



**Commonwealth  
Club Travel**

# THE BLACK SEA

**Crossroads of Culture from the  
Ancient Past to the Present**

*A Musical Voyage  
with Legendary Pianist*

**LEON  
FLEISHER**

*and family*

**Aboard the All-Suite, 57-Cabin *Corinthian II*  
July 18 - 28, 2012**

# A Musical Voyage Led by Legendary Pianist Leon Fleisher



Leon Fleisher's performances and recordings still stand as the gold standard for many of the great works of the piano literature and his personal story—losing the use of his right hand in the prime of his life, then, decades later, regaining its use—is as heartbreaking as it is

life affirming. His story is the subject of the Academy Award-nominated documentary film, *Two Hands*. Fleisher was one of a select group of classical artists to receive The Kennedy Center Honors and, in 2010, Doubleday published his memoir, *My Nine Lives*.

As pianist, conductor, and teacher he continues to share his original and compelling musicianship in music centers around the world. The current season includes performances in such cities as New York, Washington, DC, Chicago, Toronto, London, and Paris, among others. He tours the U.S. as soloist with the Irish Chamber Orchestra with “Prokofiev Concerto No. 4”, a work he will also play with Jurowski and the London Philharmonic, and he will conduct the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Toronto Symphony, and Radio Philharmonique in Paris. Drawing upon the success of his five Carnegie Hall workshops, his memorable university masterclasses and residencies illuminate music for students here and abroad.

He will be joined by his wife, Kathy Jacobson-Fleisher, and his children, Deborah, Richard, Leah, Julian, and Paula, who will perform alongside him during the voyage.



*Odessa's opulent Opera House*

## Onboard Enrichment Program

As Captain Alfred McLaren has said, the Black Sea's “dark and mysterious nature has fascinated and challenged seagoing explorers, traders, and colonists from the earliest of times.” From his perspective as one of its more recent seagoing explorers, Captain McLaren will introduce us to the unique marine environment of the Black Sea and to the contributions of underwater archaeology to our knowledge of the peoples who have inhabited the region. Maxim Tarnowsky will focus his lectures on contemporary issues in this region of strategic importance, particularly on recent politics in the Crimea and on the exploitation of oil and the control of its delivery.

## Study Leaders



**Captain Alfred S. McLaren**, U.S. Navy (Ret.), Ph.D., is an Arctic and deep-sea explorer, climate change research scientist, and former U.S. nuclear submarine commander.

He has used Russian MIR submersibles to dive to the wrecks of the *Titanic* and the German battleship *Bismarck*, and has lectured on voyages to most parts of the world. He holds advanced degrees in Physical Geology, Polar Studies, and International Affairs and has taught at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and at the U.S. Naval War College.



**Maxim Tarnowsky** is a specialist in Ukrainian language and history at the University of Toronto, where he has taught since 1987. An American citizen whose parents immigrated to the U.S. during World War II, he has a Ph.D. from Harvard and an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Tarnowsky has taught a very wide range of graduate and undergraduate courses on Ukrainian literature and culture, from general historical surveys to specialized seminars on the literature of post-independence Ukraine.



*Interior of Hagia Sophia, Trabzon, Turkey*

# Commonwealth Club Travel

Dear Club Member,

The Black Sea was a busy waterway on the crossroads of the ancient world: The Balkans to the West, the Eurasian steppes to the north, Caucasus and Central Asia to the East, Asia Minor and Mesopotamia to the south, and Greece to the southwest. The region has witnessed the rivalries of Hittites, Carians, Thracians, Greeks, Persians, Scythians, Romans, Byzantines, Goths, Huns, Avars, Bulgars, Slavs, Venetians, Tatars, Ottomans, and Russians. The Black Sea was also significant naval theatre of World War I and saw both naval and land battles of World War II. For millennia, it's been a region of commingling for those whose cultures and ethnicities are not so easily defined on imperial maps.

Please join us as we discover this fascinating region, so often neglected in our mental geographies, yet so crucial to the fortunes of world history. Twenty years after the end of the Cold War, we'll gain extraordinary insights regarding the emerging cultures of Eastern Europe – even as we explore some of the ancient ruins and medieval churches that successive civilizations have layered in Romania, Ukraine, and Turkey.

