The natural, historical and cultural wonders of the Arabian Gulf region are a treasure steeped in mystique to many travelers. Yet, for centuries, the countries adjoining the Strait of Hormuz have dictated their pre-eminence in the world of maritime trade. Closed to Westerners for many years, the Sultanate of Oman, the city-states of the United Arab Emirates and the countries of Bahrain and Qatar offer a striking mosaic of contrasts. Gleaming modern cities and ancient villages, windswept sand dunes and soaring mountains – all bordered by blue skies and shimmering clear waters – these off-the-beaten-path gems have tantalized adventurers for millennia. From traditional fish markets, dhow yards and captivating souqs to futuristic cities, these exotic destinations await your discovery.

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

Highlights

EXPLORE Dubai, a modern day marvel for its gleaming skyscrapers that stand adjacent to traditional fish markets and dhow yards.

SEARCH for the nearly extinct Arabian oryx on the island of Sir Bani Yas, and visit the futuristic city of Abu Dhabi in the nation-states of the United Arab Emirates.

STOP at Bahrain, Arabia’s only island-nation and venture northward to discover the historic and cultural legacies of Qatar, the world’s smallest Arab state.

BOARD local dhows to explore serpentine inlets on the Musandam Peninsula, where towering cliffs plunge into the turquoise sea.
**Itinerary**

**THURSDAY & FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17 & 18**

**DEPART U.S. / DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE)**
Depart the U.S. on Thursday evening on independent flights to Dubai. Arrive late on Friday evening and transfer to our hotel, HYATT REGENCY DUBAI.

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19**
**DUBAI / EMBARK CLIPPER ODYSSEY**
Visit several must-see sites in Dubai including the world’s tallest building, the Burj Khalifa, followed by lunch and a dhow cruise across Dubai Creek with a stopover at Sheikh Saeed’s house. Explore the Dubai Museum before concluding our tour with photo stops at the iconic Burj Al Arab Hotel and the Jumeirah Mosque. Embark the Clipper Odyssey this evening and, before our welcome cocktail reception, gather on deck for magnificent views of the illuminated skyline as the sun sets behind the city. **CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21**
**SIR BANI YAS ISLAND**
A fine example of proactive conservation and reforesting, this once-barren and desolate island has been transformed into a lush landscape populated by gazelles, Arabian oryx (once on the brink of extinction) and more than 80 species of birds, including greater flamingos. Go ashore by Zodiac to take nature walks and to appreciate the visionary largesse of Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, who made this transformation a reality. **CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**
**MANAMA, BAHRAIN**
The Kingdom of Bahrain, which means “Two Seas,” is the only Arabian island-nation in the world. Visit the Grand Mosque and National Museum for an introduction to Bahrain’s historic and cultural legacies. Journey from the ancient to the modern, visiting prehistoric royal burial mounds, a 17th-century Portuguese fort later used by the Omanis to invade Bahrain in 1800 and the former palace of Sheikh Isa Bin Ali, whose lengthy rule extended from 1869 to 1932. **CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23**
**DOHA, QATAR**
Qatar is the world’s smallest Arab state by population; only 400,000 Qataris inhabit this angular peninsula. Visit the National Stables to learn about the famed Arabian horses, the oldest-known breed of riding horse. The busy camel and sheep markets present exceptional photographic opportunities, while the produce markets and main souqs, or open-air marketplaces, offer a mélange of goods, from dates and spices to gold. View the city from the attractive Corniche Road or board 4x4 vehicles to travel inland for an adventurous off-road safari upon the desert’s golden sand dunes. **CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24**
**SHARJAH, UAE**
Sharjah’s culture is showcased in the former homes of wealthy inhabitants, now converted into museums. Visit the Al Naboodah House, which illustrates the life of a well-to-do pearl-trading family, and continue to the American University of Sharjah founded in 1997 by Sultan Bin Mohammad Al Qassimi, member of the Supreme Council of the UAE and ruler of Sharjah. Or browse in the Al Markazi souq to view the UAE’s largest selection of carpets and handicrafts. **CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)**

