



**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL**  
*of Philadelphia & Cooperating Councils*

# **PETRA TO THE PARTHENON**

**ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS  
OF THE RED SEA AND EASTERN  
MEDITERRANEAN**

**MARCH 23-APRIL 5, 2024**

**ABOARD THE ALL-SUITE  
HEBRIDEAN SKY**



# DEAR COUNCIL TRAVELERS,

Experience four countries and distinct ancient cultures that span 5,000 years of history on this 14-day journey aboard the all-suite *Hebridean Sky*, gazing upon true modern marvels in addition to a fascinating mix of historic wonders.

Begin at the ancient Spice Route outposts of Jordan's Petra and Saudi Arabia's Mada'in Saleh before exploring Egypt's iconic pyramids of Giza and mysterious Sphinx, the mummies of Cairo's National Museum, and the tombs of the Valley of the Kings. Continue to the Bronze Age city of Knossos on Crete, then experience the glory of Greece's Acropolis, including the mighty Parthenon.

Jump forward thousands of years while the ship transits the modern engineering marvel of the Suez Canal, and be immersed in local culture with a traditional lunch at a Wadi Rum desert camp and a horse ride to the gates of Petra. Along the way, enjoy engaging presentations by knowledgeable local guides and a team of onboard lecturers, including two archaeologists and a classicist, who will bring ancient times to life and help put people and places into historical context.

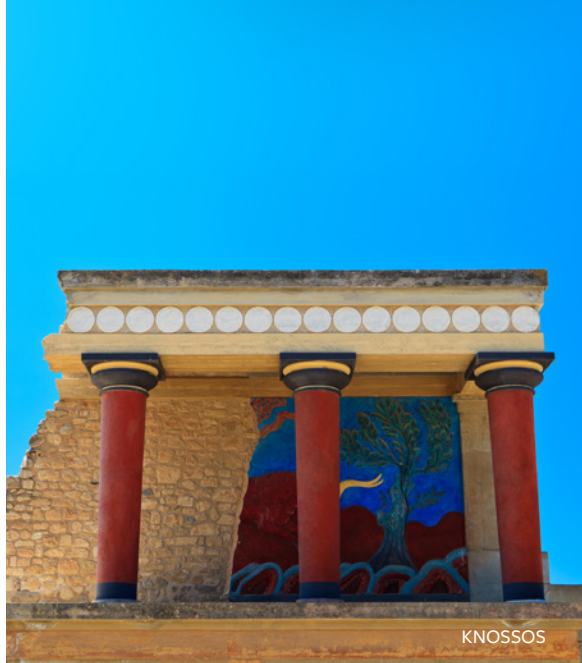
As you cruise between destinations, relax in a spacious suite aboard the ideally-sized *Hebridean Sky*, enjoying the small ship atmosphere, delicious meals, attentive service, and views of stunning seaside landscapes.

We are co-sponsoring this program with other organizations and, with only 59 cabins total aboard ship, I urge you to reserve your space today. Call our office at (800) 942-5004 or email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org).

We look forward to traveling with you,



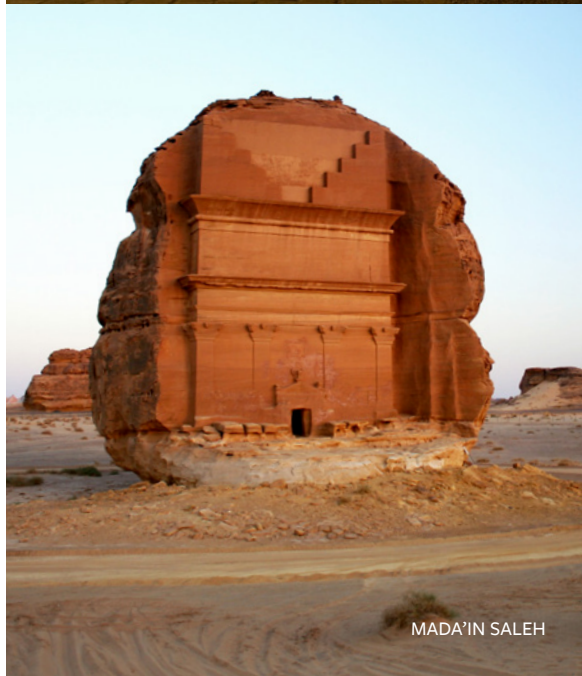
Andrew Haught  
Director of Travel  
World Affairs Council of Philadelphia



