5,000 people at any one time. The original stage wall was three storeys high, decorated with fine art, marble and ceramic pieces. A cedar roof once covered the theatre proving just how expensive a construction project it was. It also had no internal fixings, which is considered a construction achievement even in modern times. Mosaic floors with geometrical and linear patterns covered the entrances.

The original structure was sacked just a century after it was built with the invasion of Erouloi in 267 CE. During Ottoman occupation, it remained in ruins. It wasn't until it was discovered again in the late 20th century that restoration began.

Today, it is an open-air venue still very much in use and is considered one of the best places to experience a live classical theatre performance in Athens. From opera divas to tenors, the world's best performers have performed under a night sky, utilising the amphitheatre's excellent acoustics. Live events, including concerts, operas and ancient drama performances are held from May to October. For a current schedule, visit **greekfestival.gr**.

3 Kerameikos

Kerameikos is an ancient burial ground located in the heart of downtown Athens. It was originally a settlement for potters who collected the clay on the banks of the Iridanos River, which once flowed there. Because of frequent flooding, the grounds were converted into a cemetery and served that very purpose from 3000 BCE to 600 CE.

The walls of Athens, constructed in the 5th century BCE, ran through the district, dividing it in two. The two wall gates – the Dipylon and the Sacred Gate – were the largest city gates in the ancient world and led to the two most important processional roads of Athens. The Sacred Gate led to Eleusis and the Dipylon opened to the Panathenaic Way, which went to the Acropolis.

In the 19th century, Kerameikos was uncovered and restoration began. Today it is a peaceful and tranquil archaeological site. Ruins to explore include the Dipylon Gate; the Themistoclean Wall, which marked the city's boundary; and the Fountain House ruins, which once provided citizens with a water supply. During the annual Panathenaic procession, sacrifices and preparations were made at the Pompeiion. Wander through the Street of Tombs where the replicas of the gravestones of some of Athens's most prominent citizens can be seen. The celebrated warriors of Ancient Greece were all buried under high, round burial mounds that lined the holy road.

On site is the Kerameikos Museum, a well-laid out venue with remarkable stelae (stone slabs), sculptures and fine examples of Athenian pottery.

Ivory female statuette from one of the Dipylon graves

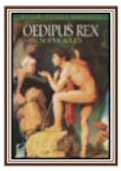
TAKING IN THE CULTURE

What to listen to, read and watch for an ancient experience in Athens

Listen to: Ancient Greek History Podcast

Listen to Yale University's Professor Donald Kagan's insight into the political, intellectual and artistic achievements of Athens, from the Bronze Age to the Golden Age.

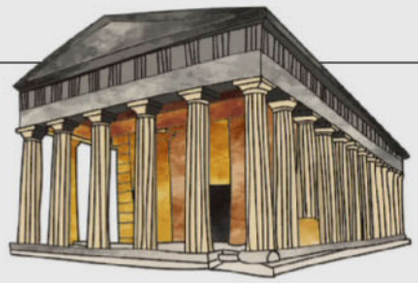
Read: Oedipus Rex, the powerful Athenian tragedy written by Sophocles



Sophocles's *Oedipus Rex* is considered the purest expression of Greek tragic drama, in which the mythical king of Thebes unwittingly killed his father and married his mother.

Watch: Troy

The 2004-film starring Brad Pitt and Orlando Bloom, which follows the assault on the city of Troy by united Greek forces, brings Homer's epic tale of love and war to Hollywood grandeur.



4 ANCIENT AGORA AND THE TEMPLE OF HEPHAESTUS

On the north-west slope of the Acropolis, Athens's most famed ancient marketplace – the Ancient Agora – buzzed as the epicentre of public life. The word 'agora' in Ancient Greek means assembly or gathering of people, and in Modern Greek it translates to marketplace.

The area was the favourite strolling ground for elite Athenians as well as townspeople, merchants and students. Here, Socrates discussed his thoughts with Plato and explained the philosophy of the Stoics (a name which refers to the stoes or the Agora colonnades). The restored Stoa of Attalos II was where Socrates once lectured his progressive ideas on mortality and morality. Here, the Museum of the Ancient Agora displays artefacts related to the Athenian democratic functions as well as pottery, sculptures and mosaics.

During the 5th century BCE, the Ancient Agora was the summit of the Athenian democracy. Councils and magistrates met at the surrounding administrative buildings and schools. Everyday citizens gathered in the public space, which served as a court, marketplace or a space for drama performances, military drills and public gatherings.

On Kolonos Agoraios hill, the best-preserved Doric temple from Ancient Greece still stands. In 449 BCE, the Temple of Hephaestus was constructed overlooking the Agora. Built just two years before the Parthenon, it was the first temple in Athens to be made of marble. The temple was dedicated to Hephaestus, the Greek god of volcanoes and metalworking, who was the only one of the Olympian gods that was physically imperfect and who had to perform manual labour. As a blacksmith, Hephaestus crafted the armour with a fatal weakness worn by Achilles in *The Iliad*.

Surrounded by 34 columns and measuring 31 metres in length, colossal bronze statues of Hephaestus and Athena once flanked the altar inside. Decorated in Parian marble sculpture, the temple also features a wooden ceiling and terracotta roof tiles.

The Temple of Hephaestus can be visited with the same ticket as the Ancient Agora.

Aerial view of the Temple of Hephaestus

Who's who in Ancient Greece?

This sophisticated time witnessed incredible advances as a result of great thinkers, leaders and artists

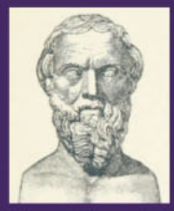
Pericles

The Golden Age of Athens flourished under Pericles, a gifted orator and statesman who helped democracy to flourish. Under his leadership, the Acropolis was built along with other architectural feats. Through his naval alliance, Athens controlled a vast empire.

Sophocles

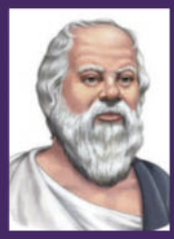
Sophocles, a master of Greek tragedy, was a celebrated playwright who won numerous writing competitions. He is said to have written more than 100 plays with his best-known work cited as *Oedipus Rex*.

Herodotus



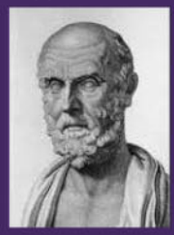
Before Herodotus, no one tried to explain the cause-and-effect of world events. Known as the father of history, Herodotus chronicled the Greco-Persian Wars in his work called *The Histories*, which is considered a founding work in Western literature.

Socrates



Famous for being a questioner of everything and everyone, Socrates immortalised the Socratic Method. Seen as the first of the great Greek philosophers, he is considered to be the founder of Western philosophy. He was later sentenced to death, accused of corrupting the youth of Athens with his ideas.

Hippocrates



Separating medicine from superstition and the supernatural, Hippocrates was a scientist who founded the Hippocratic School of Medicine, establishing medicine as a profession. Now known as the father of Western medicine, doctors still take the Hippocratic Oath to this day.

Alexander the Great

Considered the greatest military leader in history, Alexander reunited Greece. With his ambitious spirit, he never lost a battle and managed to expand the Greek Empire to its greatest size before his untimely death in 323 BCE at the age of 32.

Take the family

5 Cape Sounio/ Temple of Poseidon

On Cape Sounio, a rocky headland on the southernmost tip of Athens, Ancient Greeks built a temple to honour the god of the sea, Poseidon. Perched at a height of almost 60 metres above the sea, its gleaming marble columns once welcomed the ancient Athenians home as they sailed home. The site inspired 19th-century English poet Lord Byron, who included Sounio in his poem *Don Juan*, and his signature is allegedly carved on a marble column.

6 Lycabettus Hill

The goddess Athena created Athens's highest hill, Lycabettus, by accident. Intending to boost the height of her Acropolis temple, she returned with a large rock from Mount Penteli that she could place on the existing rock. However, two birds approached with bad news and in her rage, the flustered goddess dropped the rock in the centre of the city.

Today, 300 metres above sea level and swathed in lush pine trees, the limestone hill is a natural sight to explore in Athens. At its peak, the whitewashed Saint George chapel, an open-air theatre, café and restaurant offer stunning panoramic views.

Hiking paths wind upward from several streets in the Kolonaki neighbourhood below. Kids especially enjoy the steep teleferique (funicular) ride up to the summit, which departs from the base Aristippou Street every half hour.

7 ACROPOLIS AND ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

The Acropolis of Athens towers above the city of Athens, a rocky plateau where the ruins of Ancient Greece's most treasured ancient buildings stand.

The ancient citadel naturally has commanding views of the region and it was where Pericles, leader during the Golden Age of Athens, built the greatest architectural feats of the era, with the most famous being the Parthenon.

Dedicated to the goddess of wisdom, Athena, the Parthenon was constructed between 447 and 438 BCE. The Temple of Athena Nike – the first temple on the Acropolis built in Ionic style – was also built in Athena's honour. With its spectacular marble-sculpted caryatids (colonnades shaped as female figures) the Erechtheion was dedicated to the worship of the Athena and Poseidon. Two significant theatres were built on the south side of the Acropolis including the Theatre of Dionysus and the Roman-era Odeon of Herodes Atticus.

Just across the Acropolis, the hypermodern Acropolis Museum was designed by Swiss star architect Bernard Tschumi. Its opening in 2009 revived a heated controversy with Greece asking Britain to give back the 2,500-year-old sculptures of the Parthenon that were taken from the temple by Lord Elgin two centuries ago.

The exhibits focus on the findings from the Acropolis of Athens dating from the Greek Bronze Age to Byzantine Greece. Containing more than 4,000 artefacts, the museum is built over an extensive archaeological site, and throughout the building, transparent glass is used so visitors can see the excavations below.

An illustrated plan of the Acropolis of Athens

Where to stay

The Grande Bretagne

Intertwined with the history of Athens, the Grande Bretagne is a luxury hotel known for its fantastic views of the city. The original building dates back to 1842, when it was first built as a mansion for a wealthy Greek businessman. By 1874, it was bought by another businessman who named it the Grand Bretagne. Today, the rooftop terrace features panoramic view of Athens and some balconies face the Acropolis. Centrally located on Syntagma Square, the hotel is within walking distance of major sights and museums. Classic rooms start from €230 per room/per night.

