Blck Sea
CIRCUMNAVIGATION
A VOYAGE FROM PAST TO PRESENT
May 27 to June 9, 2014

a program of the stanford alumni association
Every summer, Turks, Georgians, Russians, Ukrainians and Bulgarians flock to the sunny shores of the Black Sea to frolic in its deep-blue waters, belying the image of darkness and turbulence many Westerners have of this region. Yet, as the Black Sea grows as a popular tourist destination, it’s true that the lands surrounding this major crossroad of the ancient world have indeed seen their share of strife—during the Crimean War and World Wars I and II, as well as more recently during the dispute over Abkhazia. As we circumnavigate this historic body of water, Professor Gail Lapidus will put into context for us this complex region and the vastly different countries and cultures that have coexisted around its shores for millennia. Join us!

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

**VIEW** Istanbul’s incomparable Hagia Sophia and Blue Mosque, famous for its piercingly blue Iznik tiles.

**SEE** where Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt gathered to reconfigure Europe’s borders at the end of WWII at Yalta’s Livadia Palace.

**LISTEN** to the music of the balalaika in Sevastopol and the lilting voices of the a cappella choir of Odessa’s Uspensky Cathedral.

**VISIT** the battlefield in Ukraine’s Balaklava Valley where the Charge of the Light Brigade inspired the Tennyson poem about the Crimean War.

COVER: SWALLOW’S NEST NEAR YALTA
DR. GAIL LAPIDUS, a senior fellow emerita at the Institute for International Studies at Stanford University, is a frequent visitor to Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia, and has had a long-standing interest in ethno-political conflicts in the former USSR and in nation- and state-building in the post-Soviet states. She is also the author of numerous books and articles on Soviet and post-Soviet politics, society and foreign policy. Prior to joining the Stanford faculty, she was a professor of political science and sociology at UC-Berkeley from 1976 to 1994, where she directed the Center for Slavic and East European Studies as well as the Berkeley-Stanford Program in Soviet and Post-Soviet Studies. She has served as president of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies and as chair of the Social Science Research Council’s Joint Committee on Soviet Studies. Dr. Lapidus has also received fellowships from the Kennan Institute in Washington, D.C.; the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Palo Alto, California; and the Harriman Institute at Columbia University in New York City. She earned her doctorate at Harvard University.

Harvard Faculty Leader

Joining us from Harvard University is NICHOLAS BURNS, director of the Future of Diplomacy Project and faculty chair for the Programs on the Middle East and on India and South Asia. From 1990 to 1995 he served on the National Security Council as Senior Director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia Affairs and as Special Assistant to President Clinton. He was also Director for Soviet Affairs under President George H.W. Bush. Prior to coming to Harvard, Burns spent 27 years in the U.S. Foreign Service where he served as U.S. Ambassador to NATO (2001–2005) and to Greece (1997–2001).

Reservation Form
Black Sea Circumnavigation
May 27 to June 9, 2014

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions for the program and agree to them.
Signature _________________________________________________________

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:
☐ I wish to have single accommodations.
OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with _________________________
OR ☐ I’d like to know about possible roommates.

Category Preference:
1st choice: ____________________________ ☐ Twin ☐ Double
2nd choice: ____________________________ ☐ Twin ☐ Double

Here is my deposit of $_______ ($1,000 per person) for ______ space(s),
plus $_______ ($200 per person) for the Optional Post-trip Extension.
☐ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR
☐ Charge my deposit to my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?blacksea2014. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
Itinerary

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, MAY 27 & 28
DEPART U.S. / ISTANBUL, TURKEY
Depart on an overnight flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival on Wednesday, transfer to the Hilton Hotel overlooking the Bosphorus Strait. Gather this evening for a welcome orientation and reception. HILTON ISTANBUL HOTEL.

