

Friends & Links

Friends of mine run excellent local tours all around the world and I highly recommend their services to you. Like me, all the guides mentioned here also guide on Rick Steves' Europe Through the Back Door tours, which is a clear sign that they are among the best in the business.

www.ricksteves.com/tours

Worldwide

Reid Coen has been a tour guide, travel consultant, and speaker for Rick Steves' Europe for the last 18 years. He runs Imprint Tours where they "Travel with Intent"-taking a reflective approach, connecting with the cultures they visit, and balancing the enjoyment of discovery with responsible travel. His ever expanding tour portfolio includes **Thailand, Vietnam, Southern Africa, New Zealand, India, and Bali.**

www.imprinttours.com

Europe-wide

Art historian and photographer **Daniela Wedel**, a German native living in France, puts together customized tours for groups between 4 and 14 people. If you have a group of friends or family and a destination in **central Europe** that you'd like to visit, contact her. She also eagerly shows her passion for the history, food, wine, and people of Avignon, Aix-en-Provence, Arles, the Côte du Rhône and Luberon area in **southern France.**

www.treasure-europe.com

Czech Republic

Jana Hronkova lives in the beautiful historical city of **Prague** and has worked as a licensed guide for more than 13 years. With Jana you will discover all the different architectural styles of Prague, walk across the Charles bridge, visit St. Vitus Cathedral, learn about the fascinating Jewish history of Prague, talk more about recent history and life under Communism or visit some other beautiful parts of the **Czech Republic.**

www.experience-prague.info

Katerina (Katka) Svobodova runs a small company, PragueWalker, a group of local experts and professional guides (her good friends) who are eager to share their knowledge and experience during private tailor-made walking tours of **Prague**. They also lead day trips around the **Czech Republic** and organize fully customized multi-day tours in **Central-Eastern Europe**.

www.praguewalker.com

England

Mark & Toni Seymour guide personal small group tours of **South West Britain**. These are fully customized tours which include your own driver and guide as well as pickup and drop off at all major UK airports and railway stations.

www.afootinbritain.com

France

Arnaud Servignat is a licensed French guide since 1990. He provides mostly museum & walking tours in **Paris and surroundings** and can also provide tours in a minivan around the country side. Airport transfers are available upon arrival or departure in any Paris airports.

www.french-guide.com

Originally from the Netherlands, **Elisabeth van Hest** is a licenced guide-lecturer in France since 1975. She led many tours through Normandy, Brittany, Loirevalley, Burgundy and other French regions in English, German , Dutch and French language. She designs personal tours in **Paris and it's surroundings** to suit each client, using mainly public transportation.

elisa.guide@gmail.com

Born in England, **Julian Brown** made his home in Paris almost 30 years ago. An art historian and licensed guide, he specializes in tailor-made museum visits and walking tours of **Paris** and also leads cultural tours **throughout France**. He has a PhD in Southeast Asian art history and lectures on his research for museums,

universities, Royal Societies and at international conferences.

julianrichardbrown@hotmail.com

Mark & Toni Seymour offer personal small group tours of **Normandy and Brittany** in France. These are fully customized tours which include your own driver and guide as well as pickup and drop off at select railway stations and airports.

www.afootinfrance.com

Contact **Rolinka Bloeming** for tours in the **Languedoc**, the largest wine region in the **south of France** with visits to Carcassonne, Cathar castles, Narbonne, Pont du Gard, Canal de Midi etc. Rolinka also offers biking, hiking and yoga vacations. Her food & wine tours include market visits, cooking classes and wine tastings. Also there is a possibility to stay at her fully autonomous wine property.

rolinka.bloeming@gmail.com

Germany

Discover buzzing **Berlin** with **Holger Zimmer** - radio journalist and expert tour guide. Based in Berlin for 25 years, Holger loves exploring his lively hometown with you. **Berlin** equals history – Kaiser, War and Berlin Wall - yet is young at heart. Berlin today boasts museums, galleries and clubs – it's thriving ! He offers tailored tours, especially art, music and nightlife explorations for groups and private clients. Other **German** or European areas on request.

delagon@gmx.de

Hungary

George Farkas is from Budapest, Hungary with 14 years of guiding experience. He loves what his city has got to offer; the history, architecture, culture, food & wine, spas and the exciting layers of entertainment. He is there to share all that with you when you are ready to explore **Budapest and Hungary** .

<http://www.mybudapesttours.com/>

Istvan Koteczki is a registered, licensed guide in **Hungary**. In his city, **Szeged**, he mainly does classical walking tours. Beside that he offers bike tours, Segway tours, kayak, or canoe tours and boat cruises. Upon request he can also organize gastronomic events; cooking classes, or honey-tasting for example.

<http://visitszeged.eu/en/>

Peter Polczman guides local tours of **Budapest**. Both Pest and Buda take half a day respectively, the full day tour of Budapest includes major sights on both sides. Special tours (museums, architecture & such) are available and so are **excursions to the countryside** or transfers outside the country.

www.budapestyourself.com

Ireland

Barry Moloney and **Don Herlihy** run the acclaimed Don & Barry's Kinsale Historic Stroll, a daily walking tour of their hometown **Kinsale**, a scenic medieval town on the south coast of Ireland. Their tour focuses on the dramatic naval and military history. Private tailored tours including food tours, educational school/university tours and storytelling workshops are also available.

www.historicstrollkinsale.com

Ireland (including Northern Ireland)

Stephen McPhilemy, a history graduate of Queens University Belfast, has been an award winning registered guide since 1995. Stephen operates the 'Essential Walking Tour of Historic Derry' in his hometown of **Derry (aka Londonderry)**. He runs guided tours of the famed **Giants Causeway and Belfast city** tours. He also offers guided tours of his second home - **Dingle and the beautiful Dingle Peninsula**.

www.irishexperience.ie

Italy

Nina Bernardo is a dual American - Italian citizen living currently in Rome and conducting private **Rome Daily City Tours**. She loves to show Rome from her own expat perspective. Her walking tours can include lots of food & wine tastings, ancient plus modern history blended with classical & modern art.

