

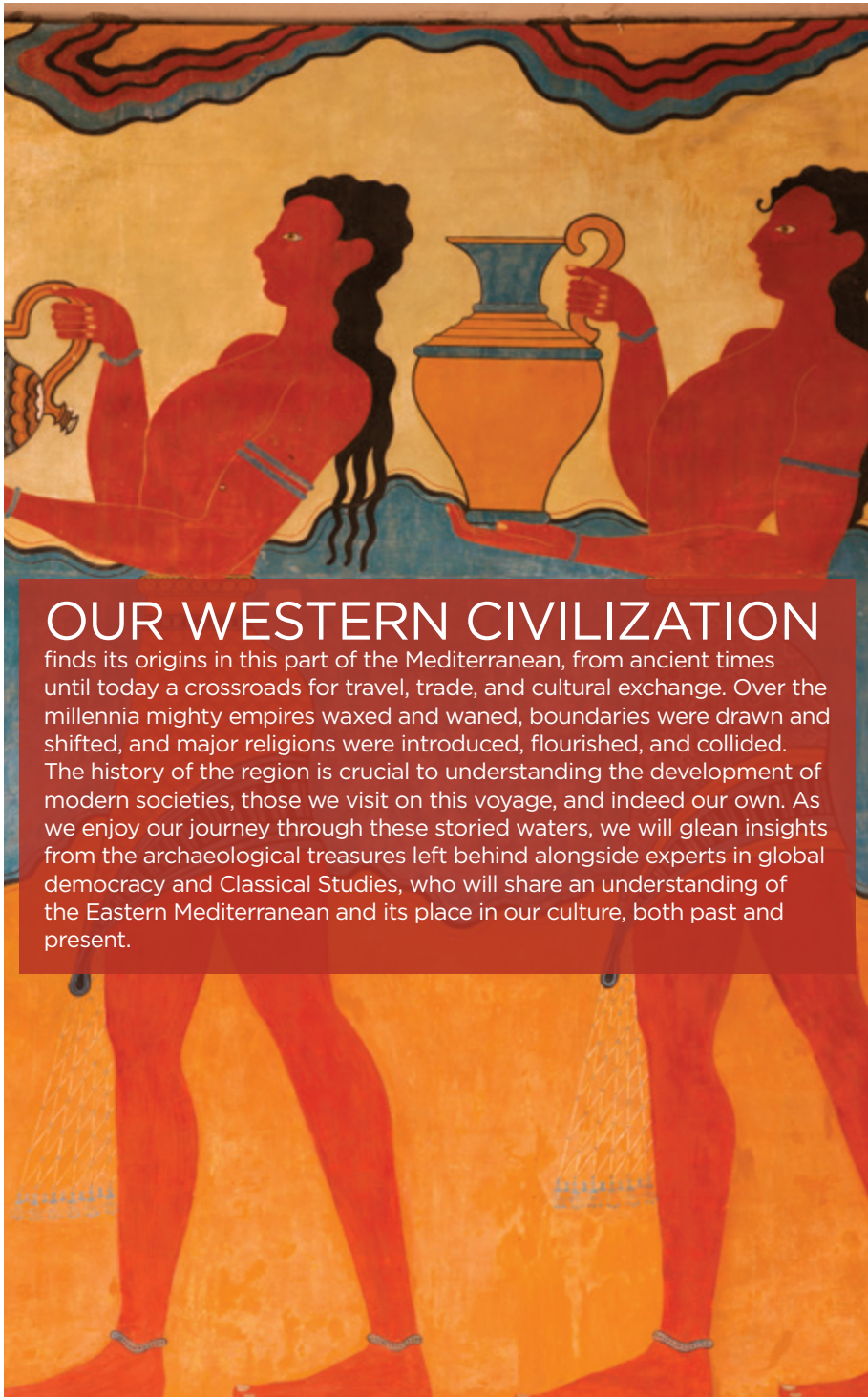
Ancient Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean

Echoes of the Past and A Dialogue About the Future

June 13-27, 2015

CRITERION
travel





OUR WESTERN CIVILIZATION

finds its origins in this part of the Mediterranean, from ancient times until today a crossroads for travel, trade, and cultural exchange. Over the millennia mighty empires waxed and waned, boundaries were drawn and shifted, and major religions were introduced, flourished, and collided. The history of the region is crucial to understanding the development of modern societies, those we visit on this voyage, and indeed our own. As we enjoy our journey through these storied waters, we will glean insights from the archaeological treasures left behind alongside experts in global democracy and Classical Studies, who will share an understanding of the Eastern Mediterranean and its place in our culture, both past and present.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **Examine** the region's significance in the development of western society from ancient times through the challenges of today.
- **Discover** the architectural treasures of Sultanahmet, Istanbul's old city, designated as an UNESCO World Heritage district.
- **Experience** the region's rich archaeological heritage, with visits to ancient and medieval sites in Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, and Israel.
- **Enjoy** the panorama from Golan Heights and meet with Israeli experts to discuss the country's relations with its arab neighbors.