THURSDAY, MAY 29
ISTANBUL
Spend the day exploring this intriguing city, which sits astride Europe and Asia on either side of the swiftly flowing Bosphorus. Choose between two equally fascinating city tours: (1) the Topkapi Palace, Hippodrome, Blue Mosque and Grand Bazaar; or (2) the Hagia Sophia, Archaeological Museum, Rustem Pasha Mosque and Spice Bazaar. This evening embark Variety Voyager and dine al fresco while cruising up the Bosphorus. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, MAY 30
AT SEA
Relax aboard ship as we cruise along the Black Sea coast, enjoying the start of our education program and/or a tour of the ship.

SATURDAY, MAY 31
SAMUSN / AMASYA
Dock in Samsun and visit the inland town of Amasya—two sites that were significant in Turkish history. In Samsun, Ataturk, the father of modern Turkey, planned the strategy for the birth of the new republic in the 1920s. Amasya has an even longer history as the former capital of the ancient Pontic Kingdom and birthplace of the Greek historian Strabo. Tucked deep in a dramatic gorge and isolated from outsiders, Amasya is replete with rock-hewn tombs, classical wooden mansions, and Seljuk and Ottoman monuments. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 1
TRABZON
Upon arrival in Trabzon, travel to the spectacularly situated Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Virgin Mary (Sumela Monastery), embedded in the Pontic Mountains just outside the city. Our steep ascent is rewarded with time to view the monastery’s colorful frescoes, some dating from the 9th century. Return to Trabzon to explore the historic center and bazaar and have lunch independently. This afternoon, visit the Hagia Sophia Museum, once a Byzantine church, which shows influences of Georgian and Seljuk design. Back aboard our ship, scan the waters of the Black Sea and conjure up images of Medea and the Golden Fleece playing out their legendary tale. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 2
BATUMI, GEORGIA
Arrive in Batumi, a seaport on the Black Sea coast of Georgia that lies at the northern edge of the humid subtropical zone. At the Batumi Botanical Garden, begun in the 1880s and opened in 1912, admire lush plantings from nine different floristic sectors, including the Himalayan, Mediterranean and South American regions. Enjoy a lunch of delicious Georgian cuisine accompanied by a children’s folkloric performance. Then in nearby Adjara visit the Gonio Fortress, a 2nd-century Roman fortification and the largest in Georgia. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, JUNE 3
SOCHI, RUSSIA
Today explore Russia’s largest resort city. Sprawling 90 miles along the shores of the Black Sea with the snow-capped Caucasus Mountains as a backdrop, Sochi is the site of the XXII Olympic Winter Games and will host several matches during soccer’s 2018 World Cup. Visit the modest dacha of former Soviet Communist Party Secretary and infamous dictator Joseph Stalin—a surprisingly simple structure set on the grounds of the Zelyonaya Roscha Sanatorium, a location Stalin chose for its pristine environment. Then drive into the mountains to Russia’s “Tea Capital” where we visit the Dagomys Tea Plantation. Learn about tea cultivation and taste a variety of infusions while enjoying songs by local musicians. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4
YALTA, UKRAINE
Disembark in historic Yalta, set on the southern tip of the Crimean Peninsula. This popular 19th-century resort entered the global spotlight when Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill met here in February of 1945 to determine the fate of Europe after World War II. Tour the Italian Renaissance-style Livadia Palace, venue for the Yalta Conference and former summer home of the Russian tsar, Alexander II. Enjoy lunch and a lively folkloric show overlooking the iconic Swallow’s Nest, a turreted white-stone castle. Then continue to Vorontsov
Palace, a beautiful 19th-century summer residence in the town of Alupka that incorporates Tudor, medieval and Byzantine features. After dinner, stroll along the seafront promenade pulsating with musicians, mimes, dancers, circus acts—and of course, lively audiences of locals. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 5
SEVASTOPOL
Sevastopol was formerly a top-secret Soviet military zone closed to visitors, but today it’s possible for us to drive to the Balaklava Valley to see the sobering site where the Charge of the Light Brigade took place in 1854 and inspired Tennyson’s famous poem. Visit the Panorama Museum in Sevastopol that features epic scenes recreated from the city’s heroic, 349-day-long defense during the Crimean War against the French, British and Ottomans. Then explore the 4th-century Greek archaeological ruins of Chersonesus, a World Heritage site. During lunch at a waterfront restaurant, listen to a balalaika, the quintessentially Russian stringed instrument. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 6
ODESSA
Founded in the latter part of the 18th century by Russia’s Catherine the Great, Odessa is a city of resplendent mansions and fine old churches. Gaze upon the Potemkin Steps, famously depicted in Sergei Eisenstein’s classic 1925 silent film, Battleship Potemkin. Stroll along the promenade to the stunning Hapsburg-style opera house and examine an exhibit of rare Scythian gold in the Odessa Archaeological Museum. Enjoy some free time to have lunch and to take a look around the heart of Odessa. In the afternoon, hear the choir perform at the Uspensky Cathedral, a unique Russo-Byzantine architectural gem. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 7
VARNA, BULGARIA
In Varna, considered the summer capital of Bulgaria, marvel at the world-renowned collection of Thracian gold from the 5th millennium B.C.E. in the Archaeological Museum and enjoy a performance of folk tunes in the museum’s Hall of Icons. Then take a tour of the city, concluding with a visit to the imposing domed Cathedral of the Assumption, Varna’s principal landmark. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
NESSEBAR, BULGARIA
Nestled on a tiny spit of land, World Heritage-designated Nessebar embraces a marvelous assemblage of 13th- and 14th-century Byzantine churches representing the rich architectural heritage of the Eastern Orthodox world and an impressive number of 18th- and 19th-century vernacular wooden houses. This evening, cruise to Istanbul while celebrating our travels at a festive farewell reception and dinner onboard. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

