

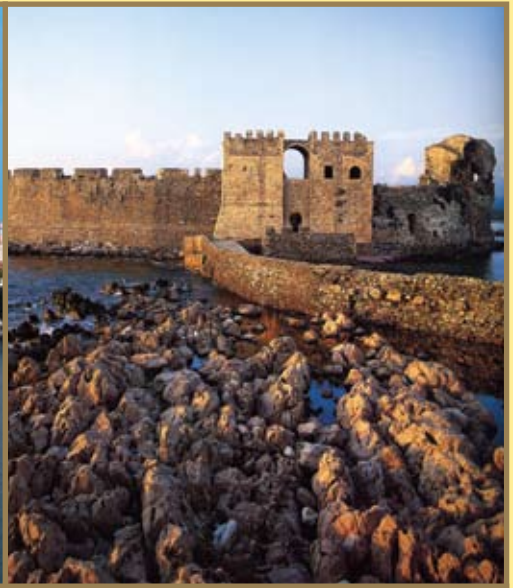


**Commonwealth  
Club Travel**

Informed Travel for the Discerning Mind

# The Venetian Empire & the Medieval World

*A Voyage from the Eastern Mediterranean  
to the Adriatic Sea*



**ABOARD THE ALL-SUITE, 114-GUEST *CORINTHIAN II***  
*April 22 – May 4, 2011*

Dear Club Member,

Late in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Western Europe began to look East. Drawn by the artistic and intellectual achievements of the Byzantine Empire, attracted by the rich trade routes of the Middle East and China, inspired by the cause to liberate the Holy Land, artists, philosophers, merchants, and crusaders began to travel eastward in unprecedented numbers. Today, all along the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, we can see marvelous examples of the blending of East and West.

The city that played a key role in the events of the period and dominated the trade with the Eastern Mediterranean was Venice. For 800 years Venice ruled over a cultural and mercantile empire in the Eastern Mediterranean. As we sail through this beautiful region, you will see countless reminders of Venice's influence and power.

In Syria, visit the grand fortress of Krak des Chevaliers, the castle of the Knights Templar and one of the best-preserved medieval castles in the world. Walk along the streets and squares of Chania's waterfront Old Town on the island of Crete and see Byzantine monuments embellished with Venetian flourishes. On the southwestern coast of the Peloponnese, explore the immense ruins of Methoni, a formidable Venetian fortress that guarded the trade routes between the Adriatic Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean. And in Croatia's Zadar, see at least half a dozen majestic Romanesque churches, as well as elegant Venetian Renaissance loggias.

All the lands we visit were centers of civilization long before the coming of the Venetians. In Israel, we'll discover one of the Middle East's most important archaeological sites, Roman Caesarea; visit the Temple of Zeus at Silifke in Turkey; and explore the ruins of Minoan Knossos, the birthplace of Europe's first civilization.

With 57 staterooms accommodating only 114 guests, the small cruise ship *Corinthian II* is the ideal ship for this splendid itinerary. All accommodations aboard are suites, and all are exterior. Lovingly designed and exquisitely furnished, *Corinthian II* features a beautiful dining room, comfortable lounges and public areas, and broad decks for sunning or watching the passing scene.

We are pleased to be sharing this journey with members of the Archaeological Institute of America, Dartmouth College, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Smithsonian, and the University of Chicago and have found them to be wonderful travel partners in the past.

Spring is the perfect time to visit the Mediterranean. The days are warm but not too hot. The towns and ports are lively but not over-crowded. And the countryside is in full blossom.

Join us aboard *Corinthian II* as we trace the fascinating currents of ancient and medieval civilizations in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Sincerely,



Kristina Nemeth  
Director of Club Travel

**Cover (clockwise from top left): The canals of Venice; Methoni's fortress; the medieval city of Dubrovnik  
This Page: A panoramic view of Jerusalem**



## Guest Lecturers

**David Bevington** is the Phyllis Fay Horton Distinguished Service Professor in the Humanities at the University of Chicago. A renowned scholar of medieval and Renaissance drama, he is the author of *From "Mankind" to Marlowe, Tudor Drama and Politics*, *Action is Eloquence: Shakespeare's Language of Gesture*, and *Shakespeare*. He has edited several editions of Shakespeare's plays as well as the Norton Anthology of Renaissance Drama and a forthcoming edition of the works of Ben Jonson.

**Dr. Kathleen Lynch**, lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America, is an Associate Professor of Classics at the University of Cincinnati and a classical archaeologist. She has worked on archaeological sites in Italy, Greece, Albania, and Turkey. Kathleen is interested in the cultural reception and use of imported Greek ceramics by non-Greek cultures such as the Achaemenid empire in the east and the Illyrians on the Adriatic in the west. In general, she is interested in the ability of material culture to define and shape a group's identity. Some of the topics Kathleen expects to address during our voyage include the mythology and religion of prehistoric Cyprus and Crete, Roman art and its debt to Greece, and women in the ancient Greek and Roman world.

