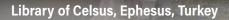


With Special Guest Lecturers **Robert Gurval**, Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Classics, UCLA and **Douglas Brookes**, Lecturer in Ottoman Turkish, Department of Middle Eastern Cultures and Languages, UC Berkeley

# EMPERORS, CONQUERORS & SAINTS A Voyage Exploring Turkey, Greece, the Greek Islands & Cyprus



Aboard the New Expedition Cruise Ship *DIANA* September 14 – 26, 2024

#### **SPECIAL GUEST LECTURERS**



We are delighted to invite you to join this remarkable voyage in the eastern Mediterranean, through lands that have seen the rise and fall of great empires and whose legacies continue to shape the worlds of politics, religion, culture, and art.

Beginning in Istanbul, the ancient city once known as Constantinople that was the center of both the Byzantine and the Ottoman Empires, make your way along the northern shores of the Aegean Sea to Kavala, Thessaloniki, and Volos, before crossing the sea to Turkey and the Greek Islands of Chios, Rhodes, and Crete. And then, leaving the Aegean behind, sail to Cyprus, the great island that has been a crossroad of civilizations and cultures since deep antiquity, where our cruise will end. Here, we will spend two days exploring several of the island's ancient sites.

Ancient sites and monuments—Vergina, Ephesus, Knossos: all UNESCO World Heritage Sites—share the landscape with the whitewashed homes of present-day farmers and fishermen. Great medieval churches and castles, including the UNESCO sites at Meteora, Nea Moni, and Rhodes, exist in the same space as the painted townhouses of quaint island ports. This is truly an experience not to be missed.

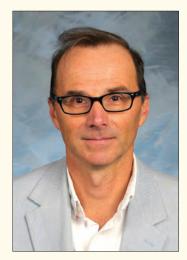
Accompanying you throughout the voyage will be **Robert Gurval**, Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Classics, UCLA and **Douglas Brookes**, Lecturer in Ottoman Turkish in the Department of Middle Eastern Cultures and Languages, UC Berkeley. During the voyage, Robert and Douglas will draw on their research and teaching experience to talk about various aspects of the civilizations, ancient and modern, that you encounter along the way.

Your vessel for this extraordinary journey, the Swan Hellenic *Diana*, is a state-of-the-art, new-generation expedition cruise ship, launched in early 2023. Accommodating only 192 guests in beautifully appointed staterooms and balcony suites, *Diana* features several lounges, a restaurant, outdoor cafe, spa, library and beauty salon, and is equipped with the latest safety and environmentally-friendly technology.

Please take a moment to look over the enclosed brochure, and then begin making plans to join fellow travelers on this voyage through the fabled world of the Aegean Sea and Cyprus in search of *Emperors, Conquerors, and Saints*.

AKRON & ALABAMA & ALASKA & ARIZONA & ATLANTA & AUSTIN BALTIMORE & BOSTON & BUFFALO & CHARLESTON & CHARLOTTE & CHICAGO GREATER & CINCINNATI & CLEVELAND & COLORADO SPRINGS & COLUMBUS CONNECTICUT & DALLAS & FORT WORTH & DAYTON & DENVER & GREATER HAMPTON ROADS & HARRISBURG & HILTON HEAD & HOUSTON & INLAND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA & JACKSONVILLE & KANSAS CITY & KENTUCKY SOUTH INDIANA & LAS VEGAS & LOS ANGELES & MAINE & MID-HUDSON VALLEY MILWAUKEE & MONTANA & MONTEREY BAY & NAPLES & NEW ORLEANS NEW HAMPSHIRE & NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & ORANGE COUNTY & OREGON PALM BEACH & PEORIA & PITTSBURGH & GREATER READING & RHODE ISLAND RICHMOND & SAN ANTONIO & SAN DIEGO & SANTA FE & SAVANNAH SEATTLE & SONOMA COUNTY & SOUTH TEXAS & ST. LOUIS & STAMFORD TACOMA & TENNESSEE & TRAVERSE CITY & UTAH & VERMONT WESTERN COLORADO & WESTERN MICHIGAN & WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

#### **ROBERT GURVAL**



Robert Gurval is Associate Professor Emeritus in the UCLA Department of Classics. His area of research and teaching concerns ancient Rome and the legacy of its empire in popular culture and cinema. Gurval's publications focus on politics, literature and architecture in the age of Rome's first emperor, Caesar Augustus. Cleopatra and her reception in western culture is a

special interest. He earned his degrees in Classics at Brown University, the University of California, Santa Barbara, and the University of California, Berkeley. Gurval has taught at UCLA since 1990 where he has served as Chair of the Department of Classics and Chair of the faculty committees on the Honors College, General Education Governance, and Undergraduate Honors, Awards and Prizes. He received the UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award for the Society for Classical Studies. Among his academic honors, he was a Rome Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Rome and a Fulbright Scholar in Hong Kong for General Education.