Sailing from Athens, call first in Constanta, Romania's main port, to explore the ruins of Tomis Danubius. Discover Ukraine's Odessa, a city rich in 19<sup>th</sup>-century architecture, including the famous Potemkin Steps, as well as Yalta and Sevastopol, crucible of the Crimean War. Before concluding in Istanbul, sail to the seldom-visited north coast of Turkey to explore Trabzon, and the nearby Sumela Monastery, built in a splendid setting, as well as the soaring citadel of ancient Amasya.

Throughout your journey aboard the all-suite, 114-guest *Corinthian II*, enjoy lectures and discussions with two excellent study leaders. **Captain Alfred McLaren** will discuss the cultural and natural history of the Black Sea, while **Maxim Tarnowsky** will focus more on contemporary issues in the region. Also, performing onboard will be legendary pianist/conductor **Leon Fleisher** and his musical family. We are sharing this voyage with travelers from several educational institutions, including the American Museum of Natural History and Smithsonian.

The Black Sea has been a bridge between East and West for centuries. Please join us next summer as we explore this captivating region, enjoying incredible concerts and expert-led talks along the way.

Sincerely,



Kristina Nemeth  
Director of Club Travel

**Cover: One of Odessa's onion-domed churches**

**This page: The evocative ruins of Chersosesos outside Sevastopol**





## Itinerary

**Wednesday, July 18** ■ **USA**

Fly from the U.S. to Athens, Greece.

**Thursday, July 19** ■ **ATHENS, Greece | PIRAEUS | EMBARK**

Upon arrival in Athens, transfer to Piraeus to board *Corinthian II*. (D)

**Friday, July 20** ■ **AT SEA**

Attend lectures while sailing toward Romania. (B, L, D)

**Saturday, July 21** ■ **CONSTANTA, Romania**

Arrive in Constanta, Romania's main port. A tour of the city will include the Ruins of Tomis Danubius, the Archaeological and National History Museum, the Archaeology

Park, the Orthodox Cathedral of St. Peter and St. Paul, and Piata Ovidiu, the central square of the old quarter, where you will have time at leisure. (B, L, D)

**Sunday, July 22** ■ **ODESSA, Ukraine**

Stroll through Odessa's elegant leafy streets, lined with stately mansions. Discover its prime landmarks, including the grand, Viennese Baroque-style Opera House; the historic Potemkin Steps, site of the 1905 uprising of workers and sailors from the battleship *Potemkin*; and the Archaeological Museum. In the afternoon, you will have the chance to meet with local families in their homes or enjoy time at leisure in the city. (B, L, D)

**Monday, July 23** ■ **SEVASTOPOL | CHERSONESOS | BAKHCHYSARAY**

Arrive in Sevastopol, a beautiful port city and the former base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet from the days of Catherine II until the fall of the Soviet Union. Drive to nearby Chersonesos, an ancient city founded by Greeks in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. that became a prosperous trading post. Return to Sevastopol to visit the Panorama Museum, featuring a circular, three-dimensional work of art depicting the defense of the city during the Crimean War. In the afternoon, enjoy time at leisure in Sevastopol, or alternatively, drive to the Crimean interior to explore Bakhchysaray, the seat of the Tatar state from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Visit the imperial Khan's Palace, built in 1519. (B, L, D)



*The spectacular Sumela Monastery*

*Tuesday, July 24* ■ **YALTA**

In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the Russian imperial family chose Yalta for its summer residence, and almost overnight the town mushroomed into an elegant and popular resort. Tour the Alupka Palace, a stunning 19<sup>th</sup>-century edifice with both English Tudor and Byzantine embellishments, and Anton Chekhov's House. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Livadia Palace, famed site of the 1945 Yalta Conference among Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin, and attend a private concert at its Organ Hall. (B, L, D)

