

SKEPTIC

The Skeptics Society

Presents

IN SEARCH OF HOMER

A Voyage to the World of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* in the Aegean and Ionian Seas

Aboard the 34-Guest Yacht Callisto

With Professors Emily Wilson and William B. Irvine

September 10 -21, 2022



Dear Friends,

Perhaps no works exerted more influence in the Western literary tradition than Homer's epic poems of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Set to writing sometime in the 8th century BC, the two ageless poems stem from a much older oral poetic tradition. They describe events that took place some 400 years before they were first written down. The earlier period they refer to is the heroic age of the Bronze Age, the time when the Mycenaean civilization flourished in Greece, from about 1600 BC to about 1200 BC.

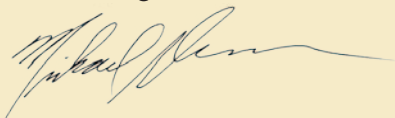
The two Homeric epics played the greatest role in the development of ancient Greek culture and education. The *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* were used as textbooks in the ancient Greek world, and as Plato noted, Homer "has taught Greece." Homer's influence touched every discipline, including philosophy. His wisdom was praised, and during the Hellenistic and Roman periods the Stoic philosophers believed that the epics contained Stoic concepts.

Having Homer as our guide, on this voyage we will explore places that figure in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Sailing from Istanbul, founded as Byzantium in the 7th century BC by Greeks, later becoming Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, we will call at Canakkale, our gateway to Troy, where, as told in the *Iliad*, Greeks fought the Trojans for ten years. Navigating the narrow Dardanelles, we will enter the Aegean, Homer's "wine-dark" sea, to call at Chios, the beautiful island that is reputed to be Homer's birthplace. Sailing toward the Cycladic islands, we will stop in Delos, the sacred island where Apollo and his twin sister Artemis were born, continuing to fabled Argolis in the Peloponnese, where we will explore Mycenae, the most powerful city of Mycenaean Greece, and home of Agamemnon, who led the Greeks in the war against Troy. Homer described Mycenae as "rich in gold." Rounding the southern shores of the Peloponnese, we will stop in Pylos to visit the Mycenaean palace that is associated with the wise King Nestor. From there, on to western mainland Greece for the visit to the Necromanteion of Ephyra, where Odysseus entered the Underworld, and to Ithaca, home of Odysseus. Sailing in the Gulf of Corinth and transiting the scenic Corinth Canal, we will disembark at a yacht marina near Piraeus, the ancient and modern port of Athens, where we will spend two days.

We are most fortunate to have with us as guest lecturers **Emily Wilson**, Professor in the Department of Classical Studies and Chair of the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory at the University of Pennsylvania, author of many books, and whose translation of the *Odyssey* received wide acclaim; and **William B. Irvine**, Professor of Philosophy at Wright State University, who authored several books, including *Guide to the Good Life: The Ancient Art of Stoic Joy*, which has been translated in several languages.

This is a journey that promises to enrich the spirit as much as the senses. As participation is limited, I urge you to reserve your cabin today.

With warm regards,



Dr. Michael Shermer
Executive Director
The Skeptics Society

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

GUEST LECTURERS



Emily Wilson is a Professor in the Department of Classical Studies and Chair of the Program in Comparative Literature and Literary Theory at the University of Pennsylvania. Her books include *The Death of Socrates: Hero, villain, chatterbox, saint* (2007) and *The Greatest Empire: A life of Seneca* (2014). Her verse translations include *Six Tragedies of Seneca*, four translations of plays by Euripides in the Modern Library *The Greek Plays*, and *Oedipus Tyrannos*. She is the Classics editor of the revised Norton Anthology of World Literature. Her 2017 translation of the *Odyssey* was met with wide acclaim, and she is now at work on a new translation of the *Iliad* and translations of select dialogues of Plato. She was named a MacArthur Fellow in 2019, and won a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2020.



William B. Irvine is professor of philosophy at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, USA. He is the author of eight books that have been translated into more than twenty languages. His *Guide to the Good Life: The Ancient Art of Stoic Joy* played a key role in the Stoic renaissance that

has taken place in recent years. His subsequent *Stoic Challenge: A Philosopher's Guide to Becoming Tougher, Calmer, and More Resilient* provides a strategy for dealing, in proper Stoic manner, with the setbacks we experience in daily living. He is currently at work on a book about thinking critically, but with an open mind, in the age of the internet.



The sacred island of Delos

ITINERARY

Saturday, September 10, 2022

DEPART THE US

Depart the US for Istanbul, Turkey.

