VOYAGE
FROM MALTA
TO ATHENS

ABOARD THE PRIVATELY CHARTERED
VARIETY VOYAGER

September 12 to 21, 2015

a program of the stanford alumni association
With world-famous ports dotting the shores of the Mediterranean, one would be hard-pressed to find less-frequented places in this popular region. Thus, we are delighted to invite you to join us on a voyage of discovery to alluring yet less-visited towns of Malta, eastern Sicily, the largely undiscovered region of Apulia and the island of Corfu. Our visits to Greek and Roman ruins, Crusader castles and Byzantine and baroque churches are peppered with opportunities to taste local Specialties that include artisan Sicilian cheeses, wine pressed from grapes grown on the slopes of Mt. Etna, lampascioni (wild hyacinth bulbs) and other Pugliese dishes, and Venetian-influenced Corfiot cuisine. Join us as we explore off-the-beaten-track sites and sample unfamiliar regional treats in our own secret corners of the Mediterranean!

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

Highlights

SAVOR Sicilian cuisine: enjoy an al fresco lunch on Mt. Etna’s slopes, learn from mozzarella makers in Siracusa and meet the Villagrande estate’s oenologist.

DELIGHT in the baroque chiesas and campos of Lecce and the mosaics of Otranto’s medieval cathedral in Italy’s little-visited Apulia region.

EXPLORE the grand palaces of Corfu and stroll the streets of its UNESCO-listed Old Town.

TRANSIT the engineering marvel that is the Corinth Canal while raising a festive toast to the completion of our journey.

COVER: VALLETTA SKYLINE, MALTA

PIAZZA DEL DUOMO, SIRACUSA, SICILY

DELPHI, GREECE
Stanford Faculty Leaders

Classics professor MARSH MCCALL decided he would become a teacher when he was in the third grade and went on to fulfill that desire, introducing legions of university students to the study of classics during his decades-long professorship at Stanford. One of Travel/Study’s most popular faculty leaders, Professor McCall has enchanted more than a thousand participants on over 35 Travel/Study programs with his lectures and on-site readings of classical authors. As Professor McCall says, “What makes the trips so intensely rewarding is being able to stand on-site and read in translation some of the passages from the great works of antiquity that are connected to that location.”

BARTON “BUZZ” THOMPSON, BA ’72, MBA ’76, JD ’76, is a founding director of the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment and a global expert on natural resources and conservation. Through his research and leadership, he has successfully tackled multiple resource issues, including major water disputes, green development, overfishing and wildlife conservation. He is excited to share with us his insights into the resource challenges that the regions we’ll visit have faced throughout human history, including today, and how they’ve addressed those challenges. According to Thompson, “Malta, Sicily, Crete and Greece not only are rich in classical literature and art, but also provide a wonderful historical window into such current challenges as water scarcity, urban planning, food security and overfishing.”

Stanford Faculty Leaders

Reservation Form

Voyage from Malta to Athens

September 12 to 21, 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 Beds ☐ Queen Bed
2nd choice: ____________________________ ☐ Twin Beds ☐ Queen Bed

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?malta2015. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.
SATURDAY & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12 & 13 DEPART U.S. / VALLETTA, MALTA
Depart from home on an overnight flight to Valletta, Malta. Upon arrival on Sunday, check in to our hotel and attend an orientation and welcome reception.

GRAND HOTEL EXCELSIOR

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 VALLETTA / EMBARK
Valletta, the capital of Malta and a UNESCO World Heritage site, was built by the Knights Hospitaller Order of St. John to defend against Ottoman invasions in the 16th century. Tour the Co-Cathedral and Baptistery, where Caravaggio’s masterpiece, The Beheading of St. John the Baptist, hangs. Beneath the marble floor of the cathedral is a series of tombs housing 375 knights and officers of the Order.

Visit Malta’s National Museum of Archaeology to view its prehistoric treasures; the Palace of the Grand Masters museum and armory; and the beautiful Barrakka Gardens, with panoramic views of the Grand Harbor. Embark our ship in the late afternoon.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 SIRACUSA, SICILY, ITALY
Once a powerful threat to the hegemony of Athens, Siracusa was founded around 734 B.C.E. by Greek Corinthians and subsequently ruled by Romans, Saracens, Byzantines, Normans and Ottomans, who left a legacy of temples, theaters, agoras and amphitheaters that has earned Siracusa its UNESCO World Heritage status. Take an excursion to the Archaeological Park with its stone quarries, Greek theater, Roman amphitheater and the “Ear of Dionysius,” a famous limestone cave. Explore the ancient Jewish Quarter, home to the oldest surviving mikveh (ritual bath) in Europe, and enjoy a private cheese-making lesson and tasting at an artisan cheese factory. On the island of Ortigia, which separates Siracusa’s two harbors, visit the 6th-century B.C.E. Temple of Apollo.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 TAORMINA
Taormina is renowned for its cosmopolitan atmosphere, beautiful monuments and lush gardens. Enjoy a guided tour of the ancient Greco-Roman amphitheater—believed to have been a venue for gladiators. Take a stroll along the lively promenade, Corso Umberto, and enjoy free time in the heart of the city. Drive to the flanks of nearby Mt. Etna for a wine tasting and al fresco lunch, then explore the Silvestri Crater’s lava fields.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

