



Margie Burke Books & Tours to Shanghai International Literary Festival 2019 & preview announcement of writers attending

Book now to join Margie Burke Books & Tours' trip to Shanghai 22-29 March. Great on-ground tour price \$4,300 which includes:

- ❖ 7 nights luxury boutique accommodation and breakfast at Les Suite Orient, The Bund
- ❖ 4 day Shanghai International Literary Festival pass including literary lunches and dinners
- ❖ Admission to Shanghai art spaces, markets, museums, temples and hidden treasures
- ❖ High speed rail to see UNESCO World Heritage water-town Suzhou and classical gardens
- ❖ Home-style northern dumpling lunch with Margie's 'Shanghai' family
- ❖ Jazz performance at the original Sassoon-built Peace Hotel on the famous Nanjing Road
- ❖ Fully escorted by Chinese speaker and literature-specialist Margie Burke
- ❖ Local English-speaking guides to provide additional guidance and expertise
- ❖ Airport transfers and more!
- ❖ [Exclusions: airfare; travel insurance; visa fee; meals not included; personal expenses]

Writers appearing at the 16th Shanghai International Literary Festival will be announced 4 February. Guests have included: William Dalrymple, Sara Baume, Emma Donoghue (UK); Alexis Wright and Richard McGregor (Australia); Matt Groenig, Aaliyah Bilal, Peter Hessler (USA); Arundhati Roy (India).

In the Australian Weekend's 'Travel and Indulgence' section on 12-13 January editor Susan Kurosawa profiled this unique opportunity to explore Shanghai and surrounds, while attending the Shanghai International Literary Festival and associated events.

It's a small world

Themed tours are the go

SUSAN KUROSAWA

UMBRIA, ITALY

Bordering Tuscany, Lazio and Le Marche, the region of Umbria is in the green heart of Italy, spreading across hills and valleys on the western slopes of the Apennines. Sydney-based small group specialist Tripwired Tours has a 12-day itinerary for a maximum of six guests to Umbria's most distinguished medieval cities and prettiest hill towns. Cultural and culinary highlights include viewing frescoes by Giotto and works by Caravaggio, a truffle hunt, a visit to Norcia, sampling wines made from vines that grow only around Montefalco, a day with an Australian artist and her Italian diplomat husband in their converted olive mill home, sampling authentic Umbrian dishes such as pasta with grated black truffles moistened with olive oil, and staying at converted palazzi and gorgeous boutique hotels including Sina Brufani in Perugia. Departs Rome, \$6599 a person twin-share; April 24-May 5.

■ tripwired.com.au

SHANGHAI, CHINA

Sydney-based Margie Burke Books & Tours is heading to the 16th Shanghai International Literary Festival to be held at the popular M on the Bund venue. Described by literature specialist and former Shanghai resident Margie Burke as like "a travelling book group", her escorted itinerary for a maximum of 10 guests also allows for plenty of exploring, in-



Benin dancers, far left; The Bund in Shanghai, above; vibrant silks of India, left; shopfront in Norcia, Umbria, below



cluding art spaces, fabric and fashion markets, private museums, temples and cultural treasures, plus a high-speed rail journey west from Shanghai to Suzhou and its UNESCO World Heritage classical gardens that have inspired writers and artists for more than 2000 years. The 2019 festival program will include Australian and international authors

and accommodation for seven nights is at Les Suites Orient Bund Shanghai; March 22-29; booking deadline has been extended to February 10.

■ margieburketours.com

RAJASTHAN, INDIA

With a tailor-made name, Threads and Textiles of Rajasthan embodies an emphasis on heritage fabrics, hand-loomed and time-honoured sewing practices in this northern desert state. Led by former principal curator of Sydney's Powerhouse Museum Christina Sumner, the 15-day itinerary coincides with colourful annual festivals such as Diwali, or the Festival of Lights, and the Pushkar Fair, featuring camel races and livestock shows, carnival rides and Hindu religious celebrations. Guests visit villages specialising in silk embroidery and can participate in hands-on tie-dye and block-printing sessions with local specialists. Accommodation is at the best available character-laden converted haveli mansions and boutique hotels. \$9469 a person twin-share, covering return internal

flights from Delhi and most extras, including tipping; October 26-November 9.

■ forwardtravel.com.au

WEST AFRICA

Well beyond the expected wildlife safari trail, and as part of its Small Group Journeys portfolio, Abercrombie & Kent's Australian division has two departures of a 16-day journey titled West Africa: People, Past and Present for a maximum of 14 guests. The nations of Ghana, Togo and Benin are the key destinations, with a focus on history and culture, including a voodoo healing ceremony, private boat excursion to the lake village of Ganvie, the largest of its kind in Africa, and tours of UNESCO World Heritage sites such as the 40ha domain of the 17th-century Royal Palaces of Abomey in Benin. Round-trip from Accra, capital of Ghana; \$12,875 a person; special deal applies of no single supplement; July 2-17 or November 5-20. The earlier departure is hosted by the operator's regional managing director and Africa specialist Sujata Raman.

■ abercrombiekent.com.au

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For more information on Margie Burke Books & Tours' trip to the 2019 Shanghai International Literary Festival email: info@margieburketours.com, visit margieburketours.com or contact Margie direct on 0410 689 017. Please share this with your friends and family and LIKE us on Facebook and Instagram



Who's speaking at the 2019 Shanghai International Literary Festival!?

Celebrated science-fiction writer and winner of the Hugo Award, *Hao Jingfang's* (郝景芳) *Folding Beijing*.

Award-winning British-Pakistani writer, *Nadeem Aslam*, considered "one of the most exciting and serious British novelists writing now" just came out with his latest novel, *The Golden Legend*.

***Qiu Xiaolong's* (裘小龙) long-awaited new addition to the Inspector Chen series: in *Shanghai Redemption* in another suspenseful drama!**

***David Abulafia's The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean* "a compendious history of the Mediterranean."**

Historian *Billy Griffith's Deep Time Dreaming* seeks to understand the extraordinary deep history of the Australian continent.

"*Steve Brusatte*, American paleontologist tells the complete, surprising, and new history of the dinosaurs, bringing to life their lost world and cataclysmic extinction in *The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs*.