Sunday, September 11

ISTANBUL, Turkey

Arrive in Istanbul. Founded as Byzantium by Greeks in the 7th century BC on the Bosphorus, the strategic narrow waterway that separates Europe from Asia, the city was later named Constantinople, becoming for over 1,000 years the capital of the Byzantine Empire, and after the 15th century, the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Upon arrival, transfer to the port to embark *Callisto* and sail into the Sea of Marmara.

Meals: D

Monday, September 12

TROY

From the port of Canakkale, 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 Paris abducted the beautiful Helen, igniting the Trojan War. 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

Tuesday, September 13

CHIOS, Greece

Awake in the morning in beautiful and prosperous Chios, the island that claims Homer as a native son. Drive to Daskalopetra ("Teacher's Stone"), an impressive spot between a ravine and the sea that is also referred to as "Homer's Rock" because it is believed to be the spot where Homer taught poetry to his students. Continue to the 11th-century Monastery of Nea Moni, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the most important ecclesiastical centers in Greece. The Monastery sits majestically in a wooded vale and is decorated with exquisite frescoes and mosaics. In the town of Chios, visit the Archaeological Museum. In the afternoon, tour the unique mastic villages in the south of the island.

Meals: B, L, D

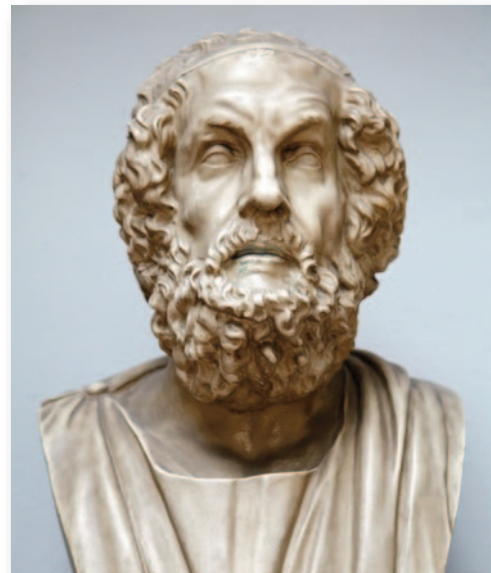
Wednesday, September 14

DELOS & PAROS

Spend the morning in the small island of Delos, one of the most important archaeological sites in Greece. Delos was sacred to ancient Greeks because it was identified as the birthplace of twins Apollo and Artemis. In the *Odyssey*, Odysseus mentions that he visited Apollo's altar on his way to Troy. Reference to the island is also made in the *Homeric Hymn to Apollo*. A walking tour of this veritable open-air museum leads to the remains of the main shrines dedicated to the twin and other deities as well as to the Terrace of the Lions, with its deftly carved archaic figures,

originally constructed to overlook and protect the Sacred Lake. Many of the excavated houses contain beautiful floor mosaics. Over lunch aboard, sail to nearby Paros, famed in antiquity as the home of the 7th-century BC poet Archilochus, considered to be almost as great as Homer, and as the source of very fine marble. Spend time at leisure in the island's main town, which features the characteristic white-wash architecture of the Cycladic islands. You may wish to visit the Ekatontapyliani church, a historic place of worship for over 1700 years.

Meals: B, L, D



Marble bust of Homer

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



The ancient theater at Dodoni



Vathy, Ithaca

Thursday, September 15

NAFLION, MYCENAE & TIRYNS

Arrive in storied Peloponnese, calling in Nafplion for an excursion to Mycenae and Tiryns, two centers of the Mycenaean civilization that flourished during the Bronze Age. Homer referred to Mycenae, the home of Agamemnon, as “rich in gold,” “well-built” and “broad-streeted.” Enter the fabled citadel through the celebrated Lion’s Gate and ascend to the Grave Circle A, where golden artifacts were found. See also the remains of houses and the palace, and visit the Archaeological Museum, and the Treasury of Atreus, an impressive beehive-shaped tomb, located outside the citadel. Homer speaks of “wall-girt Tiryns,” which we will visit next. A prominent Mycenaean fortress-palace, Tiryns is notable for its massive well-preserved walls. Spend the afternoon at leisure to explore Nafplion, one of the prettiest old towns of Greece.

