ASSOCIATION

SACRED PLACES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

A Voyage to Cyprus, Israel, Turkey & the Greek Islands

With distinguished guest lecturers, Karen Armstrong and Ambassador Richard Erdman



Aboard the New Expedition Cruise Ship Diana February 24 – March 10, 2023

DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURERS

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This voyage has been purpose-designed to explore some of the most magnificent ports, towns and ancient sites in the Eastern Mediterranean, places that were considered sacred in antiquity. Indeed, some of them remain holy to this day. The places we will visit are not only renowned for their history, they actually changed the course of history. Their significance shapes our every day life.

Our journey begins in Cyprus, the ancient cultural crossroads of the Eastern Mediterranean and the reputed birthplace of Aphrodite, the goddess of love. Here, we will board the superb new expedition cruise ship *Diana* to sail to Israel, where, over two days, we will tour fabled Jerusalem, sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims, and other important sites, including Meggido, the site of the apocalyptic battle of Armageddon. We will then continue to Turkey's Mediterranean coast to explore, among other sites, seldomvisited Olbia-Diocaesarea, which was sacred to Zeus.

At the Greek island of Rhodes, we will enter the storied world of the Aegean Sea, Homer's "wine-dark" sea. On the acropolis of Lindos, high above the sea, stands the 4thcentury BC Temple of Athena, which attracted pilgrims in antiquity. Ephesus, one of the world's great archaeological sites, was renowned as the center of the mother-goddess Cybele, identified with Artemis-Diana, and later the place where St. Paul preached Christianity. Istanbul, the Byzantine Constantinople, was one of the earliest and most important centers of Christianity, its awe-inspiring basilica of Aghia Sophia, the Church of Divine Wisdom, is one of the city's most emblematic buildings since it was built in the 6th century. Legendary Troy is where the Greeks fought the Trojans for ten long years during the Bronze Age, while the small uninhabited island of Delos was considered the birthplace of Apollo and his twin sister Artemis, and therefore sacred to the ancient Greeks.

These are some of the places we will explore aboard the new elegant cruise ship *Diana*, which accommodates only 192 guests is spacious staterooms and balcony suites.

We are most fortunate to have with us two distinguished guest lecturers, Karen Armstrong, one of the world's most influential writers on religion, and Ambassador Richard Erdman, a career diplomat who served in several countries in the Middle East, including, Cyprus, Israel and Turkey. Their deep knowledge of the themes we will explore on this voyage will add depth and meaning and an unparalleled travel experience.

Please join us on this exploration of the Sacred Places of the Mediterranean, a travel-learning experience that will enrich the mind and inspire the senses.

Sincerely

RACHELE NEU Travel Program Manager

Karen Armstrong OBE; FRSL.



Karen Armstrong OBE; FRSL. is the author of numerous books on religion, including A History of God, which became an international bestseller. Her other works include The Battle for God, A History of Fundamentalism; Islam; Buddha; The Great Transformation; The Case for God; Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence; as well as a memoir, The Spiral

Staircase. Her most recent work, published in 2019, is The Lost Art of Scripture; Rescuing the Sacred Texts. Her books been translated into 45 languages.

She has addressed members of the US Congress on three occasions and lectured to policy makers at the US State Department. In 2006, she was invited by Kofi Anan to join the High-Level Group of the new UN Alliance of Civilisations; in 2008; She was awarded the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Medal; in 2009, she won the TED Prize and with TED founded the Charter for Compassion, which is now a global movement. From 2008- 2016, she was a Trustee of the British Museum; in 2013, she was awarded the inaugural British Academy Al-Rodhan Prize for Improving Intercultural Relations; in 2017, she was awarded the Princess of Asturias Award for Social Sciences and an OBE. Her new book, Sacred Nature, How Can We Recover Our Reverence for the Natural world will be published in the Netherlands in May 2022, in June (UK) and the USA and Canada in September.

Ambassador Richard Erdman



Ambassador Richard Erdman is a retired career diplomat with over 45 years of service. In recent years, he has been called out of retirement to serve in temporary ambassadorial assignments: Senior Area Adviser for the Middle East on the U.S. Delegation to the annual fall UN General Assembly (2008 to the present); interim ambassador to Saudi Arabia (2009); Acting Deputy

Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs (2012); and Acting U.S. Representative to the UN Economic and Social Council (2015).