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

888-328-2089

res@criteriontravel.com

DAILY ITINERARY

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 13 & 14

U.S. / Istanbul, Turkey

Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving on Sunday, June 14th, in Istanbul. Transfer to our hotel overlooking the Bosphorus Strait and settle in. Gather in the evening for a welcome orientation and reception.

HILTON HOTEL BOSPHORUS (R)

MONDAY, JUNE 15

Istanbul

Spend the day exploring this fascinating crossroads city that straddles two continents and boasts architectural treasures aplenty left behind by the great empires—Byzantine and Ottoman—that made it their capital. A choice of excursions will take you to one of two combinations of sites that will include a selection of: Hagia Sofia, the Hippodrome, Blue Mosque, Basilica Cistern, free time in the Grand Bazaar, the Archaeological Museum, Topkapi Palace (including the harem), and/or the Spice Market. Embark the *Variety Voyager* in the late afternoon, and cruise around the Golden Horn and into the Sea of Marmara.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

Dikili / Pergamon

As the *Variety Voyager* cruises toward Turkey's Izmir Province, the lecture program commences. Upon arrival in Dikili, disembark for a visit to Pergamon, site of an ancient acropolis and a library built in the 2nd century BCE by the Pergamene ruler Eumenes II, an avid collector of books. Its vast inventory was second only to that of Alexandria, and it is said to be the birthplace of the codex—a paged book rather than a scroll.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

Bodrum

This afternoon arrive in Bodrum to explore the Museum of Underwater Archaeology, a creatively displayed collection of shipwrecks, amphorae, and other booty reclaimed from the sea. For added interest, it is housed in a medieval castle, complete with the requisite towers, courtyards, and dungeons. Enjoy free time to peruse the galleries and shops of Bodrum's artist community.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

At Sea

Relax aboard ship as the *Variety Voyager* cruises the Turkish coast and Mediterranean Sea, and our educational program continues.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Limassol, Cyprus

From Limassol head to the Troodos Mountains to examine several Byzantine churches recognized by UNESCO for their unique architecture and frescoed interiors, spanning 600 years of Byzantine art. Stop for lunch in Omodhos, a picturesque mountain hamlet of narrow cobblestone lanes and courtyards full of flowerpots. Explore the village's Monastery of the Holy Cross, said to contain relics of the Crucifixion donated by St. Helena, and have a look at a restored medieval wine press—interesting, though not old by Cypriot standards, as they had already been producing wine for many centuries. Discover the ancient Greco-Roman city of Kourion, perched on a cliff above the sea, and tune in to the incredible acoustics of its theater, now restored and used for performances. Visit the House of Eustolios, a complex that belonged to a wealthy inhabitant, including a bathhouse and superb 5th-century CE mosaic floors combining pagan and Christian themes.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

Acre, Israel

Spend the morning touring Acre, one of the oldest continually inhabited sites in the world. Explore a restored Crusader fortress, al-Jazzar Mosque, and the colorful souk. In Haifa visit the golden-domed world center of the Baha'i faith, which preaches the unity of all mankind. In the afternoon investigate Beit She'arim, site of a vast 1,800-year-old Jewish

necropolis, where more than 30 burial cave systems have been carved out of the soft limestone and filled with elaborately carved and painted mausoleums and sarcophagi.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Acre

Depart the ship early to travel up to the Golan Heights. The strategic value of this territory will be readily apparent from the view atop Mt. Bental. Meet with a local expert to engage in dialogue about the balance of power on Israel's northern border. Travel back to Biblical times to the Sea of Galilee and Capernaum, the base of Christ's ministry. Here excavations have uncovered two ancient synagogues, one built atop the other, and the remains of a 1st-century CE boat similar to those used during the time of Jesus.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

MONDAY, JUNE 22

At Sea

Relax during a day at sea, as *Variety Voyager* cruises the Mediterranean. Enjoy the educational program and the onboard amenities.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

