Ancient Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean

ECHOES OF THE PAST AND A DIALOGUE ABOUT THE FUTURE

June 13 to 27, 2015

a program of the stanford alumni association
Our western civilization finds its origins in this part of the Mediterranean, a crossroads for trade, travel and cultural exchange from ancient times to the present day. Over the millennia mighty empires waxed and waned, boundaries were drawn and shifted, and major religions were introduced, flourished and collided. The history of the region is crucial to understanding the development of modern societies, both those we visit on this voyage and our own. As we enjoy our voyage through these storied waters, we’ll glean valuable insights from the archaeological treasures these ancient societies left behind, thanks to faculty leaders Abbas Milani and Larry Diamond, who will share with us their knowledge of the Eastern Mediterranean and its role in the origins of democracy. Sail into this momentous past with us!

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

Highlights

DISCOVER the Byzantine and Ottoman treasures of Sultanahmet, Istanbul’s old city, and home to iconic sites including the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace.

EXAMINE the region’s significance in the development of democracy from ancient times through the challenges of today under the tutelage of our esteemed faculty leaders.

EXPERIENCE the region’s rich archaeological heritage, from Turkey’s ancient Troy and Greece’s Knossos on the island of Crete to Cyprus’ monasteries and Israel’s Capernaum.

ENJOY the sweeping panoramic view from the Golan Heights and meet with Israeli experts to discuss the country’s relations with its Arab neighbors.

CAPERNAUM, ISRAEL

HARBOR GATES, RHODES

COVER:  BLUE MOSQUE, ISTANBUL
SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JUNE 13 & 14
U.S. / ISTANBUL, TURKEY
Depart the U.S. on an overnight flight, arriving on Sunday in Istanbul. Transfer to our hotel overlooking the Bosphorus Strait and spend some time getting settled. Gather in the evening at our hotel for a welcome orientation and reception.

MONDAY, JUNE 15
ISTANBUL / EMBARK
Spend today exploring this fascinating crossroads city that straddles two continents and boasts a vast trove of architectural treasures left behind by the great Byzantine and Ottoman empires that made it their capital. Choose between two fascinating excursions:

- **One to the Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Basilica Cistern and free time in the Grand Bazaar; or another that includes the Topkapi Palace and its harem, and the Spice Market.** Embark our ship in the late afternoon, and cruise around the Golden Horn and into the Sea of Marmara.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16
DIKILI / Pergamon
As the Variety Voyager cruises toward Turkey’s Izmir Province, our lecture program begins. Upon our arrival in Dikili, visit Pergamon, site of an ancient acropolis and a library built in the 2nd century B.C.E. by the Pergamene ruler, Eumenes II, an avid collector of books.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17
BODRUM
After a morning cruising south along Turkey’s island-studded western coast, arrive in Bodrum this afternoon to explore its Museum of Underwater Archaeology, a creatively displayed collection of shipwrecks, amphorae and other booty reclaimed from the sea. It’s housed in a medieval castle, complete with towers, courtyards and dungeons. Enjoy free time to peruse the galleries and shops of Bodrum’s artist community.

THURSDAY, JUNE 18
AT SEA
As our ship cruises the Turkish coast and Mediterranean Sea en route to Cyprus, partake in our ongoing educational program and relax on deck taking in the stunning scenery.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19
LIMASSOL, CYPRUS / OMODHOS / KOURION
From Limassol head to the Troodos Mountains to examine several Byzantine churches recognized by UNESCO for their unique architecture and frescoed interiors that span 600 years of Byzantine art. After lunch in Omodhos, a picturesque mountain hamlet of narrow cobblestone lanes and courtyards dotted with flowerpots, stop at the village’s Monastery of the Holy Cross, said to contain relics of the Crucifixion donated by St. Helena. Also, have a look at a restored medieval wine press that Cypriots don’t even consider as being old, since they’ve been producing wine since 800 B.C.E.!

Explore the ancient Greco-Roman city of Kourion, perched on a cliff above the sea, and marvel at the incredible acoustics of its 2nd-century C.E. theater, now restored and used for performances. Visit the House of Eustolios, built in the 4th century C.E. by a wealthy Christian atop the remains of an earlier Roman villa; the complex includes Roman baths and superb mosaic floors combining pagan and Christian themes.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20
HAIFA, ISRAEL / ACRE / BEIT SHE’ARIM
Dock in Haifa and drive to Acre, one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. Take a stroll through history, from the days of the Crusaders to the contemporary state of Israel, as we explore a restored Crusader fortress, al-Jazzar Mosque and a colorful souk. In Haifa visit the...
golden-domed world center of the Baha’i faith, which preaches the unity of all humankind. In the afternoon investigate Beit She’arim, site of a vast 1,800-year-old Jewish necropolis, where more than 30 burial cave systems have been carved out of the soft limestone and filled with elaborately carved and painted mausoleums and sarcophagi.