Eat & drink

Orizontes

Boasting a dining balcony perched on Lycabettus Hill – one of the highest peaks in Athens – Orizontes restaurant features a stunning panorama of the Greek capital and the Acropolis. Equally acclaimed for its cuisine as it is for the view, Orizontes has a select menu of Mediterranean dishes that incorporate in-season ingredients to bring out the best in traditional Greek flavours, including a pork tenderloin with vegetables in Feta cheese, honey and sesame, as well as fresh seafood catches of the day. Set dinner menus start at €58 per person. Visit **orizonteslycabettus.gr** for more.

ATHENS

EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS

Essential information

Where Athens is the capital and largest city of Greece, set on a peninsula that stretches south into the Aegean Sea. Served by the Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport, flights connect to major cities worldwide including direct to the UK. The city's main port of Piraeus often sees cruise ships and is a hub for ferries set to the Greek islands. The Athens Metro stops at major points of interest, the port of Piraeus and connects to train lines. Several stations exhibit ancient antiquities found during construction. A trolley and bus system also serves Athens.

When to visit Athens is a year-round destination, but very popular during the summer especially for those en route to the Greek islands. Avoid crowds and enjoy pleasant weather in the late spring and early autumn time.

Time zone UTC+1:00

Currency Euro

Links

www.cityofathens.gr/en/ Latest happenings and news on the city's official website.

imanathenian.com/ Refreshing ideas on what to do and see in the city.

odysseus.culture.gr/ A complete list of archaeological sites and museums including prices

Need to know

Archaeological sites

See the major sites of Athens with one reduced price €30 ticket. The package, which can be used over a span of five days includes the Acropolis of Athens, Ancient Agora, Museum of Kerameikos and Temple of Olympian Zeus.

Free entry

There is free admission at most public museums and archaeological sites on the first Sunday between November and March. Other free days include 6 March, 18 April and certain Greek holidays.

Speaking English and a little Greek

Greeks speak English well, especially the younger generations and those working in tourism. Greeks will be even friendlier should they hear you speaking their language.

Explore History

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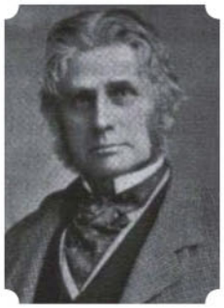
HERITAGE HERO

AUGUSTUS PITT RIVERS

THE FATHER OF SCIENTIFIC ARCHAEOLOGY IN BRITAIN

Born Augustus Lane-Fox in 1827, Pitt Rivers had a successful career in the army, reaching the rank of lieutenant general. His interest in archaeology and ethnography was sparked in the 1860s when he was posted to southern Ireland; there, he surveyed a number of prehistoric forts. He was already a collector of militaria and soon he began to acquire ethnographic objects too. Unusually for the time, he also collected many everyday items too, as well as fine art.

In the Victorian period, there was a vogue for 'treasure hunting' by antiquarians. They all wanted to dig to find antiquities, however, Pitt Rivers took a more scientific and methodological approach to his work. He was introduced to excavation techniques by the antiquarian Canon Greenwell, whom he assisted on a dig in North Yorkshire in 1867.



ABOVE A pioneer in British archaeology, Augustus Pitt Rivers was ahead of his time in theories about recording and dating artefacts

Reading about Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and Herbert Spencer's later concept of social Darwinism was a lightbulb moment for Pitt Rivers. He began to apply the same idea to the ethnographic artefacts that he was discovering in order to illustrate his own theory about the evolution of culture. The crux of what he called 'typology' was that objects could be placed in chronological order according to small changes in their design. Although the evolution of culture theory was largely rejected, his ordering of finds revolutionised archaeological thinking because it provided a method by which objects could be dated. This remains the cornerstone of archaeology today.

In 1880, Pitt Rivers unexpectedly inherited the enormous 11,000-hectare estate of Cranborne Chase, which straddled Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire, taking on the Pitt Rivers name as a condition of the will. On Cranborne Chase, he established the Larmer Tree

The Pitt Rivers Museum was created to house Pitt Rivers' collection; it now has more than 500,000 objects

"...To dwell on the discovery of odds and ends that have, no doubt, been thrown away by the owner as rubbish"

AUGUSTUS PITT RIVERS

Gardens on the Rushmore Estate, creating a public space for entertainment and education, for both visitors and the estate workers. Evening dances would be held on the lawn, and follies provided shelter for picnics.

Now a very wealthy man, Pitt-Rivers retired from the army two years later and started carrying out archaeological surveys of his land. The excavations included numerous prehistoric, Romano-British and Medieval sites, and each one was undertaken with Pitt Rivers's characteristic military precision.

On every dig, he employed skilled workers such as surveyors, architects and artists so that evidence could be systematically recorded in three-dimensional form. All of his excavation projects were meticulously carried out and the location of every single object, no matter how small it was, was recorded in huge detail. Pitt Rivers appreciated the value of the mundane, everyday artefacts he discovered, particularly pottery. He said, "Next to coins, finding fragments of pottery affords the most reliable of all evidence."

Pitt Rivers even placed tokens in his excavations so that future archaeologists would know the sites had already been dug. He went to great lengths to publish the intricate details of his digs in four volumes entitled *Excavations In Cranborne Chase* (1887-1896), so that the public could learn about his discoveries.

Over time, the number of artefacts in Pitt Rivers's collections grew and grew. In 1884, he offered more than 26,000 objects to Oxford University, on the condition that a museum was built to house them. This was the founding collection of the now world-famous Pitt Rivers Museum. In his lifetime, Pitt Rivers's theories and methods were not widely accepted, and it was not until the mid-20th century that they were rediscovered and adopted.

MAKING A HERO

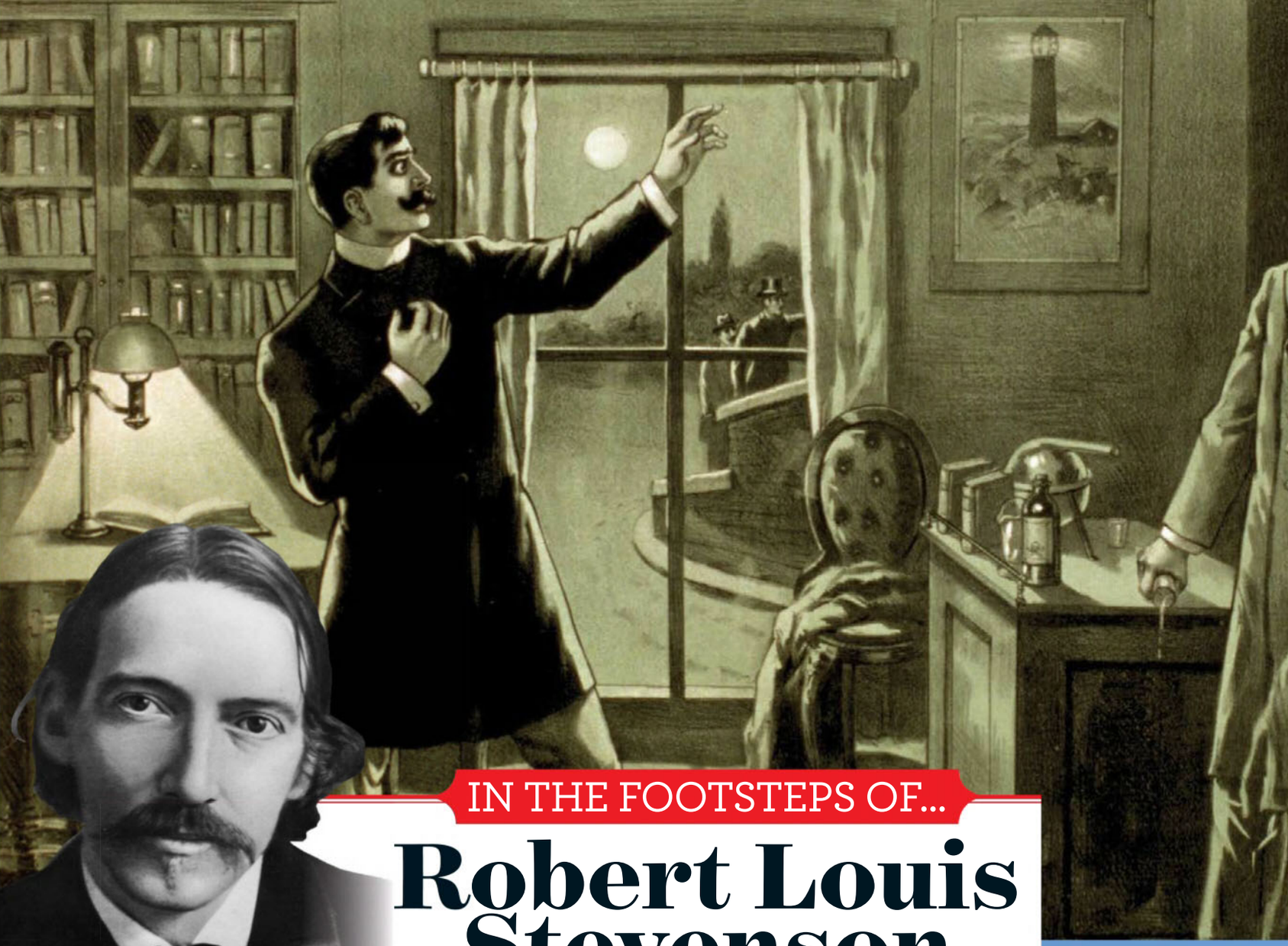
1 **Egypt excavation**
In a rare excavation in 1880, Pitt Rivers discovered palaeolithic remains in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt.

2 **Lecturer**
Pitt Rivers was a member of a number of archaeological and anthropological societies, regularly giving lectures.

3 **Public educator**
In Farnham, Dorset, near Cranborne Chase, he established an educational museum "where visitors may instruct themselves."

4 **First inspector**
Pitt Rivers became the first inspector of ancient monuments after Sir John Lubbock's Ancient Monuments Act in 1882.

5 **Advocate of cremation**
When he died in 1900, Pitt Rivers requested that his body be cremated at a time when cremation was rare.



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF...

