Antiquities of the Red Sea and Aegean Sea
including a Transit of the Suez Canal

Petra • Luxor • The Pyramids
Alexandria • Santorini • Athens

An epic journey aboard the Exclusively Chartered Le Bougainville

October 29 to November 11, 2020
Dear Club Members,

Enshrined with over 5000 years of human history, the storied lands of Greece, Egypt and Jordan stand at the crossroads of religious faith and cultural enlightenment. Portals of antiquity lead to a treasure trove of ancient wonders and UNESCO marvels that defy the limits of the imagination. The pharaonic riches of Egypt, the “rose-red city” of Petra, the beautiful Greco-Roman temples of Jerash and the 3000-year-old Minoan ruins of Akrotiri summon awe and wonder like few places on Earth.

Join us on this epic, custom-designed 14-day journey like no other to the classical world’s very cradle of civilization. Visit three continents, navigate the legendary waterways of the Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Aegean Sea, transit the seminal Suez Canal and experience eight magnificent UNESCO World Heritage sites. Cruise for eight nights aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star Le Bougainville, which features just 92 elegant Suites and Staterooms, each with a private balcony.

Stand in the shadows of the three iconic pyramids of Giza, an incredible engineering feat that still dominates the horizon and stands guarded by the inscrutable Great Sphinx. Enjoy excursions to the venerated sites of the Nile Valley city of Thebes, including the magnificent Karnak Temple Complex, Luxor Temple and specially arranged access to Queen Nefertari’s tomb in the Valley of the Queens. Follow in the footsteps of the nomadic Bedouins across Wadi Rum, an orange-hued sea of sand and stone where Lawrence of Arabia established his base. Experience the sublime second coming of Alexandria’s Bibliotheca, which pays homage to the visionary Panhellenic empire embodied by its predecessor, and in Cairo, view antiquities spanning 7000 years at the venerable Egyptian Museum.

On our Pre-Program Option, explore the spectacular remnants of ancient Greece, including the Acropolis and Delphi, as you contemplate Greece’s contributions to early Western civilization. During the Post-Program Option, visit Israel, including the archaeological sites and biblical reference points of Jerusalem, Masada, the Dead Sea and the Sea of Galilee.

This exclusive, expertly designed itinerary—co-sponsored with several organizations including Yale, Tufts and the National Trust for Historic Preservation—offers incomparable opportunities to explore antiquity, cruise along ancient trade routes and immerse yourself in the dazzling panorama of human history within the exceptional comfort and luxury of a Five-Star small ship. Make your reservations on this popular program now while space and Early Booking Savings are still available.

Best regards,

Kristina Nemeth
Travel Director
(415) 597-6720
Athens, Greece
Birthplace of democracy and home to many of the greatest philosophers and historians—from Socrates to Herodotus—Athens is unparalleled in its contributions to early Western civilization.

Santorini
Widely considered to be the mythical lost city of Atlantis, Santorini overlooks a submerged caldera, the result of one of the most cataclysmic volcanic eruptions in history. Picture-perfect Santorini’s whitewashed villages of sugar-cube houses and blue-domed churches cascade to cerulean waters. The remarkable Bronze Age ruins of Akrotiri, held intact by layers of pumice and ash for over 3500 years, reveal the architectural sophistication and advanced culture of its Minoan inhabitants. Findings from Akrotiri are elegantly exhibited in the Museum of Prehistoric Thera. By cable car, descend from Fira, where stunning white-walled buildings stand in stark contrast against slate-colored volcanic cliffs.

Alexandria, Egypt
Tour legendary Alexandria, founded by 25-year-old Alexander the Great in 331 B.C. and the fulcrum of the ancient Hellenic world. The Lighthouse of Alexandria—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—shone as a beacon of enlightenment, while the Library of Alexandria, with its vast archive of over 140,000 manuscripts and papyrus scrolls, formed a magnet for the ancient world’s greatest scientists, from Euclid to Archimedes. The library’s visionary reincarnation, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, constructed in 2002, resembles a giant discus adorned with hieroglyphs and symbolizes a second rising of the sun. See imposing Pompey’s Pillar, dedicated to Roman emperor Diocletian in commemoration of one of his great victories. The city’s history can be traced from classical antiquity to modernity at the National Museum, where beautifully curated artifacts are housed in a restored Italianate villa.