Meals: B, L, D

Friday, September 16

PYLOS

After rounding southern Peloponnese, *Callisto* will dock in Pylos, an attractive town built on the head of spacious Navarino Bay and guarded by two medieval castles. Drive to nearby Epano Englianos to visit the best-preserved Mycenaean palace discovered in Greece, which dates from around the 14th-century BC, and which is associated with the *Iliad*’s elder warrior King Nestor. In the *Odyssey*, the palace is the place of the meeting between Nestor and Telemachus, son of Odysseus, who traveled from Ithaca to seek news of his father. Here, excavators discovered, among other rooms, the palace archives that contained the famed clay Linear B tablets that contained inscriptions. When they were deciphered, in 1951, it was astonishingly

revealed that the inscriptions were a form of early Greek, confirming that Greek was spoken for much longer than scholars had believed. Return to Pylos to spend time at leisure before sailing.
Meals: B, L, D

Saturday, September 17

PREVEZA, DODONI & EPHYRA

Arrive in Preveza, located at the end of a narrow opening that leads to a large gulf. It was off Preveza that the decisive Battle of Actium took place in 31 BC, when Octavian defeated the much larger combined fleet of Antony and Cleopatra. Take an excursion to Dodoni, mentioned in both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, and described by Homer as “wintry Dodoni.” An archaeological site of great beauty and importance, Dodoni was an oracular site since deep antiquity dedicated to Zeus. After lunch at a restaurant in the picturesque seaside town of Parga, visit the Necromanteion of Ephyra, which, according to the ancient Greeks, marked the entrance to the Underworld. Pilgrims came here to communicate with the dead. As narrated in the *Odyssey*, Odysseus descended to Hades, the Underworld, to visit his dead comrades.

Meals: B, L, D

Sunday, September 18

ITHACA

Call at Ithaca, the legendary home of Odysseus, a beautiful island of scenic coves and verdant woodlands. *Callisto* will navigate the long bay that leads to Vathy, the island’s main town, whose waterfront is lined with neoclassical buildings and cafes. Explore sites believed to be associated with Odysseus, including the Bay of Phokrys, where Odysseus landed after the ten-year Trojan War and ten years of wandering; the Arethusa Spring, where Odysseus met

Eumaeus, his loyal swineherd; Alalkomenae, where Heinrich Schliemann, the rediscoverer of Troy, excavated a Mycenaean site he believed to be the location of Odysseus’ palace; and the more recent excavations near the village of Stavros, which have led modern archaeologists to identify the place as the location of the palace. Spend the afternoon at sea cruising in the Gulf of Corinth, later transiting the narrow Corinth Canal.

Meals: B, L, D

Monday, September 19

ATHENS

Disembark in the morning in Zea Marina, a yacht harbor near the port of Piraeus, and drive to the ancient Agora, the civic and commercial center of Athens and the living heart of its democracy.



Mycenaean Funerary Mask, 1550–1500 BC. National Archaeological Museum, Athens

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



Nea Moni monastery, Chios



The ruins of the legendary ancient city of Troy, Turkey



The Athenian Acropolis



Typical narrow street in old town of Parikia, Paros

Socrates could be seen here daily questioning the assumptions of his fellow citizens. See remains of the civic buildings, including the Stoa Poikile ("Painted Porch"), where the founder of the Stoic philosophy, Zeno of Citium, lectured. Stoicism took its name from this "stoa." Also, visit the well-preserved 5th-century Temple of Hephaistos, and the Agora Museum housed in the restored Stoa of Attalus. Continue to Plato's Academy, a sacred precinct made famous as the location of Plato's school of philosophy. After lunch at a local restaurant, check-in at the *Hotel Athens Capital*, conveniently located in the center of the city, and spend the afternoon at leisure.

Meals, B, L

Tuesday, September 20 **ATHENS**

Visit in the morning the National Archaeological Museum, which houses masterpieces from the many periods of Greek history and culture. Included are the famous gold objects of Mycenae and other Mycenaean centers, including the gold funerary masks, one of which

Heinrich Schliemann, the excavator of Troy and Mycenae, identified (wrongly) as the Mask of Agamemnon. Continue to the recently-discovered ground of the Lyceum, where in 334 BC, Aristotle founded his Peripatetic school of philosophy. In the afternoon, tour the Acropolis and its celebrated monuments. Occupied since prehistoric times, the rocky plateau of the Acropolis rises dramatically out of the plain and dominates the modern city as it did in ancient times. The incomparable Parthenon and other temples, built in the 5th century BC, represent the highest achievement of architecture and art of the Classical period. Visit also the Acropolis Museum and view an outstanding collection of sculpture. Farewell dinner will be served at a restaurant near the Acropolis.

Meals: B, D

Wednesday, September 21 **ATHENS**

Transfer to the airport for the return flight home.
Meals: B

OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE ISTANBUL EXTENSION

September 9 – 11, 2022

Explore storied Istanbul on a two-day pre-cruise optional interlude. Accommodations will be at the historic Hotel Pera Palace. Tours will include the city's principal Byzantine and Ottoman monuments. Also included are airport/hotel/pier transfers and a welcome dinner.

Price:

\$1,390 per person, double occupancy.

Single room occupancy supplement:
\$390.

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

THE 34-GUEST YACHT CALLISTO



Cabin



Lounge



Sun Deck



Library



Dining Room

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, several meals will be served al fresco. A library faces the spacious Sun Deck.

