

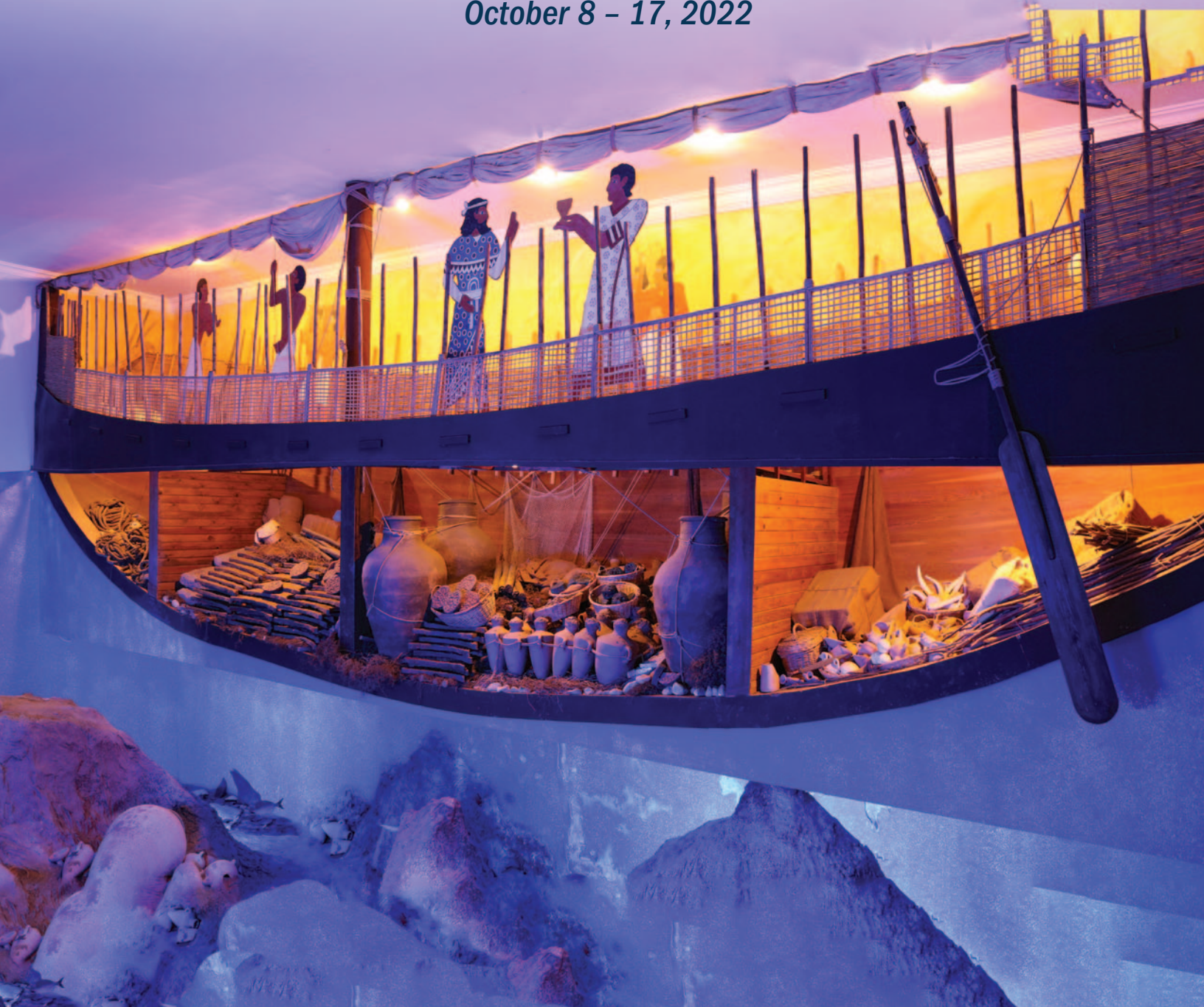
SKEPTIC

The Skeptics Society
Presents

ALONG THE ANCIENT COAST OF TURKEY A Voyage From Istanbul to Antalya

With Archaeologists Dr. Nicolle Hirschfeld and Dr. Rebecca Ingram
Aboard the Privately-Chartered 34-Guest *Callisto*

October 8 – 17, 2022



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to invite you on a truly unique journey. Scheduled to operate in October 2022, the trip will hug the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts of Turkey, visiting several important sites that have helped establish the historical value of shipwreck archaeology.