Ambassador Erdman served as U.S. ambassador to Algeria, 2003-2006; Director for Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan Affairs (2001-2002); and U.S. Special Envoy and Head of the five-nation Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group (1998-2000). His earlier postings included Portugal, Washington, Yugoslavia, Cyprus, and Turkey.

Ambassador Erdman has received two Presidential Meritorious Service awards as well as several Department of State awards for distinguished service. He and his wife Sibyl have traveled widely, both personally and professionally. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Cover photo: Acropolis of Lindos, Rhodes, Greece

THE NEW 192-GUEST EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP **DIANA**





Currently under construction in Finland and launching early February 2023, Swan Hellenic *Diana* is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 12,100 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 350 passengers, *Diana* accommodates a maximum of 192 guests in 96 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Diana has been designed to meet the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code for ships navigating in Polar regions. Its high PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull, and other technical and mechanical features, allow the ship to cruise the world's remote regions in safety and utmost comfort. Technologically advanced hybrid engines and a system of powerful batteries make it possible for the ship to cruise in ecologically sensitive areas, leaving minimal footprint, while a computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 120 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Diana* will carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections as well as other amenities. Of the ship's 96 staterooms, 76 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge that is equipped with state-of- the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna that includes an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; a "mud room" with lockers for storing expedition gear; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis.

ITINERARY



Friday, February 24, 2023

DEPART THE USA: Depart the US for Larnaca, Cyprus.

Saturday, February 25

LARNACA & LIMASSOL, Cyprus: Arrive in Larnaca, site of Cyprus's international airport, and transfer at the Amathus Beach Hotel, located near the town of Limassol. Enjoy a welcome dinner in the evening. Meals: D

Sunday, February 26

KOURION & EMBARKATION ON *DIANA***:** Due to its copper deposits and strategic position in the Eastern Mediterranean, Cyprus attracted settlers since about 10,000 BC. In the 2nd millennium BC, the island was settled by Mycenaean Greeks. After a morning lecture, visit ancient Kourion, founded by Greeks on a beautiful spot, a promontory overlooking the sea. Visit the Sanctuary of Apollo, the superb theater, and other remains. Nearby is the Kolossi Castle, built by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in the 13th century. Continue to the port to embark on *Diana* and sail.

Meals: B, D

Kourion, Cyprus

Monday, February 27

ASHDOD & JERUSALEM, Israel: From the port of Ashdod, travel for the day to Jerusalem, the ancient city that is holy to Jews, Christians and Muslims. From the Mount of Olives look over the Valley of Kedron, over the olive trees of Gethsemane, at the long walls of Jerusalem. Inside the city walls, walk the Via Dolorosa to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built upon the traditional site of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Visit also the Western Wall, one of the holiest places of Judaism, and the Temple Mount area, as well as the superb Israel Museum. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. Meals: B, L, D

Tuesday, February 28

HAIFA, NAZARETH & GALILEE OR ACRE, MEGIDDO, BETH SHE'AN & CAESAREA: Built between the sea and the Mount Carmel, Haifa is Israel's principal port. From here, we offer a choice of two full-day excursions. One will explore Nazareth, with the grotto of the Annunciation and the church of St. Joseph; Beth She'arim, a great center of Jewish learning in the early centuries AD; Beth Alpha, site of a 6th century AD synagogue; Capernaum, on the north side of the Sea of Galilee; and Tabgha, the traditional site of the miracle of the loaves and fishes. Alternatively, visit, Acre, the Biblical Accho and one of Israel's most picturesque towns; Beth She'an, and ancient city with eighteen superimposed levels of occupation going back to the fourth millennium; Meggido, the fabled Armageddon; and Caesarea, founded by Herod in 22 BC. Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, March 1

OLBA-DIOCAESAREA, Turkey: From Turkey's port of Tasucu, travel through the beautiful countryside of ancient Cilicia to the 4th-century BC site of Olba-Diocaesarea. Founded by Selucus I Nikator, a general under Alexander the Great and one of his successors, the site is located in a striking spot in the foothills of the Taurus Mountains and is renowned for its imposing Temple of Zeus Olbios. Returning to the ship, stop in Silifke, the ancient Seleucia, to visit the grotto-church dedicated to St. Thekla. Meals: B, L, D