*Wednesday, July 25* ■ **TRABZON, Turkey | SUMELA MONASTERY**

Trabzon, the ancient Trapezus, lies on a small tableland between two deep ravines, and was one of antiquity's greatest cities and commercial centers. Founded by Greek colonists during the early part of the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium B.C., it continued to prosper under the Romans and Byzantines, reaching its golden age in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. Travel to the Sumela Monastery, founded in the 4<sup>th</sup> century and situated high in the mountains in a spectacular setting. Back in Trabzon, visit the city's most stunning church, the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Hagia Sophia, and spend time at leisure exploring the city, known throughout Turkey for its silver workshops. (B, L, D)

*Thursday, July 26* ■ **SAMSUN | AMASYA**

From Samsun, drive to Amasya, which (legend has it) was founded by the Amazon queen

Amasis. Admire its setting amid a narrow gorge on the Iris River, flanked by cliffs. Ascend to the cliff-top fortress for panoramic views and probe the rock tombs of the Pontic kings, which were carved into the cliff. Also visit the 15<sup>th</sup>-century Sultan Beyazit Mosque, whose buttressed domes and columns commend it as an architectural hallmark, before savoring lunch at a hilltop restaurant with postcard-perfect views. Visit the Archaeological Museum in Samsun before returning to the ship. (B, L, D)

*Friday, July 27* ■ **AT SEA**

Spend the day at sea enjoying the ship's amenities and attending lectures. (B, L, D)

*Saturday, July 28* ■ **ISTANBUL | DISEMBARK | USA**

Disembark in Istanbul and transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)

### Optional Athens & Istanbul Extensions

Tour the principal sights of **Athens** (pre-cruise) and/or **Istanbul** (post-cruise).

**Included:** Two nights at the *Hotel Grande Bretagne* in Athens and/or *Pera Palace Hotel* in Istanbul with breakfast daily, one lunch, sightseeing, and transfers between the airport and hotel on the program date as well as between the hotel and pier.

**Athens:** \$995 per person, double occupancy; \$365 single supplement

**Istanbul:** \$1,095 per person, double occupancy; \$395 single supplement



*Yalta, set superbly between the mountains and the sea*



*In the old town of Constanta*

## Program Inclusions

- 9-night cruise aboard the all-suite, 114-guest *Corinthian II*
- Complete program of tours and excursions
- Private performances aboard ship with accompanying musicians
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
- All meals aboard ship, including house wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Open bar aboard ship throughout the cruise
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by accompanying study leaders
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Complete pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and transfers abroad on the designated program arrival and departure dates
- Port and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED:** Airfare; visa and passport fees (if applicable); luggage and trip cancellation insurance; meals, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages other than those specified above; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, faxes, and e-mail service; and gratuities to shipboard personnel



## CORINTHIAN II

In an era of mega cruise ships that carry thousands of passengers, *Corinthian II* is a delightful alternative. More like a private yacht than a cruise ship, *Corinthian II* accommodates only 114 guests in 57 suites. *Corinthian II*'s limited guest capacity, fine facilities, and distinctive style of operation attract like-minded travelers who return again and again to enjoy its custom-crafted itineraries and a style of cruising that is rarely found today. More than just a cruise, each voyage provides a comprehensive experience that reveals the singular aspects of the destinations. Aboard, a sense of community and a spirit of camaraderie prevail.

All of *Corinthian II*'s suites face outside, providing views of the sea and landscape. Several have a private balcony. There are expansive open deck areas and other facilities, including a gym, library, beauty salon, two lounges, a sun deck with Jacuzzi, and an outdoor cafe. A spacious restaurant accommodates all guests in an open, unassigned seating. The cuisine is outstanding, and the overall service is efficient and friendly while unobtrusive. An elevator serves all decks. A resident physician attends a well-equipped infirmary.

Served by 70 seasoned officers and crew, *Corinthian II* complies with the latest international safety regulations and is outfitted with the most current navigational technology.