Sparpa@hotmail.com

Tommaso Pantè, an experienced and licensed Tour Guide & Tour Escort/Manager, specializes in tours of **Sicily** and mainland **Italy**. If planning for a trip or cruise ship stop, contact Tommaso about customized excursions. He also offers 4 holiday apartments: **Casetta Rosetta** in **Milazzo**; **Villa Greca (3)** in **Salina** on the **Aeolian Islands**.

www.sunway.it

Tricia Brady lives in Italy and gives private Driver/Guided **tours of Italy**. She has been a guide for 33 years, mainly in the regions north of Rome including her own region of Le Marche. She also rents a luxury villa and an apartment in a 14th century monastery in Le Marche.

t.brady1953@gmail.com

www.italiantourguide.com

Portugal

Cristina Bessa is a licensed tour guide with an experience of more than 25 years. She is based In **Coimbra**. Coimbra's University became the 16th UNESCO World Heritage site In Portugal. Cristina provides not only walking tours in Coimbra, but she's an expert on the **Barroc Library tours**.

ccfb64@hotmail.com

Cristina Duarte is a licensed Portuguese guide with an experience of more than 20 years. She is based in the **Lisbon** region and provides walking tours in complement with regular city public transportation (private transportation also available). **City**

Museums, Old/Down town Lisbon, Belem district and Sintra are some of her most popular tours.

www.lisbonbeyond.pt

Scotland

Colin Mairs is a fully licensed Scottish 'Blue Badge' Tourist Guide, who guides in English, French and Portuguese. Colin can provide you with private walking tours of **Glasgow and Edinburgh, and extended tours all over Scotland**. Colin is also a driver guide and holds a PCV (bus) licence, meaning Colin can be your driver guide for a group of up to 16 people.

www.excursionscotland.com

Liz Lister is a Blue-Badge Guide accredited by the Scottish Tourist Guides Association. She provides walking tours around **central Scotland including Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling and St Andrews** and is happy to help clients plan a bespoke tour, tailored to their personal interests. Working with chauffeur-drive companies she also offers **extended tours across Scotland** in a range of transport to suit all requirements.

www.jaggy-thistle.com

Slovenia

Tina Hiti and Saso Golub are fully licensed guides in Slovenia, who guide individuals and small groups **around the country**. Their tours are fully customized to individual needs and include your own driver/guide. The tours focus on Slovene history, nature, traditions, culture and gastronomy. They can organize hiking adventures and many other outdoor activities. Another popular theme that they help travellers with **is researching their roots**.

www.pg-slovenia.com

Spain

Agustin Ciriza is a Tour guide in his hometown **San Sebastian** leading tours in the **Basque Country of France and Spain** focusing on Basque history, culture, traditions,

food and outdoor activities. Also he offers gastronomy experiences such as Txakoli and Rioja wine tours, Basque Cuisine cooking lessons or “pintxos” (tapas) tasting tours.

www.gorilla-trip.com

Francisco Gesrural is part of a team of guides that tour **Pamplona** and the region of Navarre. They specialize in the week of the **running of the bulls** "SAN FERMIN" where they can help getting guides, balconies to watch the running, tickets for the bull fight... Almost anything!

www.novotur.com

Javier Menor runs The Guiding Company whose target market is everyone - from a family who wants a customized tour of **Madrid** or **Barcelona** to a large company that needs the services of a team of guides on a long term basis. They have extensive experience in cultural tours for schools and universities. He can also provide guiding services **anywhere in Spain**.

www.theguidingcompany.com

Nygil Murrell runs **Madrid Tours & Tastings** which offers guided walking tours of Madrid’s historic centre, as well as gastronomic tapas tours and wine tastings that help you make the most of your visit to Madrid. He also writes a fascinating **blog on Spain** and its exciting capital, covering historical locations, bars and restaurants, and traditional shops.

www.madridtandt.com

Turkey

Aysegül Ünlü runs tours **all over Turkey** and she is based in **Istanbul**. She offers walking tours, bus tours and hiking trips.

aysegulunlu14@gmail.com

Mine Karahan organizes tours, transfers, blue cruises, hotel arrangements and special group tours **all over Turkey**. She also organizes tailor made tours for up to 4 people as a driver guide. She runs walking tours in **Istanbul** which cover Byzantine

Heritage, Ottoman Heritage, Muslim Heritage, Christian Heritage, Roman Heritage and Jewish Heritage.

www.guideistanbul.net

Her husband, **Mert Taner** is also a professional licensed tour guide and he is based in **Kuşadası** . He conducts **Biblical tours in Istanbul ,Ephesus and all round Turkey** for private groups and Cruise Passengers in Kusadasi , Bodrum and Istanbul ...

About.me/mert.taner

Yaren Turkoglu is a professional tour guide based in **Istanbul, Turkey**. She is an art historian and an archaeologist. She guides special interest tours as well as daily walking tours in Istanbul and provides **tours for the rest of the country**.

yaren.turkoglu@gmail.com

United States of America

Chicago Detours, founded by travel writer and tour guide **Amanda Scotese**, brings people to explore the architecture, history and culture of public art, building interiors, historic bars, Chicago neighbourhoods, and jazz and blues history. Chicago Detours offers a variety of private group tours, and walking tours are offered daily to the public.

www.chicagodetours.com