MONDAY, JUNE 9
ISTANBUL / U.S.
Disembark and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

Cappadocia
Post-trip Extension
JUNE 9 TO 12
Fly to central Anatolia from Istanbul to explore the surreal surroundings of Cappadocia’s troglodyte villages and fairy chimneys. Be awed by the Byzantine cave churches of Goreme Valley, plus the underground city that sheltered persecuted Christians, tufa towers, ceramic artisans’ workshops and more. Our return flight to Istanbul connects with international flights home. Details and rates are listed on our website and will be sent to confirmed travelers.
Originally built in 1992 and refurbished and redecorated in 2010, Island Sky accommodates all guests in 57 outside suites, each affording sea views and elegantly furnished with a sitting room area, flat-screen TV, safe, mini-refrigerator and an en suite bathroom with robe, slippers, hairdryer and fine toiletries. Several suites have private balconies. Spacious and finely decorated public areas include a large lounge and elegant bar and a library. The dining room accommodates everyone at one seating where house wine, beer and soft drinks are included at lunch and dinner. Wi-fi access is available throughout the vessel (at additional cost and dependent upon satellite reception). The ship also includes a hairdresser, onboard clinic and doctor, elevator serving all passenger decks, top deck with Jacuzzi, gym and rear sun deck with a bar. Island Sky is served by 75 experienced officers and crew.

Variety Voyager

The Variety Voyager is a state-of-the-art yacht that accommodates just 72 passengers in 36 cabins. Guests will enjoy her sleek lines and ample deck space, designed to the high standards of the finest privately owned yachts. Cabins and public areas are finished with lush fabrics, fine marbles, luxurious Axminster carpeting and rich wood paneling. All cabins feature two twin beds or a single double-sized bed, en suite facilities with marble floors, individually controlled air-conditioning and TV/DVD. There is an Internet corner and access to 24-hour Wi-Fi in the Lounge. Throughout the ship, guests have unobstructed views of the ocean and of the ports visited, as well as the services of a friendly and professional crew of 28. There are opportunities to dine both inside and on the deck and to enjoy the shaded sun deck lounge bar, library, and the mini-spa with massage room, sauna, steam room and fitness equipment.

