



SAILING THE MEDITERRANEAN

In the Age of Odysseus



ISTANBUL TO ATHENS ABOARD *SEA CLOUD*
JUNE 27 TO JULY 5, 2015



Dear Members and Friends of The Commonwealth Club,

The Mediterranean, which Homer called “the wine-dark sea,” played a pivotal role in the trade and cultural exchange between the peoples of its shores. This summer, explore this region aboard the privately chartered *Sea Cloud*, slipping into small harbors shallow bays to visit some of the most important sites of antiquity.

Traveling with us will be Joan Aruz, Curator in Charge of Ancient and Near Eastern Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Dr. Aruz has curated numerous exhibitions at the Met, and is currently preparing an exhibition due to open in 2014 with the tentative title: *Assyria to Iberia at the Dawn of the Classical Age*.

In Istanbul, admire the city of the Ottoman sultans, whose palaces recall those of the great empires of antiquity, before embarking the elegant *Sea Cloud*. From the port of Izmir, drive to the site of Sardis, capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia. Then sail south to the Greek isle of Samos, with its celebrated Temple of Hera. On delightful Santorini, explore the site of ancient Akrotiri, now reopened after an extensive renovation of its visitor facilities, and stroll in the picturesque clifftop village of Fira. Finally, explore two extraordinary sites on Crete—the Minoan palace at Knossos and the Greek site of Eleutherna, whose finds include Phoenician metalwork and gold jewelry of eastern inspiration. An optional prelude in Istanbul and postlude in Athens are also offered.



Built in 1931 for heiress Marjorie Merriweather Post, the four-masted yacht *Sea Cloud* has hosted royalty, served her country during World War II, and sailed the world. Experience the thrill of traveling aboard this legendary lady in an ambiance of relaxed elegance.

We are sharing this journey with members of The Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. We are sure that Club members will enjoy not only this spectacular ship and itinerary, but also the congenial company all our organizations provide. I hope you will join us on this exceptional voyage!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristina Nemeth".

Director of Travel
The Commonwealth Club

SAILING THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE AGE OF ODYSSEUS

ISTANBUL TO ATHENS ABOARD *SEA CLOUD*

June 27 to July 5, 2015



Istanbul rooftops along the Bosphorus

SAN FRANCISCO

Saturday, June 27 Depart San Francisco on an overnight flight to Istanbul.

ISTANBUL, TURKEY | SEA CLOUD

Sunday, June 28 Arrive in Istanbul this morning and join your fellow travelers during lunch at Pera Palace Hotel. Visit the Byzantine Church of the Savior in Chora with its exquisite mosaics before boarding *Sea Cloud* in the late afternoon. Enjoy a champagne toast on deck as we cruise out of the harbor of Istanbul and into the Sea of Marmara.



Dome of the Church of the Savior in Chora, Istanbul

AT SEA

Monday, June 29 During a relaxed day at sea, attend a lecture and watch as the ship's crew trims the sails by hand. Weather permitting, there will be an opportunity to swim in the Aegean. This evening, join the captain for a welcome dinner.

IZMIR, TURKEY

Tuesday, June 30 Step ashore at Izmir and drive inland to the site of ancient Sardis, capital of Lydia. The city was ruled by the legendary King Croesus, whose reign is credited with the invention of gold coinage. Sardis was later ruled by Persians, Byzantines, Romans, and Turks, and most ruins date from the Roman era. Following lunch on board, enjoy time at leisure in Izmir.

SAMOS, GREECE

Wednesday, July 1 This morning *Sea Cloud* calls at the island of Samos, which in the 8th-7th centuries B.C.E. developed into a marine trading center with wide connections from Egypt and the Near East to Spain in the west. Numerous votives of international character were found in the sanctuary, as well as two colossal *kouros* statues—the largest surviving in Greece.



Cliff-top villages of Santorini

SANTORINI, GREECE

Thursday, July 2 Be on deck this morning as *Sea Cloud* sails into the bay of Santorini, one of the world's most astounding geological sights. In the 16th century B.C.E. a volcanic eruption caused the center of the island to sink, creating a vast caldera of striated rock, rising 1,000 feet from the sea. Explore Akrotiri, one of the most important prehistoric settlements of the Aegean. After lunch on board, there will be time at leisure in the dazzling white town of Fira, perched high on the cliffs overlooking the harbor. This evening, dinner is served on deck as we sample the fine wines of Santorini.