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25**
**AL KHASAB / MUSANDAM PENINSULA, OMAN**
Visit the 16th-century Portuguese fort and Old Town while our ship is anchored in the busy port town of Al Khasab. Board local dhows to explore the narrow fjords of the Musandam Peninsula. These winding waterways reveal towering limestone cliffs that plunge straight down into a turquoise sea. Make a stop at Telegraph Island, site of the Gulf’s first telegraphic station installed by the British in 1864, and enjoy the opportunity to swim and snorkel off the side of the dhow. **CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)**
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26
FUJAIRAH, UAE
An enclave of the UAE, Fujairah separates two sections of Oman and is the only emirate located away from the Arabian Gulf. Explore the Fujairah Museum's excellent ethnographic displays. Continue inland to Bithna Oasis, with its impressive fort guarding the Hajar Mountains, and Bidiya Mosque, the oldest mosque in the UAE, before descending to the coastal town of Dibba, a charming Mediterranean-flavored fishing village where life moves at a leisurely pace.

CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27
MUSCAT, OMAN
Closed to outsiders until recent years, Oman is one of the world’s only two sultanates. Explore the capital city of Muscat and drive past elegant villas to photograph Zawawi Mosque, an exquisite example of Islamic architecture. View the magnificent Al Alam Palace of Sultan Qaboos, which is set between the twin 400-year-old, turreted Portuguese forts of Jalalai and Mirani. Visit Bait al Zubair, a private museum housing traditional Omani items – weaponry, jewelry, and paintings. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure and explore the souq, one of the finest in Arabia, followed by dinner aboard ship or on one’s own in town. CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28
NIZWA / MUSCAT
In the enchanting ancient capital of Nizwa, an historic seat of Islamic learning, explore the round 17th-century Tower Fort, highlighted by a climb up the impregnable tower for panoramic views. Visit the beautiful oasis of Bahla and its sprawling fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Nearby is Jabrin Castle, an exquisite example of 17th-century Omani architecture, its ceilings adorned with Islamic inscriptions and astrological designs. Stop at the lush green oasis of Birkat-Al-Mauz to view its two-tiered falaj, a traditional irrigation system.

CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2
AT SEA
Cruise along the southern coast of Oman and spend the day learning more about local culture and customs from members of our lecture team as they recap our journey through the Arabian Sea. Join fellow travelers for a festive farewell cocktail reception aboard ship this evening. CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 1
SUR
Known as a major dhow-building hub, Sur is a combination seafaring town, fishing village and trading port. Visit the bustling seaside fish market to watch the fishermen bring in their morning catch.

CLIPPER ODYSSEY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 3
SALALAH / DISEMBARK CLIPPER ODYSSEY
Described as “a flavor of Zanzibar in the heart of the Arabian desert,” Salalah is a colorful subtropical oasis comprised of palm-fringed beaches and verdant pastures, with a rich ethnic diversity. Take a tour of Taqah, a quaint fishing village, and visit the recently excavated city of Samhram, believed to be Arabia’s ancient frankincense capital. Immerse your senses in the Al Husn Souq, Salalah’s lively market where stalls are piled high with myrrh, incense, frankincense and colorful bottles of perfume. Visit the Sultan of Oman’s stately palace and the Shanfari Mosque. Stop at Job’s Tomb, a must-see historical monument set amid the Qara Mountains and overlooking the Jubriah plain. Continue on to the Salalah airport for independent evening flights homeward. (B,L)

FRIDAY, MARCH 4
ARRIVE U.S.
Arrive home today on overnight flights.

Iran Pre-Trip Extension
FEBRUARY 11 TO 18, 2011
(6 additional days)

Discover the wonders and complexities of Iran. We will send itinerary and pricing to confirmed passengers.
Clipper Odyssey

The 110-passenger Clipper Odyssey is ideally suited for exploring the coasts of Oman and the UAE. Its small size allows access to remote islands and stretches of coast otherwise inaccessible by land or by a larger cruise ship. All cabins are outside, with a separate seating area, twin or queen beds, bathrooms with hair dryers and shower/bathtub combinations, abundant storage space, individual temperature controls, TVs and mini-refrigerators. Public areas include two lounges, a bar and a dining room where all guests are accommodated at a single, unassigned seating. Among the ship’s amenities are shaded areas on the Lido Deck ideal for viewing the passing scenery, a 70-meter jogging track on the Sun Deck, pool, gym, library/game room, boutique and clinic with a full-time physician. The ship is fitted with the latest in telecommunications, navigation and stabilization systems for smooth sailing. A fleet of motorized Zodiacs allows guests to make beach landings on small islands.