Robert Louis Stevenson

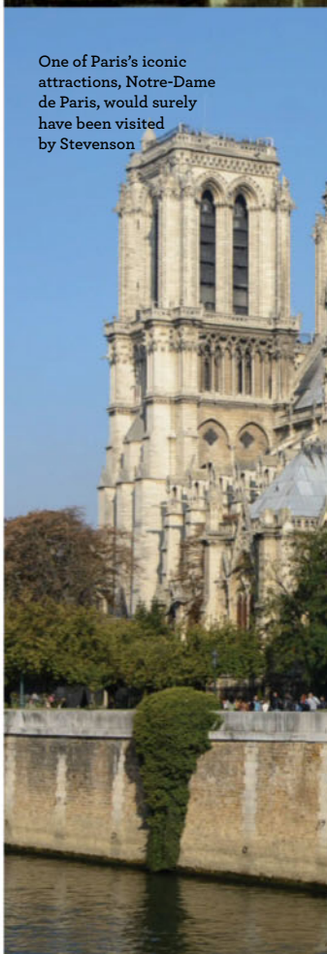
The much-loved Scottish author enjoyed a special connection with France and is still remembered in some places today

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894), author of classic novels including *Treasure Island*, *Kidnapped* and *Strange Case Of Dr Jekyll And Mr Hyde*, is nowadays most often linked with either the Scottish capital of Edinburgh – the city of his birth and early adulthood – or the South Pacific island of Samoa where he eventually settled. However, many of his most formative life experiences actually happened during numerous trips he made to France, with either family or friends.

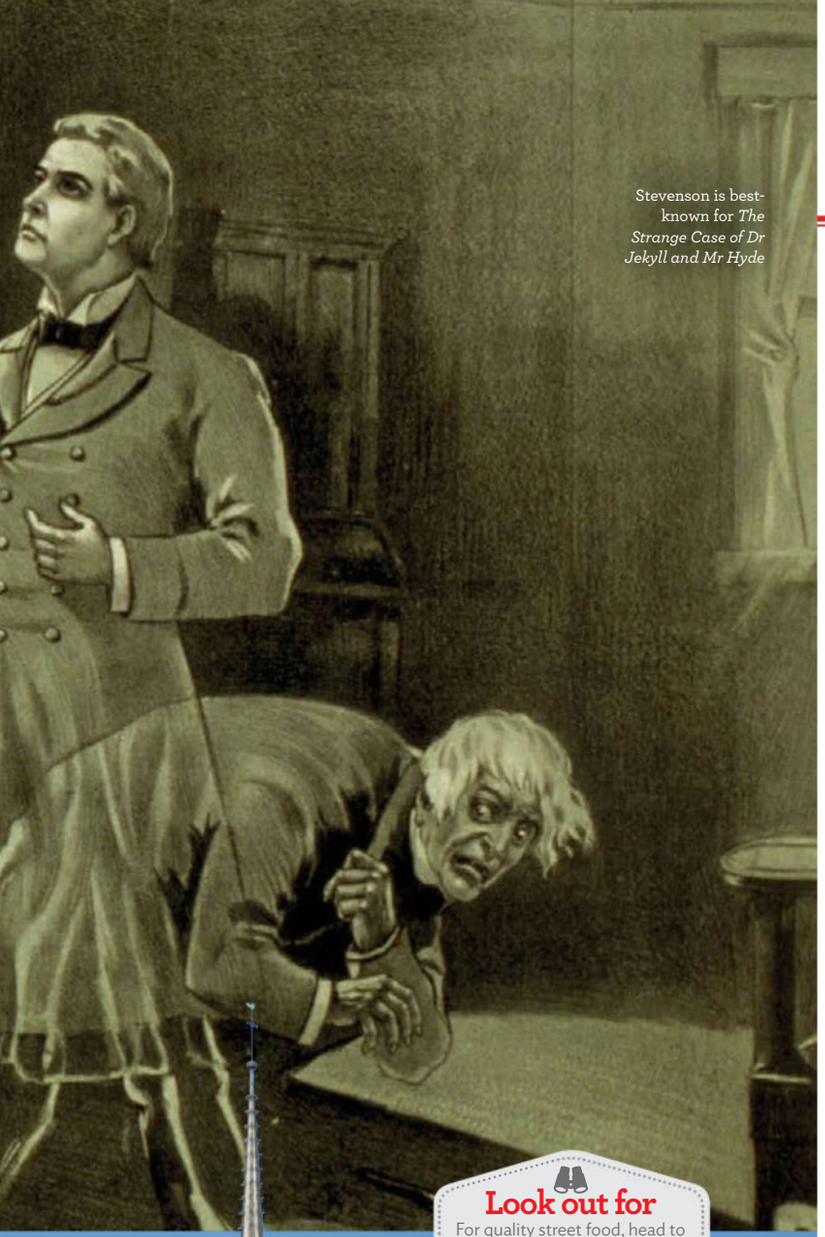
According to his stepson, Lloyd Osbourne, Stevenson was "mentally... half a Frenchman; in taste, habits and prepossessions he was almost wholly French. Not only did he speak French admirably and read it like his mother-tongue, but he loved both country and people and was really more at home in France than anywhere else."

However, Stevenson's life-long health problems – at the time considered to be tuberculosis, but more recently diagnosed as bronchiectasis or even sarcoidosis – ultimately forced him on to find warmer climes. For many years, Stevenson and his family wandered the eastern and central Pacific before finally settling in Upola, Samoa. It was there he died, most likely of a cerebral haemorrhage, on 3 December 1894 — now recognised around the world as Robert Louis Stevenson Day.

WORDS BY PAUL COCKBURN



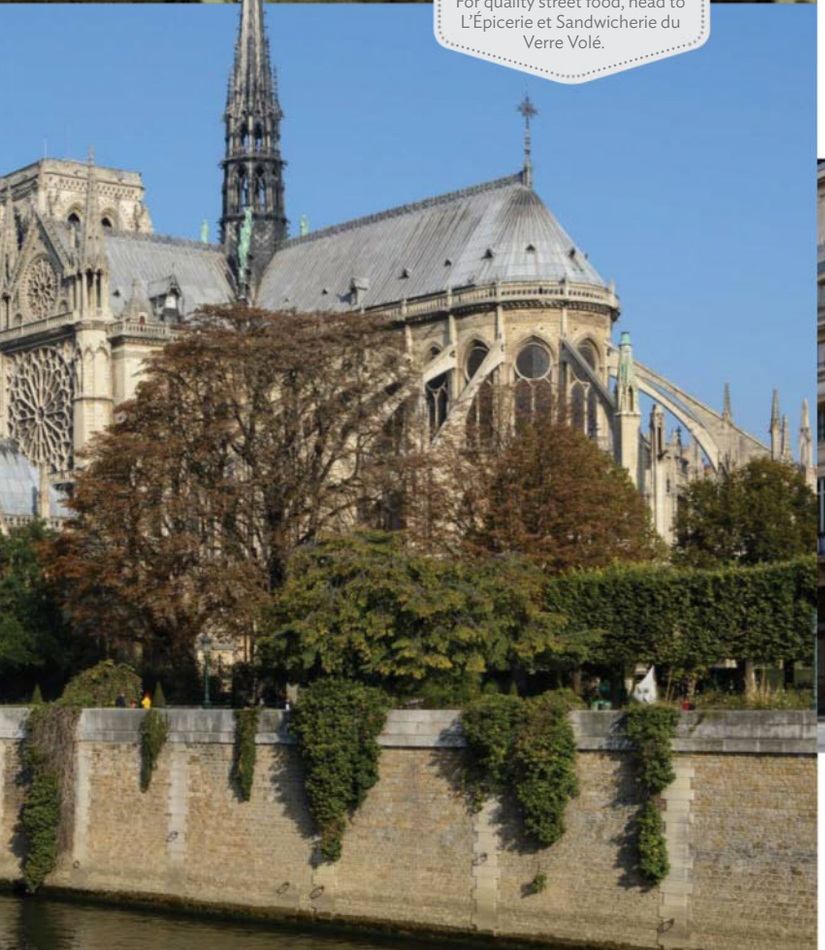
One of Paris's iconic attractions, Notre-Dame de Paris, would surely have been visited by Stevenson



Stevenson is best-known for *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Look out for

For quality street food, head to L'Épicerie et Sandwicherie du Verre Volé.



DATE VISITED: **1863-86**

PARIS

1 Stevenson stayed in the French capital on numerous occasions, although often en route to other destinations. In 1863, at the age of 12, he first visited Paris during a five-month European tour with his parents. The Stevensons were based at the luxurious Hôtel Meurice, still to be found opposite the Tuileries Garden, and took in attractions including the Medieval cathedral Notre-Dame de Paris and the L'Eglise de la Madeleine – a Roman Catholic church built as a monument to Napoleon's army. They also visited the ancient seat of the French monarchy, the Tuileries Palace, which eight years later (in 1871) was largely gutted by fire during the suppression of the Paris Commune.

Stevenson found himself in the French capital on a somewhat tighter budget in 1876, even while staying at the Rue de Douay apartment of his friend and early 'muse', Frances Sitwell. However, limited finances didn't stop Stevenson from engaging in 'a wild hunt for books', repeatedly returning home with 'an armful' most days, which may explain why he and some of his artist friends – including the American painter Will H Low – often stayed as long as possible in public attractions such as the Louvre. Nevertheless, Stevenson had enough money from his allowance to occasionally visit the French national theatre, Comédie-Française – including one production he saw starring famous French actress Sarah Bernhardt.

ABOVE Stevenson as painted by Count Girolamo Nerli (1892)

Otherwise, Stevenson joined in with Parisian café society as far as his finances allowed. However, one iconic attraction he never visited was the Eiffel Tower, construction of which didn't begin until 1887.

Free admission to Parisian national museums on the first Sunday of the month – but do expect queues.

ABOVE Corner of the Salle Richelieu, the theatre of the Comédie-Française

The town of Cergy as seen from above

Look out for
Numerous festivals take place here: Cergy-Pontoise is a 'Ville d'Art et d'Histoire'.

DATE VISITED: **1875**

CERGY-PONTOISE

Pontoise lies some 25 kilometres north west of Paris. As one half of the dual township of Cergy-Pontoise, its name derives from its location as an ancient crossing point over the river Oise, some ten kilometres before it joins the Seine.

The township is regarded as one of the capitals of the impressionist movement, having attracted many famous artists including the likes of Vincent van Gogh, Paul Cézanne and Paul Gauguin.

