

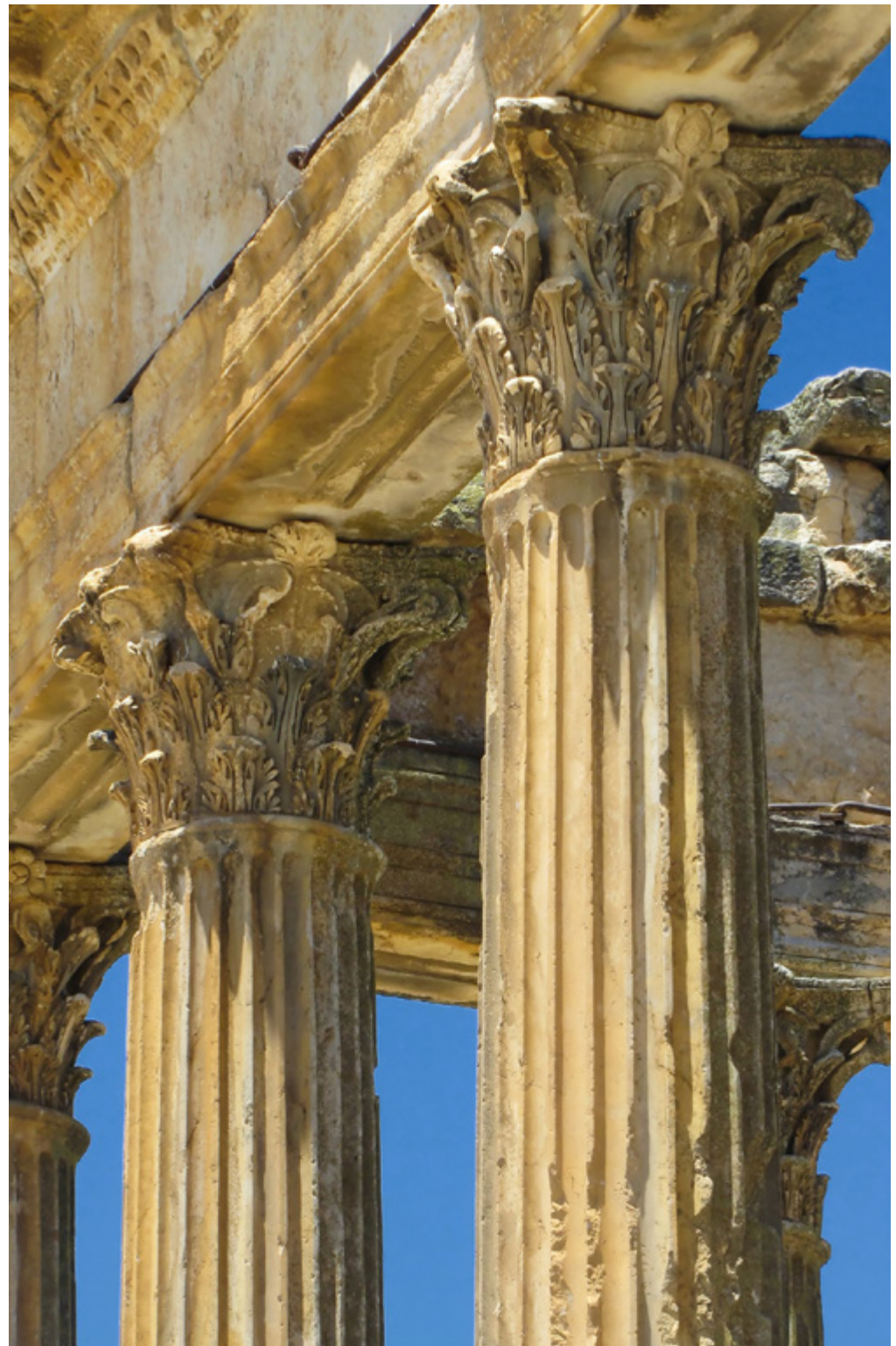


Ancient Empires

Tunis, Malta, Sicily, & Sardinia aboard the *Variety Voyager*

June 20-28, 2014

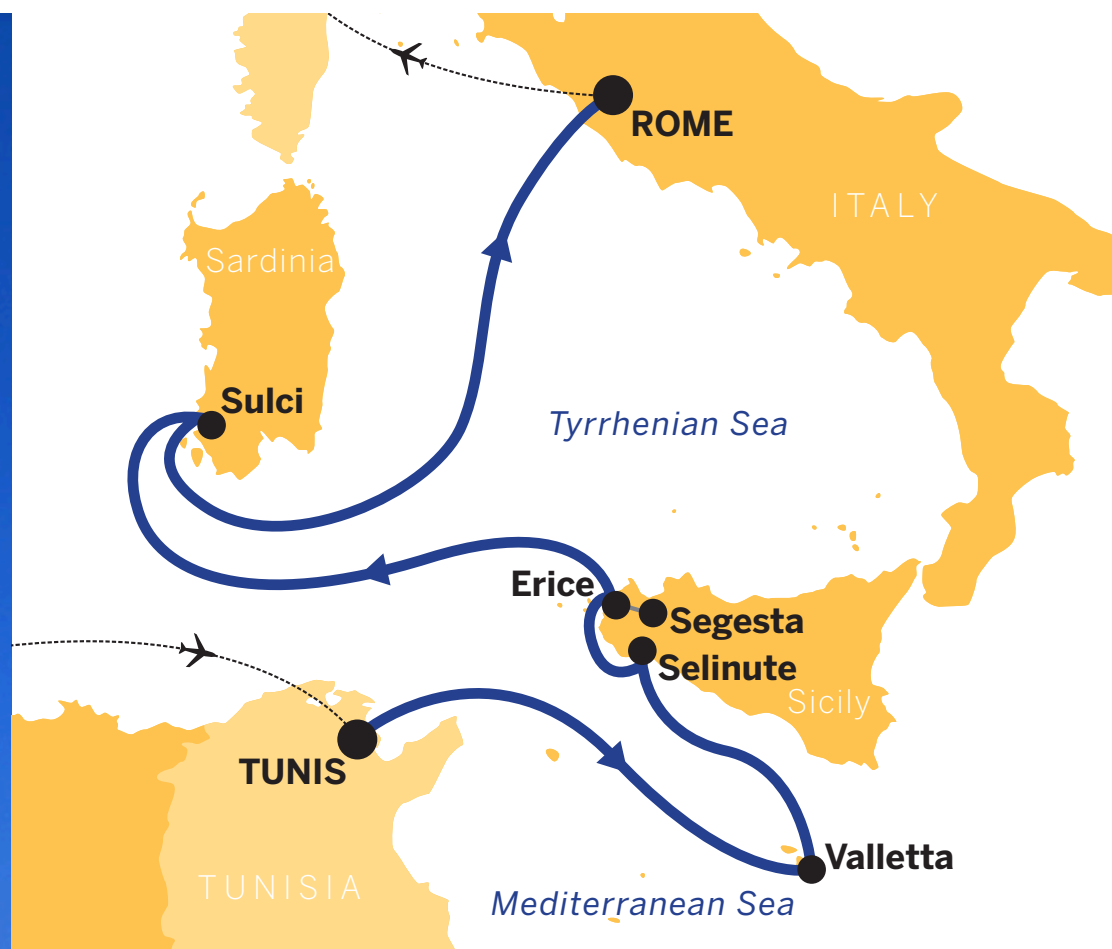
CRITERION
travel



The three Punic Wars, fought from 261 to 146 B.C. between the Roman Republic and the ancient sea power of Carthage, laid some of the crucial foundations in the development of Western civilization. During more than a century of conflict, a series of hard-fought battles occurred on land and sea, from Sicily to Africa, and the Romans ultimately prevailed to become the dominant political, military, and cultural influence in the region.

You are invited to join a fascinating seven-day cruise aboard the beautiful yacht *Variety Voyager* to explore ancient Roman, Punic, and Carthaginian sites in the western Mediterranean. See exquisite Roman mosaics in Tunis's Bardo Museum and, nearby, the remains of the great civilization of Carthage, an evocative UNESCO World Heritage site. Embark the *Variety Voyager* in Tunis and cruise to Malta, a strategic gem coveted by a succession of empires; the ancient Greek colony of Selinunte, the Carthaginian stronghold of Erice, and Segesta's beautiful Greek temple on Sicily; and the ancient ruins of Sulci, where the Carthaginian general Hannibal took refuge, on Sardinia.

Travelers will enjoy a series of lecture presentations and informal discussion during the cruise by archaeologist Rod McIntosh and classical scholar Denis Feeney.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the elegant *Variety Voyager*, luxuriously appointed and superbly staffed to provide the ultimate cruise experience.
- Stroll among the ruins of **ancient Carthage**, which bear silent witness to the vicissitudes of long-ago imperial domination.
- Explore by special permission the multi-period **sanctuary site of Tas-Silg** on a hilltop overlooking Marsaxlokk Bay on Malta, where excavations have uncovered ruins and relics from the Neolithic period to the fourth century AD.
- Discover incredible **Selinunte**, the archaeological site described by 18th-century travel writer Henry Swinburne as "one of the most gigantic and sublime ruins imaginable."
- Delight in the infinite variety of stone patterns in medieval **Erice** and the sweeping views from the majestic temple of **Segesta**.