**Graziella Parati** is the Paul D. Paganucci Chair of Italian Literature and Language and a Professor of Comparative Literature at Dartmouth College. Born and educated in Italy, she completed her higher education with a Ph.D. in Italian at Northwestern. She has taught at Lancaster University in England, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Colorado, Boulder. During this program, Professor Parati will talk about the cultural and political role played by the Mediterranean in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She will pay particular attention to issues relating to colonialism and the complex remapping brought about by WWII. She will also introduce very contemporary debates about the Mediterranean and contemporary migratory paths.





## Itinerary

*Friday, April 22, 2011* ■ **FLY FROM USA**

*Saturday, April 23* ■ **LARNACA, CYPRUS**

Arrive in Larnaca on Cyprus's south coast, and transfer to the *Amathus Beach Hotel*, located on a private beach near Limassol. (D)

*Sunday, April 24* ■ **LIMASSOL | OMODOS | LIMASSOL | EMBARK**

Spend the morning at leisure to enjoy the hotel's lovely grounds and facilities. In the afternoon, visit the village of Omodos to experience a taste of Easter in Cyprus. After visiting the Church of Stavros, explore the village and sample traditional Easter pastries. Return to Limassol to board *Corinthian II* and sail. (B, L, D)

*Monday, April 25* ■ **HAIFA | AKKO OR JERUSALEM | HAIFA, ISRAEL**

From Haifa, drive to nearby Akko (or Acre), one of the oldest towns in the world. Taken over by the Crusaders in 1104, it became the main commercial center for trade between the east and Europe. In 1187 Akko surrendered to Saladdin,

*Rethymnon, Crete, Greece*



but was retaken by Richard the Lionheart and remained the capital of the Latin kingdom until 1287. Visit Akko's Old City, with its twisting medieval alleyways, including the quarter of the Knights Hospitallers. After lunch, take an excursion to Caesarea, the Roman capital of Judea for 600 years and one of Israel's most important archaeological sites. Alternatively, spend the day in Jerusalem visiting its most important sites, including the Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Knesset, Valley of the Cross, and both old and new Jerusalem. (B, L, D)

*Tuesday, April 26* ■ **TARTUS | PALMYRA OR KRAK DES CHEVALIERS | TARTUS, SYRIA**

Known as Tortosa by the Crusaders, Tartus was an important port town for the Knights Templar. Travel to fabled Palmyra at the edge of the Anti-Lebanon Mountains. This desert oasis was a vital link on the historic Silk Route from China to Europe and a buffer between the Persian and Roman Empires. The excavations of the 2<sup>nd</sup>-century A.D. city are vast and fascinating. See the great Temple of Baal, the 300-column colonnade flanking the main street, the beautiful theater façade, and the museum. Alternatively, drive to Krak des Chevaliers, the world's best-preserved and most magnificent Crusader castle, which stands in its commanding site essentially unchanged from the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. Explore this incredible landmark and, after lunch, visit the Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. George. (B, L, D)

*Wednesday, April 27* ■ **TASUCU | SILIFKE | TASUCU, TURKEY**

Dock in Tasucu on Turkey's south coast and drive to nearby Silifke, built along the banks of a river. The ancient Seleucia ad Calycadnum, Silifke was an important point of embarkation for pilgrims to the Holy Land. Explore the town before continuing on to Olbia-Diacseserea, a beautiful Greek site. View the Temple of Zeus,

Hellenistic Tower, and city gate. Enjoy a dance performance and taste local pastries before eating lunch at a local restaurant. Also visit Corycus to see the nearby fantastic castles, built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when this area was part of the Armenian Cilician Kingdom. (B, L, D)

*Thursday, April 28* ■ **AT SEA** (B, L, D)

*Friday, April 29* ■ **RETHYMNON | CHANIA OR KNOSSOS | RETHYMNON, CRETE, GREECE**

Land in Crete, home of the Minoan civilization, Europe's first. The largest of the Greek Islands, Crete was under Venice from 1204 to 1669, when they lost it to the Turks. Crete was important to the Venetians not only as a source of grain and other commodities, but also because of its strategic position. In the morning, visit Chania, perhaps Crete's loveliest city. Alternatively, you may explore Knossos, the most imposing Minoan palace of the island, or enjoy free time in the port of Rethymnon, with its unmistakable Venetian character. (B, L, D)

*Saturday, April 30* ■ **PYLOS | METHONI | PYLOS, PELOPONNESE**

Quaint Pylos is our gateway to Methoni, a strategic port the Venetians took over and fortified in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Overlooking the east-west shipping routes, Methoni was known as the "eye of Venice." Tour the imposing fortress and grounds, then return to Pylos for time at leisure in the lovely town square. (B, L, D)

*Sunday, May 1* ■ **CORFU, IONIAN ISLANDS**

After a morning at sea, arrive in Corfu. A stronghold of ancient Corinth, Corfu was a valuable possession of Venice from 1386 to 1797, guarding the approach to the Adriatic and the maritime lanes to the Eastern Mediterranean. The city's characteristic architecture dates from the Venetian period, with its forts, loggias, palaces, narrow streets, and churches. (B, L, D)