Boxing boys fresco at Akrotiri, Santorini

CRETE, GREECE

Friday, July 3 Arrive at Heraklion on the island of Crete for a morning visit to the site of Knossos, political center of the Minoan civilization and legendary abode of the Minotaur. Then tour the newly renovated Heraklion Archaeological Museum, housing exceptional examples of art of the Minoan era and the age of Odysseus. Continue by coach to the site of ancient Eleutherna, with treasures that illustrate the interaction of Crete and the Near East in the age of Phoenician expansion. Rejoin *Sea Cloud* in the port of Rethymnon, where the ship remains overnight. Explore the charming Old Town, whose architectural influences range from Venetian to Ottoman.



Minoan Palace of Knossos, Crete

AT SEA

Friday, July 4 Spend a leisurely day at sea, as *Sea Cloud* sails from Crete toward mainland Greece. This evening the captain hosts a festive farewell dinner.

SEA CLOUD

DISEMBARKATION | NEW YORK

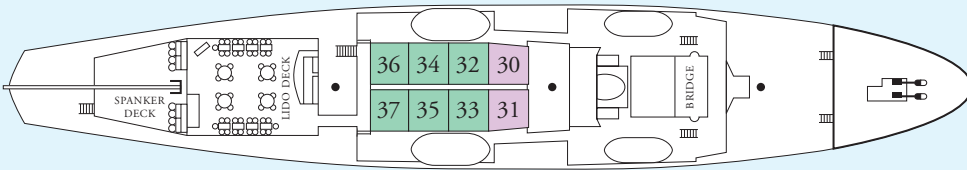
Saturday, July 5 Disembark *Sea Cloud* this morning in Piraeus and transfer to the Athens airport for your flight home. ■



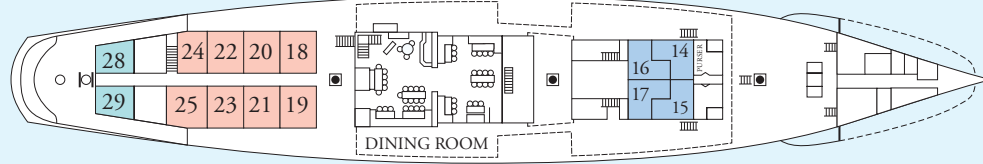
The Acropolis of Athens

SEA CLOUD ■ DECK PLAN

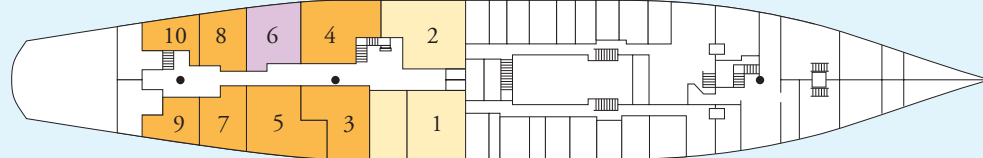
CAPTAIN'S AND LIDO DECK



PROMENADE DECK



MAIN DECK



Owner's Suite (top) and Promenade Deck cabin (above).

CRUISE RATES

(per person, double occupancy)

Cabins	Decks	Rates
Cabins 14 to 17	Promenade Deck	\$8,995
State Rooms. Upper/lower twin berths, shower.		
Cabins 28 & 29	Promenade Deck	\$9,995
Superior Cabins. Twin beds, shower.		
Cabins 18 to 25	Promenade Deck	\$10,995
Deluxe Cabins. Twin beds, shower.		
Cabins 32 to 37	Lido Deck	\$11,995
Deluxe Cabins. Twin beds, shower.		
Cabins 6, 30 & 31	Main & Lido Decks	\$13,995
Deluxe Cabins. Queen-size bed, shower.		
Cabins 3 to 5, 7 to 10	Main Deck	\$15,995
Junior Suites. Queen-size or twin beds, fireplace and bath.		
Cabins 1 & 2	Main Deck	\$17,995
Owner's Suites. King-size bed, fireplace and bath with tub.		