Rhodes, Greece

Step ashore in Rhodes, Island of the Knights, important since ancient times thanks to its strategic location. The day begins with a countryside drive to picturesque Lindos, once an independent city-state. The remains of an acropolis recall its days of greatness, notably the 4th-century BCE Temple of Lindian Athena. Visit a 15th-century medieval church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, with an octagonal dome, unusual belfry, carved iconostasis, and 17th-century wall paintings, then return to the coast to explore medieval Rhodes on foot. The old town is a pastiche of architecture, the most imposing of which is the 14th-century Grand Master's Palace. The Street of the Knights is one of the best-preserved medieval streets in Europe, lined with inns that represented the seven countries from which the knights came. They are identified by the coats of arms of royal and noble crusaders carved above their arched doorways.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Crete

Visit Knossos, center of the Minoan civilization that peaked between 1700 and 1450 BCE. Reconstructed ruins of a grand palace offer a maze of corridors, passages, rooms, and stairways to explore, and its bathing pools are indicative of the society's level of development. The place is also rife with legends—of the labyrinth and the monstrous Minotaur confined there, and of its architect Daedalus and his son Icarus, who flew too high.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Chios

We arrive at this fifth largest of the Greek islands where “tears of Chios,” the locally produced mastic resin, was once worth its weight in gold and is still used in the medical industry all over the world. Visit Pyrgi, one of Chios' Mastic Villages, often described as the “painted village” because of the detailed decorative motifs on the façades of its buildings. Continue to Mesta, a medieval village with architecture dating to the Byzantine period, and Nea Moni, an 11th-century monastery that is considered one of the finest examples of ecclesiastical architecture in this part of the Greek Orthodox world and is a UNESCO Monument of World Cultural Heritage.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

Canakkale, Turkey / Troy

Once thought to exist only in legend, ancient Troy has now been connected to a physical location deemed to be the city described by Homer. Nine layers of urban development have been uncovered, spanning four millennia; one coinciding with the time period when historians estimate the Trojan War took place. Spend time exploring the site, and visit the Archaeological Museum in Canakkale, as well as the town's local markets.

VARIETY VOYAGER (BLD)

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Istanbul

We disembark and transfer to the airport for our flights home. (B)

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

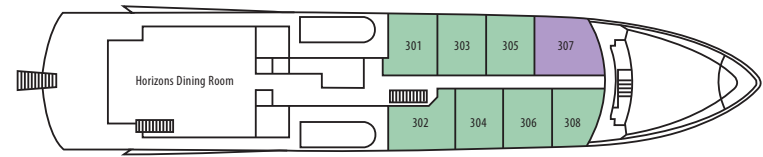
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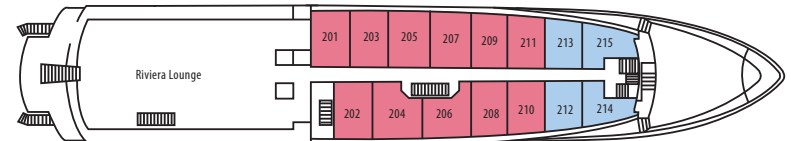


VARIETY VOYAGER

The *Variety Voyager* is a state-of-the-art yacht that accommodates just 72 passengers in 36 cabins, and is designed to host small charters like ours. Cabins range in size from 129 to 248 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 the ports visited and 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 lounge/bar on the sundeck, library, and mini-spa with massage room, sauna, steam room, and fitness equipment. There is an Internet Corner and access to 24-hour Wi-Fi in the lounge.



HORIZONS DECK



RIVIERA DECK



MARINA DECK



RATES

	Double	Single
CATEGORY C	\$9,990	\$14,990
CATEGORY B	\$11,590	\$16,990
CATEGORY A	\$12,890	
CATEGORY P	\$14,290	
OWNER'S SUITE	\$15,990	

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare from major U.S. gateways to Istanbul, Turkey is approximately \$1,140 as of January 2015 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.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Rates Include

1 night deluxe hotel accommodation • 12-night cruise aboard the *Variety Voyager* • 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches, 12 dinners • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • Gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, and wait staff for all group activities • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • All tours and shore excursions as described in the itinerary • Transfers and baggage handling on program arrival and departure days • Port fees and embarkation charges • Pre-departure materials and educational program with lecture series • Wine, beer and soft drinks with lunch and dinner aboard the *Variety Voyager* • Bottled water on motor coaches • Services of a professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

Program Rates Do Not Include

International and U.S. domestic airfare • Passport or 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 expenses such as internet access, telephone and fax calls, room service, laundry and gratuities for non-group services • Excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Other items of a personal nature

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 of one to two miles, such as through archaeological sites, from coach drop-off points, in museums, on city tours, as well as extended periods of standing. 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. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older.

Group Size

This program is limited to 62 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America and Stanford University.

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" 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 13, 2015, 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 13, 2015 (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

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CST #2088800-40

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RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place on **Ancient Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean** 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 Cities of the Eastern Mediterranean**

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 13, 2015, 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