DAILY ITINERARY

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 20 & 21, 2014

Home / Tunis, Tunisia

Depart home on an overnight flight to Tunis. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Variety Voyager*. Enjoy a welcome reception and dinner on board this evening.

VARIETY VOYAGER (R,D)

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Tunis

View the stunning collection of exquisite ancient mosaics at the Bardo Museum, housed in a 13th-century palace. Then travel a short distance to the Punic and Roman ruins of Carthage, the ancient Phoenician empire that was the archrival of Rome in the second and third centuries. Completely destroyed during the Third Punic War, Carthage was later rebuilt to become one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire. Enjoy lunch in Sidi Bou Said, located atop a steep cliff with spectacular views of the Mediterranean. This beautiful little town, decked out in white houses with blue shutters and splashed everywhere with flowers, has for decades attracted artists and writers.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)



MONDAY, JUNE 23

Valletta, Malta

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. The National Museum of Archaeology provides an introduction to Malta's prehistory and history and an overview of Malta's archaeological sites. Visit the village of Zurrieq's Punic Tower and, by special permission, the Tas-Silg archaeological site, which includes the Punic Temple of Astarte and Tas-Silg Temple. Tas-Silg spanned 4,000 years of history—from the Bronze Age to the Phoenician-Punic, Roman, Byzantine, and Arab eras—and served as a religious site for various different cultures.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)



TUESDAY, JUNE 24

Sicily (Selinunte)

Selinunte, an ancient Greek city on the southern coast of Sicily, was the focus of many clashes between the Carthaginians and the Greeks. Explore the archaeological site, which contains five temples centered on an acropolis; Only one of the five, the Temple of Hera, has been reconstructed. Enjoy an agroturismo lunch featuring locally grown food, learn how olive oil is produced, and taste local wines.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

Sicily (Erice & Segesta)

Visit Erice, an exquisite medieval hilltop town encircled by Phoenician and Norman fortifications. A Carthaginian stronghold during the Punic Wars, Erice was also a significant location of religious rites honoring various goddesses of fertility. Equally compelling is the majestic Temple of Segesta. Dating from around 430 BC, the temple commands sweeping views of the surrounding valley, and its near-perfect state of preservation makes it one of the most important surviving Doric temples from antiquity.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, JUNE 26

At Sea / Sardinia (Sulci)

After a morning at sea, disembark in Sardinia to visit the ruins of the ancient Carthaginian city of Sulci, where the Carthaginian general Hannibal took refuge during the First Punic War. Among the ruins are a Punic necropolis and a Phoenician/Punic tophet, a type of sanctuary where the bodies of infants were laid to rest.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, JUNE 27

At Sea

Enjoy a relaxing day at sea, the ship's amenities, and the conclusion of the educational program.

VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, JUNE 28

Anzio, Italy

Disembark and transfer to Rome for flights home, or join the post-tour extension in Rome. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY, JUNE 18-21

Tunis (pre-tour)

During a three-night extension in Tunis, travel to the ancient Roman city of Dougga, a World heritage Site with a rich history and exceptionally well preserved monuments. Also explore the alleys and covered passages of the medina in the center of Tunis, full of intense colors and lively trade. Overnight at the Mövenpick hotel Gammarth Tunis, a boutique hotel located in an exclusive residential area overlooking the beautiful bays of the Mediterranean and the hills of Sidi Bou Said. Complete details will be sent to confirmed participants or upon request.

Rates: \$990 per person, double occupancy; \$350 single supplement.

SATURDAY-MONDAY, JUNE 28-30

Rome (post-tour)

Enjoy a two-night extension in Rome, with time to explore the Capitoline Museum complex on Capitoline hill and the Roman Forum, which for centuries was the teeming heart of ancient Rome and the center of public life, where processions and elections, public speeches and gladiatorial matches all took place. Overnight at the five-star Grand hotel de la Minerve, housed in a magnificent mansion centrally located near the Pantheon. Complete details will be sent to confirmed participants or upon request.

Rates: \$1,750 per person, double occupancy; \$700 single supplement.

Contact us with any questions or to make your reservation today!

