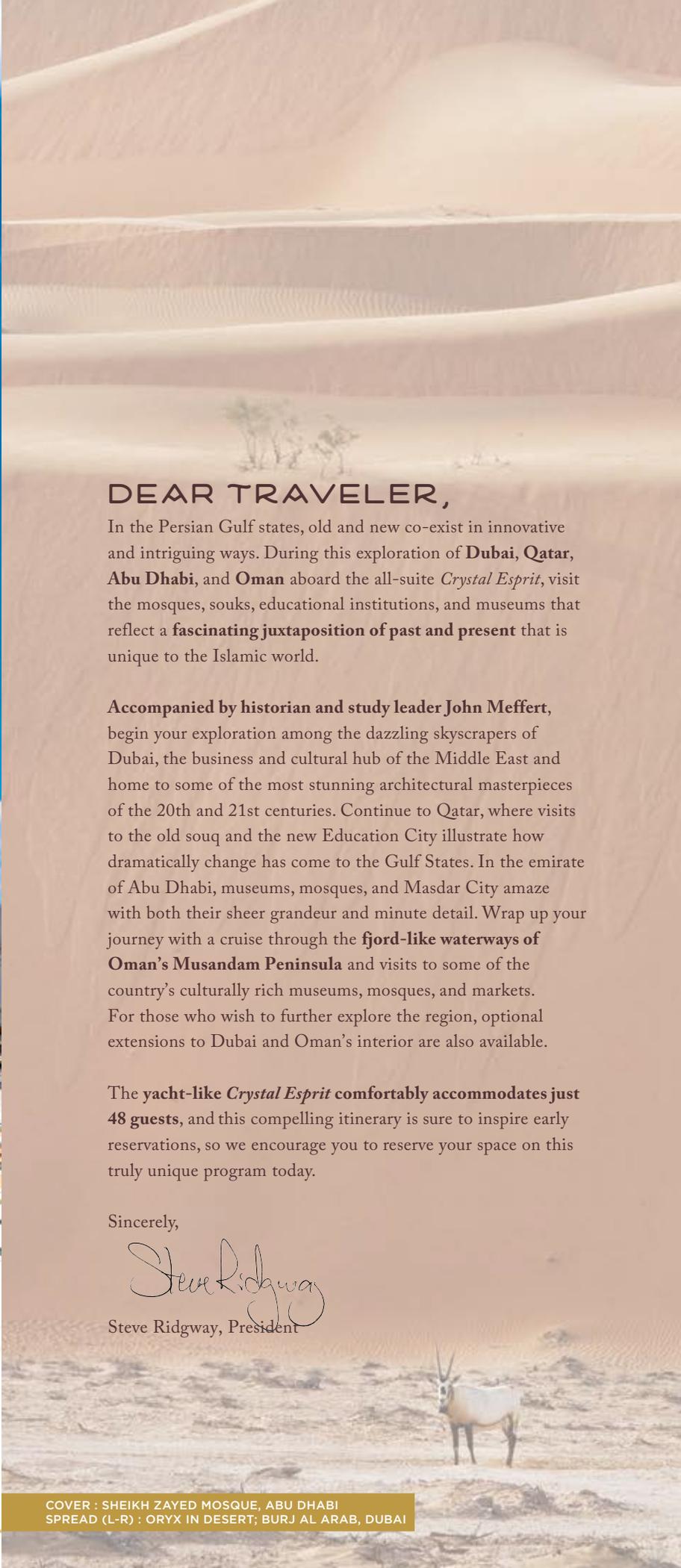


# PERSIAN GULF CRUISE

DUBAI, QATAR, ABU  
DHABI, AND OMAN

Aboard the *Crystal Esprit*  
January 2–12, 2020

CRITERION  
travel



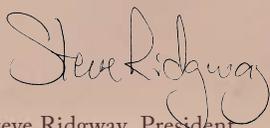
## DEAR TRAVELER,

In the Persian Gulf states, old and new co-exist in innovative and intriguing ways. During this exploration of **Dubai, Qatar, Abu Dhabi,** and **Oman** aboard the all-suite *Crystal Esprit*, visit the mosques, souks, educational institutions, and museums that reflect a **fascinating juxtaposition of past and present** that is unique to the Islamic world.

