

VDH 2016

Victor Davis Hanson

Historical Tours



HEROIC IRELAND AND SCOTLAND

The Reign of Romans, Vikings, Normans, Irish and Scots

May 21 - May 31, 2016

From the Desk of Victor Davis Hanson



Ireland and Scotland were the intellectual fonts of much of the European Enlightenment - and provided the cultural foundations for early America. For our tenth anniversary visit to Europe, we will travel through Ireland and Scotland, focusing on our usual themes of military history by visiting Roman, Dark Age, Viking, Gaelic, Celtic, Irish, Scottish and British battlefields, castles, and fortifications. And also keeping with our complementary emphases on cultural and intellectual history, we will visit the museums and iconic sites of the northern British Isles - from the early and violent formation of the Irish and Scottish states, the constant wars against the English monarchy, and the turmoil of the Reformation and the Revolution of Oliver Cromwell to the role of Ireland and Scotland in the 19th and 20th literary, artistic, and military life of the United Kingdom.

Once again, Dr. Bruce Thornton, a Research Fellow at Stanford’s Hoover Institution and Professor of Classics and Humanities at California State University, Fresno (PhD UCLA, author of ten books on classical and contemporary Europe), will offer three lectures, reflecting his own training as a scholar of comparative literature and language (Latin and English literatures) - especially the literary and philosophical renaissances in Dublin and Edinburgh. I will offer three formal lectures on the long, but difficult Roman experience in the British Isles, the perennial wars for Scottish and Irish Independence, and the Irish and Scottish traditions of service within the 19th and 20th Century British military. This year we will have two guest lectures, who have spoken to our groups in the past. Dr. Tom Connor, William P. Harris Professor of military historian at Hillsdale College, will offer a survey of Irish military history. Dr. Ken Jowitt (Pres and Maurine Hotchkis Senior Fellow at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution and the Robson Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley), a resident of Ireland, will offer his insight on the contemporary political dilemmas facing the Irish state.

Al Philipp with All Aboard Travel, as in the past, has designed a trip characterized by 5-star luxury accommodations, superb meals, 24/7 service from our eight-person staff, and a professionally planned itinerary that seeks to cover an enormous amount of ground from Ireland to Scotland.

Also as before, the contemporary world will be a theme of both our formal morning lectures and informal dinner conversations - especially the controversial independence movements in Scotland, Ireland’s financial crisis within the European Union, and the difficulty of Britain in maintaining the critical idea of a United Kingdom. Our speakers will again host lively debates among the group about our own past opinion journalism that reflects many of the controversies arising from recent changes in American foreign policy, as they affect our traditional friends and allies in the United Kingdom.

We hope you can join us.

Sincerely,

Victor Davis Hanson



SATURDAY, MAY 21
Depart the U.S.A. on individual flights for Ireland.

SUNDAY, MAY 22
Arrive at Dublin airport and transfer to hotel for 4 nights. Meet your traveling companions and hosts at the welcome reception and dinner.

MONDAY, MAY 23 – DUBLIN
The Historical Walking Tour has been acclaimed as a must-do tour for any visitor to Dublin and starts at Trinity College main gates. It takes in the grounds of Trinity College, Old Irish Parliament, Dublin Castle, City Hall, the Medieval and Viking quarter centered around Christ Church Cathedral and finishes in the old port of Temple Bar on the banks of the River Liffey. From there drift down the River Liffey on a leisurely 45-minute cruise from the heart of Dublin. You will learn the story behind the iconic Ha’penny bridge as well as Gandon’s masterpiece, the majestic Custom House. You will follow the story of Dublin’s Royal and Grand Canals and see where Oliver Cromwell landed in 1649. You will also hear how Captain William Bligh surveyed Dublin Bay in 1800. Learn of how much of present day Dublin now sits on reclaimed land, including Trinity College and the Spire in O’Connell Street

TUESDAY, MAY 24 – BLARNEY CASTLE AND CORK
Visit three top Ireland attractions in one day on the Blarney Castle and Cork day trip from Dublin. From the comfort of your luxury coach, you will travel south to Blarney Castle, Cork City and the Rock of Cashel cathedral, passing through beautiful, green South Irish countryside. Be sure to kiss the famous Blarney Stone and you’ll be blessed with the “gift of the gab” for a lifetime of smooth talking!

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25 – HILL OF TARA AND NEWGRANGE
Leave Dublin behind and head to the Hill of Tara deep in the Irish countryside. The hill dates back to the 11th century and has many different ancient monuments and the seat of High King of Ireland. Hop back on board your coach and head to Newgrange. To help you experience the history of this ancient land, your guide will lead you into the actual tombs of Newgrange (dating from 3000 B.C.), one of the oldest and largest Neolithic burial chambers in Europe.