*Monday, May 2* ■ **KOTOR, MONTENEGRO | DUBROVNIK, CROATIA**

*Corinthian II* navigates the fjord-like Bay of Kotor. Disembark in Kotor, whose lovely palaces and churches reveal the former Venetian domination, for a walking tour. Then take a scenic drive to Dubrovnik, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities. See the Rector's Palace, Franciscan and Dominican monasteries, and the Baroque cathedral. (B, L, D)

*Tuesday, May 3* ■ **ZADAR**

Controlled by Illyrian tribes, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, and Hungarians, Zadar came under the Venetians in 1409, who held it until 1797, becoming an important naval center of the Venetian Republic. Explore the old city, including the Roman Forum; the 9<sup>th</sup>-century church of St. Donatus; the Cathedral of Anastasia, one of the finest Romanesque churches in Dalmatia; and the Archaeological Museum. (B, L, D)

*Wednesday, May 4* ■ **VENICE, ITALY | DISEMBARK | FLY TO USA**

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



*Fabled Palmyra, Syria*

## Program Inclusions

- 1-night stay at the *Amathus Beach Hotel* near Limassol
- 10-night cruise aboard the all-suite, 114-guest *Corinthian II*
- Complete program of tours and excursions
- 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 guest lecturers
- Professional tour staff throughout
- 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, the *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.

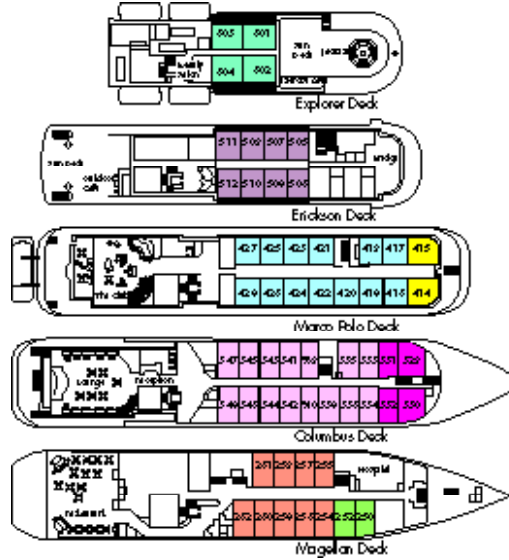
All of *Corinthian II*'s suites face outside, providing views of the sea and landscape. Several have a private balcony. There are expansive open deck areas and other facilities, including a gym, library, beauty salon, two lounges, a sun deck with Jacuzzi, and an outdoor cafe. A spacious restaurant accommodates 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.

*The Club*



## DECK PLAN



*Suite*

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PAYMENTS:** A \$1,000 deposit per person is required to confirm your reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by personal check.

**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 recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. Details will be sent upon registration.

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

**SHIP'S REGISTRY:** Malta  
CST #2043599-40 TDI

CST #2096889-40 Commonwealth Club Travel  
**DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, THIS IS ABBREVIATED INFORMATION. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR COMPLETE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**

**AIRFARE:** Airfare is not included in the Cruise and Land Rates. Please contact your preferred airline, travel agent, or the Travel Dynamics International air desk operated by Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. (VWTI) for airfare information and to reserve round-trip flights. Consultants are available Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm (EST) toll-free at 1-877-711-9896. Please have your tour code (11409) and dates handy for reference.

# CRUISE & LAND RATES *per person, double occupancy*

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.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATES
<b>E</b>	Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 225 sq. ft. Suites 250 - 252	\$8,395
<b>D</b>	Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 225 sq. ft. Suites 329 - 332	\$9,395
<b>C</b>	Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 254 - 262	\$10,395
<b>B</b>	Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 333 - 348	\$11,595
<b>A</b>	Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 416 - 428	\$12,595
<b>AA</b>	Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with forward and side windows and sitting area. 285 sq. ft. Suites 414 - 415	\$13,395
<b>VS</b>	Deluxe Veranda Suites on Erickson Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 300 sq. ft. Suites 505 - 512	\$14,295
<b>PHS</b>	Deluxe Penthouse Suites on Explorer Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 400 sq. ft. Suites 601 - 604	\$15,895
<b>VS &amp; PHS suites are provided with private butler service and other exclusive amenities.</b>		

**SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:** A limited number of cabins have been designated for single travelers in Categories C - A at a supplement of \$1,995 to the per person, double occupancy rates listed above. Singles in Categories AA, VS, and PHS are available at double the per person, double occupancy rates.

## REGISTRATION CMWC 11409

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on ***The Venetian Empire and the Medieval World***. 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)*

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

*The magnificent Crusader castle,  
Krak des Chevaliers*



FOR RESERVATIONS OR  
FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB TRAVEL DESK AT  
**(415) 597-6720**  
OR  
VIA E-MAIL AT  
**TRAVEL@COMMONWEALTHCLUB.ORG**

## PROGRAM FEATURES & HIGHLIGHTS

- Celebrate Orthodox Easter by tasting traditional food and drink in a small Cypriot village
- Experience May Day on the island of Corfu
- Follow in the steps of the crusaders between Jerusalem and Silifke
- Listen for the welcoming bells of the Church of Our Lady of the Rocks as you sail to Kotor
- Enjoy time in the town of Rethymnon, a Greek city with an unmistakable Venetian influence



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