#### **DOUGLAS BROOKES**

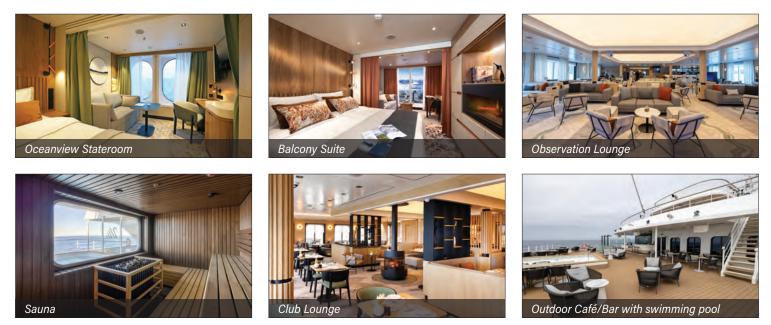


**Douglas Brookes** teaches Ottoman Turkish language at the University of California, Berkeley, where he has also taught courses in Ottoman history and culture. His research interest is the Ottoman Imperial Family, about which he has authored five books, most recently Death and Life in the Ottoman Palace: Revelations of the Sultan Abdülhamid I Tomb and On the Sultan's Service: Halid Ziya

*Uşaklıgil's Memoir of the Ottoman Palace, 1909-1912.* His other great interest is the Ottoman Turkish language, especially the art of translating it, and he is currently translating *Aşk-ı Memnu* (The Forbidden Love), considered the greatest novel of Ottoman literature. Since 1999 he has led many educational tours through Turkey.

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





Built in Finland, and launched in April 2023, Swan Hellenic's *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* will accommodate 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.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, *Diana* is among the world's first environmentally responsible ships. Equipped with hybrid engines and a unique water filtration system, *Diana* leaves a minimal footprint. For cruising in Polar regions, the ship meets the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code with its high PC5 Category A ice strengthened hull and other advanced features. A computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 135 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.

*Diana*'s interior spaces exude sophisticated elegance, with most rooms opening to panoramic views of the sea. All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections and other amenities. Of the ship's 96 staterooms, 76 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge 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 with an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; and an infirmary that is attended by a fulltime 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. The outstanding cuisine is complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner.

# ITINERARY



# Saturday, September 14, 2024 **DEPART THE UNITED STATES**

#### Sunday, September 15 ISTANBUL, Turkey

Arrive in Istanbul and transfer to the *Hotel Conrad Istanbul Bosporus* (or similar). 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, 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. Enjoy in the evening a welcome dinner. (D)

#### Monday, September 16

#### **ISTANBUL & EMBARKATION ON DIANA**

Tour several of the city's landmark sites, including the Hippodrome, the Blue Mosque, and the Topkapi Palace, the residence of the sultans for three centuries. After lunch at a local restaurant, embark on *Diana* and sail. As the ship navigates out of the port, enjoy views of the city's famed skyline. (B, L, D)

#### Tuesday, September 17 KAVALA/PHILIPPI

Following a morning at sea, call in Kavala, the ancient port town of Neapolis, which marked the eastern boundary of ancient Rome's European empire. Drive to Philippi, crossing the plain where, in 42 BC, the armies of Antony and Octavian defeated the forces of Brutus and Cassius. St. Paul visited Philippi in AD 49, where it is believed he delivered his first sermon on European soil and baptized his first European covert, St. Lydia. Explore the substantial remains of the site, including a forum, theater, and several early basilicas, before returning to the ship. (B, L, D)

#### Wednesday, September 18 THESSALONIKI, Greece/VERGINA

Built at the head of a spacious bay and against the slopes of a massive mountain, Thessaloniki is our gateway to the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Vergina, an early Macedonian royal capital and the burial place of kings. In 1977, archaeologists discovered sumptuous royal tombs here, including that of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. Phillip's tomb yielded incredible treasures in gold, which are housed in the local Archaeological Museum. After lunch, explore Thessaloniki proper and its outstanding Byzantine monuments, some of which we visit—the Palace and Arch of Galerius, the Rotunda, the Aghia Sophia, and the 5th-century Church of Aghios Dimitrios—before touring Thessaloniki's splendid Museum of Byzantine Culture. (B, L, D)