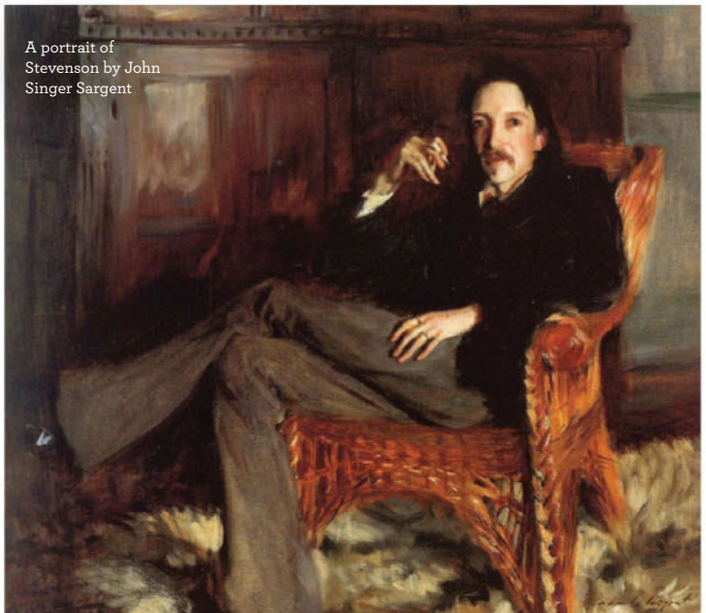
For Stevenson, however, it was the end point of a canoe trip that he completed (between 25 August and 14 September 1875) with his university friend Sir Walter Grindlay Simpson; this formed the basis of Stevenson's first published book, the travelogue *An Inland Voyage*.

Stevenson stayed at the then Hotel du Grand Cerf in Dubec-Lebreton, Pontoise, but was almost immediately off to Paris and then on to Grez. It's fair to assume that he didn't take in many of the township's numerous attractions, such as its magnificent catacombs.

Tours of the caves beneath Pontoise take place every Sunday afternoon, by appointment. Free for children.

ABOVE *An Inland Voyage*, written by Stevenson

ABOVE Pontoise-vue-depuis-l-ecluse in the 19th century



A portrait of Stevenson by John Singer Sargent

DATE VISITED: **1875-81**

BARBIZON AND GREZ-SUR-LOING

3 Stevenson's cousin Bob introduced the author to the small thriving artistic communities that had sprung up in Barbizon, Grez-sur-Loing and the nearby Fontainebleau region by the mid-1870s. While enamoured by the Bohemian French lifestyle, Stevenson was equally taken by the natural beauty of the forest. "I really was ill at first," he wrote to his friend Francis Sitwell in April 1875, "but the forest begins to work, and the air, and the sun, and the smell of the pines – if I could stay a month here, I think I should be as right as possible."

Barbizon and Grez acted as starting points for several journeys, including a walking tour of the Loing Valley that ended with Stevenson arrested under suspicion of being a German spy. You can still see the "Gendarmerie Nationale" sign above 17 Rue de Cien, Chatillon-sur-Loire, where Stevenson was briefly incarcerated.

The Hôtel Chevillon in Grez, where Stevenson first met his future wife, Fanny Osbourne, is now home to an International Arts Centre that is run as a private guesthouse for writers and artists (primarily from Scotland, Finland and Sweden) awarded residencies – such as those from the Scottish Book Trust's annual Robert Louis Stevenson Fellowship award.

✳ **Accommodation in either Fontainebleau or Barbizon provides a good base to visit Grez-sur-Loing.**

A painting of the main street in Grez by John Lavery

Look out for
The bridge in Grez over the river Loing has featured in many different paintings.

Grez-sur-Loing, flooded in June 2016

DATE VISITED: **1876**

MAUBEUGE

4 **Some nine kilometres from the Belgian border, this fortified town was the starting point of the French leg of Stevenson's river journey, which formed the basis of his first published book, the travelogue *An Inland Voyage*.**

On their arrival from Brussels – by train, in order to avoid having to negotiate 55 locks en route – Stevenson and Simpson stayed in what the writer described as "a very good inn", the Grand Cerf, which is sadly no longer in existence. They had to wait for their canoes to eventually arrive before joining the canalised River Sambre on which they began their journey towards Hautmont.

Despite its ruined fortifications, Stevenson wasn't much impressed by the town of Maubeuge: "There was nothing to do, nothing to see," he wrote.

Today's tourist office is likely to disagree with the author; the town boasts one of the best zoos in France.

Maubeuge Zoo includes numerous animals but is only open in the afternoon during the winter.

DATE VISITED: **1878**

LE MONASTIER-SUR-GAZEILLE

5 **This French commune in the Haute-Loire region of south-central France, was the initial starting point for a 12-day, 190 kilometre hiking journey – in the company of a distinctive donkey called Modestine – which provided Stevenson with material for his second book, *Travels With A Donkey In The Cévennes*.** He found the surrounding countryside "beautiful," similar to "but not so grand" as the Scottish Highlands.

Stevenson's favourite spot was in the valley below the village with, "...a winding dell of cliffs and firewood with here and there green meadows."

For some reason, Le Monastier did not feature in the published book; his thoughts about the town would only appear, posthumously, in the essay *A Mountain Town In France* – the locals apparently found his Scottish accent amusing.

One of the rooms in the Musee Municipal, Chateau du Prieur, is dedicated to Stevenson and his time in the town and the Cevennes.

As in the book, Robert Louis Stevenson Trail 'GR70' officially starts at Le Puy-en-Velay.

The love of his life

While in France, Stevenson met the woman he would later cross the Atlantic to marry

Biographers are unclear about the exact date in 1876 when Stevenson first met his future wife, Fanny van de Grift Osbourne, but that's alright – the couple were too.

Writing to Fanny from Manasquan, New Jersey, on their 8th wedding anniversary, Stevenson wished he knew other "more important dates," including, "...the day when I looked through the window".

That referred to their first meeting, during an evening meal at Hotel Chevillon in Grez. "It was a soft, sweet evening, and the doors and windows were open; dusk drew near, and the lamps had just been lit," Fanny's sister Nellie later wrote. "Suddenly a young man approached from the outside. It was Robert Louis Stevenson, who afterwards admitted that he had fallen in love with his wife at first sight when he saw her in the lamplight through the open window."

Fanny's daughter Belle and son Lloyd also remembered how Stevenson climbed in through the window and joined the party. Clearly enchanted by Fanny, Stevenson remained in her company for much of the rest of his stay.

They married in 1880, in San Francisco. Stevenson's illness would eventually mean leaving the US.

ABOVE Fanny Van de Grift, Stevenson's eventual wife

Look out for
Marseilles' old port remains a haven for fishing boats and pleasure yachts.

DATE VISITED: **1863-83**

MARSEILLE

6 Stevenson's first experience of Marseille was an overnight stay during the five-month European tour undertaken with his parents in 1863. Ten years later in October 1882, he briefly visited while en route to Menton. It was the first time he was 'ordered south' by his doctor and was his longest stay in the busy port city.

On this occasion, Stevenson and his wife Fanny initially stayed at the Hotel Terminus Saint-Charles (still in the heart of Marseille) before moving into a rented house, Campagne Defli, in Saint-Marcel, the east quarter of Marseille.

By February 1883, however, it was clear that Stevenson's health was not as consistently improved by the location as originally hoped – his wife's fears of a sudden relapse was not particularly helped by an outbreak of Typhus around the time. So the couple eventually moved for a short time to Nice and then the nearby French commune of Hyères. Stevenson nevertheless always loved, "the hills of Saint Marcel," describing them as "romance in limestone."

Marseille's flagship MuCEM museum focuses on Mediterranean culture. Open 11am-7pm, adults €9.50.

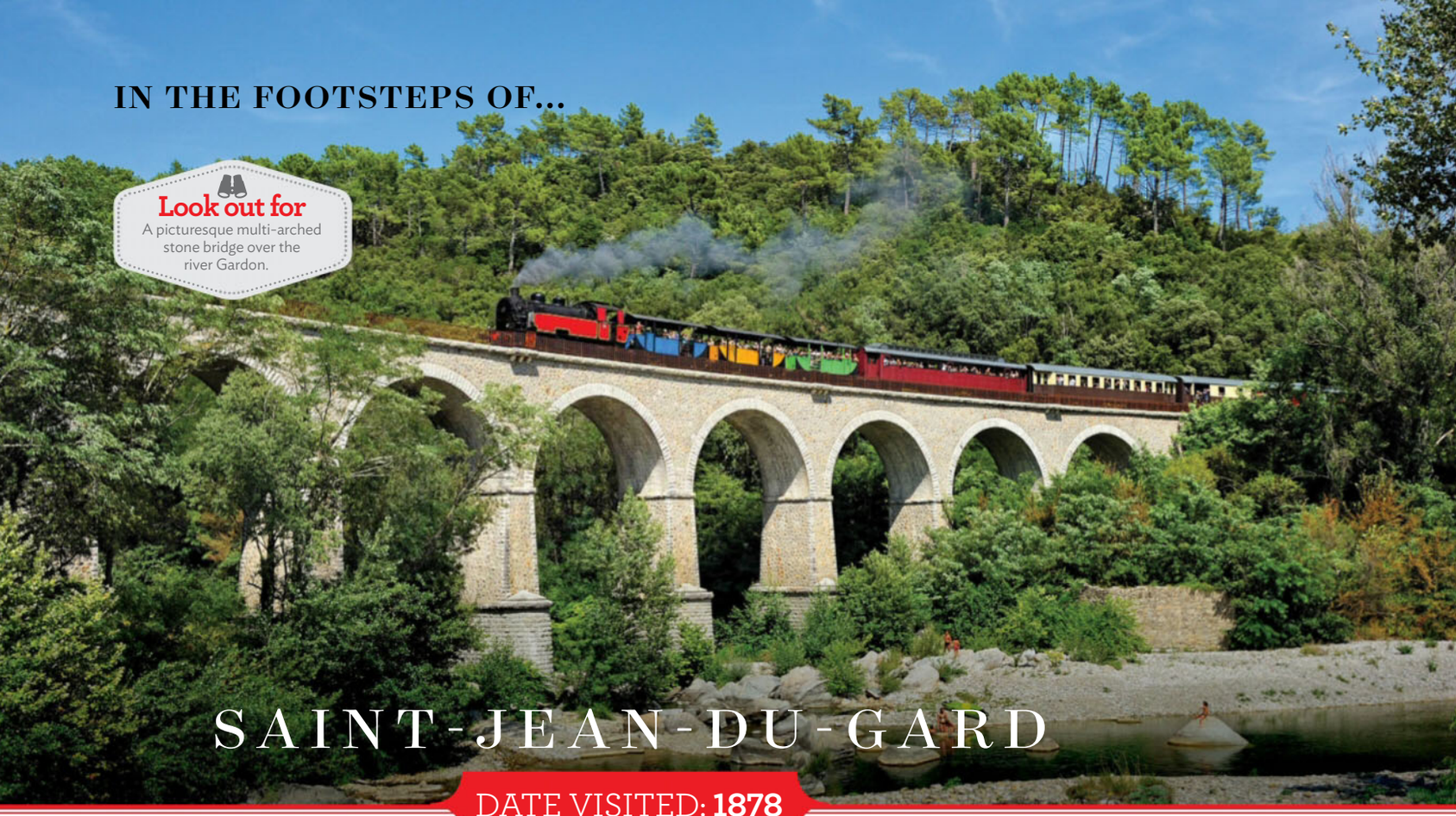
"Stevenson nevertheless always loved 'the hills of Saint Marcel'"

ABOVE Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson in Samoa, about 1890

1584 THEN & NOW

Marseille, as seen from the air today, is a metropolitan port city

Look out for
A picturesque multi-arched stone bridge over the river Gardon.