Starting in Istanbul, the fabled Constantinople, we will visit monuments from the city's Byzantine and Ottoman periods, including Aghia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, and Topkapı Palace. In Istanbul, we will board *Callisto*, and after sailing in the Sea of Marmara and entering the narrow strait of the Dardanelles, we will explore storied Troy, famed in antiquity for its wealth and as the site of the legendary Trojan War. Continuing along the Aegean Sea coast of Turkey, we will dock in Kuşadası, our base for exploring the remains of Ephesus, undoubtedly one of the world's great archaeological sites.

Next comes Bodrum, which is home to the superb Museum of Underwater Archaeology. We will visit both the Museum and the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) Center, where we will get a behind-the-scenes tour of ongoing artifact conservation. From Bodrum we follow in the footsteps of the Knights of St. John to the Greek island of Rhodes with its awe-inspiring medieval fortifications. Returning to the Turkish coast, we will call at Fethiye for a visit to the great Lycian city of Xanthus, and then sail past Uluburun, where archaeologist Dr. Nicolle Hirschfeld helped excavate the dazzling royal cargo transported aboard a Late Bronze Age shipwreck. After lovely Kekova, a fjord-like waterway, the ship will navigate to the bustling port city of Antalya, where our journey will end.

We are fortunate to have as lecturers two expert archaeologists, **Dr. Nicolle Hirschfeld**, Professor of Classical Studies at Trinity University, and **Dr. Rebecca Ingram**, Curator of Exhibits and Collections at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History. Their archaeological field experience, lectures, and discussions will illuminate the history and significance of the places we will visit. I hope you will join this exciting adventure!

Warm regards,



Dr. Michael Shermer
Executive Director
The Skeptics Society

PS: 7% of your cruise fee will be a tax-deductible donation to The Skeptics Society – a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

GUEST LECTURERS



Dr. Nicolle Hirschfeld is a Professor of Classical Studies at Trinity University in San Antonio and an Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA) Affiliated Scholar. She has excavated at sites throughout the eastern Mediterranean, including the Late Bronze Age shipwreck at Uluburun,

and dug through museum basements all over Europe, looking especially for material evidence of interactions among the different cultures of Late Bronze Age Greece, Anatolia, Cyprus, and Egypt. In 2010, she joined INA Founder George Bass to work at Cape Gelidonya, 50 years after the original season. Other special interests include potmarks (ancient barcodes), the scripts of ancient Cyprus, and seafaring in the ancient Mediterranean.



Dr. Rebecca Ingram is Curator of Exhibits and Collections at the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History in Texas and Editorial Assistant of the American Journal of Archaeology. She earned her M.A. and Ph.D. from the Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M

University, and spent four years helping to excavate 8 of the 37 shipwrecks found in the Byzantine harbor at Yenikapı, Turkey. Rebecca also assisted with the recording of an Ottoman galley in the Istanbul Naval Museum. She has traveled and lectured widely around the eastern Mediterranean and is particularly interested in the development of shipbuilding technology during the first millennium A.D.

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Aghia Sophia, Istanbul

ITINERARY

Saturday, October 8, 2022

ARRIVE IN ISTANBUL

Founded by Greeks in the 7th century BC and named Byzantium, 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. Upon arrival in Istanbul, transfer to the historic *Pera Palace Hotel*. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: D

Sunday, October 9

ISTANBUL

In the morning, tour Istanbul's major monuments from the Byzantine period, including the fabled walls and the great palace of the emperors; the Hippodrome; the underground Basilica Cistern; and the incomparable Aghia Sophia, the Church of Divine Wisdom, built by Emperor Justinian in the 6th century. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, visit the Blue Mosque and Ottoman galleys in the Naval Museum.

Meals: B, L

Monday, October 10

ISTANBUL & EMBARKATION ON CALLISTO

Spend the morning at leisure to explore on your own the city's colorful bazaars and other sites. In the afternoon, visit the Archaeological Museum, which houses important artifacts and other objects from ancient sites throughout Turkey. Also, visit the Topkapı Palace, the residence of the sultans for three centuries. Continue to the port to embark *Callisto* and sail in the Sea of Marmara.

Meals: B, D

Tuesday, October 11

TROY

From the port of Canakkale, where we will arrive in the morning, travel to fabled Troy, which consists of nine cities superimposed in rings, on a massive mound rising above the "windswept" plain of Ilium. It was to one of these cities, between 1240 BC and 1200 BC, that the Trojan prince Paris abducted the beautiful Helen, igniting the Trojan War that was fought by Greeks and Trojans. The imposing city of King Priam, after ten years of fighting, finally fell to the Greeks on the clever ruse of Odysseus, the Trojan Horse.

Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, October 12

CLAROS & EPHEBUS

Kuşadası gives easy access to important

ancient sites that we will explore. In the morning, drive to Claros. Settled by Greeks since at least the 10th century BC, Claros was an important sanctuary and oracular center of Apollo that became particularly popular during the Hellenistic and Roman periods. In the afternoon, tour Ephesus, one of the most prominent cities of antiquity, now a magnificent archaeological site. Founded by Greeks around 1100 BC, and renowned as the center of worship of the mother-goddess Cybele, later identified with



Claros

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Castle of St. Peter, Bodrum



Dr. Rebecca Ingram working at the excavation of the Byzantine shipwrecks at Yenikapı, Istanbul



Dr. Nicolle Hirschfeld on the Uluburun shipwreck

Artemis, Ephesus flourished between 600 BC and AD 500. The city was also central to the missionary work of St. Paul, who lived here from AD 52-54, preaching Christianity. See the stunning façade of the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian, the large Theater, and other buildings. Excavations continue and archaeologists have restored the Terrace Houses, giving a glimpse of the daily lives of the Ephesians.

Meals: B, L, D

Thursday, October 13

BODRUM

Founded by Peloponnesian Greeks, Bodrum, the ancient Halicarnassus, was the birthplace of Herodotus, the “father of history,” and the site of the Mausoleum, the grand funerary monument of Mausolus, the ruler of the city during the first half of the 4th century BC, that was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Bodrum is dominated by the Castle of St. Peter, built in the 15th century on a rocky promontory

overlooking the harbor with stones from the Mausoleum. The castle houses the superb Museum of Underwater Archaeology, which features artifacts from shipwrecks excavated by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology (INA). On a hill outside the town is INA's Bodrum Research Center, which we will also visit and be welcomed with a cocktail reception by the Center's archaeologists, curators and conservators. Anchored near Bodrum is *Virazon II*, INA's research ship, the first to be classed as an archaeological research vessel (ARV).

Meals: B, L, D

Friday, October 14

RHODES, Greece

Spend the day at the Greek island of Rhodes. Inhabited since the Neolithic age, Rhodes flourished during the Classical and Hellenistic periods, when it became a powerful maritime and commercial center, founding colonies on the nearby coast of Asia Minor and elsewhere in the Mediterranean. In the morning, tour Rhodes'

Old Town, one of the best-preserved walled medieval towns in Europe. The robust fortifications and other buildings were constructed by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, who ruled Rhodes from 1309 to 1523. It was also the Knights of St. John who built the castle of St. Peter in Bodrum. Visit the imposing Palace of the Grand Master, and walk the celebrated Street of the Knights to the Archaeological Museum. In the afternoon, drive along the island's east coast to the village of Lindos. With its white-washed houses built below the towering ancient Acropolis, Lindos presents one of the prettiest sights in the Aegean Sea.

Meals: B, L, D

Saturday, October 15

XANTHOS & ULUBURUN, Turkey

From the port town of Fethiye on Turkey's Mediterranean coast, visit Xanthos, ancient Lycia's principal city, built on a great cliff overlooking the Xanthos River and the sea beyond. Xanthos boasts significant remains,

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Temple of Hadrian, Ephesus



Xanthos



The village of Lindos on Rhodes, laid below its acropolis

including those on the Lycian Acropolis, the Nereid Monument, an exquisite Ionic building whose figured friezes are in the British Museum, the theater, and pillar-tombs with rock-cut facades. Later in the day, *Callisto* will sail by Uluburun, where INA archaeologists, under the direction of the late George Bass, carried out the world-famous excavation of a Late Bronze Age ship transporting raw materials and gifts exchanged between kings and pharaohs.
Meals: B, L, D

Sunday, October 16
KEKOVA BAY & CAPE GELIDONYA

Sail into Kekova Bay, where the narrow island of Kekova, only five miles long, forms a series of beautiful bays and fjord-like waterways, which contain submerged remains of an ancient town, which we will view from the decks of local boats.

