



## FROM MICHAEL'S DESK

I do have to confess that I have not been at my desk very much recently! In line with my goal of becoming semi-retired, I have spent a fair portion of the last few months on the road instead of being stuck, staring at a computer screen!

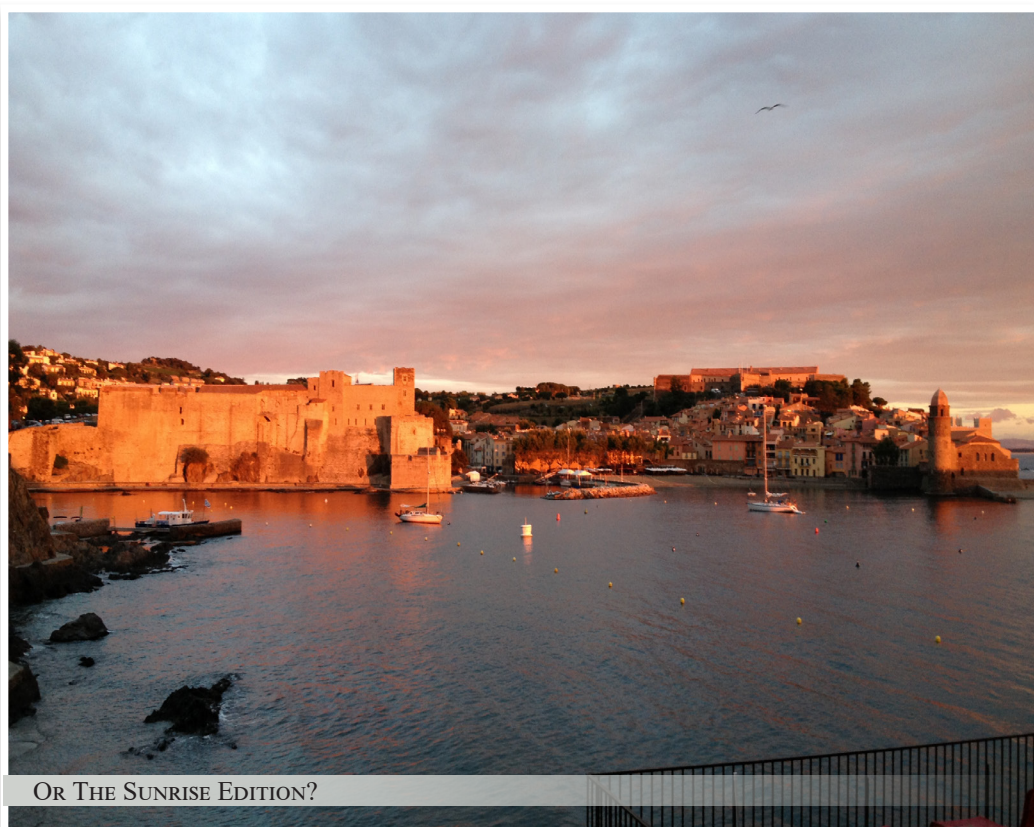
I first fell in love with the travel business when I got a job being a tour guide during my university holidays and it has always been my favourite part of what we do. Now that Alex is running things back in the US, I have been able to indulge my passion. This spring and early summer I have led trips to Madeira, Greece, France, and Ireland. I have made a lot of new friends, travelled to some wonderful places and, I have to say, thoroughly enjoyed myself!

The other big news (that ties in neatly with the main article on this page) is that Discover Europe has purchased its own vehicle. A 7-seat minivan, comfortably fitting up to 5 passengers and their luggage, and designed for use with the increasing number of small, private trips that we are running these days.

Happy Travels.

Michael Induni

DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.  
122 Island Street  
Keene, NH 03431, USA  
Toll free: (866) 563-7077  
Email: info@discovereuropeltd.com



OR THE SUNRISE EDITION?

## ENDINGS & BEGINNINGS

There is no easy way to say this—this will be the last printed newsletter that Discover Europe will be producing. The end of an era. Is it that after 22 years, I am running out of things to say? Those of you who know me, or have travelled on tours with me, would probably agree that it is not likely! While this will be our last printed newsletter, we will continue to produce and distribute digital versions. Though I may be a Luddite at heart, I do see the advantages inherent in modern technologies—we can send out e-mail bulletins and convey urgent or time-sensitive information much more efficiently.