SAINT-JEAN-DU-GARD

DATE VISITED: **1878**

7 This small town – the 'Pearl of the Cévannes' – became the end point for Stevenson's 12-day, 120-mile walking trip that inspired his second book, *Travels With A Donkey In The Cévennes*. It was here that he was forced to sell the by-then exhausted Modestine for "65 francs and a glass of brandy."

Stevenson stayed overnight in the local inn before continuing on to the capital of the Cévennes, Alès, and then ultimately to Paris and London.

This small town has a weekly covered market, summertime steam train service and a museum dedicated to the Cévennes people and culture.

Saint Jean-du-Gard still remains as the official end-point of the Stevenson Trail GR70 – as can be seen in the plaques, fountains and marketing tie-ins with many local businesses – but it is equally an ideal base from which you can explore some of the 5,000 kilometres of marked trails – including several national routes – within the Cévennes National Park. It's even possible to hire a donkey to help carry your luggage.

The town is an ideal location to enjoy the forests and hills of the Cévennes.

ABOVE *Travels With A Donkey In The Cévennes*

DATE VISITED: **1863-84**

MENTON

8 Stevenson first visited Menton during his family's European tour in 1863. His nurse, Alison 'Cummy' Cunningham described it as "not a pretty village," but for Stevenson it was, "...one of the most beautiful places in the world" and, "... always had a very warm corner in my heart." It certainly provided a useful base from which to visit nearby Italy and the Alps. Stevenson stayed there for months at a time, and returned on numerous occasions when he was "ordered south" by his doctors.

In 1873, Stevenson told his friend Frances Sitwell: "You cannot picture to yourself anything more, steeped in hard bright sunshine, than the view from the hill. The immovable inky shadows of the old bridge on the fleeting surface of the yellow river seemed more solid than the bridge itself."

On Stevenson's return to Menton he was, "...met by a great volley of odours out of the lemon and orange gardens, and the past linked on to the present and, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, the whole scene fell before me into order and I was at home. I nearly danced again."

However, Stevenson was there in Menton to rest. He told his mother that he led, "... the life of a vegetable; I eat, I sleep, I sit in the sun. I read alas, nothing but novels and newspapers; and I write nothing but the necessities of correspondence."

Menton boasts of 316 days sunshine a year, so remember to pack your suntan lotion.

DATE VISITED: **1873**

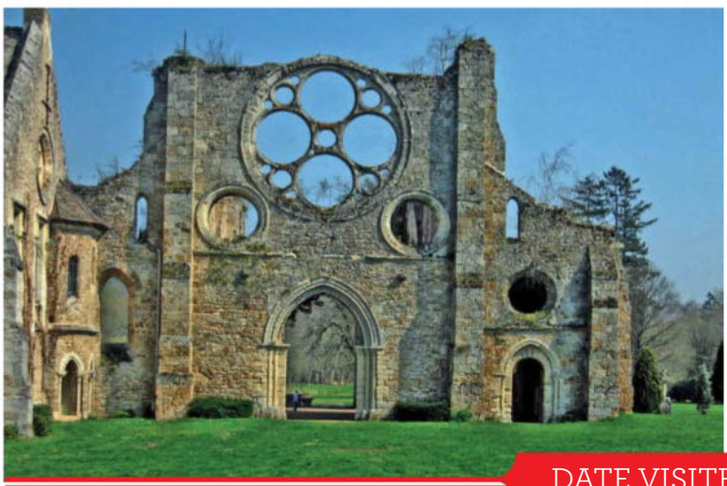
AVIGNON

9 **In 1873, while en-route to Menton, 23-year-old Stevenson briefly stayed in Avignon.** The 'Heart of Provence' undoubtedly left its mark on the young writer. "I have just read your letter up on the top of the hill beside the church and castle," he wrote to Frances Sitwell, referring to the Palais des Papes. "The whole air was filled with sunset and the sound of bells; I wish I could give you the least notion of the southernness and Provencality of all that I saw."

Indeed, this particular spot was one he would return to on more than one occasion: he later wrote to Sitwell: "I am just going out now to visit again, the church, castle and hill, for the sake of the magnificence panorama, and besides, it is the friendliest spot in all Avignon to me."

✳ **Eurostar service from London Saint Pancras International to Avignon takes just under six hours.**

ABOVE The Saint-Bénézet bridge over the Rhône



DATE VISITED: **1878-79**

CERNAY-LA-VILLE

10 **Home to a thriving artistic community similar to those in Barbican and Grez-sur-Loing, Cernay-la-Ville was among the favourite locations of Stevenson's artist cousin Bob.**

However, during two visits – in October 1878 and June 1879 – Stevenson certainly wasn't impressed by the climate. "O the weather here is atrocious," he wrote to his mother. "One day, we are dining in the arbour with linen clothes; the next, cold, wind, rain – like Scotland upon my word."

Perhaps his experience of Cernay-la-Ville was also marred by the stress of filling out an income tax form. "I got so muddled over it, I could have died." Stevenson told his mother at one stage. "They want next year's income; who knows what it may be? So I broke out all over the margin into explanatory and apologetic notes. It must be droll, I think, to others; it was death to me. I shall have to pay, I'm afraid."

✳ **Cernay-la-Ville is 18 kilometres from Versailles and 34 kilometres from Paris.**

10 TREASURES OF THE Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa

New Zealand's national museum captures the diverse history of the country. One of Te Papa's hosts shares his favourite items from the collection in Wellington

MEET THE CURATOR

Rangimoana Taylor has been a host at Te Papa for 17 years. He leads tours through every exhibition at the museum and considers Te Papa to be the best place in the world to work. Rangimoana's role enables him to share stories of Aotearoa New Zealand with visitors from around the world, and allows him to connect with his heritage.

Waharoa

LOCATION: **Wellington Foyer, Level 2**

This waharoa is a gateway to the treasures of Te Papa. It was carved by master carver Neke Kapua and his sons Eramiha and Tene from one large piece of Tōtara, a New Zealand native timber, in 1906.

The waharoa is flanked on both sides by carvings of ancestors – warriors and manaia (guardian) figures – and is painted with a red ochre colour.

Rangimoana Taylor explained "The meaning of 'waha' is 'mouth' and 'roa' means 'long'. The waharoa, a long mouth, is a gateway to a Māori village. The carvings represent our ancestors, and our ancestors are incredibly important. The eyes of the central carving are made of Paua, also known as abalone. Facing the sun, the eyes shimmer, giving the idea that our ancestors are looking over us."

The towering carved waharoa is more than six metres tall

The Endeavour cannon

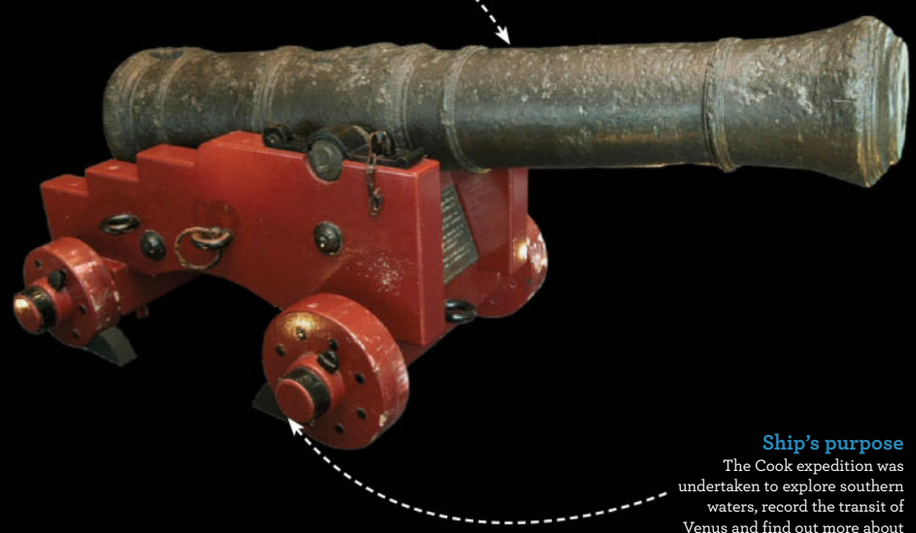
LOCATION: **Stairs, Level 3**

The Endeavour cannon is a muzzle-loading four pounder carriage gun from British Captain James Cook's ship Endeavour. Captain Cook make three voyages to the Pacific.

The Endeavour cannon is one of six cannons that was heaved overboard by Cook when his ship struck Great Barrier Reef off Australia in 1770. Cook and his crew were on their way home from his first voyage to New Zealand. With the cannons and other ballast jettisoned, the ship was able to float off the reef at high tide to be repaired.

Rangimoana Taylor said: "This cannon was found nearly 200 years after it was abandoned, under four metres of water and covered by one metre of coral, by a crew from Philadelphia. The cannon was protected from corroding under water by the coral. This cannon was a gift to New Zealand from the Australian government on the 200th anniversary of Cook's first visit."

Recovery task
This cannon was lifted from the bed of the Great Barrier Reef, 200 years after it was dropped from the ship.



BELOW A cannon from HMB Endeavour c.1750. It was a gift of the Australian Government to New Zealand in 1970

Ship's purpose
The Cook expedition was undertaken to explore southern waters, record the transit of Venus and find out more about unknown territories and lands.

North Island Brown Kiwi

LOCATION: **Mountains to Sea, level 2**

The bird is a taonga (treasure) to Māori, who have strong cultural, spiritual and historic associations with kiwi. Its feathers are valued in weaving the kahukiwi (kiwi feather cloak) for people of high rank.

