



## Archaeological Tours & Cruises 2016

Prehistory & Ancient History guided by Gillian Hovell, Archaeologist & Author ('The Muddy Archaeologist')

# Hadrian's Wall : Edge of Empire

Monday 11th - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2016

### Day 1: Introducing The Wall – Tullie House Museum & the Western reaches of the Wall

Meeting at the Gilsland Spa Hotel we leave at 1pm for Tullie House Museum in Carlisle where we enjoy lunch in their welcoming Garden Restaurant. A special exclusive talk by the museum curator sets the scene for our tour of the Roman galleries with their rare and important finds. We return to our hotel to settle in before our first talk by Gillian setting the scene for the rest of the Tour.

### Day 2: The Eastern End of The Wall

We head to the east, to Arbeia in modern South Shields, the fort that became the crucial supply base that fuelled the army on The Wall. Nearby Segedunum marked the east end of the Wall itself and here we have lunch in the Chariot Café in the viewing tower overlooking the fort. Our guided tour by a local archaeologist exposes the secrets of this site before we return to the hotel for a pre-dinner talk on Rome's expansion across Britain.



### Day 3: Roman Forts

Chesters, set in stunning tranquil countryside, is the best preserved cavalry fort in Britain and boasts an impressive bathhouse and fascinating museum. A light lunch at the Hadrian Hotel at Wall is followed by a short stroll to the Mithraeum temple just outside Brocolitia fort. Housesteads fort with its small scene-setting museum and ever popular Roman latrines has all the major buildings you would want in a fort. Here we enjoy an atmospheric short walk along Hadrian's Wall itself to the dramatic iconic cliff-top views of the Wall. We return to our hotel for a relaxing evening and dinner.



### Day 4: Vindolanda

The Roman Army Museum is our first visit today. The inspiring short 3D film, *Edge of Empire*, sets the scene for our exploration of life in the Roman army. Don't miss the only Roman helmet crest ever to survive in the whole Empire! After a light lunch at the Twice Brewed Inn we move on to the Museum's sister site, Vindolanda. Excavations are ongoing here and we are privileged to be taken on a tour by a site archaeologist before exploring further ourselves. The wooden writing tablets found here speak directly to us of life on the frontier and were voted the British Museum's Top Treasures – now we can view them, and so much more, in the magnificent multi-million pound refurbished site museum.



On our return to our hotel, Gillian's last talk shares with us, before dinner, the relevance of the startling transformation that some frontier forts experienced ...

### Day 5: Corbridge and Departure

Our last day of the tour takes us to Corbridge, a Roman fort that became a thriving Roman town full of barracks, shops, workshops and temples. We visit the site museum and explore how the unique archaeology and the finds here differ from the forts we have seen. Here we end our comprehensive tour of Hadrian's Wall, the most northern military frontier of the Roman Empire, its archaeology and the lives of those who lived on it, and we return to our hotel in time for lunch and/or departure.



*Itinerary subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control.*

*Please note most sites are on rough ground and stout footwear will be required.*



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