Program Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double or single occupancy, as specified.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DOUBLE RATE</th>
<th>SINGLE RATE**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>$9,990</td>
<td>$14,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cabin on Marina Deck with two oversized portholes, avg. 135 sq. ft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>$10,790</td>
<td>$16,190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cabin on Marina Deck with two oversized portholes, avg. 170 sq. ft., or cabin on Riviera Deck with two windows, avg. 139 sq. ft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>$11,690</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cabin on Riviera Deck with two windows, avg. 172 sq. ft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P</td>
<td>$12,790</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deluxe cabin on Horizons Deck with two windows, 218 sq. ft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner's Suite</td>
<td>$13,890</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deluxe cabin on Horizons Deck with four windows, 324 sq. ft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
**Single accommodations are limited.

Flag: Greece / Length: 223 ft. / Beam: 38 ft. / Draft: 11.5 ft.
**Information**

**Dates**
May 27 to June 9, 2014 (14 days)

**Size**
Limited to a total of 72 participants, including travelers from Stanford and Harvard University alumni associations.

**Included**
- 1 night of deluxe hotel accommodations
- 11-night cruise aboard the Variety Voyager
- 12 breakfasts, 9 lunches and 11 dinners
- Welcome and farewell receptions
- Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner aboard the Variety Voyager
- Bottled water on excursions
- Gratuities to porters, guides, drivers and ship crew for all group activities
- All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
- Port fees and embarkation taxes
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**Not Included**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance
- Excess-baggage charges
- Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup services

**Air Arrangements**
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Lufthansa from San Francisco to Istanbul is approximately $1,100 as of July 2013 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent to confirmed participants.

**Fuel Costs**
In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult to predict fuel costs over the long term and, more specifically, at the time of operation of this voyage. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing. While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge.

**What to Expect**
We consider this program to be moderately active with a full schedule of excursions and lectures. Daily shore excursions involve one to three miles of walking. Some walking takes place at ancient sites, where paths can be rocky and uneven. In some instances, such as museums, guided tours require climbing up and down several flights of stairs, some of which may not have handrails and which may have high thresholds. In some buildings, elevators are not available. Some sites and museums do not allow coaches to pull up in front, thus requiring a several minutes’ walk to reach the entrance on foot. Our busy days are complemented by a relaxed pace onboard our ship, where we have an opportunity to enjoy lectures and leisure time. Medical treatment and care may not always be available or up to U.S. standards. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

**Deposit & Final Payment**
A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for this program. An additional $200 deposit is required to hold space for the optional post-trip extension. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

**Cancellations & Refunds**
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

**Insurance**
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you premark your insurance payment within a specified window: 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter for the Waiver of Pre-existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency; 21 days for the Cancel for Any Reason benefit.

**Eligibility**
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/member- ship or call (650) 725-0692.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50

**Terms & Conditions**

**Deposit & Final Payment**
A $1,000 deposit is required to hold space for this program. An additional $200 deposit is required to hold space for the optional post-trip extension. Complete and return the attached reservation form or sign up online. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

**Cancellations & Refunds**
Deposits and any payments are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply. We recommend trip-cancellation insurance; applications will be sent to you.

**Insurance**
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. We strongly recommend that you subscribe to optional baggage and trip-cancellation insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be mailed with your confirmation about one week after we receive your deposit. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you premark your insurance payment within a specified window: 15 days of the date listed on the confirmation letter for the Waiver of Pre-existing Conditions and coverage for Financial Insolvency; 21 days for the Cancel for Any Reason benefit.

**Eligibility**
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $200 more than the members’ price. Parents and their children under 21 may travel on one membership. For more information or to purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford.edu/goto/member-ship or call (650) 725-0692.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50
“A very rich program, both for the mind and the senses.”

ELAINE KNUTSEN, ’50, BLACK SEA CIRCUMNAVIGATION, 2007