Suite



The Club

## CRUISE & LAND RATES

### PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATE
<b>E</b>	Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 225 sq. ft. Suites 250 - 252	<b>\$7,895</b>
<b>D</b>	Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 225 sq. ft. Suites 329 - 332	<b>\$8,895</b>
<b>C</b>	Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 254 - 262	<b>\$9,895</b>
<b>B</b>	Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 333 - 348	<b>\$10,995</b>
<b>A</b>	Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 416 - 428	<b>\$11,995</b>
<b>AA</b>	Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with forward and side windows and sitting area. 285 sq. ft. Suites 414 - 415	<b>\$12,895</b>
<b>VS</b>	Deluxe Veranda Suites on Erickson Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 300 sq. ft. Suites 505 - 512	<b>\$14,195</b>
<b>PHS</b>	Deluxe Penthouse Suites on Explorer Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 400 sq. ft. Suites 601 - 604	<b>\$15,395</b>

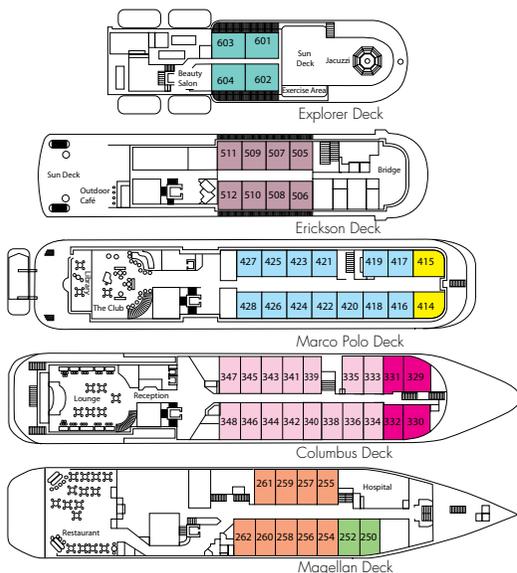
**VS & PHS suites are provided with private butler service and other exclusive amenities.**

### SINGLE RATES

A limited number of cabins are available for solo travelers at the following rates:  
**Category B: \$12,995; Category A: \$13,995.**

## DECK PLAN

All accommodations aboard *Corinthian II* are suites. They face outside, affording sea views, and several have balconies with sliding doors. All include two twin-size beds that can convert to a queen-size bed, sitting area, mini-refrigerator, safe, spacious closets, climate control, telephone, TV, DVD/CD player, and bathroom with marble vanity, shower, and other amenities.



Library



Dining alfresco aboard ship

# REGISTRATION

CMWC 12422

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold \_\_\_\_ place(s) on **The Black Sea**. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check only.

Please make check payable to: **Travel Dynamics International**, and mail or fax with this registration form to:

**Commonwealth Club Travel**  
595 Market St., 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Phone: 415-597-6720  
Fax: 415-597-6729

AmEx  Discover  Visa  MasterCard

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_

3- or 4-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

### Please select cabin category in order of preference:

PHS\_\_ VS\_\_ AA\_\_ A\_\_ B\_\_ C\_\_ D\_\_ E\_\_

Twin Beds  Double Bed

Single Occupancy  Share  
*(Cannot be guaranteed)*

Please book me/us on the Pre-Cruise Extension in Athens (at an additional cost).

Please book me/us on the Optional Post-Cruise Extension in Istanbul (at an additional cost).

DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST

DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST

ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)

E-MAIL

**Each participant must sign below:  
I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.**

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

# GENERAL INFORMATION

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. For your convenience, you may charge your deposit to your American Express, Visa, Discover, or MasterCard. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Credit cards are not accepted for final payment. However, personal checks are accepted for both deposits and final payment.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties.

**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.

**ITINERARY:** The itinerary, accommodations, and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Travel Dynamics International.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the passenger and Travel Dynamics International and the tour's sponsoring organization. The passenger is also advised to review his/her separate ticket passage contract with the vessel's owner/operator, which will constitute the sole, legally enforceable terms of carriage for this tour and is available on request from Travel Dynamics International. Travel Dynamics International and the tour's sponsoring organization act solely as agents for the passenger with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the passenger's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the passenger or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the passenger, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the passenger's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, ships, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the passenger shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the passenger certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other passengers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other passengers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the passenger's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Passenger tickets are not transferable and are not subject to alteration by the passenger. No suit shall be maintainable against the carrier, or vessel, for any losses, accidents, damages to person, property, personal injury (including death or other types of bodily injury) of the passengers, unless written notice of the claim, with full particulars, is delivered to the carrier or its agents at its office at the port of sailing or at the port of termination within six months from the day when such incident occurred. In no event shall any such suit or any claim against the carrier or vessel for any losses, accidents, damages to person, property, personal injury (including death or other types of bodily injury) of the passenger be maintainable unless such suit is commenced within one year from the day when the incident causing such losses, accidents, damages to person, property, personal injury (including death or other types of bodily injury) of the passenger occurs, notwithstanding any provision of law of any state or country to the contrary. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be brought within the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, pursuant to the applicable general maritime law, and applying the applicable general maritime law and Federal maritime statutes.