**Accompanied by historian and study leader John Meffert,** begin your exploration among the dazzling skyscrapers of Dubai, the business and cultural hub of the Middle East and home to some of the most stunning architectural masterpieces of the 20th and 21st centuries. Continue to **Qatar**, where visits to the old souq and the new Education City illustrate how dramatically change has come to the Gulf States. In the emirate of Abu Dhabi, museums, mosques, and Masdar City amaze with both their sheer grandeur and minute detail. Wrap up your journey with a cruise through the **fjord-like waterways of Oman's Musandam Peninsula** and visits to some of the country's culturally rich museums, mosques, and markets. For those who wish to further explore the region, optional extensions to Dubai and Oman's interior are also available.

The **yacht-like *Crystal Esprit* comfortably accommodates just 48 guests,** and this compelling itinerary is sure to inspire early reservations, so we encourage you to reserve your space on this truly unique program today.

Sincerely,



Steve Ridgway, President



## STUDY LEADERS



**JOHN MEFFERT,** consultant on Heritage Conservation Services, has a long tradition with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He has served as the Director for our Southern Office from 1982

to 1988 and was the director of the Preservation Society of Charleston, the oldest nonprofit organization in the United States. John has delighted countless study tour groups with his lectures and insights on preservation and receives rave reviews as study leader.



**TREVOR MARCHAND** is Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS, London) and recipient of the Royal Anthropological Institute's Rivers Memorial

Medal (2014). He studied architecture (McGill), received a PhD in anthropology (SOAS), and qualified as a fine woodworker at London's Building Crafts College. Marchand produces and directs documentary films on architecture and craftwork, and has curated exhibitions for the Brunei Gallery in London, Museum of Oriental Art in Turin, Pergamon Museum in Berlin, Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History. He is an independent advisor on World Heritage for ICOMOS and an advisor on the international experts panel for the British Museum's Endangered Material Knowledge Programme.



FALCONS, DOHA



GOLD MARKET, DUBAI



BURJ AL ARAB, DUBAI

*Thursday & Friday, January 2 & 3*

## Home / Dubai, UAE

Depart home on an overnight flight to Dubai. Upon arrival on January 3, transfer to the *Crystal Esprit* for embarkation.

*CRYSTAL ESPRIT (MEALS ALOFT, D)*

*Saturday, January 4*

## Dubai

After a welcome orientation and lecture, explore modern Dubai, including the Burj al Arab Hotel, which soars to 1,053 feet above the ground and is located on an artificial island connected to Jumeirah Beach; Ski Dubai, an indoor ski resort complete with ski slopes, toboggan and sled runs, giant snowballs, ice caves, and resident penguins; and Burj Khalifa, at 2,722 feet the tallest artificial structure in the world. From an observation deck on the 124th floor, marvel at the panoramic views over the surrounding city. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner onboard.

*CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,R,D)*

*Sunday, January 5*

## Doha, Qatar

Doha is the fast-growing capital of Qatar, and an important Middle Eastern financial center. Explore the Museum of Islamic Art, designed by I.M. Pei and located on the city's Corniche. This architectural gem houses collections of metalwork, ceramics, jewelry, woodwork, textiles, and glass dating from the 1600s to the 1900s. Stroll through Souq Waqif, founded a century ago and noted for offering traditional garments, spices, and handicrafts. Continue to Education City, which covers more than five square miles and houses facilities for pre-school through graduate-level research and education, as well as branches of six U.S. universities and several European educational institutions. Conclude the day at the Doha Racing and Equestrian Club, where horse racing is serious business and horses, which have played an important role in the history of the Arab world for centuries, live like royalty. *CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)*