**AT SEA / OTRANTO**

This afternoon our ship arrives in Otranto, at the bottom of the heel of Italy’s “boot” in the largely undiscovered region of Apulia. Observe the Byzantine frescoes in the stunning Chiesa di San Pietro (Church of St. Peter), then enjoy a dinner of Pugliese specialties at a real working farm outside of Otranto (a particular regional favorite is *orecchiette*, pasta in the shape of “small ears”).

**VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)**

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**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

**CORFU, GREECE**

Corfu is the second-largest of the Ionian Islands and has been intertwined with the history of Greece from the beginning of Greek mythology. In the island’s principal city, also called Corfu, explore the Achilleion Palace, built by Empress of Austria Elisabeth of Bavaria in 1890 as a monument to platonic romanticism. The centerpiece of its garden is a famous marble statue, *Achilles Dying*, one of many neoclassical Greek statues at the palace. Also visit Mon Repos, a villa built in the early 1800s for the British governors, which later served as a school of fine arts and a summer residence for the Greek royal family. Mon Repos, the birthplace of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and husband of Queen Elizabeth II, today houses an archaeology museum. After free time for lunch and independent exploration, take a guided walk through the streets of Corfu’s Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)**

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**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

**DELPHI / ATHENS**

Cruise from Corfu to Itea where we take an excursion to the spectacular ruins at Delphi. Located on the slopes of Mt. Parnassos, Delphi was the sanctuary of the influential Delphic oracle and was considered to be the center of the world by the ancient Greeks. Marvel at the stunning setting and awe-inspiring architecture, and explore the archaeological museum at the site. Return to our ship and cruise at dusk through the dramatic Corinth Canal, whose steep limestone walls soar nearly 300 feet on either side of us. Enjoy a farewell reception and dinner aboard ship this evening.

**VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)**

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**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

**ATHENS / DISEMBARK / U.S.**

Disembark in Piraeus, the port of Athens, and transfer to the airport for flights home.

**VARIETY VOYAGER (B)**

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Optional Post-trip Extension Cruise from Athens to Istanbul SEPTEMBER 21 TO 25

Enjoy an additional four-night cruise aboard the *Variety Voyager*, sailing from Athens to Istanbul. In Athens visit the Acropolis, birthplace of democracy, then cross the Aegean Sea to explore Ephesus, once the wealthiest, most powerful city in the Eastern Mediterranean. Sail north to Pergamon, which boasted the richest, most extensive library in the known world. Further up the coast of Asia Minor, stop at the ruins of Troas, where the Achaeans fought for the honor of Helen at the Battle of Troy, famously recounted in Homer’s *Iliad*. Then navigate the narrow Dardanelles and cruise across the Sea of Marmara to Istanbul. Additional details will be sent to confirmed passengers.
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 292 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 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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*Association nonmembers add $200 per person.
**Single accommodations are limited.

Flag: Greece / Length: 223 ft. / Beam: 38 ft. / Draft: 11.5 ft.
DATES
September 12 to 21, 2015 (10 days)

SIZE
Limited to 62 participants

INCLUDED
1 night of deluxe hotel accommodation ■ 7-night cruise aboard the Variety Voyager ■ 8 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners ■ Welcome and farewell wine receptions ■ Gratuities to ship crew and to guides and drivers 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 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 non-group services

AIR ARRANGEMENTS
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from San Francisco to Valletta, Malta, and return from Athens, Greece, is approximately $1,600 as of October 2014 and is subject to change without notice. Information on recommended flight itineraries will be sent by our designated agent.

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 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 one to two miles, such as through archaeological sites, from coach drop-off points, in museums, on city tours, as well as standing for extended periods. 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 for more than two hours with limited shade and no available seating. The expected climate will be hot and dry with averages into the 80s (°F). We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.

Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold space for this program. An additional $200-per-person 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.

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. 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 to 21 days of the date listed on the welcome letter, depending on your destination and state of residence.

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/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
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.

California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50
“As with all the many Stanford trips I’ve been on, the professors, staff and traveling companions have contributed to spectacular adventures.”

MARTA PERY MACKENZIE, ’59, STANFORD TRAVELER