STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

ABROAD ISLAND SKY

The Persian Gulf

November 29 to
December 9, 2016

a program of the stanford alumni association
The Arabian Peninsula has been steeped in mystique for centuries. Closed to Westerners for many years, the city-states of the United Arab Emirates, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Bahrain and the Sultanate of Oman offer a striking mosaic of contrasts: gleaming modern cities and ancient villages, windswept sand dunes and soaring mountains. These off-the-beaten-path lands, all bordered by the shimmering waters of the Persian Gulf, continue to tantalize adventurers. Nowhere else do elegant veiled women in crystal-sleeved, designer abayas and men in perfectly pressed dishdashas rub shoulders with camel herders, horse trainers and expats from around the globe. Join us as we sail amid the comforts of the Island Sky to exotic destinations that run the gamut from traditional livestock markets to futuristic skyscrapers—all awaiting your discovery!

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

Highlights

**ENJOY** a spectacular view of Dubai’s amazing building projects from the observation deck of the Burj Khalifa, tallest building in the world.

**VISIT** the I.M. Pei-designed Museum of Islamic Art as well as Education City, which houses branches of six U.S. universities in Doha, Qatar.

**EXPLORE** the fjord-like landscape of Oman’s Musandam Peninsula aboard a traditional wooden dhow.

**EXPERIENCE** the grandeur of Abu Dhabi’s Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, a dazzling amalgam of white marble, gold leaf, crystals and semi-precious stones.
Born in Iran to a Muslim family, **ABBAS MILANI** was trained by French nuns and Jesuit priests before leaving Iran as a teen for the U.S. After earning his PhD in political science at the University of Hawaii, 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. At Stanford Dr. Milani is a research fellow and co-director of the Iran Democracy Project at the Hoover Institution, the Hamid and Christina Moghadam Director of Iranian Studies, and a professor (by courtesy) in the division of global studies. Throughout his adult life, his focus of study has been the cultures, politics and societies of Central Asia and the Middle East through the prism of scholarship. He is the author of numerous articles and books, including *The Shah* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).

**National Trust for Historic Preservation Study Leaders**

**AMBASSADOR WILLIAM RUGH** served as a U.S. foreign service officer from 1964 to 1995, with nine diplomatic assignments in the Arab world that included ambassadorships to Yemen and to the United Arab Emirates as well as deputy chief of mission in Syria. He has published several books and articles on U.S. foreign policy and Middle Eastern issues.

**ANDREA RUGH** has been a technical advisor for USAID, Save the Children, and UNICEF on development projects in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa. Dr. Rugh holds a PhD in social anthropology and has written extensively on culture and society in the Middle East.

**Tour Director**

**TAREK SWELIM** is associate professor of Islamic art and architecture and urban design and architecture on the Qatar faculty of Islamic studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha. Since 1979, after earning his PhD in Islamic art and architecture from Harvard University, Dr. Swelim, a native Egyptian, has lectured throughout the Middle East.

"Dr. Milani’s lectures gave context to the complicated issues in this part of the world. His participation alone would have been reason enough for taking this trip."