Thursday, March 2

ANTALYA, PERGE & ASPENDOS: Situated at the head of a wide bay, Antalya provides easy access to two important ancient sites of what was once Pamphylia, Perge and Aspendos. According to legend, Perge was founded by Greeks after the Trojan War, and was the place where St. Paul landed on his first missionary journey. Most of the remains of the city we see today date from the Hellenistic and Roman periods. Aspendos reached its golden age in the reign of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius (AD 161-180). Of the extensive remains the chief monument is the splendid theater, which is considered to be among the best preserved from antiquity. Meals: B, L, D

Friday, March 3

RHODES, Greece: Sacred to Helios, the sun god, Rhodes was the site of the Colossus, a huge statue dedicated to Helios that was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient world. The island thrived



Jerusalem

during the Classical and Hellenistic periods, becoming a major maritime center and place of learning and the arts. Tour in the morning the Old Town, one of the best-preserved walled medieval towns in Europe. In the afternoon, drive to the village of Lindos. With its white-washed houses built below the towering Acropolis, Lindos presents one the prettiest sights in the Greek archipelago. The Acropolis is crowned with the 4th-century BC Temple of Athena, a pilgrimage site in antiquity.

Meals: B, L, D

Saturday. March 4

KUSADASI, PRIENE & EPHESUS, Turkey: Arrive in the morning in Kusadasi, on Turkey's Aegean coast. Drive to Priene, which dates from the 4th century BC, and is known today for the exceptional quality of its buildings. In the afternoon, tour Ephesus, one of the world's great ancient sites. Renowned as the center of worship of the mother-goddess Cybele, later known as Artemis, Ephesus was also the place where St. Paul preached Christianity (AD 52 -54). See the stunning façade of the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Theater and other buildings.

Meals: B, L, D

Sunday, March 5

KAVALA & PHILIPPI, Greece: Located in northern Greece, Kavala is the ancient port town of Neapolis, where St. Paul landed in AD 49 on his way to Philippi. We will also drive to Philippi, which was founded in the 4th century BC by Phillip II, the father of Alexander the Great. In 42 BC, the armies of Brutus and Cassius fought the forces of Antony and Octavian in the plain of Philippi. It is believed that St. Paul delivered here his first sermon on European soil and baptized the first convert, St. Lydia. We will explore the substantial remains of the site.

Meals: B, L, D

Monday, March 6

TROY, Turkey: Located on the south shore of the narrow channel of the Dardanelles, the port of Canakkale is our gateway to storied Troy, where excavations, began in the second half of the 19th century, have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound. As Homer recounts in the Iliad, one of these cities is where the Greeks fought the Trojans. After ten years of war, the city of King Priam finally fell to Odysseus's ruse of the Trojan Horse. Meals: B, L, D

Tuesday, March 7

ISTANBUL: Founded by Greeks in the 7th century BC and named Byzantion, in AD 324, Emperor Constantine made the city the capital of the Roman Empire and named it after himself,



Monastery of Nea Moni, Chios

Constantinople. For over 1,000 years, it was the capital of the Byzantine Empire and the most resplendent city in Europe, and from the mid-15th century the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Tour Istanbul's Byzantine and Ottoman main landmark sites, including the underground Basilica Cistern; the incomparable Aghia Sophia, the Church of Divine Wisdom; the Blue Mosque; and the Topkapi Palace, the residence of the sultans for three centuries. You may wish to visit the city's colorful bazaars. Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, March 8

CHIOS, Greece: The reputed birthplace of Homer, the prosperous island of Chios is known for its beautiful landscapes, historic sites and old villages. Visit the 11th-century Monastery of Nea Moni, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most important Byzantine monuments in Greece, sited majestically in a wooded vale and famed for its architecture and exquisite frescoes and mosaics. In the town of Chios, visit the Archaeological Museum, whose exhibits chronicle the island's long history. Meals: B, L, D

Thursday, March 9

DELOS & PAROS: Spend the morning in the small island of Delos, one of the most significant archaeological sites in Greece. Delos was sacred to ancient Greeks because it was identified as the birthplace of twins Apollo and Artemis. A walking tour of this large open-air museum leads to the remains of the main shrines and others structures. Over lunch aboard, sail to nearby Paros, famed in antiquity for its fine-quality white marble. Spend time at leisure in the island's main town, which features the characteristic white-wash architecture of the Cycladic islands. Meals: B, L, D

Friday, March 10

ATHENS/USA: Disembark in the morning at Athens's port, Piraeus, and transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE ATHENS EXTENSION | March 10 - 12, 2023

Extend your journey by two days to explore the ancient classical monuments of Athens, including the Agora and the Acropolis.