Ashore, we will land at the pretty village of Kale, the site of ancient Simena, and may ascend to the medieval castle above the village. The view of Kekova from the castle is magnificent. In the afternoon, the ship will navigate near Cape Gelidonya, the place where, in 1960, George Bass, then a graduate student, directed the first ever scientific underwater excavation of an ancient shipwreck.
Meals: B, L, D

Monday, October 17
ANTALYA/USA

Disembark in Antalya and transfer to the airport for the return flight home.
Meals: B



INA archaeologist at work

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THE 34-GUEST YACHT CALLISTO



Cabin



Lounge

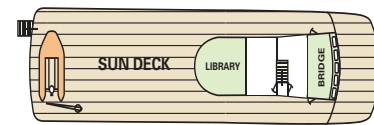


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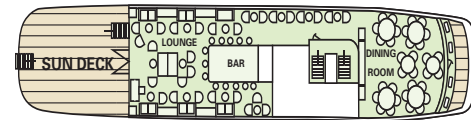


Sun Deck

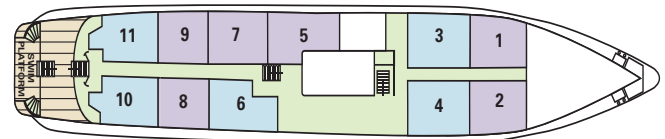
DECK PLAN



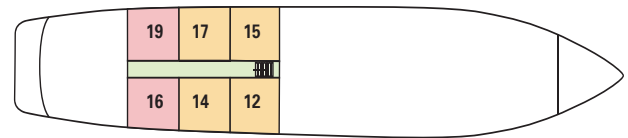
Sun Deck



Upper Deck



Main Deck



Lower Deck

MAIN SPECIFICATIONS

Length: 170 feet | Beam: 27.8 feet | Draft: 10.8 feet | Gross tonnage: 499
Main engines Mannheim 2x840 H.P. | Cruising speed: 10,5 knots

In an era of mega cruise ships that carry thousands of passengers, *Callisto* is a delightful alternative. More like a private yacht than a cruise ship, *Callisto* accommodates a maximum of just 34 guests in 17 cabins that face outside. Unlike the formalities found on larger cruise ships, a relaxed and informal atmosphere prevails aboard. A well-trained English-speaking crew of 18 manages the ship and provides friendly and efficient service. The dining room, surrounded by large windows, accommodates all guests at one unassigned seating, while the adjoining lounge, which is also lined with windows, is a good place to meet and socialize with fellow travelers, and attend lectures. When the weather permits, meals will be served al fresco. A library faces the spacious Sun Deck.

The 17 cabins range in size from 130 sq. ft. to 145 sq. ft. There are four different categories of cabins arranged on two decks, all of which feature either windows (Categories A & B), or portholes (Categories C & D); twin, double, or queen-size beds; individually controlled air-conditioning; flat-screen TV; mini fridge; wardrobe; safety deposit box; and telephone (internal use). Each cabin has a private bathroom with shower, marble sink countertop, hair dryer, and fine toiletries.

Callisto is equipped with stabilizers that provide smoother sailing.

RATES | PER PERSON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATE
D	Outside cabins on Lower Deck with twin beds and portholes. Cabins 16, 19. 130 sq. feet	\$6,990
C	Outside cabins on Lower Deck with twin beds and portholes. Cabins 12, 14, 15, 17. 130 sq. feet	\$7,790
B	Outside cabins on Main Deck with two lower beds and window. Cabins 1*, 2*, 5, 7, 8, 9. 135 sq. feet *Cabins 1 and 2 have a double bed.	\$8,990
A	Outside cabins on Main Deck with twin beds and window. Cabins 3*, 4*, 6, 10, 11. 135 - 145 sq. feet *Cabins 3 and 4 have a queen-size bed.	\$9,590

SINGLE OCCUPANCY: A few cabins in Categories C and B are available for single occupancy at a supplement of 150% of the per person double occupancy rate.

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PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Two nights at the historic *Pera Palace Hotel*, Istanbul.
- Welcome dinner in Istanbul at a local restaurant.
- Full breakfast at the hotel.
- Meals in Istanbul as indicated in the itinerary.
- Cruise aboard the *Callisto*, as described in the itinerary.
- All meals aboard ship, including wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Complete program of tours and excursions and other activities ashore, with professional English-speaking guides.
- Program of lectures and discussions by Dr. Nicolle Hirschfeld and Dr. Rebecca Ingram.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage abroad.
- Open bar aboard ship throughout the voyage.
- Port, embarkation, and all other local taxes.
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters.
- Experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- Comprehensive pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; gratuities to shipboard personnel; any items not mentioned in the Program Inclusions.

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The ruins of the legendary ancient city of Troy, Turkey

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 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, 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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**THE SKEPTICS SOCIETY INVITES YOU ON A JOURNEY THAT WILL EXPLORE
TURKEY'S ANCIENT COAST, WITH EXPERT ARCHAEOLOGISTS**

View of Kekova from the Simena Castle