Single rates will be calculated at a supplement ranging from 30 to 100 percent of the cruise rate.

Rates Include

- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Sea Cloud*
- All meals during the cruise; wine with lunches and dinners
- Enrichment program of lectures
- Escorted sightseeing by private motorcoach and entrance fees for included visits
- Airport / hotel / pier group transfers and portorage
- Taxes and service charges; all gratuities aboard and ashore

Not Included in Rates International airfare; passport fees; alcoholic beverages other than wine at lunches and dinners; personal items and expenses; airport transfers for those not on group flights; baggage in excess of one suitcase; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB | RESERVATION APPLICATION

SAILING THE MEDITERRANEAN ABOARD *SEA CLOUD* | JUNE 27 TO JULY 5, 2015

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$2,500 per person (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Commonwealth Club Travel, 595 Market Street, 2nd floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT _____

NAME IN FULL AS ON PASSPORT _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____ (BUSINESS) _____

FAX _____ E-MAIL _____

Accommodations

Sea Cloud Cabin Preference 1. _____ 2. _____

I wish to share a cabin with _____

Optional Istanbul Prelude & Athens Postlude

- I/We wish to join the Istanbul prelude (\$1,895 per person, \$795 single supplement)
- I/We wish to join the Athens postlude (\$1,695 per person, \$395 single supplement)

Form of Payment

- Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*).
- Credit card (may be used for deposit only)

NAME AS ON CREDIT CARD _____ 3- OR 4-DIGIT SECURITY CODE _____

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

Each participant must sign below. I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this program. I/We agree to full payment by check 120 days before departure.

SIGNATURE REQUIRED _____ DATE _____

SIGNATURE REQUIRED _____ DATE _____



OPTIONAL ISTANBUL PRELUDE

June 24 to 28, 2015

Spend three nights in this fabled city, capital of three empires. View exquisite Rüstem Pasha Mosque, rarely seen by foreigners, and browse in the Spice Market and Grand Bazaar. At the Archaeological Museum, marvel at the Alexander Sarcophagus, from the 4th century B.C.E., and tour the recently restored Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts. Explore legendary Topkapi Palace, where the sultans lived for four centuries; the Blue Mosque, with its splendid cascade of domes; and the basilica of Hagia Sophia, built a thousand years before St. Peter's in Rome. Accommodations are at the historic Pera Palace Hotel. ♦

OPTIONAL ISTANBUL PRELUDE \$1,895 per person. Single supplement \$795. Includes three nights at the Pera Palace Hotel; breakfast daily, one lunch, and two dinners; sightseeing as noted.

OPTIONAL ATHENS POSTLUDE

July 5 to 8, 2015

Disembark *Sea Cloud* in Piraeus and spend three nights in Europe's oldest capital. Ascend the Acropolis to explore the Parthenon and visit the superb new Acropolis Museum. Drive to Delphi whose evocative ruins include the Temple of Apollo, and visit the Delphi Archaeological Museum.

Peruse the 8,000-year panorama of classical civilization on display at the National Archaeological Museum and discover the unique collection of the Benaki Museum, housed in a former private mansion and encompassing all periods of Greek history and culture. Accommodations are at the legendary Hotel Grande Bretagne in the heart of Athens. ♦

OPTIONAL ATHENS POSTLUDE \$1,695 per person. Single supplement \$395. Includes three nights at the Hotel Grande Bretagne; breakfast daily, two lunches, and one dinner; sightseeing as noted.



Domes of the Blue Mosque, Istanbul (top); gold mask of Agamemnon, National Archaeological Museum, Athens (bottom).

TERMS & CONDITIONS

AIRFARE Academic Arrangements Abroad (AAA) will be pleased to assist with air travel arrangements for this program, including specially negotiated group airfare when available, suggested flights, or individual requests for a processing fee of \$40 per person. Complete details will be provided in your confirmation mailing.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE A deposit of \$2,500 per person, payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees, is required with the reservation application. Final payment, by check only, must be received 120 days prior to departure.