KNOSSOS



LUXOR TEMPLE ENTRANCE



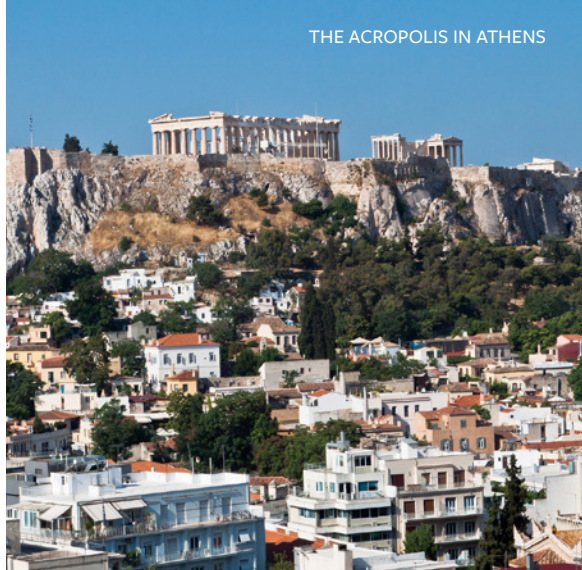
MADA'IN SALEH

## STUDY LEADERS

**Clara Hardy** has taught Classics at Carleton since 1990. Her recent book is entitled *Athens 415: The City in Crisis* (U. Michigan Press). Clara's current research is on 21st-century Classical reception, particularly in a postcolonial context. She regularly teaches courses on women and gender in the ancient world, classical mythology, and ancient drama. Clara loves Greece, and is looking forward to exploring some of the lands of Cleopatra.

**Okasha El Daly** (Ph.D., University College London), representing the Archaeological Institute of America, is an Egyptian historian specializing in the history, art, religion, and languages of Egypt and the Middle East. His research interests cover the history and cultural heritage of Egypt and the Middle East from the birth of civilization to contemporary history and current affairs. Dr. El Daly has been a lecturer on Egypt tours and on Mediterranean cruises travelling widely around the archaeological sites of Cyprus, Malta, Turkey, Greece, and Italy.

**C. Brian Rose** (Ph.D., Columbia), representing the University of Pennsylvania, is currently the James B. Pritchard Professor of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania, and Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section of the Penn Museum. For 25 years he served as co-director of the excavations at Troy, and he is now director of the Gordion excavations in central Turkey. Dr. Rose was President of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) from 2007-2011, and received the AIA Gold Medal for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement in 2015.



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Take a full day to explore Petra, followed by an additional optional morning visit to fully immerse yourself in the splendors of the site.
- Spend a full day in Saudi Arabia to see the phenomenal Nabataean site Mada'in Saleh, sister city of Petra and Saudi Arabia's first designated World Heritage site.
- Enjoy guided visits to Egypt's most iconic sites, including Karnak Temple, the Valley of the Kings, the Pyramids, and the Sphinx.
- Most lunches are arranged on land in order to optimize touring and to experience authentic local cuisine, and to support local businesses and workers.
- In Greece, see the iconic sites of Knossos and the Acropolis in Athens.
- A post-cruise hotel night in Athens is included, along with a gala farewell meal.



## ITINERARY

### SATURDAY, MARCH 23 & SUNDAY, MARCH 24 HOME / AMMAN, JORDAN

Depart home on international flights to Amman. Arrive March 24th and transfer to the five-star Mövenpick Resort at Petra, just steps from the entrance to the ancient city. Spend the evening getting settled and enjoying views over the stunning desert landscape from the hotel's rooftop garden.