This almost mammal-like bird has hair-like feathers, whiskers, powerful legs and feet and is a territorial, nocturnal burrower with nostrils at the end of its long nose. The kiwi is a flightless bird of which there are five species.

Rangimoana Taylor chose the kiwi as one of Te Papa's treasures because it is a New Zealand national icon. "To me this bird represents selflessness. The Māori legend says that the kiwi once flew and glided beautifully but the brave kiwi gave up its wings in order to protect the forest floors of Aotearoa/New Zealand from a plague of insects that were devouring everything that was in sight."

ABOVE North Island Brown Kiwi, Apteryx mantelli, collected in Northland, New Zealand. Gift of New Zealand Wildlife Service, in 1987

Pisupo lua afe (Corned beef 2000)

LOCATION: **Tangata o le Moana, Level 4**

Pisupo lua afe (Corned Beef 2000) is a life-size bullock made from flattened cans of corned beef, by New Zealand artist Michel Tuffery.

In the Pacific Islands, there are many traditional gifts such as fine mats and tapa cloth. However, at weddings, funerals, feasts or other special occasions, tins of pisupo (corned beef) may be eaten and given as gifts.

Rangimoana Taylor enjoys the satire of Tuffery's work: "A cow made of corned beef tins! This work is important because it tackles history in a modern way. This work is tongue in cheek, which I really like."

LEFT
Michel Tuffery, one of New Zealand's best-known artists, created this striking piece from flattened corned beef cans

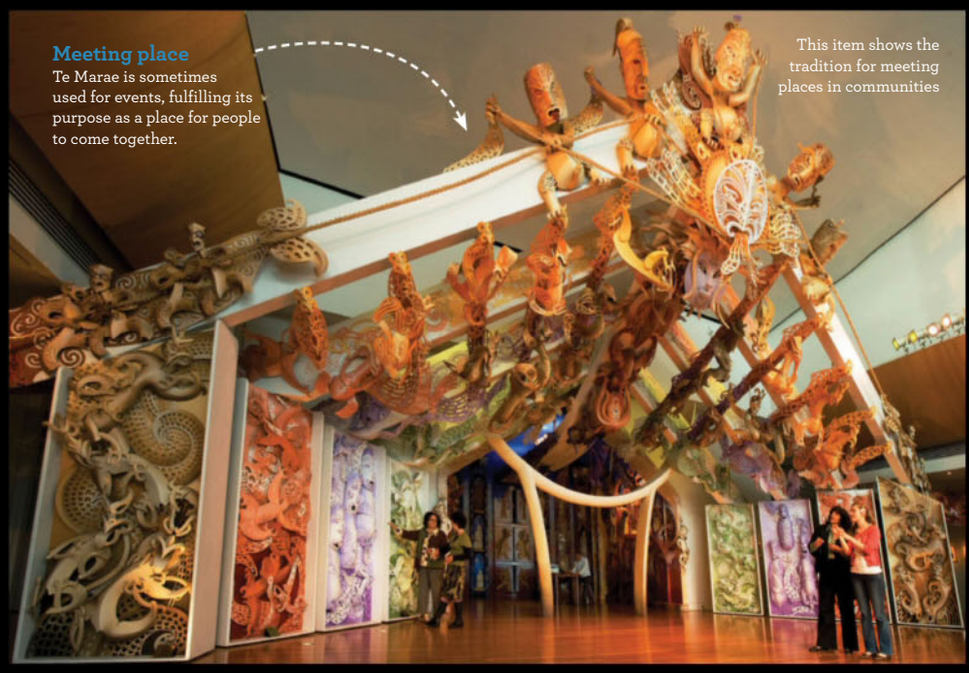
Te Marae

LOCATION: **Level 4**

Te Marae is an authentic, contemporary marae (a communal meeting place).

Te Marae embodies the spirit of the bicultural partnership that is at the heart of Te Papa. All people have a right to stand on this marae through a shared whakapapa (genealogy) and the manamana (power) of the taonga (treasures) that are held in Te Papa's collections.

Rangimoana Taylor said "This marae is the most visited marae in Aotearoa/New Zealand though it was hugely controversial when it was built. The figures were not carved in the traditional way. They are made of custom wood and were shaped with hot water and steam. All cultures can feel at home on this marae."



Meeting place
Te Marae is sometimes used for events, fulfilling its purpose as a place for people to come together.

This item shows the tradition for meeting places in communities

Britten V1000 motorbike

LOCATION: **Level 4**

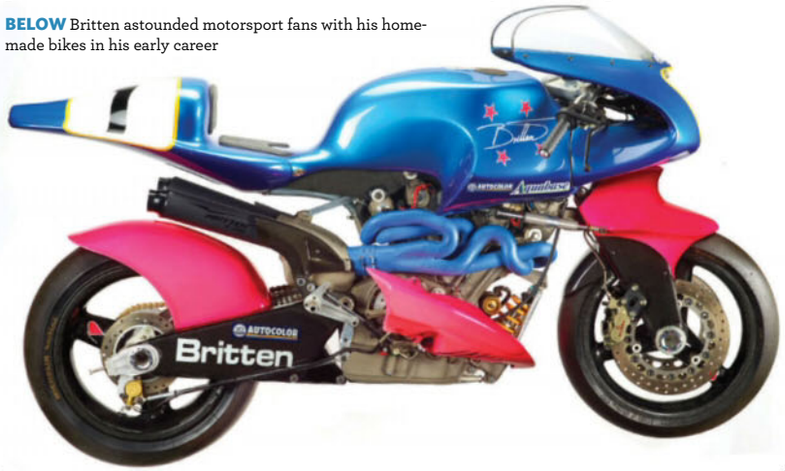
Built in 1992, the Britten V1000 motorbike is regarded as a contemporary classic of motorbike design. Te Papa's motorbike is the second of only ten in the world.

This motorbike is the brainchild of John Britten (1950-1995), a New Zealander who had a dream to make the fastest four-stroke motorbike in the world. He began building it in his garage-workshop. 12 years later, he produced an entirely new motorbike.

When the motorbike first appeared on international racetracks in 1990, it turned heads. It went on to become the only motorbike designed and built in New Zealand to have won both the National Championships and the New Zealand Grand Prix.

Rangimoana Taylor's reason for choosing this was clear. "I am more proud of the man than I am of the bike. This story is amazing."

BELOW Britten astounded motorsport fans with his home-made bikes in his early career



Weta Workshop's figures are striking and evocative

Sister Lottie Le Gallais figure

LOCATION: **The Scale of Our War exhibition, level 2**

Te Papa and Weta Workshop created Gallipoli: The Scale Of Our War, to mark the World War I centenary.

Stories of World War I are told through the eyes and words of eight New Zealanders who found themselves in extraordinary circumstances during the war. Each is captured, frozen in a moment of time, on a monumental scale – 2.4 times the size of a human.

In June 1915, Sister Lottie Le Gallais was selected as a military nurse. Within two weeks, she'd left New Zealand for Gallipoli – a peninsula in Turkey – on the hospital ship Maheno. Lottie was eager to see her brother Leddie who was stationed at Gallipoli.

Sitting down and gazing up quietly at Lottie, Rangimoana Taylor notes that Lottie's story recognises the bravery of women. "This model captures the moment she finds out that her brother has been killed in action. Lottie thought she would see Leddie at Gallipoli, and breaks down and cries. 20 minutes later, Lottie puts her grief aside and returns to work; nursing the wounded soldiers under her care. Rangimoana is in awe of Lottie, who had the strength and bravery to put such raw feelings aside; knowing she would never see her brother again.

As Rangimoana leaves the model of Lottie, a young girl arrives at the exhibition and whispers sadly, "Oh! She's crying."

Colossal Squid

LOCATION: **Mountains to Sea, Level 2**

The Colossal Squid is the heaviest invertebrate on the planet. This specimen was caught on a toothfish longline in February 2007 in the Ross Sea, Antarctica. She was frozen and gifted to Te Papa for examination. She took 60 hours to thaw.

No one had ever seen an intact colossal squid before and a team of scientists examined the unique features of this huge mollusc, inside and out.

Rangimoana Taylor commented, "Visitors to Te Papa are absolutely mesmerised by the Colossal Squid. This is the only one display in the whole world.

"She weighs 495 kilograms and her eyes are the size of basketballs".

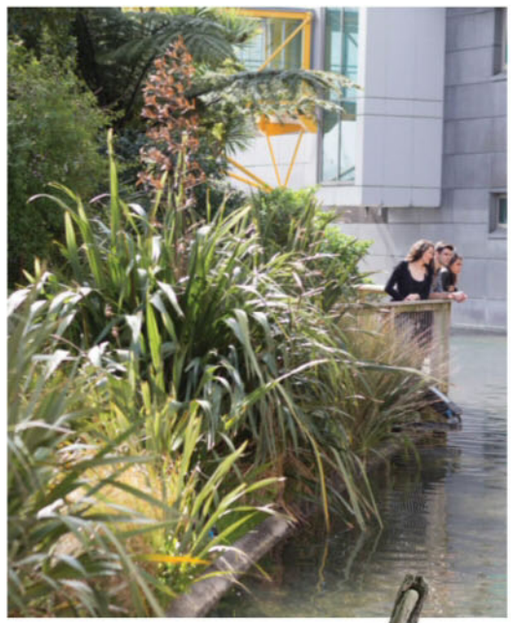
Bush City

LOCATION: **Outside Levels 1 and 2**

Bush City is Te Papa's living and growing exhibition where visitors can experience the natural wonders of New Zealand, from native bush and the volcanic landscape to a cave of glow-worms and a spot to dig for fossils.

There are more than 1,400 native plants in Bush City, many of which are only found in New Zealand. Tūī and other birds fly through the open bush. Visitors can experience what it is like to be in limestone cave with dark passageways dripping with water, lit by glow-worms.

Rangimoana Taylor talked to us about the importance of the bush to Māori: "The bush was a source of food, transport, houses, medicine, firewood and everything that the Māori would need to make baskets, mats, clothing and weaponry."



ABOVE Bush City gives visitors a chance to explore a natural landscape that forms part of New Zealand's history

De Surville's Anchor

LOCATION: **On the wall inside main entrance, Level 1**

This wrought-iron anchor was made in France by an unknown tradesmen around 1760.

It is 4.45 metres long, 2.87 metres wide, 68 centimetres thick, and weighs 1,400 kilograms.

It is one of three that were lost from the French vessel Saint Jean Baptiste in Doubtless Bay, Northland, in 1769.

In 1974, two of the anchors were located by the undersea explorer Kelly Tarlton and they were both donated to the museum.