Itinerary
Pre-Program CLASSICAL GREECE Option
1. Depart the U.S.
2. Arrive Athens, Greece/Embark ship (p)
3. Santorini (b,l,r,d)
4. Cruising the Mediterranean Sea (b,l,d)
5. Alexandria, Egypt (b,l,d)
6. Transit the legendary Suez Canal (b,l,d)
7. Ain Sokhna for the Great Pyramids at Giza/Cairo and the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities (b,l,d)
8. Hurghada for Ancient Thebes/
   Luxor and Karnak Temple Complexes (b,l,d)
9. Necropolis at Luxor for the Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens/Safaga (b,l,r,d)
10. Aqaba, Jordan/Disembark ship/Wadi Rum (b,l,d)
11. Petra/Amman (b,l)
12. Amman/Jerash/Amman (b,l)
13. Amman (b,r)
14. Depart Amman for Israel Post-Program Option or return to the U.S. (b)

UNESCO World Heritage site

Cover photo: Stand before the Great Sphinx, among the world’s largest statues, carved from a single piece of limestone.
Photo this page: The mythology surrounding the Nile River has shaped the region’s consciousness for thousands of years.
The cultural and religious heterogeneity that has defined Alexandria since the second century is evident at the Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa, Egypt’s largest Roman burial structure, lauded for its Egyptian, Greek and Roman sculpture, art and motifs.

Suez Canal Transit
One of the most momentous voyages between continents transits the 120-mile Suez Canal, Egypt’s glorious, Victorian-era engineering achievement. The canal was first conceived in the 1830s by French explorer and engineer Linant de Bellefonds and opened in 1869. Connecting the Red Sea to the Mediterranean Sea, the canal reduced the journey between Europe and South Asia by over 4000 miles, redefining international maritime trade.

The Great Pyramids of Giza
The last remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, the pyramids of the Old Kingdom pharaohs Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus, along with the Great Sphinx, are enduring symbols of Egypt’s glory that have towered over the Western Desert for nearly 5000 years. Nearby, Pharaoh Khufu’s reassembled funerary vessel, an incredible feat of ancient engineering, is housed in the Solar Boat Museum.

Cairo
Experience the grandeur of the sublime Egyptian Museum, which preserves Old, Middle and New Kingdom artifacts, including the entire repository of treasures unearthed from boy-king Tutankhamen’s tomb.

Temples of Luxor and Karnak
The treasures and architectural legacy of fabled Thebes—the imperial capital of Egypt’s New Kingdom (1550 to 1069 B.C.)—are revealed at stunning Karnak and Luxor Temples. Karnak’s vast complex of obelisks, shrines and sanctuaries reaches its apogee with the hypostyle hall, comprised of 134 colossal stone columns arranged in rows and embellished with hieroglyphs. Luxor Temple’s exquisite bas-reliefs depict seminal events, such as Ramses’s victory at the Battle of Kadesh in 1274 B.C.
The dramatic “Avenue of the Sphinxes” once stretched from Karnak to Luxor, forming the spiritual and economic nexus of the region.

The Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens
Framed by arid Theban hills, the Nile’s west bank’s hallowed Necropolis is replete with spectacular memorial temples built to perpetuate the cult of the pharaoh. In the Valley of the Kings, 63 illustrious pharaohs of Egypt’s New Kingdom and their worldly wealth were laid to rest in tombs engraved with hieroglyphs. Passageways descend to the burial chambers of King Ramses IV, where a rare image of the goddess Nut is emblazoned across a blue ceiling. The famous tomb of Tutankhamen contained the largest collection of Egyptian treasures and was discovered in 1922 by British archaeologist Harold Carter, funded by his partner Lord Carnarvon who resided in Highclere Castle of Downton Abbey fame.

Wadi Rum, Jordan
Shaped and smoothed by millennia of winter floods and desert wind and sand, Wadi Rum was aptly described by British soldier and diplomat T. E. Lawrence, the legendary Lawrence of Arabia, as “vast, echoing and godlike.” This ethereal landscape of striated canyons, soaring jebel (mountains), undulating sand dunes and rocky caverns is best experienced from a four-passenger open-air vehicle.

Petra
The inspiring, ancient “rose-red city” of Petra is a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Petra reached its zenith during the first century B.C. as the capital of the nomadic Bedouin Nabataean Empire. Concealed behind towering rocks, the city ignited Western scholarly interest when Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt was led through the Siq—a narrow, serpentine gorge—to Petra’s spellbinding Khazneh (Treasury) by a Bedouin guide in 1812. The site’s majestic ensemble of temples, dwellings and tombs, carved directly into the sandstone cliff face, still holds a mythical appeal.
Luxury Small Ship, Innovative Design

Le Bougainville, launched in 2019, ushers in a new generation of Five-Star small ships, combining revolutionary design and a new standard of luxury. Dock in smaller ports inaccessible to larger ships.