**GRANT, ’59, AND LOIS CHAPPELL, FOCUS ON ISTANBUL, 2013**

**STANFORD TRAVEL / STUDY**

**SHEIKH ZAYED GRAND MOSQUE, ABU DHABI**

**SIGN UP ONLINE:** alumni.stanford.edu/trip?gulf2016

**OR BY PHONE:** (650) 725-1093
Itinerary

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29 & 30
U.S. / DUBAI, UAE / EMBARK ISLAND SKY
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving in Dubai on Wednesday. Embark our ship in the late afternoon. ISLAND SKY (11/30: D)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1
DUBAI
After a welcome orientation and lecture, explore modern Dubai, including the iconic sail-shaped Burj al Arab Hotel; Ski Dubai, an indoor ski resort located in one of Dubai’s extraordinary shopping malls; and Burj Khalifa, at 2,722 feet the tallest artificial structure in the world. From an observation deck on the 124th floor, enjoy a spectacular panoramic view of the surrounding city. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner aboard our ship. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
DOHA
Travel through powdery virgin sands and over towering dunes in four-wheel-drive vehicles for views of Qatar’s turquoise-colored Inland Sea, a shallow tidal lake with a narrow inlet. This afternoon visit the Doha Racing and Equestrian Club where we admire the luxurious quarters of the stables’ purebred Arabian horses—considered one of the fundamental elements of Qatar’s national and regional heritage. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4
MANAMA, BAHRAIN / DHAHRAN, SAUDI ARABIA
After docking in Manama, capital of the island nation of Bahrain, visit Al-Fateh Grand Mosque, Bahrain’s largest place of worship and home to its national library. Also explore Beit al-Qur’an Museum, with its collections of Islamic calligraphy and rare Qur’anic manuscripts. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Bahrain or opt to cross the impressive King Fahd Causeway to Saudi Arabia for a visit to the Aramco oil compound. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5
ABU DHABI, UAE
This morning we arrive in Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE and largest of the seven emirates. Visit the majestic Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, a dazzling construction of white marble, gold leaf, semi-precious stones, crystals and ceramic tiles. Also, construction schedule permitting, observe the progress of the Saadiyat Island project that will eventually include branches of the Louvre and Guggenheim museums or, alternatively, visit the ecologically sustainable Masdar City. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6
MUSANDAM PENINSULA, OMAN
Our next stop is the Musandam Peninsula, a region of fjord-like landscapes and traditional small villages and one of the Gulf States’ last wilderness areas. Board a traditional wooden dhow to access scenic inlets, and snorkel near a coral reef to view butterfly fish, groupers and possibly even dolphins. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7
MUSCAT
Visit the Bait Al Baranda Museum, whose dynamic, interactive exhibits on Muscat’s history
place it in a regional, commercial and cultural context. Explore Muttrah Souk, the oldest market in Oman whose shops specialize in antiques, *khanjars* (daggers), gold, frankincense and *oudh*, a fragrant wood used in local perfumes. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

**MUSCAT**

Begin the day at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque whose main prayer hall features a 14,000-square-foot Persian carpet and an eight-ton central chandelier made of Swarovski crystal and illuminated with more than 1,000 lights. Continue to the non-profit Omani Heritage Gallery, that supports Omani artisans working in traditional crafts. End the day’s activities at the Bait Al Zubair Museum, dedicated to showcasing ethnographic artifacts that are most representative of Oman’s cultural heritage. This evening enjoy a farewell reception and dinner aboard ship. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

**MUSCAT / DISEMBARK / U.S.**

Disembark the Island Sky and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

---

**Optional Pre-cruise Extension: Dubai**

NOVEMBER 28 TO 30

(2 ADDITIONAL DAYS)

Visit “Old Dubai” on this one-night pre-cruise extension. Board an *abra* (water taxi) and cross Dubai Creek to the historic Bastakia district and the Al-Fanidi Fort and Dubai Museum for an introduction to life in Dubai prior to the discovery of oil. Attend a special presentation on Islam at the Sheikh Mohamed Centre for Cultural Understanding.

---

**Optional Post-cruise Extension: Oman’s Interior**

DECEMBER 9 TO 12

(3 ADDITIONAL DAYS)

Explore Bedouin culture on this three-night post-cruise extension in Oman. Attend Nizwa’s weekly cattle-and-goat market where potential buyers interact with sellers parading their offerings. Wander among men wearing the traditional *dishdasha* (robe) and *kumma* (embroidered cap) or *mussar* (turban) and women in leather masks with henna-decorated hands as they bid on livestock and gossip among themselves. Visit forts, date plantations and villages, and venture to the Sharquiya Sands (a vast desert of red dunes formerly known as Wahiba Sands) to meet with a Bedouin family.