MOVENPICK RESORT PETRA

### MONDAY, MARCH 25

#### PETRA

Embark on a full-day guided tour through the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Petra, one of the true marvels of the ancient world. Reaching its height in the 1st century A.D., the "Rose City" (so nicknamed for the color of its stone) was carved from the sandstone cliffs surrounding the settlement, growing to become one of the most important trading centers of its time. In the evening, enjoy a gala dinner event held under the star-filled desert sky at a nearby Nabataean village, with traditional music and dance entertainment.

MOVENPICK RESORT PETRA (BLD)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 26

#### PETRA / WADI RUM / AQABA / EMBARK

Join an optional morning walk through Petra in the cool morning air, or relax at the hotel before a drive to the otherworldly desert landscape of Wadi Rum for a traditional Bedouin lunch. Venture into the sands on an optional four-wheel-drive excursion around the surrounding hills or take a stroll along trails from the tented encampment before returning to Aqaba to embark the *Hebridean Sky*. On board, enjoy a welcome reception with staff and crew, dine with the group, then relax in your room, at the ship's bar, or on deck as the ship navigates the Gulf of Aqaba toward the Red Sea.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLRD)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

#### AT SEA

Relax on board during a full day at sea, cruising between Egypt's Sinai desert and the coast of Saudi Arabia, then into the Red Sea along the Saudi coastline. Enjoy the continuation of the expert lecture series, providing historical context as well as the modern significance of sites and excursions along the journey. *HEBRIDEAN SKY* (BLD)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 28

#### MADA'IN SALEH, SAUDI ARABIA

Dock at Al Wajh, Saudi Arabia and board a motorcoach for a ride through the desert to the UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site of Mada'in Saleh, the historic Nabataean trading city with close ties to Petra. This southernmost outpost of the ancient Spice Route is similar to Petra with its massive carved rock facades, but far less visited. Your guide will help you explore and understand this "Capital of Monuments." Return to the ship for dinner on board and depart for Egypt.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLD)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 29

#### LUXOR, EGYPT

Cross the Red Sea to disembark in Safaga, Egypt, for a drive to Luxor and the famed open-air Karnak Temple Complex, whose construction of hundreds of temples spanned nearly 2,000 years across the reign of 30 pharaohs. Take in the grandeur of Luxor Temple at sunset, known in its day as the Southern Sanctuary, famous for its iconic obelisks and avenue of sphinxes. Overnight in Luxor at the luxurious Sonesta St. George Hotel, situated on the banks of the Nile. *SONESTA ST. GEORGE* (BLD)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 30

#### VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Depart the hotel this morning and descend into the earth to explore some of the amazing hieroglyphics and painted walls of the royal tombs dug into the rocky grounds of the Valley of the Kings, including the beautifully decorated tomb of Seti I and the tomb of young pharaoh Tutankhamun. Return to





the ship in the afternoon and enjoy lectures that preview upcoming site visits while cruising up the Gulf of Suez toward Cairo. *HEBRIDEAN SKY* (BLD)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 31

#### CAIRO

Call at Sokhna and drive to Cairo, where you will experience the sole remaining relic of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: the Pyramids (and the Great Sphinx) at Giza. Soak in the atmosphere in the morning with an expert guide to reveal the latest insights on the construction, meaning, and continued significance of these historic creations. After a lunch featuring local cuisine, take a tour of the new Grand Egyptian Museum (pending opening), featuring a comprehensive, multi-millennium-spanning collection of golden relics.

*HEBRIDEAN SKY* (BLD)

### MONDAY, APRIL 1

#### SUEZ CANAL

This will be no ordinary day at sea, as the *Hebridean Sky* cruises through the Isthmus of Suez along the 120-mile-long Suez Canal. Stay on deck to watch the nearby landscape and shipping traffic as our vessel completes the transit process. The lecture series aboard will highlight the historic significance of the canal, from the ancient times of the Silk Road connecting Europe with Asia, to the 1859-1869 construction of the canal and the impact it has had on trade and politics ever since.