*Monday, January 6*

## Doha

This morning travel over towering sand dunes in four-wheel-drive vehicles to Qatar's magnificent Inland Sea, a shallow tidal lake with a narrow outlet to the sea and shores in both Qatar and Saudi Arabia. After lunch in the desert, return to the ship and depart Qatar. *CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)*

*Tuesday, January 7*

## 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 Mosque, a dazzling construction of white marble, gold leaf, semi-precious stones, crystals, and ceramic tiles. Also visit Masdar City, a \$20 billion enterprise showcasing Abu Dhabi's investments in renewable energy and green technology. *CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)*

*Wednesday, January 8*

## Abu Dhabi

Spend the morning at the breathtaking cultural highlights of the newly opened Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum on Saadiyat Island. There are 12 galleries curated masterfully in partnership with the Louvre, Paris. The stunning floating dome of light designed by renowned architect Jean Nouvel is a photographer's delight. Continue to Qasr Al Hosn, the oldest stone building in Abu Dhabi, and experience the history of Abu Dhabi through a series of exhibitions. *CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)*

*Thursday, January 9*

## Musandam Peninsula, Oman

The Musandam Peninsula, a region of fjord-like landscapes and traditional small villages, is 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 even dolphins. *CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)*

*Friday, January 10*

## Muscat

Disembark the *Crystal Esprit* this morning and visit the Bait Adam Museum, whose interactive exhibits on Muscat's history and culture will be explained by the head of the museum. Continue to Muttrah Souk, the oldest market in Oman and an exotic, fragrant treasure chest filled with gold and silver, antiques, frankincense, clothing, toys, and spices. Check into the Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz Carlton hotel overlooking the Gulf of Oman. *AL BUSTAN PALACE HOTEL (B,L,D)*

*Saturday, January 11*

## Muscat

Begin the day at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. The primary place of worship in Oman, it is the only mosque in the country that allows non-Muslims to enter. The main hall, which can accommodate more than 6,000 worshippers, is crowned by an enormous chandelier of Swarovski crystal and delicate gold-plated metalwork. Continue to the Omani Heritage Gallery, a nonprofit that supports Omani artisans working in traditional crafts. The Gallery is a wonderful place to view a wide range of authentic, high-quality products including jewelry, tribal weavings, camel trappings, woven baskets, textiles, and copper



and leather articles. End the day's activities at the Bait Al Zubair Museum. Built by Sheikh Al Zubair as a residence in 1914, it was converted into a museum by his son in 1998 to display a comprehensive collection of Omani art and artifacts. Celebrate your journey this evening with a farewell reception and dinner at the hotel. AL BUSTAN PALACE HOTEL (B,L,R,D)

Sunday, January 12

## Muscat / Home

Transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

### OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION

#### Dubai

January 1–3, 2020

Explore "Old Dubai" on this pre-cruise extension. Depart home on January 1 and fly overnight to Dubai, arriving January 2. On January 3, board an abra (water taxi) to cross Dubai Creek and explore the historic Bastakia district. Learn about Dubai's history at Al-Fahidi Fort and Dubai Museum, and enjoy lunch and a special presentation on Islam at the Sheikh Mohamed Centre for Cultural Understanding. Embark the *Crystal Esprit* in the late afternoon to begin the main tour. RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK (1B/1L).

RATES: \$790 per person, double occupancy;  
\$990 per person, single occupancy.