But there is another reason that we are making this change—in response to the wishes of our customers. We find ourselves spending most of our time designing, writing, and operating private tours. These may range from a church group on a pilgrimage, grandparents taking the grandchildren on their first trip to Europe as a graduation present, paying respects at a family memorial in Normandy, to a group of friends who just like to travel together. This year we have fulfilled all these desires and more.

So, instead of Discover Europe offering 50 or so trips in a year that we think you might want to join, we are going to listen to you, and you can tell us where you want to go! Of course, we will always have a few of our trusty favourites on offer, but nowhere near as many.

It will work like this: First, you tell us about the ideal trip you would like to take. You do this by completing the request form that you can find on our website or by sending us an e-mail. We then get back to you with a proposal and a price that is based on the number of people that you know want to go on the tour. You can then decide whether you want the trip to be for your group only, or if you wouldn't mind opening the tour to the public.

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If the latter, then we will include your trip in the email updates that we will be regularly sending out to our whole list. And here's the great thing—if other travellers like your trip and want to join it, the price goes down! And, of course, if you are looking for ideas about where you would like to go, you can always search the past itineraries on our website for inspiration.



So, there you have it. The end of an era and the beginning of a new one. One where we will take you where you want to go, rather than where we think you ought to go!

Thank you,  
*Michael*

## In Memoriam

It is with a very heavy heart that I have to inform you that we have lost a member of our small Discover Europe family. Many of you will have travelled with Anna Spencer over the years, she has been a tour guide for Discover Europe since we began 23 years ago. She died peacefully in her sleep a few weeks ago from cancer.

I first met Anna 52 years ago and we had been close ever since. It was Anna who got me my first ever job as a tour guide when I was still at university. She was beautiful, incredibly intelligent, always fun to be around, spoke five languages fluently, and was just full of life and love. The world is a darker place without her.

She is survived by her husband, Rob, their 2 children, CJ and Joe, and her dog, Izzy, who is currently inconsolable.



## SKIP THE LINES!

Mobile Passport Control (MPC) allows eligible travelers to submit their travel document, photo, and customs declaration information through a free, secure app on their smartphone or other mobile device. The use of MPC streamlines the traveler's entry process into the United States by reducing passport control inspection time and overall wait time. Use of MPC does not require pre-approval. Travelers who successfully use the MPC app will no longer have to complete a paper form or use an APC kiosk. As a result, travelers may experience shorter wait times, less congestion and efficient processing.

To find out more about Mobile Passport Control, please visit <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/mobile-passport-control> or scan the following QRcode



## —2024 TOURS—2024 TOURS—2024 TOURS—2024 TOURS—2024

### ENGLAND

#### THE BEST OF ENGLISH GARDENS

Our annual homage to the Chelsea Flower Show and a selection of the most notable gardens of southern England.  
**MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> - 23<sup>RD</sup> 2024**

#### THE COTSWOLD HILLS

Experience the quintessential English countryside of the Cotswolds with day trips to Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath, and many more.  
**MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

#### THE GREAT AMERICAN REVIVAL

In collaboration with our partners at *The Culture Concierge*, and hosted by Alexandra Messervy, an in-depth look at the American heiresses who married into the English nobility.  
**SEPTEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup> - 11<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

#### THE PASSIONATE GARDENER

Join garden blogger, Michael Gordon, on an autumnal adventure. Includes visits to some of England's famous, and not so well-known, gardens at an uncrowded time of year.  
**SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> - 18<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### TREASURE HOUSES OF NORTHERN ENGLAND

From Yorkshire to the Lake District, journey behind the usual tourist facade and explore the beauty of the north and its stately homes. (Back to back with *Treasure Houses of S. England*)  
**SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> - OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### TREASURE HOUSES OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

See the full glory of Britain's stately homes and the myriad works of art they contain in the south of the country. (Back to back with *Treasure Houses of N. England*)  
**OCTOBER 5<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### FRANCE

#### FOOD & WINE OF BORDEAUX

From our base near St. Emilion, this one-stop tour focuses on the delicious food & exquisite wines of this region.  
**MAY 24<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> 2024**

#### THE CHÂTEAU DE CAMON

An extended stay at the magnificent Abbaye Château de Camon with day trips exploring the Languedoc region from Carcassonne to the high valleys of the Pyrenees.  
**SEPTEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### GREECE