THURSDAY, MAY 26 – BELFAST AND EDINBURGH
Drive to Belfast, Northern Ireland to take the ferry to Cairnryan and transfer to Edinburgh for five nights.

FRIDAY, MAY 27 – EDINBURGH
Since the earliest times, Edinburgh has been at the forefront of religious and legal matters in Scotland. St Giles Cathedral was founded in 854 AD and has been site of some of the most dramatic events in the nation’s history. The Protestant Reformers, the brave Covenanters and the fiery Jenny Geddes who threw her chair at the Bishop - hear about them all. After defeat by the English in 1513 the city fathers build the Flodden Wall around Edinburgh to protect against invasion. Your tour ventures down the narrow passageways into courtyards where you learn of tragedy and triumph, marvel at the stunning architecture - and recoil at the cry “gardyloo”. The Royal Mile was home to Deacon Brodie, locksmith by day and thief by night, inspired Robert Louis Stevenson’s famous novel The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Our tour includes a visit to Scotland’s most famous historic attraction: Edinburgh Castle! The castle is believed to date back as far as the Iron Age, and has witnessed a number of bloody battles, including the War of Independence between the Scots and English in the 14th Century. Highlights include the Crown Jewels, the Great Hall and the room where Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to the future James VI of Scotland. View the stone tenements and lanes and then drive on to nearby Holyrood Palace, Queen Elizabeth II’s official residence in Scotland.

SATURDAY, MAY 28 – EDINBURGH, HADRIAN’S WALL AND HOUSESTEADS
One of the highlights of this tour is crossing the ancient Scotland/England border at Carter Bar in the Cheviot Hills. We follow in the footsteps of feuding clans and families, known as Border Reivers, who fought a series of violent raids across the border hills until the end of the 16th century. Today it represents the political border between two historic and proud nations.

Hadrian’s Wall is one of the most important monuments built by the Romans and is a stunning example of their engineering skills. It cuts Britain in half just south of the Scottish border. It is the best-known frontier in the Roman Empire and stands as a reminder of one of the world’s greatest civilizations. Built almost 2000 years ago to contain the fierce Picts in Caledonia it stretches for 55 miles and was designated a World Heritage Site in 1987. We travel to Steel Rigg in Northumberland National Park where you can go on a nature walk to Sycamore Gap, one of the most dramatic and photographed stretches of the Wall. Afterwards your guide will drop you off at Housesteads Fort (National Trust), the best preserved of 13 outposts along the Wall.

SUNDAY, MAY 29 – EDINBURGH
Take a day trip from Edinburgh to discover the Scottish Highlands. Leave central Edinburgh and travel north through the countryside to the country’s ancient capital of Stirling, a town steeped in history. Enjoy the majestic sight of Stirling Castle, perched high on a craggy hill overlooking the town and stop for photos at the Wallace Monument while learning about William Wallace and his part in the medieval Wars of Independence. On our ride through the Highlands, enjoying sights of the beautiful cattle (or ‘wee hairy coos’ as the Scots may say) that roam the wild and windswept countryside. Travel past Loch Earn, admiring its scenic beauty, and ogle the rich colors of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park as you pass through the open parkland. In the early afternoon, stop for a light lunch at one of Scotland’s most famous whisky distilleries – The Famous Grouse. If you are keen to learn more about whisky and its production, enjoy a tour of the distillery to see how the malts are dried and matured. After exploring the site, meet back up with any members of the group who opted not to do the tour and sample a small dram of whisky to revive your spirits. Enjoy one last stop at the quaint village of Dunkeld, mentioned by Shakespeare in Macbeth, and visit the stunning Dunkeld Cathedral on the banks of the River Tay. Pass the impressive Forth Bridge just outside Edinburgh, and then finish your tour at the start point.

MONDAY, MAY 30 – EDINBURGH TO ST. ANDREWS
Departing Edinburgh, we travel north to the beautiful medieval town of St. Andrews, home to the oldest university in Scotland. St Andrews is set in a spectacular position. On one side it has the wooded hills of the Fife countryside but to the north it looks out over a rocky headland to the dramatic waters of the North Sea. For more than a thousand years, the town of St Andrews has been a focal point for bishops and kings, saints and martyrs and students - not to mention the greatest golfers in the world.

Heading homeward we travel across the Lomond hills, descending to Loch Leven (scene of Mary Queen of Scots imprisonment and escape) and on to the pretty little town of South Queensferry before we return to Edinburgh for our final evening and dinner.

TUESDAY, MAY 31
Transfer to the airport and individual flights back to the U.S.A.