*HEBRIDEAN SKY* (BLD)

### TUESDAY, APRIL 2

#### AT SEA

Enjoy a full day on board as the *Hebridean Sky* crosses the Mediterranean Sea. Relax in the lounges, on deck, or in your suite, and preview upcoming Greek ports of call with continued insight from expert lecturers.

*HEBRIDEAN SKY* (BLD)

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

#### KNOSSOS, GREECE

Dock at Heraklion, the capital of the historic and beautiful Greek Island of Crete. In the morning, join

a guided tour through the Bronze Age archaeological site of Knossos, considered by many to be Europe's oldest city, with colorful remnants of its ancient Palace. Feast on a traditional Cretan lunch featuring local delicacies accompanied by a wine tasting, only fitting on an island that was producing wines more than 3,500 years ago. After lunch, continue your exploration of Knossos and return to the ship for a farewell reception and dinner.

*HEBRIDEAN SKY* (BLRD)

### THURSDAY, APRIL 4

#### ATHENS

Disembark in Athens for a day of guided and independent touring. Begin with an expert-led tour of the iconic white marble structures of the Acropolis, including the famed Parthenon. Stop at a local restaurant for a gala farewell lunch with the group, then choose either a transfer to the hotel for time at leisure or a guided tour through the Acropolis Museum before a free evening of independent exploration.

HOTEL ELECTRA METROPOLIS (BL)

### FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Transfer to the airport for flights home or begin an optional two-night post-tour extension in Greece. (B)

## OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

#### JORDAN

##### MARCH 20–24, 2024

Visit history-rich Amman, Jerash, Mt. Nebo, and Madaba during three full days in Jordan, including the Jordan Museum and Crusader-constructed Shobak Castle.

#### GREECE

##### APRIL 5–7, 2024

Explore the National Archaeological Museum in Athens and the nearby Peloponnese Peninsula, with stops at the Corinth Canal, Nemea, Nafplio, Mycenae, and Epidaurus.

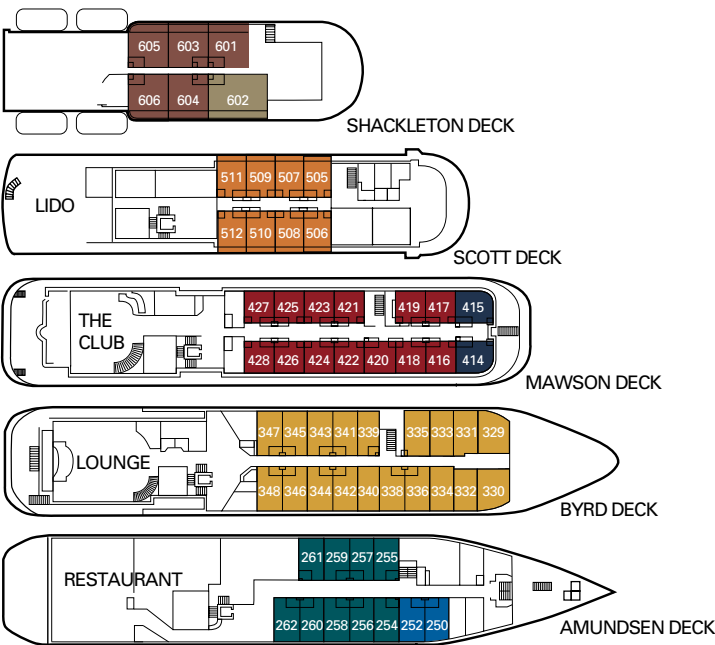
*Further information will be sent to confirmed participants.*