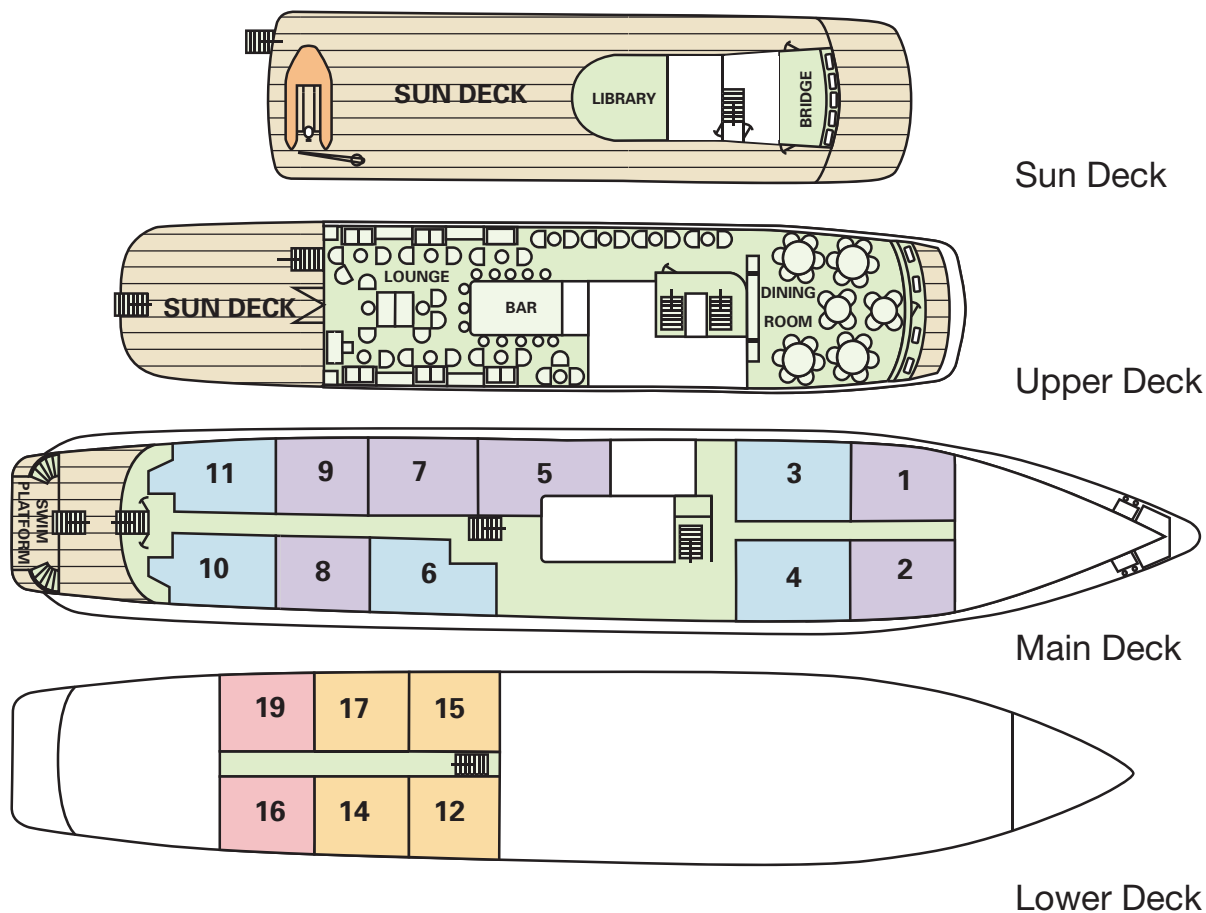
The 17 cabins range in size from 130 sq.ft to 145 sq. ft. There are four different categories of cabins arranged on two decks, all of which feature either windows (Categories A & B), or portholes (Categories C & D); twin, double or

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.

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

DECK PLAN



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

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	\$7,990
C	Outside cabins on Lower Deck with twin beds and portholes. Cabins 12, 14, 15, 17. 130 sq. feet	\$8,790
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.	\$9,690
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.	\$10,490

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.

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

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Cruise aboard the *Callisto*, as described in the itinerary.
- Two nights at the elegant *Hotel Athens Capital*, Athens.
- Full breakfast each morning at the hotel.
- All meals aboard ship, including wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Meals in Athens as described in the itinerary.
- Complete program of tours and excursions and other activities ashore, with professional English-speaking guides.
- Program of lectures and discussions by Professors Emily Wilson and William B. Irvine.
- 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.

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



8815 Conroy-Windermere Road,
Suite 406
Orlando, FL 32835



Nafplion

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.

CST 2138603-50

ST 42048