Rangimoana Taylor noted: "The De Surville anchors are almost certainly the oldest and most authentic European objects that have ever been found in New Zealand. "This anchor is a constant reminder that New Zealand is an island nation – to get to us here in New Zealand you always have to go over, under or on the ocean."

BELOW This anchor and others like it were the first remnants left by Europeans

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Mini Guides

QUICK GUIDES TO SOME AMAZING PLACES

Castles & palaces in Copenhagen

If you're planning a visit to the Danish capital, be sure not to miss these five historic castles and palaces that celebrate the royal history of the nation

Christiansborg Palace

Beneath the opulent Christiansborg Palace, home of the Danish parliament, is a mysterious world. These are the ruins of the 12th-century castle of Bishop Absalon. Visitors can tour not only the splendour of Christiansborg Palace, but also the evocative remains of the ruined castle.

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN RUINS

EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS

- Tues-Sun: 10am-5pm
- Adult: 150 DKK (£16/$20)
- Child: 75 DKK (£8/$10)
- visitcopenhagen.com

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT SEE THE RESIDENTS

Rosenborg Castle

This stunning 17th-century castle takes travellers back in time to meet the waxworks of those who once called its halls their home. Here you can relive some of their most scandalous episodes. However, whatever you do, don't miss the Danish crown jewels, which are sure to take your breath away.

- Tues-Sun: 10am-2pm
- Adult: 105 DKK (£12/$15)
- Child: Free
- visitcopenhagen.com

Frederiksborg Castle

Set on an island in its own lake, the 17th-century Frederiksborg Castle was rebuilt after a catastrophic fire in the 19th century. Now it houses the Museum of National History and one of the most beautiful royal gardens you will ever have the chance to explore.

- Mon-Sun: 11am-3pm
- Adult: 75 DKK (£8/$10)
- Child: 20DKK (£2/$3)
- visitcopenhagen.com

Fredensborg Palace

Fredensborg Palace is still used as a residence by the Danish royal family. This Baroque masterpiece is particularly famed for its extensive and extravagant gardens, many of which are still tended and enjoyed by members of the royal family themselves.

- Mon-Sun: 9am-5pm
- Adult: 90 DKK (£10/$13)
- Child: 40 DKK (£4/$6)
- visitcopenhagen.com

Amalienborg Palace

The residence of the Danish royal family welcomes visitors for guided tours around its awe-inspiring rococo interiors. Be sure to watch the traditional changing of the Royal Guard before you tour all four of the different Danish palaces that make up Amalienborg.

- Mon-Sun: 11am-4pm
- Adult: 95 DKK (£11/$13)
- Child: Free
- visitcopenhagen.com

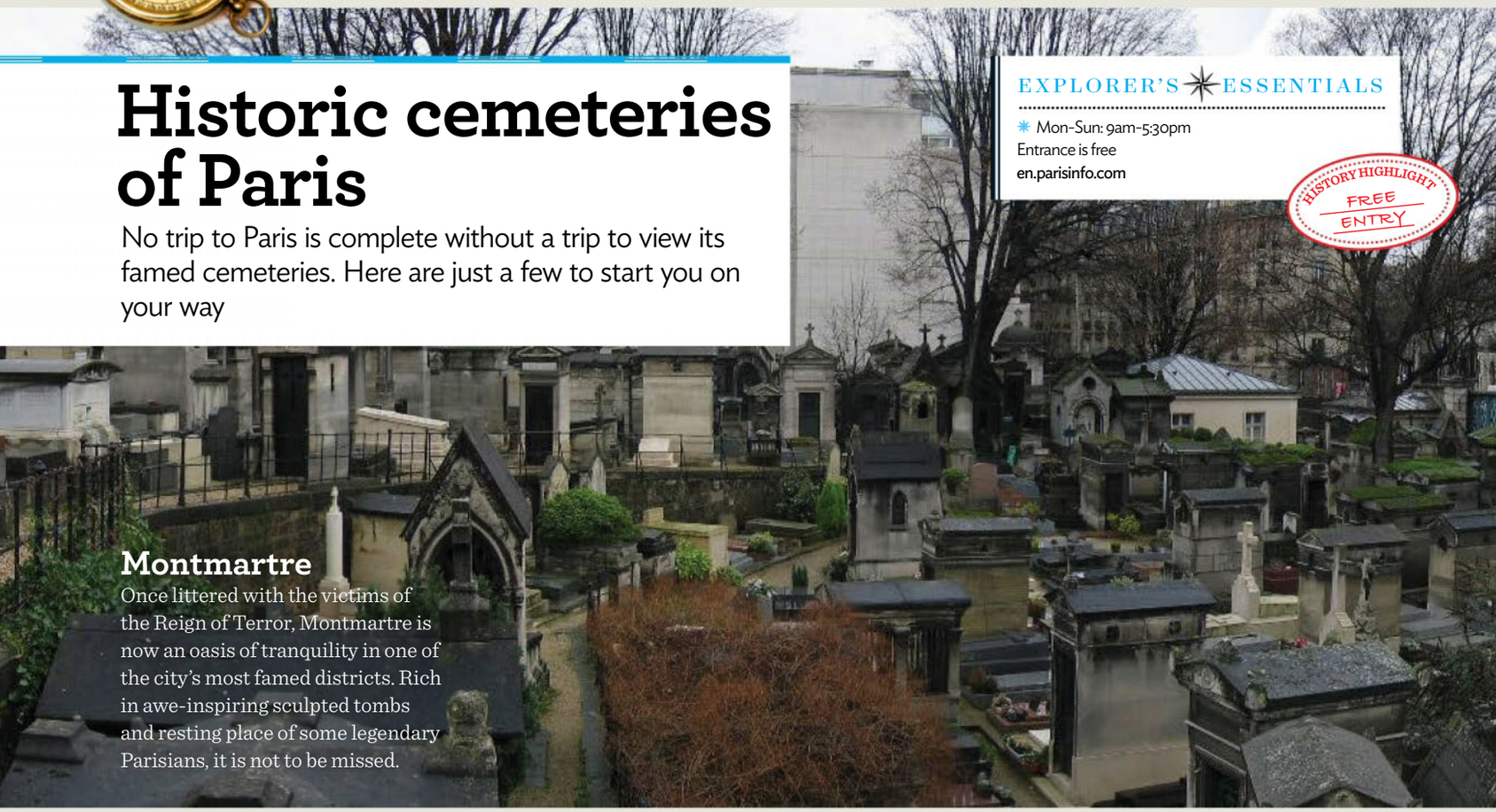
Historic cemeteries of Paris

No trip to Paris is complete without a trip to view its famed cemeteries. Here are just a few to start you on your way

EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS

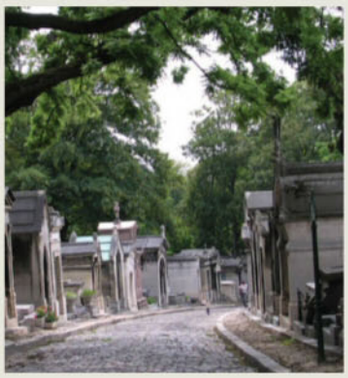
✳ Mon-Sun: 9am-5:30pm
Entrance is free
en.parisinfo.com

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT
FREE ENTRY



Montmartre

Once littered with the victims of the Reign of Terror, Montmartre is now an oasis of tranquility in one of the city's most famed districts. Rich in awe-inspiring sculpted tombs and resting place of some legendary Parisians, it is not to be missed.



Père Lachaise

The largest of these cemeteries is also the world's most visited. Thousands of visitors flock to it every single day to wander through its 70,000 tombs and pay homage to figures from rockstars to artists to politicians and beyond. No trip to Paris is complete without a stroll through Père Lachaise.

✳ Mon-Sun: 9am-5:30pm
Entrance is free
en.parisinfo.com

The Panthéon

This iconic and opulent building is famed for its magnificent crypt, where visitors can easily lose a day exploring everything it has to offer. In this neoclassical splendour, some of the greatest names from throughout French history have been laid to rest here including Voltaire, Hugo and the Curies.

✳ Mon-Sun: 10am-6pm
Adult: €9 (£7/$9) Concessions: €7 (£5/$7)
en.parisinfo.com

Montparnasse

When it opened in 1824, Montparnasse was the first cemetery to have been established in Paris in decades. Particularly popular as a burial ground for French and international intellectuals, Montparnasse cemetery is a hugely a popular stop for travellers in the capital.

✳ Mon-Sun: 8:30am-6pm
Entrance is free
en.parisinfo.com

HISTORY HIGHLIGHT
OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

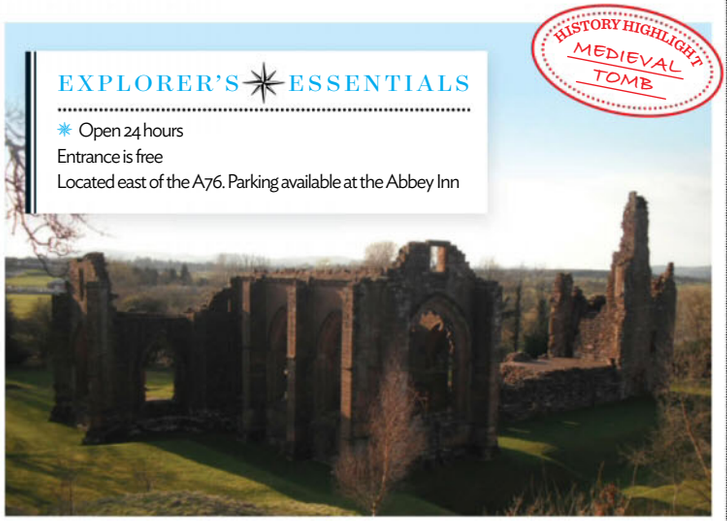
Passy

Though less famous and a lot quieter than some of Paris's other cemeteries, Passy is no less steeped in history. To add to its beauty, the Eiffel Tower looms over the burial ground. Those laid to rest here include the Debussy, Renault and celebrated American actress and adventuress, Pearl White.

✳ Mon-Sun: 9am-5:30pm
Entrance is free
en.parisinfo.com

Churches in Dumfries and Galloway

The picturesque landscape of Dumfries and Galloway is home to some truly inspiring historic churches. Here are five of the best



EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS

✳ Open 24 hours
Entrance is free
Located east of the A76. Parking available at the Abbey Inn

Lincluden Collegiate Church

Although ruins are all that remain of the church built here in 1389, it is still possible to get an impression of the building that was once a centre of worship. The ornate tomb of 15th-century Princess Margaret can be viewed here, and it's well worth a stop.