# HEBRIDEAN SKY

The all-suite *Hebridean Sky* is a spacious, yet intimate, expedition vessel. After a major refurbishment in 2016 and further enhancements since, she now boasts beautifully designed public spaces that include a large lounge, elegant club and bar with piano, library, and two outdoor seating areas. All suites have an ocean view and feature a sitting room, en suite bathroom, TV, spacious wardrobes and dressing table. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. Wifi is available on board, though signal strength varies depending on location and demand. The *Hebridean Sky's* chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served at a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional, personalized service, with more than a 1:2 crew-to- passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

CATEGORY		DOUBLE	SINGLE
<b>A</b>	STANDARD SUITE (FORWARD) portholes; 238 sq. ft.	\$11,990	\$17,990
<b>B</b>	STANDARD SUITE portholes; 238 sq. ft.	\$13,990	\$19,590
<b>C</b>	SUPERIOR SUITE picture window; 226–241 sq. ft.	\$15,990	\$23,990
<b>D</b>	PREMIUM SUITE picture window; 221 sq. ft.	\$16,490	—
<b>E</b>	CORNER SUITE picture windows; 224 sq. ft.	\$16,990	—
<b>F</b>	DELUXE BALCONY SUITE 221 sq. ft., plus 40 sq. ft. balcony	\$17,990	—
<b>G</b>	OWNER'S BALCONY SUITE 245 sq. ft., plus 83 sq. ft. balcony	\$18,990	—
<b>H</b>	HEBRIDEAN SUITE 349 sq. ft. plus 83 sq. ft. balcony	\$19,990	—



## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE**  
 All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including **four hotel nights and eight nights aboard *Hebridean Sky*** • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Group transfers on group arrival and departure dates • **Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel for all group activities** • Entrance fees and port charges • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners** • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**  
 U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at 877-376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**  
 The pace of this tour is moderately active with considerable walking each day, often over very uneven and cobblestoned terrain, and extended periods of standing. Guests should be capable of navigating stairs on rolling seas. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. Any COVID-related protocols and procedures will be communicated in pre-trip documents. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia or Criterion Travel, our tour operator; local staff; and host country laws.

**GROUP SIZE**  
 This program can accommodate 92 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America, Carleton College, Harvard Alumni Travel, Penn Alumni, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.

**PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE**  
 U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, or COVID-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Deviations from the scheduled tour • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Complete Terms and Conditions including Statement of Responsibility will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed “Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause” is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, call (800) 942-5004, email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org), or return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit (payable to Criterion Travel) to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005. Final payment is due November 24, 2023 (120 days prior to departure). For those who register after November 24, 2023, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment must be made by check or bank transfer.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, 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 World Affairs Council of Philadelphia. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the November 24, 2023 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. NOTE: Neither the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

HEALTH

All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

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.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

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To reserve a place, please contact the World Affairs Council by phone at (800) 942-5004 or (215) 561-4700 x209 or x231, or mail to: Criterion Travel, 4250 SW Hall Blvd., Beaverton, OR 97005.

For more information please visit our website at [www.wacphila.org/travel](http://www.wacphila.org/travel) or email [travel@wacphila.org](mailto:travel@wacphila.org).

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) BIRTHDATE

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) BIRTHDATE

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP or POSTAL CODE

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL 1

EMAIL 2

DEPOSIT

☐ I'd like to pay my deposit by credit card. Once a request is received, a Travel Counselor from Criterion Travel will contact you within two business days to securely take your credit card information for the deposit. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed. Deposit may be made by American Express, Discover, MasterCard, or VISA, or by personal check. If paying by check, please make check payable to Criterion Travel and include with the form.

—or—

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Criterion Travel), to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **Petra to the Parthenon**

SINGLE TRAVELERS

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations. (limited availability)

or ☐ I plan to share accommodations with:

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin Category Preference:

1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_

Bed Preference (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two beds

*I/We have read the Terms & Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein:*

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE





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**MARCH 23 - APRIL 5, 2024**



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