Details and pricing for both extensions will be sent to confirmed participants.
Island Sky

Originally built in 1992 and refurbished and redecorated in 2010, the Island Sky accommodates all guests in 57 outside suites, each affording sea views and elegantly furnished with a sitting area, flat-screen TV, safe, mini-refrigerator, and an en suite bathroom with robes, slippers, hair dryer and toiletries. Several suites have private balconies. Spacious and finely decorated public areas include a large lounge, an elegant bar and a library. The dining room accommodates all guests in a single 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 offers a hairdresser, onboard clinic and doctor, elevator serving all passenger decks and two sun decks, one with a bar. The Island Sky is served by 75 experienced officers and crew.

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>A: Magellan Deck</td>
<td>$8,995</td>
<td>$13,495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225 sq. ft. with portholes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B: Magellan Deck</td>
<td>$9,995</td>
<td>$14,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>230 sq. ft. with portholes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C: Columbus Deck</td>
<td>$11,495</td>
<td>$17,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>235 sq. ft. with window</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D: Marco Polo Deck</td>
<td>$11,995</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225 sq. ft. with window</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E: Marco Polo Deck</td>
<td>$13,495</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>240 sq. ft. with forward and side windows</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F: Erikson Deck</td>
<td>$15,495</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>269 sq. ft. with window and private balcony</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G: Explorer Deck</td>
<td>$16,495</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>325 sq. ft. with window and private balcony</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Association nonmembers add $300 per person.

**Single accommodations may be limited to as few as 2 cabins.

Flag: Bahamas / Length: 297 ft. / Beam: 50 ft. / Draft: 12 ft.
and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days
baggage charges
and shore excursions as described in the itinerary
telephone and fax calls, laundry and gratuities for nongroup
(unassisted) with a group moving at a moderate, steady pace. We
with rope handrails. Most days will be long and busy. Participants
Travelers must be able to board the ship via a metal gangplank
thus requiring a walk of several minutes to reach the entrance.
stairs that may not have handrails. Many sites and buildings do
two hours at a time and climbing up and down several flights of
terrain that is uneven or cobblestoned. In some instances, such
excursions involve up to one mile of walking, in some cases, over
we consider this program to be moderately active. Daily
What to Ex PEC t
oman, is approximately $1,230 as of January 2016 and is
from San Francisco to Dubai, UAE, and return from Muscat,
program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Emirates
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the
Services of our professional tour manager to assist you through-
out 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,
television 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 Emirates
from San Francisco to Dubai, UAE, and return from Muscat,
Oman, is approximately $1,230 as of January 2016 and is
subject to change without notice.
WHAT TO EXPECT
We consider this program to be moderately active. Daily
excursions involve up to one mile of walking, in some cases, over
terrain that is uneven or cobblestoned. In some instances, such
as museums, guided tours require standing in place for up to
two hours at a time and climbing up and down several flights of
stairs that may not have handrails. Many sites and buildings do
not have elevators and also do not allow buses to pull up in front,
thus requiring a walk of several minutes to reach the entrance.
Travelers must be able to board the ship via a metal gangplank
with rope handrails. Most days will be long and busy. Participants
must be physically fit, active, in good health and able to keep up
(unassisted) with a group moving at a moderate, steady pace. 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 your space. A
$200-per-person deposit per extension is required to hold space
for the optional pre- and post-cruise extensions Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?gulf2016 or call
the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. 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 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 through-
out the program.
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. Baggage is carried
at the owner’s risk entirely. It is
understood that the ship’s ticket,
when issued, shall constitute
the sole contract between the
passenger and the cruise company.
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 January
2016 and is subject to change
without notice to reflect fluctuations
in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel
charges.

Telephone: (650) 725-1093
Email: travelstudy@alumni.stanford.edu
California Seller of Travel Program Registration #2048 523-50
“Visiting these countries on one’s own would have been interesting, but one would not have been able to get both the historical and the future outlooks without the educational element that Stanford provides.”

KARIN TAPPENDORF, EMIRATES AND SULTANATES, 2014