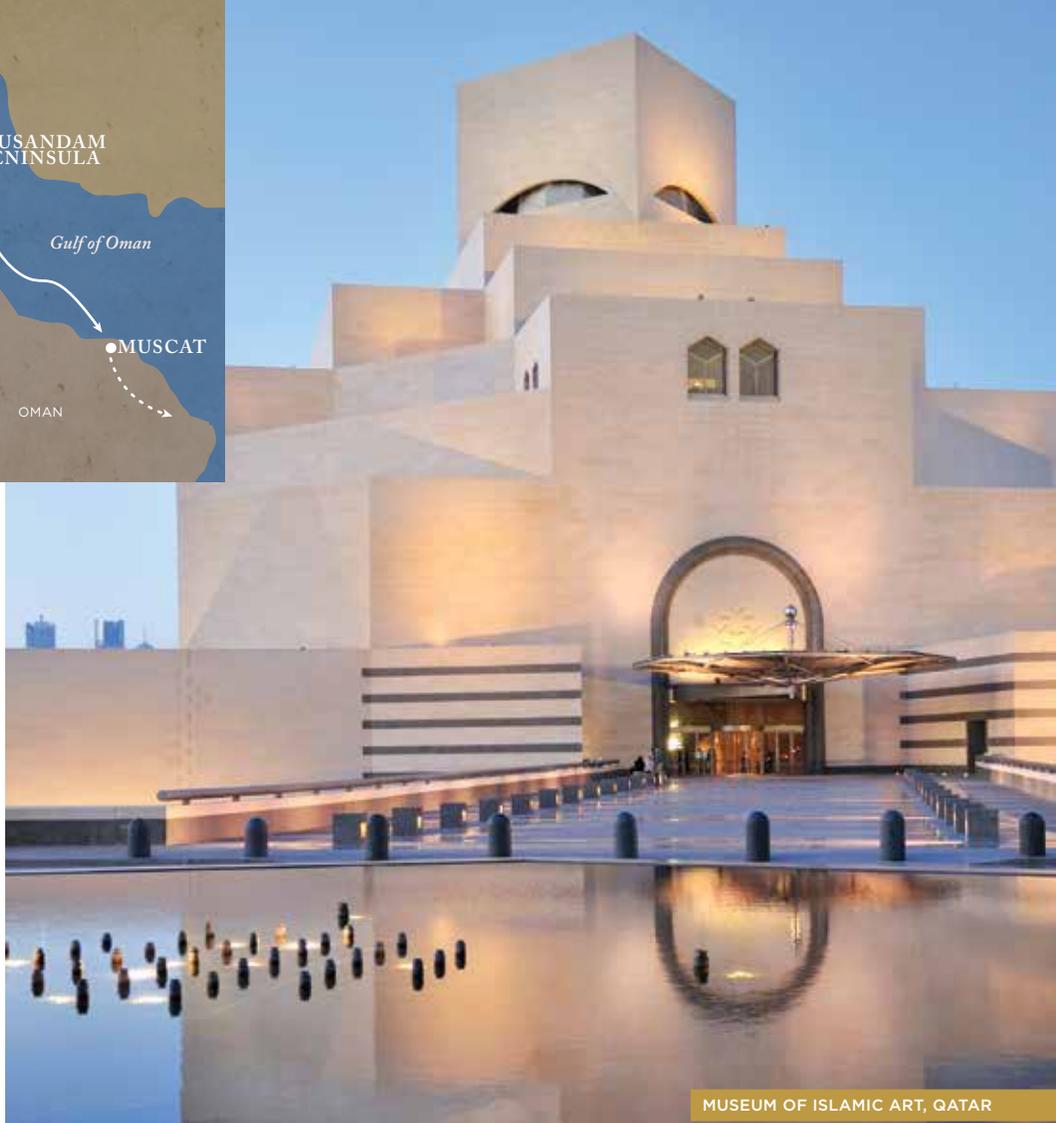
### OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

#### Oman's Interior

January 12–15, 2020

Explore the Bedouin culture of the desert on this three-night post-cruise extension. Depart Muscat for Oman's interior to explore forts, date plantations, orchards, and mountain villages from the luxurious Alila Jabal Akhdar Hotel in the awe-inspiring Al Hajar Mountains. Continue to the Desert Nights Camp and meet a Bedouin family at the Wahiba Sands, a vast, undulating red-and-white sea of sand dunes that rise to more than 650 feet high. ALILA JABAL AKHDAR HOTEL AND DESERT NIGHTS CAMP (4B/3L/3D).