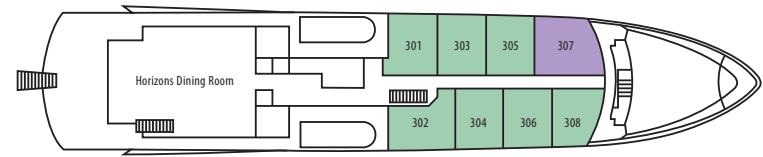
888-328-2089

res@criteriontravel.com

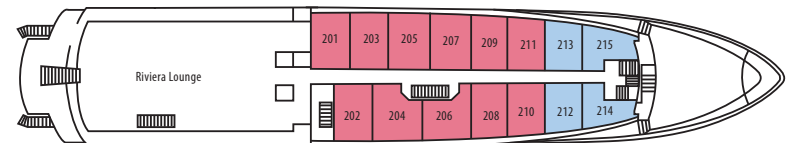


VARIETY VOYAGER

The *Variety Voyager* is a state-of-the-art yacht that accommodates just 72 passengers in 36 cabins. Guests will enjoy her sleek lines and ample deck space, designed to the high standards of the finest privately owned yachts. Cabins and public areas are finished with warm fabrics, rich marbles, and luxurious wood paneling. Cabins have oversized portholes or double windows, en suite facilities with marble floors, individually controlled air-conditioning, TV/DVD, and access to 24-hour WiFi. Throughout the ship, guests have unobstructed views of the ocean and of the ports visited, as well as the services of a friendly and professional crew. There are opportunities to dine both inside the yacht and on the deck, and to enjoy the shaded sun deck lounge bar, the internet corner and library, and the mini-spa with massage room, sauna, hair salon, and fitness equipment.



HORIZONS DECK



RIVIERA DECK



MARINA DECK

RATES

	Double	Single
CATEGORY C	\$6,490	\$9,740
CATEGORY B	\$7,290	\$10,940
CATEGORY A	\$7,990	
CATEGORY P	\$8,990	
OWNER'S SUITE	\$10,190	

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from major U.S. gateways to Tunis with return from Rome is approximately \$1,400 as of September 2013 and is subject to change without notice. In order to give you as much flexibility as possible with the variety of air travel options available, you are free to make your own air arrangements for this program.

Contact us with any questions or to make your reservation today!

888-328-2089

res@criteriontravel.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Rates Include

Comprehensive educational program by study leaders, on-site experts, and local guides • All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary • All excursions as specified in the itinerary • Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure days • Baggage handling at hotels and ship • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions • Wine, beer, and soft drinks at all group meals • Bottled water on excursions • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Criterion tour manager throughout

Program Rates Do Not Include

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Airport transfers for those not arriving or departing on designated dates • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, email and fax charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

What to Expect

We consider this a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions involve up to two miles of walking at a time, often on uneven terrain. In some instances, elevators are unavailable and stairs may not have handrails. Participants must be physically fit, active, and in good health. Daytime temperatures in Sicily and Sardinia can climb into the upper 70s/low 80s F, with lows in the mid-60s and occasional rainfall. In Tunis at this time of year, the average daily temperature is 84F, with lows in the mid-60s and little rain.

Group Size

This program is limited to 63 participants, including travelers from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Archaeological Institute of America, Princeton, and Yale.

Insurance

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended, and we hope that you will obtain it for this expedition. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Please be sure to carry the details of your travel insurance coverage with you on the program. Travelers are free

to purchase the travel insurance of their choice. It is recommended that travelers clearly understand the difference between "primary" and "secondary" travel insurance.

Reservations and Deposits

To reserve space, please complete the reservation form and mail it with your check or credit card information to the address at the top of the form. You may also fax the form to (650) 560-6400 and your reservation will be held for five working days pending receipt of your check or credit card information. If you have questions, please call (888) 328-2089 or email res@criteriontravel.com. Final payment deadline is February 21, 2014, 120 days prior to departure.

Cancellations and Refunds

Upon payment of a \$1,000 deposit per person, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by the 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. Final payment is due February 21, 2014 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations within 120 days of departure are 100% nonrefundable. For this reason we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by the Criterion Travel, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. Note: Criterion Travel does not accept liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

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.

Reservation Contact

(888) 328-2089 or res@criteriontravel.com

California Seller of Travel Program
CST #2088800-40

RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place on **Ancient Empires** please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel. Mail to: 145 Forest Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94301. For more information or to reserve by phone, please call (888) 328-2089 or (650) 328-2089, or email res@criteriontravel.com

NAME #1 (as on passport) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (as on passport) BIRTHDATE

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP / POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE WORK PHONE FAX

E-MAIL(s)

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), to reserve _____ place(s) on **Ancient Empires**

OR ☐ Charge the deposit to my credit card (circle one):

VISA MC AMEX Diners Club Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

CATEGORY PREFERENCE

1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.

OR ☐ I plan to share accommodations with: _____

OR ☐ I'd like to know about roommates. I am a ☐ Non-smoker ☐ Smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of February 21, 2014, I will pay the single rate.

☐ I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

Contact us with any questions or to make your reservation today!

888-328-2089

res@criteriontravel.com