#### THE GLORY OF GREECE

Visit world-famous treasures and learn how ancient Greece has shaped modern times. Optional 4-day Greek island cruise extension.  
**OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> - NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### IRELAND

#### AN IRISH INTERLUDE

From Dublin to Killarney, experience the full breadth of Irish hospitality, during the ultimate Irish celebration - St. Patrick's Day!  
**MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup> 2024**

### ITALY

#### A TASTE OF SICILY **TWS**

Known as the Crossroads of the Mediterranean, Sicily has seen many civilizations come and go - and they have all left their mark. Optional Malta extension.  
**APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup> - 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2024**

#### SORRENTO & THE AMALFI COAST

In the shadow of Mount Vesuvius, explore the beautiful region of Naples and the Amalfi Coast from our base in Sorrento.  
**JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> - 29<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### NETHERLANDS

#### FOOD & FINE ART IN FLANDERS

From chocolate tasting in Belgium, to admiring the tulips blooming in Holland, to museums filled with the Dutch Masters, this tour will awaken the horticulturist and gourmet in all of us.  
**APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> - MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### PORTUGAL

#### THE MAGIC OF MADEIRA

Escape the winter and experience the exotic island destination referred to as the "Island of Eternal Spring." A week-long stay in the magnificent Reid's Palace Hotel.  
**MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

#### A PORTUGUESE PANORAMA

Take a panoramic tour of Portugal from Lisbon to Porto, and see the best that this small country has to offer.  
**OCTOBER 17<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### SCOTLAND

#### CASTLES OF THE HIGHLANDS

Starting in Inverness, take an in-depth look at the highlands and the castles and historic homes that dot the dramatic landscape.  
**JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> - 15<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

#### JOURNEY TO THE NORTHERN ISLES

Explore the northern coast of Scotland in the Orkneys & Shetlands and explore the ancient sites and dramatic seascapes.  
**SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### SPAIN

#### MADRID Y ANDALUCÍA

Explore the beautiful landscapes of southern Spain and traditional communities unchanged by the bustle of modern-day urban life.  
**MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

#### THE PILGRIM'S WAY

Trace the Way of St. James on the ancient pilgrimage route along the north coast of Spain from Bilbao to Santiago.  
**APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### WALES

#### WALES & THE WELSH BORDERS

Ancient market towns, mountain peaks, coastal villages, and romantic ruins characterize this journey into the heart of ancient Wales, led by native Welsh tour guide Adrian Metcalfe.  
**SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> - 13<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

### MULTI-COUNTRY

#### INTO THE SWISS ALPS

(ITALY & SWITZERLAND)  
Join this adventure from the beauty of the Italian Lake District, through the beautiful Swiss Alps and on to Zurich.  
**AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup> - 17<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

#### CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF

(GERMANY, AUSTRIA)  
Enjoy the cultural delights of Austria, Salzburg, and Munich during their festive season. Music, castles, scenery, and plenty of time for Christmas shopping!  
**DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> - 14<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

**TWS** Indicates a tour operated in conjunction with our partner, Travels with Sandi.

Indicates a "Regional Discovery" tour. These tours focus on one particular region, usually staying in just one hotel, and exploring the surrounding countryside through a series of day trips.

## NEW REGULATIONS

Warnings of new travel regulations have been floating around for some time, and it is finally happening. As of January 1st, 2024, all North American visitors to Europe will be required to complete an ETIAS visa waiver application before boarding a plane. The system, known as ETIAS, is more commonly called an "electronic travel authorization." While this process is new to us, Europeans visiting the United States have been required to go through an identical process since 1986.



It is an additional step we have to do before travelling abroad, and, of course, there are costs associated with it—currently, it has been set a \$7 per person, but that is subject to change. You will then receive your authorization within 96 hours—unless further documentation is required. Once approved your ETIAS will last for 3 years before having to be renewed. Discover Europe staff will always be available to assist you with the process.

Full details about these new regulations can be found at [www.etias.eu](http://www.etias.eu).

## JOIN OUR DIGITAL NEWSLETTER!

Don't miss out on all Discover Europe has to offer!

Sign up for our digital newsletter and stay up to date on our future tour offerings. You can join by completing the sign-up form on our website at [www.discovereuropeltd.com/newsletter-signup](http://www.discovereuropeltd.com/newsletter-signup) or simply scan the following QR code.