LENGTH: 338 ft.  |  DRAFT: 14 ft.  |  BEAM: 51 ft.  |  REGISTRY: Bahamas

Program Cost*

Rates are per person, based on double occupancy

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Single Occupancy**

| Category 2| Main Deck | $17,880|
| Category 3| Main Deck | $18,880|

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

We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is, at times, busy and physically demanding. For most activities, a relatively low level of exertion is required. You must be able to walk moderate distances along beaches and sometimes on rough terrain. Excursions are timed to depart when temperatures will be most pleasant. Average daily temperatures are expected to range from the mid 70s to the upper 80s (°F) throughout our itinerary.

Travel to this part of world requires sensitivity to local cultures and customs. While visiting Muslim countries, women will not be expected to cover their heads, though they should be prepared to wear long sleeves and long pants or skirts, and you will be expected to remove your shoes when visiting mosques. Flexibility is a must in this region, and participants will most enjoy the remarkable opportunities this expedition offers if they travel with a spirit of adventure. We welcome travelers over the age of 15 on this program.
Stanford Faculty Leader

DR. LINA KHATIB is a program manager at the Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law at Stanford University, managing the Program on Good Governance and Political Reform in the Arab World. She came to Stanford University from the University of London where she was an associate professor. Her research is decidedly interdisciplinary and focuses on the intersections of politics, media and social factors in relation to the politics of the Middle East. She is also a consultant on Middle East politics and media and has published widely on topics such as new media and Islamism, U.S. public diplomacy towards the Middle East, and political media and conflict in the Arab world, as well as on the political dynamics in Lebanon and Iran. She has an active interest in the link between “track two dialogue” and democratization policy. She is also a research associate at SOAS, University of London.

Dr. Khatib is currently writing a book entitled Image Politics in the Middle East for IB Tauris. Before joining the academic field, she worked in broadcast journalism in Lebanon and is a frequent commentator on the Middle East in the media with appearances on CNN, BBC, Al-Jazeera (Arabic and English), Sky News and other media outlets across the globe. During our program, Dr. Khatib plans to talk about cultural and political issues in the region. She says, “The Arab world is a region that is in constant flux, ever-evolving, always challenging and tantalizing, whether politically or culturally. It is full of paradoxes and is a diverse region, though this diversity is unfortunately often overshadowed by the outside world’s inclination to focus on the region’s long-term political conflicts. But look beyond political conflict and you’ll find a fascinating mix like nowhere else in the world, whether in terms of ethnicity, religion, geography, or lifestyles.”

Reservation Form

Voyage from Oman to the Emirates
February 17 to March 4, 2011

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 Bed ☐ Queen Bed

2nd choice: ____________________________ ☐ Twin Bed ☐ Queen Bed

Here is my deposit of $________ ($1,000 per person) for _____ space(s) plus $________ ($200 per person) for the Optional Iran Pre-Trip Extension.

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

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

CARD # Expires

AUTHORIZED CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE DATE

Mail completed form to address on mail panel or fax to (650) 725-8675 or place your deposit online at www.stanfordalumni.org/trip?oman2011. Please submit your reservation only once to avoid multiple charges to your account.

"This trip was one of the most informative & educational trips that I have ever been on. The highlight of the trip was not the scenery, museums, or sights; it was the people."

LINDSAY FISHER, ’67,’68, WORLD LEADERS SYMPOSIUM: THE MIDDLE EAST, 2009
“I’ve gone on many trips, but this was absolutely the most eye-opening journey I’ve ever taken. I was unprepared for how warmly we were received by the people.”

Deirdre Hegarty, ’87 | Iran Suitcase Seminar, 2010