SUNDAY, JUNE 21
HAIFA / GOLAN HEIGHTS / SEA OF GALILEE
Depart our ship early to travel up to the Golan Heights. The strategic value of this territory is readily apparent from the view atop Mt. Bental. Meet with a local expert to engage in a dialogue about the balance of power on Israel’s northern border. Travel back to Biblical times as we visit the Sea of Galilee and Capernaum, the base of Jesus’ ministry. Here excavations have uncovered two ancient synagogues, one built atop the other, and the remains of a 1st-century C.E. boat similar to those used during the time of Jesus.

MONDAY, JUNE 22
AT SEA
Kick back and relax during a full day at sea as our ship cruises the Mediterranean. Participate in more of our educational program and perhaps indulge in a massage.

TUESDAY, JUNE 23
RHODES, GREECE / LINDOS
Step ashore on Rhodes, Island of the Knights, significant since ancient times because of its strategic location. Our day begins with a countryside drive to picturesque Lindos, which was once an independent city-state and where the remains of an acropolis recall its days of greatness. One of Lindos’ oldest structures is its 4th-century B.C.E. Temple of Athena Lindia. Also view the 15th-century medieval church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and featuring an octagonal dome, unusual belfry, carved iconostasis and 17th-century wall paintings. Return to the coast to explore medieval Rhodes on foot. The old town is a pastiche of architecture, the most imposing of which is the 14th-century Grand Master’s Palace. The Street of the Knights is one of the best-preserved medieval streets in Europe, lined with inns representing the seven countries from which the knights came; coats of arms of royal and noble crusaders are carved above the inns’ arched doorways.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24
KNOSOS, CRETE
On the Greek island of Crete, visit Knossos, capital of the Minoan Kingdom between 1700 and 1450 B.C.E. The ruins of the grand palace are a maze of corridors, passages, rooms and stairways, and a caravanserai with hot and cold bathing pools is indicative of the society’s high level of development. Knossos is also rife with Greek myth—of the Labyrinth and the monstrous Minotaur confined there, and the Labyrinth’s architect Daedalus and his ill-fated son, Icarus, who flew too close to the sun and plunged to the sea when the wax on his rigged wings of feathers melted.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25
CHIOS
Visit this fifth-largest of the Greek islands where the “tears of Chios” (or the mastic resin that’s produced here) was once worth its weight in gold and is still used in various capacities, including by the medical industry, all over the world. Visit one of Chios’ mastic villages, Pyrgi, often described as the “painted village” because of the detailed decorative motives on the facades of its buildings. Continue to Mesta, a medieval village with architecture dating to the Byzantine period, and Nea Moni, an 11th-century monastery considered one of the finest examples of ecclesiastical architecture in this part of the Greek Orthodox world and a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage monument.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26
ÇANAKKALE, TURKEY / TROY
From the port city of Çanakkale, travel overland to Troy. Once thought to exist only in legend, Troy has now been connected to a physical location deemed to be the city described by Homer. The ruins of the ancient city have been uncovered through nine layers of urban development spanning four millennia, with the site’s layer coinciding with the time period that historians estimate the Trojan War took place. Spend time exploring the sprawling site, then return to Çanakkale to visit its Archaeological Museum, as well as the town’s local markets. Enjoy a farewell reception aboard ship before dinner tonight.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27
ISTANBUL / DISEMBARK / U.S.
Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for our flights home.
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 newly built yacht, Variety Voyager, is an intimate vessel with just 36 cabins, designed to host small exclusive charters like ours. Cabins range in size from 129 to 248 sq. ft. and are comfortably furnished. They feature en suite facilities, individually controlled air-conditioning and TV/DVD. Throughout the ship, guests enjoy unobstructed views of the ocean and our ports of call, plus the services of a friendly crew of 28. There are opportunities to dine both inside and al fresco, and complimentary beer and wine are served with lunch and dinner. Public areas include a partly shaded sun deck lounge/bar, library, and a mini-spa with massage room, sauna, steam room and fitness equipment. There is also an “internet corner” and access to 24-hour Wi-Fi in the lounge.

Program Cost*

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

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<td>Cabin on Marina Deck with oversized portholes or Riviera Deck with double windows, 145–216 sq. ft.</td>
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<td>Cabin on Riviera Deck with double windows, 151–195 sq. ft.</td>
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<td>Cabin on Horizons Deck with double windows, 227–248 sq. ft.</td>
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<td>Owner's Suite</td>
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*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
**Single accommodations are limited.