**RATES:** Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

**FUEL SUPPLEMENT:** Travel Dynamics International reserves the right to charge a fuel supplement, without prior notice, if the NYMEX oil price exceeds \$85 per barrel. This supplement may be charged even if the cruise fare has been paid in full.

**SHIP'S REGISTRY:** Marshall Islands  
CST #204 3599-40 TDI; CST #2096889-40 Commonwealth Club Travel

**AIRFARE:** Airfare is not included in the Cruise and Land Rates. Approximate airfare from San Francisco to Athens, returning from Istanbul, is \$1,850. Please contact your preferred airline, travel agent, or the Travel Dynamics International air desk operated by Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. (WVTI) for airfare information and to reserve flights. Consultants are available Monday – Friday from 9:00 am to 5:30 pm (EST) toll-free at 1-877-711-9896. Please have your tour code (12422) and dates handy for reference.

*Picturesque Amasya, built by the Iris River*



## FEATURES & HIGHLIGHTS

- Founded as a Greek colony and later taken by the Romans, the city of Constantia is now a cultural and economic center of Romania. View the Roman mosaics at the ancient ruins of Tomis Danubius.
- Tour the Archaeological Park of Chersonesos, including the laboratory where scientists have developed ground-breaking conservation systems to protect the acres of standing structures of ancient Greek, Roman, and Byzantine cultures.
- Perched on a ledge in the Altindere Valley is the Sumela Monastery. See the spectacular frescoes that adorn the Rock Church within.
- Explore the rock-tombs of the Pontic Kings, carved into a cliff overlooking the city of Amasya.
- Enjoy lectures and discussions by accompanying study leader.s.



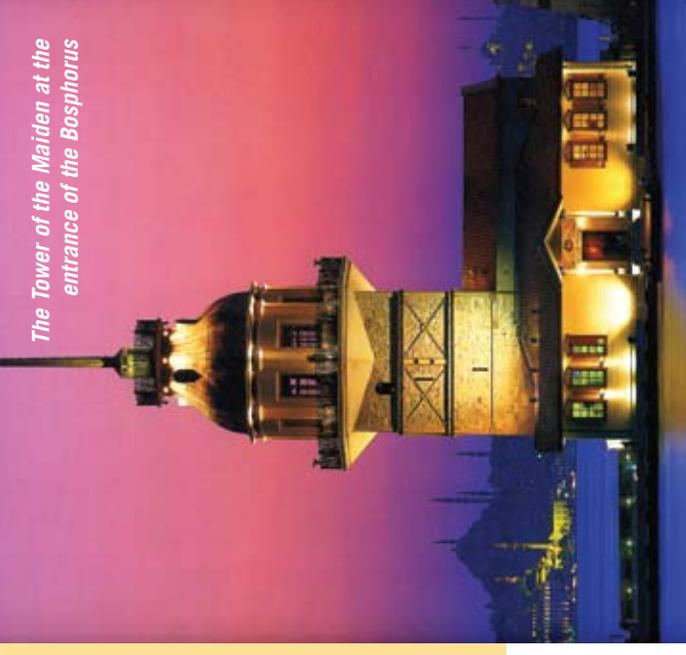
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San Francisco, CA 94105



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*The Tower of the Maiden at the entrance of the Bosphorus*



**FOR RESERVATIONS OR  
FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB TRAVEL DESK AT  
(415) 597-6720**

**OR**

**VIA E-MAIL AT  
TRAVEL@COMMONWEALTHCLUB.ORG**



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