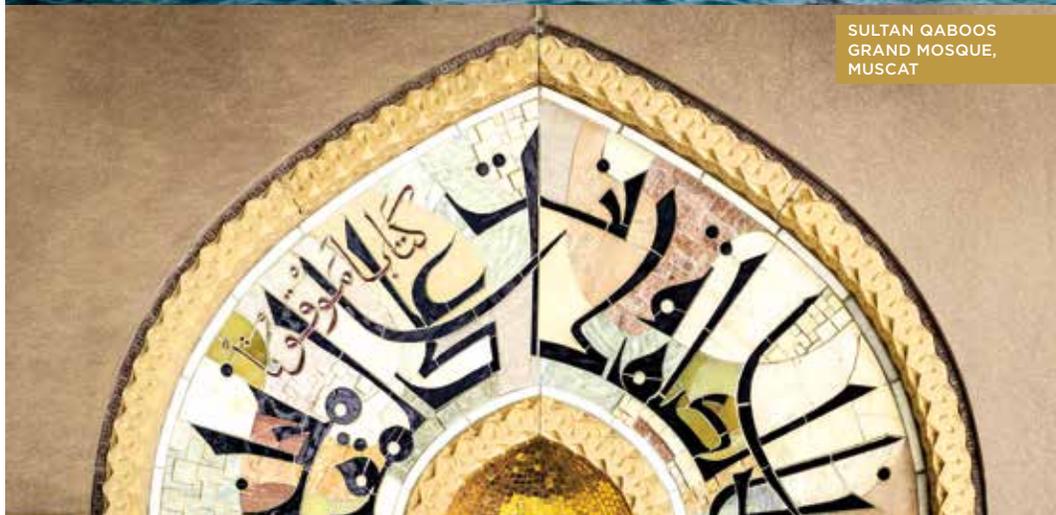
RATES: \$2,990 per person, double occupancy;  
\$4,180 per person, single occupancy.



MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART, QATAR



DHOW, OMAN



SULTAN QABOOS GRAND MOSQUE, MUSCAT



## CRYSTAL ESPRIT

Launched in 2015, this newly refurbished, 31-stateroom yacht offers an atmosphere of classic elegance mixed with modern comfort, an elegant enclave of gorgeous interiors and inviting social spaces with a staff of 90 catering to just 48 guests. Unhampered by crowds or lines, she's much like a private club with a relaxed and unregimented ambience. The *Crystal Esprit* offers the unique option for luxury travel to small ports, harbors, and islands not accessible to larger cruise ships. Each guest suite features a master bedroom with an ultra-thin high-definition TV with on-demand movies and interactive bedside iPad, full picture windows, seating area, and custom-designed bathroom with high-end finishes and modern technology. Wi-Fi and a private butler are provided for each suite. The ship's four dining options boast Michelin-inspired menus, with included wines, champagne, and spirits, and 24-hour in-suite dining is available. The ship's recreational facilities include a swimming pool, sauna, gym, spa, and a variety of aquatic equipment.

## PROGRAM RATES, per person

CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
<b>Suite S4</b> SEABREEZE DECK 223 SQ. FEET, queen or twin beds, shower	\$12,990	\$19,490
<b>Suite S3</b> SEABREEZE DECK/HORIZON DECK 280 SQ. FEET, king, queen, or twin beds, shower, sofa	\$13,490	\$20,240
<b>Suite S2</b> SEABREEZE DECK 280 SQ. FEET, king or twin beds, shower, sofa	\$13,990	\$20,990
<b>Suite S1</b> HORIZON DECK 280 SQ. FEET, king or twin beds, shower, sofa	\$14,990	—
<b>Owner's Suite</b> SEABREEZE DECK 515 SQ. FEET, king bed, separate sitting and dining rooms, jacuzzi tub with separate shower, sofa	\$21,990	—



## PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including 2 hotel nights and 7 nights aboard *Crystal Esprit* • Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Group airport transfers on group arrival and departure days • Visa fees for Oman, Qatar, and the UAE for U.S. citizens • Port charges • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • Wine, beer, champagne, spirits, soft drinks, or water at lunch and dinner aboard *Crystal Esprit*; wine and beer may be included at some group meals off the ship • Bottled water

on motor coaches • Professional tour manager throughout the program

## WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately active trip for travelers who are flexible, comfortable traveling with a group, and can handle the vagaries of travel with good humor. Walking for up to one mile unassisted, standing for up to two hours in museums or at other sites, and climbing several flights of stairs, which may not have handrails, are the most strenuous activities. In addition, travelers must be able to board the ship via a metal gangplank with rope handrails and be comfortable with the rolling movement of the ship. Daytime temperatures during the trip will

generally average in the mid to high 70s F, with infrequent rain.