Details available upon request.



RATES: PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY CATEGORY DESCRIPTION RATE Oceanview staterooms with two large oval window. Ε \$ 11,290 Deck 4. 206 sq. ft. Staterooms 401-404. Oceanview staterooms with two large oval portholes. \$ 11,790 Deck 4. 206 sq. ft. Staterooms 405-420. Suites with balcony & living room area. C \$ 12,690 Deck 5. 300 sq. ft. Suites 501-504, 538-541. Suites with balcony & living room area. B \$ 12,990 Deck 5. 300 sq. ft. Suites 505-518, 521-537. Suites with balcony and living room area. Δ \$ 13,490 Deck 6. 300 sq. ft. Suites 601-618, 621-635. Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. AA \$14,990 Decks 5 & 6. Suites 519, 520, 619 & 620.



Celsus Library, Ephesus



Paros

supplement.



Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

FOR SOLO TRAVELERS

All accommodations

aboard Diana are spacious

staterooms and balcony

suites. They are elegantly

decorated, face outside,

affording sea views, and

include a queen-size bed

that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious

bathroom, mini-refrigerator,

safe, ample closet space,

climate control, telephone,

TV, Wi-Fi, and USB

other amenities.

connections, as well as

A limited number of staterooms are available for single occupancy in categories D through A at no additional charge. Additional single staterooms are available at a supplement of 50% of the per person double occupancy rate, instead of the normal 70% supplement.

RATES ARE All-INCLUSIVE

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as embarkation and port charges. Other than the airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include the following:

- One night at the Amathus Beach Hotel, Limassol (or similar).
- Welcome coctail reception at the hotel.
- 12-day cruise aboard the *Diana*, as described in the itinerary.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage.
- Complete program of tours and excursions ashore.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced trip director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Lectures by Karen Armstrong, Ambassador Richard Erdman and members of onboard team of experts.
- Complete pre departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.

DISCLAIMER: The Association is not the Tour Operator. The Association is not responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel, or car-rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control. The Association acts only as an independent contractor and not as a principal, agent, or joint venture for the airline, hotel, car-rental company, cruise line, and/or tour operator named in the catalog. As a result, the Association is not responsible for their acts or omissions. The Association acts only as agent for the participants with respect to travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel, or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents, or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in conveying participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour. Further, the Association shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond its control. The Association shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the right is reserved to substitute hotels of similar quality. The right is further reserved to cancel the tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment may be refunded without further obligation on its part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's health, actions, or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all of the conditions set forth above

REGISTRATION

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ (\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold place(s) on SACRED PLACES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN, February 24 - March 10, 2023 with University of Michigan Alumni Association. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card. Please make check payable to and mail with this registration form to: Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835, or Phone Thalassa Journeys Toll-Free: (866) 633-3611 □ AmEx Discover 🗅 Visa Master Card No. Exp. 3- or 4-Digit Security Code PLEASE SELECT STATEROOM CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE 2nd choice 🖵 1st choice 🖵 3rd choice 🖵 □ Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates) Double Occupancy _ I/We wish to register for the Optional Post-Cruise Athens extension, March 10 – 12, 2023 FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT) FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT) Each participant must sign below: I/We have ADDRESS read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms. CITY/STATE/ZIP SIGNATURE DATE **TELEPHONE (HOME)** (CELL) EMAIL SIGNATURE DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative 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. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

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 Thalassa Journeys. RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler'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 traveler 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, guarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, 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 traveler 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 traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, 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 traveler 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 traveler 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 travelers. 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 travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

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.

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SACRED PLACES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN. A Voyage to Cyprus, Israel, Turkey & the Greek Islands | February 24 – March 10, 2023

Kavala

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611