#### Thursday, September 19

#### **VOLOS/METEORA OR VOLOS/DEMINI/MAKRINITSA**

Today offers a choice of excursions. You may travel from Volos to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Meteora, a complex of monasteries built atop natural pillars of stone—one of the most extraordinary sights in all of Europe. Enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant before a tour of the Monastery of Aghios Stefanos, founded in about 1400, leads to an interior covered with frescoes and a meticulously carved wooden iconostasis. Take in the magnificent views from the monastery's terrace before returning to the ship. Alternatively, begin with a morning excursion to the Mycenaean site at Dimini and a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Volos, followed by lunch at one of Volos's many tsipouradiko (a sort of pub). In the afternoon, travel to the forested slopes of Pelion Mountain to visit Makrinitsa, one of the 70 villages filled with old mansions and monuments for which the region is famous. (B, L, D)

#### Friday, September 20 CHIOS/NEA MONI/MASTIC VILLAGES

Begin exploration of Chios with a drive to the Monastery of Nea Moni, built in the 11th century in a wooded vale in the center of the island. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Nea Moni is decorated with exquisite mosaics and frescoes. After a tour of the monastery, visit the small village of Avgonima and the abandoned Byzantine town of Anavatos before returning to the ship for lunch. In the afternoon, stop in Kampos, once among the most important citrusproducing regions in the Aegean, before continuing to the south of the island. This is where the aromatic mastic gum that was a favorite at Byzantine and Ottoman courts was produced. Explore the mastic villages of Mesta, a car-free walled settlement that was built by the Genoese in the 14th century, and Pyrgi, where houses are decorated in intricate grey and white geometric patterns. (B, L, D)

#### Saturday, September 21 KUSADASI, Turkey/PRIENE EPHESUS

From Kusadasi, on Turkey's Aegean coast, drive to Priene, site of a well-preserved 4th-century BC city. Dominating the site is the imposing Temple of Athena, a superb example of Ionic architecture set against a backdrop of tree-covered hills. Continue to Ephesus, one of the world's most celebrated archaeological sites. Renowned



The 11th-century monastery of Nea Moni, Chios, Greece

in antiquity as a center of worship of the mother-goddess Cybele, Ephesus was also one of the communities where St. Paul preached the gospel of Christianity. See the stunning façade of the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the Theater, and other large public monuments, as well as more modest buildings that give a glimpse into the daily lives of the ancient Ephesians. (B, L, D)

#### Sunday, September 22

#### HERAKLION, Crete, Greece/ELEFTHERNA & RETHYMNO/KNOSSOS

This morning begins with a scenic drive through the lush green countryside of central Crete, to Eleftherna, site of a fascinating, ongoing excavation of ruins that range from prehistory to the Byzantine Era. In nearby Rethymno, discover one of Greece's bestpreserved medieval towns, known for its blending of Venetian and Ottoman styles. Return to Heraklion for lunch at Peskesi Restaurant, serving farm-to-table cuisine based on traditional Cretan foods, and then continue to the Palace of Knossos, Crete's largest Bronze Age site. Built around a central courtyard, the palace contains a maze of rooms, passages and stairways that probably inspired the concept of the labyrinth and led to the myth of the Minotaur. A visit to the Heraklion Museum will reinforce the impression gained at the palace of the brilliance and refinement of Minoan civilization. (B, L, D)

#### Monday, September 23 RHODES

Inhabited since the Neolithic period, Rhodes flourished during the Classical and Hellenistic periods, when the island became a powerful maritime and commercial center as well as a center of learning and the arts. The Colossus, an enormous bronze statue dedicated to Helios, the sun god, and one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World stood here. Tour in the morning the Old Town, one of the best-preserved walled medieval towns in Europe, and





a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Visit the imposing Palace of the Grand Master, walk the celebrated Street of the Knights, and visit the Archaeological Museum. Spend the afternoon at sea, cruising toward Cyprus. (B, L, D)

#### Tuesday, September 24 LIMASSOL & PAPHOS, Cyprus

Arrive in the morning in Cyprus's port city of Limassol. Located strategically in the Eastern Mediterranean, the island of Cyprus has been a crossroad of cultures since deep antiquity. Disembark and drive to the west of the island to explore Paphos, called by Vergil "the navel of the world." According to the legend, Aphrodite, the goddess of love, was born from the sea near Paphos. Visit the interesting Archaeological Park, which includes, among other remains, a large Roman villa, whose exquisite floor mosaics have been preserved. After lunch at a local restaurant, check in at the lovely Amathus Beach Hotel, located in the Limassol area, facing the sea. (B, L)