## AIR ARRANGEMENTS

**PLEASE NOTE:** U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE** U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses not noted as included • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or transfers on days other than program arrival and departure days • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet (at hotel), and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

**INSURANCE** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

**A NOTE ABOUT COSTS** Tour costs are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

**GROUP SIZE** This program is limited to 48 participants.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Agreement, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

### RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. Given limited space and to guarantee the cabin of your choice, please call us at (888)328-2089 or email [res@criteriontravel.com](mailto:res@criteriontravel.com) with questions or to register. Final payment deadline is September 4, 2019. For those who register after September 4, 2019, full payment is due upon registration and can be made by credit card.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS** Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by Criterion Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Cancellations after final payment deadline of September 4, 2019: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Criterion Travel, the tour operator, does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of nonrefundable tickets.

**ITINERARY CHANGES** The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by

Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, Criterion Travel reserves the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

**PHOTOS** Man looking over Dubai © Tomas Marek • Sheikh Zayed Mosque © Luciano Mortula • Oryx in desert © Robert Gubiani • Burj al Arab © Subbotina • Falcons © Aleksander Karpenko • Gold © Swisshippo • Burj al Arab interior © Hel080808 • Museum of Islamic Art © Edwardstaines • Dhow in Oman © Julius Yls • Details Grand Sultan Qaboos Mosque © Zwawol

## RESERVATION FORM

# PERSIAN GULF CRUISE

DUBAI, QATAR, ABU  
DHABI, AND OMAN

January 2–12, 2020

For more information or to register by phone (preferred method of registration), please call Criterion Travel at (888) 328-2089. Or, you may return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel. Mail to: 165 Jessie St. Floor 4, San Francisco, CA 94105 Also visit: [www.criteriontravel.com](http://www.criteriontravel.com) or email: [res@criteriontravel.com](mailto:res@criteriontravel.com)

### PAYMENT

- Please charge my deposit to:
- VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover
- Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to **Criterion Travel**), to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on *Persian Gulf Cruise*

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ SEC. CODE \_\_\_\_\_

*I/we understand that final payment is due September 4, 2019, 120 days prior to departure. Registrations after September 4, 2019: full payment is due.*

NAME 1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME 2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### SINGLE TRAVELERS

- I prefer to have single accommodations.
- I plan to share accommodations with \_\_\_\_\_
- I would like to know about roommates. I am a  smoker  non-smoker.

*I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of September 4, 2019, I will pay the single rate.*

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:

1ST CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_ 2ND CHOICE \_\_\_\_\_

Hotel bed preference (not guaranteed):  King/Queen  Twins

*I/we have read the tour information and agree to the Terms & Conditions therein.*

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# PERSIAN GULF CRUISE

DUBAI, QATAR, ABU  
DHABI, AND OMAN

Aboard the *Crystal Esprit*  
January 2–12, 2020



DUBAI

## HIGHLIGHTS

Modern **ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS** astonishing in their creativity and audacity, from the Burj Khalifa skyscraper to the ecologically sustainable Masdar City

Breathtakingly **BEAUTIFUL MOSQUES** that herald the importance of Islam in this part of the world

Unique **CULTURAL AND HISTORIC SITES**, including Oman's Heritage Gallery, Abu Dhabi's Louvre Museum and Qatar's Education City

Inviting **MUSEUMS** and **SOUQS** showcasing the arts and crafts traditions of the Gulf States

Remarkable **NATURAL WONDERS** such as Qatar's spectacular sand dunes and Inland Sea to the Musandam Peninsula's fjord-like waterways