HEALTH All participants must be in good health. This program involves extensive walking over uneven surfaces, climbing stairs at monuments and other locations not hand-capped accessible, and climbing in and out of various conveyances, including tenders. Any condition that may require assistance or special medical attention must be reported at the time of your reservation. PLEASE NOTE: *Sea Cloud* does not have an elevator.

INSURANCE TRIP CANCELLATION / EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION / BAGGAGE / ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE PROTECTION IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. CANCELLATION PENALTIES ARE STRICTLY ENFORCED. The Commonwealth Club (CC) will send an insurance application upon receipt of reservation and deposit, although you may select any insurer of your choice.

CHANGES IN ITINERARY & COSTS The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of CC and AAA. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares, and currency exchange rates in effect at time of brochure printing and are subject to change without notice. Deviations from the scheduled itinerary are at the expense of the individual.

RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE The participation of CC is limited to educational sponsorship of the program described in this brochure (The Program). AAA acts only as an agent for the participant with respect to transportation, accommodations, and all other services, relating to The Program. AAA, CC, and / or their agents assume no responsibility or liability for any act, error, or omission, or for any injury, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity that may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any aircraft, ship, train, bus or other carrier, or through neglect or default of any subcontractor or other third party, which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the participants of The Program. The passage ticket issued by the carrier is the sole contract between the participant and the carrier. Nor will AAA or CC and / or their agents be responsible for loss, injury, damages, or expenses to persons or property, due to illness, weather, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, of nature, or other such causes in connection with The Program or anything beyond their reasonable control. AAA is not responsible for transportation or other program delays and changes, nor additional expenses or loss of time that may be incurred. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the participants, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary at any time, without notice to the participants, such alterations will be made without penalty to AAA or CC. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the participants. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the participant at all times. AAA and CC reserve the right to accept or decline any person as a participant at any time, or to require any participant to withdraw from The Program at their own expense when such an action is determined by AAA or CC to be in the best interest of the participant's health and safety, or the general welfare of the other participants.

CANCELLATION POLICY AAA must strictly adhere to its cancellation policy to offset costs incurred prior to the commencement of The Program, which may include but are not limited to: advance payments to land operators; ship charters; communication expenses; development / promotional expenses and the loss of time that might have permitted resale of reserved space. All cancellations must be made in writing to the offices of AAA and are subject to a \$350 non-refundable administrative fee. All refunds are limited to amounts actually received by AAA and are the sole responsibility of AAA; CC shall have no liability for refunds. At the time AAA receives written notification of cancellation, the following cancellation charges will apply: cancellations received between 120 and 91 days prior to departure, 20 percent of the program cost per person; those received between 90 and 61 days before departure, 50 percent of the program cost per person; no refunds will be given for cancellations received within 60 days of departure. No refunds are given for cancellation on or after the day of departure, or for unused portions of the tour, for any reason. Air cancellation charges, if any, will be assessed in accordance with airline regulations. All group fare tickets must be issued no less than 30 days prior to departure. NOTE: Neither AAA nor CC shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalties incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket. In the case of a cancellation due to shortage of participants, AAA will attempt to notify all participants at least 45 days prior to departure. However, AAA reserves the right to cancel The Program prior to departure for any reason and, in such case, reimbursement of refundable costs of the trip by AAA shall constitute full settlement with the participant. In the unlikely event that a dispute arises between a participant and AAA or CC, the following conditions will apply: (a) the dispute will be settled by binding arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in New York, NY; (b) the dispute will be governed by New York Law; (c) the maximum amount of recovery to which a participant shall be entitled under any and all circumstances will be the sum of all monies actually received from the participant by AAA. The participant agrees that this is a fair and reasonable limitation on the damages, of any sort whatsoever, that a participant may suffer. Upon payment of the deposit to AAA, the participant agrees to be bound by the above terms and conditions.

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Academic Arrangements Abroad

On the front cover: Sea Cloud. On the back cover: Boy with fish fresco from Akrotiri (top) and columns from the temple at Sardis (bottom). Photo by Gloria De Luca.

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