Kirkmadrine Early Christian Stones

Three of the eight stones here date back to the 5th century, providing evidence of early Christian worship in Dumfries and Galloway. Considered to be one of the earliest Christian sites across all of Scotland, Kirkmadrine played a vital part in the religious development of the nation.

✳ Open 24 hours
Entrance is free
Three kilometres south west of A716

Cruggleton Church

Cruggleton Church dates back to the 1100s, when it was built by Fergus, who was the first Laird of Galloway. Once derelict, this near-perfect example of a former Romanesque church was fully restored in the Victorian era. The church is a gorgeous, tranquil place that is perfect for a wander along its nearby coastal path.

✳ Open 24 hours
Entrance is free
About eight kilometres from Whithorn

Saint Ninian's Chapel

This chapel was once a place of sanctuary for Medieval pilgrims who were on their way to Whithorn Priory and Saint Ninian's chapel does still welcome modern pilgrims to leave stones at its cairn. Set on a dramatic hilltop, this is a truly evocative place that will truly captivate travellers.

✳ Open 24 hours
Entrance is free
Parking on Isle of Whithorn harbour

Chapel Finian

The ruins of this 10th-century chapel were first discovered back in the 1950s. It is a simple rectangular chapel aligned east-west in Christian tradition. It is believed that this was another stopping place for Irish pilgrims who were on the road to Whitehorn Priory, but little else is known about the history of this tremendously peaceful site.

✳ Open 24 hours
Entrance is free
Eight kilometres north of Port William

Georgian stately homes in northern England

No trip to northern England is complete without a wander around a few of the truly splendid Georgian stately homes

Lyme Park

Famed for its numerous appearances in film and TV, Lyme Park has something for everyone. Whether you want to play an Edwardian piano, admire the artwork or just stroll through the deer park and let younger visitors loose on the adventure playground, Lyme is sure to be a great day out.

EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS

- Tues-Fri: 11am-5pm
- Adult: £11 ($13), Child: £5 ($6)
- nationaltrust.org.uk

Castle Howard

One of the most magnificent stately homes in Great Britain, Castle Howard has long been a favourite of many filmmakers. With its evocative interiors, breathtaking architecture, hectares of parkland and a packed schedule of events for everyone in the family, this is not a place to miss.

- Mon-Sun: 10am-5pm
- Adult: £18 ($21), Child: £9 ($10)
- castlehoward.co.uk

Harewood House

Harewood House just oozes Georgian grandeur from every stone and every inch, from its Capability Brown gardens to its era-spanning collection of art and artefacts. There's also a richly-stocked bird garden and, for the younger visitors, a farm, which features everything from pigs to penguins.

- Mon-Sun: 10am-5pm from 24 March
- Adult: £12.50 ($15), Child: £7.50 ($9)
- harewood.org

Dunham Massey Hall

Although Dunham Massey was built in the 18th century, the site also contains Elizabethan features and Victorian structures too. In the house are exhibitions telling the remarkable story of the family who made this their home, while outside red deer roam the serene parklands.

- Sat-Wed: 11am-5pm from 26 Feb
- Adult: £14 ($16), Child: £7 ($8)
- nationaltrust.org.uk

Seaton Delaval Hall

Once home to one of the most notorious families in England, Seaton Delaval Hall gives visitors a chance to travel back through time and meet the infamous Delaval family. Catch your breath in the rolling grounds and enjoy a choice of many different family-friendly activities.

- Sat-Wed: 11am-5pm
- Adult: £7 ($8), Child: £3.50 ($4)
- nationaltrust.org.uk

Temples in Kathmandu

Kathmandu is famed for its holy sites, celebrating and preserving the sacred history of Nepal. Here are five of the most breathtaking

Boudhanath Stupa

This enormous temple still welcomes Buddhist pilgrims every single day and is considered as the centre of Nepalese Buddhism. Within this UNESCO World Heritage site lay the remains of Kassapa Buddha and the richly-appointed temple is steeped in history and legend.

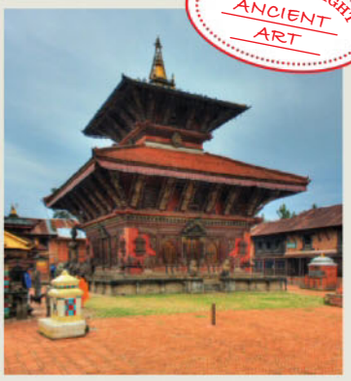
EXPLORER'S ESSENTIALS

- Open 24 hours
- Entrance costs 250NPR (£2/$2) for foreign visitors

Swayambhunath Stupa

Situated atop a peak overlooking the Kathmandu Valley, visitors on foot can expect to tackle 365 steps to reach Swayambhunath Stupa. The Monkey Temple lives up to its name, so expect to see plenty of wild monkeys however you make the trip to this UNESCO World Heritage Site.

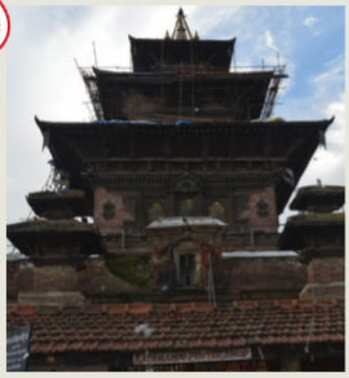
- Open 24 hours
- Entrance costs 200NPR (£1/$2) for foreign visitors



Changu Narayan

Once again listed by UNESCO, Changu Narayan was badly damaged by the 2015 earthquake. Thankfully, it remained standing. As the oldest temple in all of Nepal, Changu Narayan is famed for its wonderful collection of ancient art and a small museum that tells visitors all about its fascinating history.

- Open 24 hours
- Entrance costs 100NPR (£0.75/$0.90) for foreign visitors



Taleju Temple

Set in the breathtaking surroundings of Durbar Square, this awe-inspiring temple isn't fully open to non-Hindus, but even the limited access on offer makes it an unmissable stop for any travellers. Towering over the square, its 16th-century pagoda architecture is sure to stop you in your tracks.

- Opening times and access is limited for non-Hindu visitors
- Entrance is free

Pashupatinath Temple

Although non-Hindus can't explore the interior of the temple freely, this vast sacred site hosts regular festivals, like Maha Shivaratri in celebration of the god, Shiva, that attract thousands of people. Rich in legend, the holy site can trace its origins all the way back to 400 BCE.

- Open 24 hours
- Entrance costs 1,000NPR (£7.50/ $9) for foreign visitors

Explore History

Future Publishing Ltd
Richmond House, 33 Richmond Hill
Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 6EZ
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586200
Web: www.greatdigitalmags.com
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Editorial
Deputy Editor **Alex Hoskins**
alexandra.hoskins@futurenet.com
☎ 01202 586234
Senior Designer **Abbi Castle**
Production Editor **Elly Rewcastle**
Senior Art Editor **Andy Downes**
Editor in Chief **James Hoare**
Photographer **James Sheppard**
Picture Editor **Tim Hunt**

Contributors
Tracy Borman, Rebecca Ford, Scott Reeves, Harry Cunningham, Janhavi Acharekar, Catherine Curzon, Martyn Conterio, Nick Wyke, Marissa Tejada, Michelle Higgs, Paul Cockburn, Ellie Campbell, Rangimoana Taylor.

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Advertising
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Head of Sales **Hang Deretz**
☎ 01202 586442
hang.deretz@futurenet.com
Account Manager **Gary Simpkins**
gary.simpkins@futurenet.com

International
Explore History is available for licensing. Contact the International department to discuss partnership opportunities.
Head of International Licensing **Cathy Blackman**
☎ +44 (0) 1202 586401
cathy.blackman@futurenet.com

Subscriptions
For all subscription enquiries:
explorehistory@servicehelpline.co.uk
☎ 0844 826 5022
☎ Overseas +44 (0)1795 592 847
www.imaginesubs.co.uk
Head of subscriptions **Sharon Todd**

Circulation
Circulation Director **Darren Pearce**
☎ 01202 586200

Production
Production Director **Jane Hawkins**
☎ 01202 586200

Management
Finance & Operations Director **Marco Peroni**
Creative Director **Aaron Asadi**
Editorial Director **Ross Andrews**

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☎ + 61 2 9972 8800 www.gordongotch.com.au

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FAREWELL from Explore History

Thank you for joining us on journeys around the world and into the past over the ten issues of Explore History. We've enjoyed bringing you stories from across the globe, unearthing the truth behind history's myths and legends, and digging deeper into the latest archaeological finds. If you've loved reading about them, fear not – there's still plenty of fascinating history to be found in our sister magazines. Whether you're looking to be surprised each month with in-depth features on subjects from throughout the centuries, or you're looking for more specialist articles on royalty or military history, there's sure to be something for you inside **All About History**, **History of Royals** and **History of War**.

For now, we'd like to thank you again for reading, and hope you've enjoyed our final issue. Please do head to **www.historyanswers.co.uk** for more fantastic articles and information on our other magazines.

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THE CHIEF LEATHERLIPS MONUMENT

If you take a trip to Dublin, Ohio, don't miss this unique monument to Chief Leatherlips, a man who never broke a promise.

Leader of the Wyandot people, Chief Leatherlips was celebrated for his honesty and integrity. In the 1800s he signed a controversial treaty with white settlers and swore never to take up arms against them, but instead to live in harmony. No matter what happened, he held true to his pledge, eventually to the detriment of his relationship with other Native American people. Although his actual name was Shateyahronya, the settlers, in honour of the promise that he kept, gave him the nickname of Chief Leatherlips.

That promise, however, was to prove the death of him and in 1810, Shateyahronya was found guilty of witchcraft by his own people. He was executed by tomahawk.

In fact, the only wrong that Shateyahronya committed was his decision to keep his promise of peace, even if it meant laying down his life to the furious Wyandottes.

The monument to Shateyahronya is a 3.6-metre-tall bust of his head sculpted from limestone by Ralph Helmick. It was unveiled in 1990, seemingly growing from the land itself. Unusually for a memorial sculpture, visitors are encouraged to stand on and climb up onto the top of the monument and take a look out over the beautiful Scioto Park and the river beyond it, surveying the evocative landscape that the peaceful Chief Shateyahronya, better known as Chief Leatherlips, once roamed.

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_a royal welcome

North elevation of Sigmaringen Castle © Schloss Sigmaringen

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