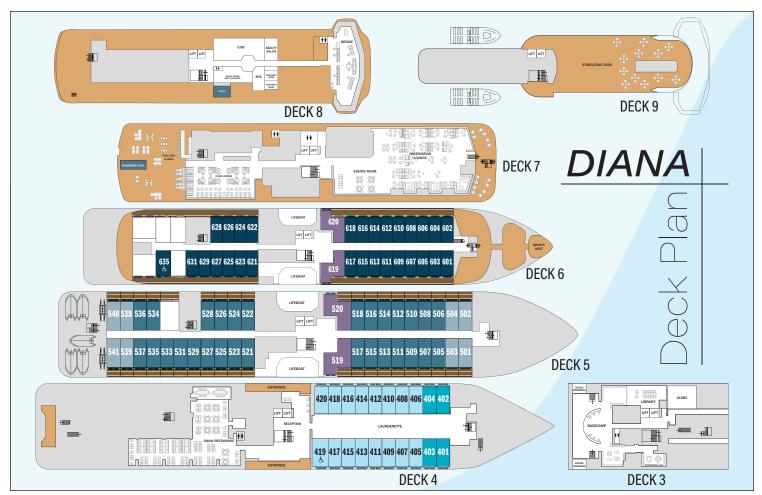
#### Wednesday, September 25 **CURIUM/KOLOSSI CASTLE**

The ancient city of Curium stands on one of the most beautiful sites in the Mediterranean, looking down to the sea from a promontory. Settled by Greeks during the Mycenean period (14th century BC), the magnificent site includes several important remains, among which is the glorious theater. Nearby is the Kolossi Castle, built by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in the 13th century. Spend the afternoon at leisure, and in the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, D)

#### Thursday, September 26 **CYPRUS/USA**

Transfer to Larnaca airport for the return flight home. (B)





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 connections, as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATES PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
Е	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 401–404.	\$8,890
D	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 405-420.	\$9,490
С	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501–504, 538–541.	\$10,790
В	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 505–518, 521–529, 531–537.	\$11,390
Α	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601–618, 621–635.	\$12,190
AA	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 474 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 519, 520, 619 & 620.	\$15,490

### LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM

Travel on this cruise program and enjoy savings of \$400 to \$900 per person on your next voyage with WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL and THALASSA JOURNEYS aboard a Swan Hellenic ship.

Savings are determined by the stateroom category booked and is applicable when you reserve your trip within 30 days of the completion date of EMPERORS, CONQUERORS, AND SAINTS

This saving cannot be combined with other offers and is subject to change.

**FOR SOLO TRAVELERS** 

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

#### **PROGRAM INCLUSIONS**

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

- One night at the *Hotel Conrad Istanbul Bosporus* (or similar) in Istanbul.
- Two nights at the Amathus Beach Hotel (or similar) at the end of the trip in Cyprus.
- Cruise aboard the Swan Hellenic *Diana*, as described in the itinerary.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage on the program arrival and departure dates.
- Lectures and discussions with Robert Gurval, Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Classics, UCLA and Douglas Brookes, Lecturer in Ottoman Turkish, Department of Middle Eastern Cultures and Languages, UC Berkeley.
- Complete program of tours and excursions with expert local guides as described in the itinerary.
- 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, guides, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

#### NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel

insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.



The Palace of the Grand Master, Rhodes, Greece

## REGISTRATION

Enclosed is my check for \$	(\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold	place(s) on
EMPERORS, CONQUERORS, AND SA	INTS, September 14 - 26, 2024 with World A	ffairs Council. I
understand that final payment is due	ninety (90) days prior to departure and is pay	able by check.

WACP 24D-0914

You may visit our website to submit your reservation online or send a check payable to Thalassa Journeys with this reservation form to:

□ Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates)

2nd choice 🗆 3rd choice 🗅

Twin 🖵

Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835 Email: travel@wacphila.org

Visit our website to submit your reservation online. https://wacphila.org/travel/emperors-conquerors-saints

1st choice 🗅\_\_\_\_\_

Double Occupancy

PREFERRED R	BED CONFIGURATION	Double 🗋	

FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST (AS ON YOUR	PASSPORT)	
FIRST	MIDDLE	LAST (AS ON YOUR	PASSPORT	
ADDRESS		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				
TELEPHONE (DAY)	(EVENING)	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 71-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 70 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, quarantine, 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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Join **Robert Gurval**, Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Classics, UCLA and **Douglas Brookes**, Lecturer in Ottoman Turkish, Department of Middle Eastern Cultures and Languages, UC Berkeley on **EMPERORS, CONQUERORS & SAINTS** 