Speakers



Victor Davis Hanson is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. Hanson was a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California (1992-93), a visiting professor of classics at Stanford University (1991-92), and alumnus of the year of the University of California, Santa Cruz (2002). He received the National Humanities Award in 2007, and the Bradley Prize in 2009. Hanson is the author of some 170 articles, book reviews, and newspaper editorials on Greek, agrarian, and military history and essays on contemporary culture. He has written or edited twenty books, including *Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern* (2010); *Makers of Ancient Strategy: from the Persian Wars to the Fall of Rome* (ed.) (2010); *Warfare and Agriculture in Classical Greece* (1983; paperback ed., University of California Press, 1998); *Carnage and Culture* (Doubleday, 2001); *A War Like No Other* (Random House 2005); *The Western Way of War* (Alfred Knopf, 1989; 2nd paperback ed., University of California Press, 2000); *The Wars of the Ancient Greeks* (Cassell, 1999; paperback ed., 2001); and *Mexifornia: a State of Becoming* (Encounter, 2003).



Bruce S. Thornton was a W. Glenn Cambell and Rita Ricardo-Cambell National Fellow, and now is a Research Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. Bruce S. Thornton grew up on a cattle ranch in Fresno County, California. He received his BA in Latin from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1975, as well as his PhD in comparative literature-Greek, Latin, and English-in 1983. Thornton is currently a professor of classics and humanities at California State University, Fresno. He is the author of 10 books on a variety of topics, including "Greek Ways: How the Greeks Created Western Civilization"; "Plagues of the Mind, the New Epidemic of False Knowledge"; "Searching for Joaquin: Myth, Murieta, and History of California"; "Bonfire of the Humanities: Rescuing the Classics in an Impoverished Age" (with Victor Davis Hanson); "Decline and Fall: Europe's Slow Motion Suicide," and "The Wages of Appeasement: Ancient Athens, Munich, and Obama's America." His numerous essays and reviews on Greek culture and civilization and their influence on Western Civilization, as well as on other contemporary political and educational issues, have appeared in both scholarly journals and magazines such as the *New Criterion*, *Commentary*, *National Review*, the *Weekly Standard*, and the *Claremont Review of Books*. Thornton is also a regular contributor to online magazines such as *Defining Ideas*, *VDH Private Papers*, *Advancing a Free Society*, *Frontpage*, *City Journal* and others. He has lectured at numerous colleges and universities and at venues such as the Smithsonian Institute, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, the Army War College, and the Air Force Academy. He also has appeared on web shows such as *Uncommon Knowledge*, and television programs on the History Channel and ABC's *Politically Incorrect*. His latest book, published in July, 2014, is "Democracy's Danger and Discontents, The Tyranny of the Majority from the Greeks to Obama."



Tom Conner is a William P. Harris Professor of Military History at Hillsdale College. Conner (B.A. Elizabethtown College, M.A. Ph.D., University of North Carolina) has taught Western heritage and European history at Hillsdale College for 26 years. He has lectured throughout Europe on the sites of the World Wars since 1979. He currently teaches Nineteenth Century Europe, Europe in the 20th Century, and The Two World Wars. College for 26 years. He has lectured throughout Europe on the sites of the World Wars since 1979. He currently teaches Nineteenth Century Europe.



Ken Jowitt is the Pres and Maurine Hotchkis Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Robson Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. Jowitt specializes in the study of comparative politics, American foreign policy, and post-communist countries. He is particularly interested in studying types of anti-Western ideologies that might appear in the near future and, in that context, is working on *Frontiers, Barricades and Boundaries*, a book dealing with the changes in international political geography and the challenges to American and Western institutions. Among his recent publications is *The New World Disorder: The Leninist Extinction* (University of California Press, 1992). He has also written "Really Imaginary Socialism" (*East European Constitutional Review*, spring/summer 1997), "In Praise of the Ordinary: An Essay on Democracy," published in *Adam Michnik's Letters from Freedom* (University of California Press, 1998), "Russia Disconnected" (*Irish Slavonic Studies* 19 [1998]), "Challenging the Correct Line" (*East European Politics and Society*, fall 1998), and "Ethnicity: Nice, Nasty, Nihilistic," in *Ethnopolitical Warfare: Causes, Consequences, and Possible Solutions*, ed. Daniel Chirot and Martin E. P. Seligman (American Psychological Association, 2001). In 1997 he delivered the presidential address at Whitman College. In 1998 Jowitt delivered the Princeton Lectures, and was the Jean Monnet Visiting Scholar at the European University in Florence. He has spoken at the Commonwealth Club, the World Presidents Organization and the Defense Intelligence Agency. In addition, he appears occasionally on the CNBC program *Hardball*.



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
RESERVATIONS PLEASE CONTACT:

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Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. E.S.T.

Daily breakfast, seven lunches, and eight dinners are included as well as all excursions and nine lectures as listed in the itinerary. Additional nights at the hotel are available before and after the tour.