Flag: Greece / Length: 223 ft. / Beam: 38 ft. / Draft: 11.5 ft.
WHAT TO EXPECT

We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. Daily programs involve walking from one to two miles, such as through archaeological sites, from coach drop-off points, in museums and on city tours, as well as extended periods of standing. Participants will encounter uneven terrain, including dirt and cobblestoned paths, and must be able to walk at least 20 minutes up and down hills without stopping. Participants must be able to stand outside with limited shade and no available seating for more than two hours. The climate is expected to be hot and dry with daytime temperatures reaching into the 80s (°F). We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

D A T E S
June 13 to 27, 2015 (15 days)

S I Z E
Limited to a total of 62 participants

I N C L U D E D
1 night of deluxe hotel accommodations ▪ 12-night cruise aboard the Variety Voyager ▪ 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches and 12 dinners ▪ Welcome and farewell receptions ▪ Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters for all group activities ▪ Gratuities to shipboard personnel ▪ 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 a professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

N O T I N C L U D E D
International and U.S. domestic airfare ▪ Passport and visa fees ▪ Immunization costs ▪ Meals and beverages other than those specified as included ▪ Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour ▪ Independent and private transfers ▪ Trip cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance ▪ Excess baggage charges ▪ Personal items such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, room service, laundry and gratuities for non-group services ▪ Other items of a personal nature

A I R A R R A N G E M E N T S
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Turkish Airlines between San Francisco and Istanbul, Turkey, is approximately $1,200 as of October 2014 and is subject to change without notice.

F U E L C O S T S
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.

C A N C E L L A T I O N S & R E F U N D S
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.

I N S U R A N C E
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. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. A brochure offering such insurance will be provided to U.S. residents with their welcome materials. The product offered in this brochure includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within a specified window: 14–21 days of the date listed on the welcome letter, depending on your destination and state of residence.

E L I G I B I L I T Y
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/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

R E S P O N S I B I L I T Y
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and ship arrangements and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. It is understood that the ship’s ticket, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the cruise company. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in October 2014 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.
Faculty Leaders

**ABBAS MILANI** is the Hamid and Christina Moghadam Director of Iranian Studies at Stanford and a research fellow and co-director of the Iran Democracy Project at the Hoover Institution. Born in Iran, Dr. Milani left for the U.S. as a teen. After earning his PhD in political science, he returned to Iran to teach first at the National University and then at Tehran University. Since 1986 he has lived in the Bay Area. His focus of study is the culture, politics and societies of Central Asia and the Middle East.

**LARRY DIAMOND, ’73, MA ’78, PHD ’80,** is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, as well as a senior fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute where he directs the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law. He also serves as the Peter E. Haas Faculty Co-director of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford. His research focuses on democratic change globally and in the Middle East. He regularly advises governments, the United Nations, the U.S. and multilateral organizations such as the World Bank on issues of governance, development and democracy promotion.

Additionally, guest speaker and tour leader Fetiche Posma-Zaalouk will join us to share her firsthand perspective on women and Islam.

**FETICHE POSMA-ZAALOUK** has more than 30 years’ experience as a tour leader in Europe and the Middle East with alumni and museum groups, including many tours with Stanford Travel/Study. After graduating from Cairo University with a degree in Egyptology, she began her career in Egypt giving private tours to VIPs including Jimmy Carter, Giscard d’Estaing and François Mitterrand. Fetiche currently lives in the Netherlands, where she lectures on Middle East history, Islam and women’s issues. She looks forward to reconnecting with Stanford alumni and friends.

“We have been on several “school trips.” This was our third with Stanford and it was as excellent as the previous two. The tour managers and the faculty leaders have been truly outstanding and this trip was no exception.”

**BAILEY MEYER,** MFA ’65, EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COLLEGE, 2008

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**Reservation Form**

Ancient Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean

June 13 to 27, 2015

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).

☐ Enclosed is my check (make payable to Stanford Alumni Association) OR

☐ Charge my deposit to my:  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard  ☐ American Express

CARD # __________________________________  EXPRES ____________

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE ____________________________________  DATE ____________

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?easternmed2015. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.

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“The trip was fantastic in every respect. The sites visited were interesting, off the beaten path in many respects and places we would not have chosen on our own. Tour guides and the logistics were superb.”

TOM, MBA ’75, AND ELSEE MCEACHIN, OPUS MEDITERRANEAN, 2012