Respect for the Environment

A new addition to the Ponant “Clean Ship” fleet, an important distinction among ocean-cruising vessels, Le Bougainville is energy efficient and eco-friendly, protecting fragile marine ecosystems.

Elegant Suites and Staterooms, 100% with Private Balconies

Each of the 92 Five-Star Staterooms and Suites (up to 484 square feet) features a private balcony. Grand Deluxe Suites have a bay window and spacious private terrace. Accommodations offer two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, private bathroom with shower and luxury hotel-style amenities.

Life on Board

Enjoy views from the indoor-outdoor lounges and educational lectures, cultural performances or film screenings in the state-of-the-art theater. Relax in the spa, sauna, infinity-style swimming pool or Blue Eye underwater Observation Lounge. The ship has a beauty salon, a fitness room and three elevators. Complimentary Wi-Fi access is available (conditions permitting).

Chic and Casual Dining

Dine indoors or alfresco on international and regional cuisine in the stylish restaurant, at the casual pool deck grill or from 24-hour room service. Meals include continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and four-course dinner.

World-Class Service

The English-speaking crew is personable and attentive, and the ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and a nurse.

Jerash

Often invoked as the “Pompeii of Asia,” Jerash’s remarkably preserved colonnaded avenues, ceremonial gates and golden-hued temples speak to its stature as one of the Roman Decapolis’s most important cities. Marvel at the prodigious Hadrian’s Arch, the intricately carved Temples of Artemis and Zeus and the immense scale and sublime architecture of the Forum.

Amman

Amman’s wealth of archaeological artifacts stands testament to centuries of cultural influences. This biblical Ammonite city was conquered and renamed Philadelphia by Egypt’s King Ptolemy II Philadelphus in the third century B.C. Expanded by the Romans, Philadelphia flourished as the heart of Roman Arabia. From the Citadel, see the towering columns of the Temple of Hercules looming over the cosmopolitan capital of Amman, where the magnificent, 6000-seat Roman theater, dating from the second century, forms the city’s centerpiece and still stages performances. The lauded Jordan Museum preserves the world’s oldest statues, the remarkable plaster statuettes of ‘Ain Ghazal, adroitly fashioned in 6500 B.C. Everyone is welcome in the beautiful, blue-domed King Abdullah Mosque, built by the late King Hussein in honor of his grandfather.
Included

◆ Exclusive lectures and presentations by study leaders
◆ Eight nights aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star Le Bougainville
◆ Cruise from Athens, Greece, to Aqaba, Jordan, featuring port calls at Santorini, Greece; Alexandria, Egypt; Ain Sokhna for Giza and Cairo; and Hurghada for Luxor
◆ One night in the STEIGENBERGER NILE PALACE Hotel in Luxor; one night in the MOVENPICK Hotel in Petra; and three nights in the FAIRMONT Hotel in Amman
◆ Meals as specified in the itinerary
◆ Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages served throughout the cruise
◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions and a Farewell Reception in Amman
◆ All entrance fees and tours as described in the itinerary
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
◆ Complimentary Wi-Fi on board ship (conditions permitting)
◆ Egypt and Jordan entry visas
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotels and aboard ship
◆ Complimentary bottled water in your accommodations and on excursions
◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program
◆ Pre-departure materials, including a reading list
◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company

Not Included

◆ International airfare
◆ Taxes of $795 per person (subject to change)
◆ Gratuities to ship personnel ($15 per person per night recommended)
◆ Hotel staff gratuities (Main Program and Pre-/Post-Program Options, $2 per person per night recommended) and gratuities for activities on your own
◆ Passport and visa fees (excluding Egypt and Jordan entry visas)
◆ Meals and alcoholic beverages not listed as included
◆ Transfers and baggage handling to/from airport/hotel on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s)
◆ Any overnight on land due to flight schedule(s)
◆ Personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access unless otherwise specified
◆ Accident/sickness, trip cancellation and baggage insurance
◆ Baggage charges on aircraft; airfare and associated local taxes not listed as included
◆ Airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed as included
◆ All other services not specifically mentioned in the “Included” section
Further expand your exploration of great civilizations on this comprehensive Post-Program Option of captivating biblical, historical and cultural sites in and around Jerusalem and Tiberias and on the Sea of Galilee. In fascinating Jerusalem, a holy city for three of the world’s major religions, walk in the footsteps of Jesus, see religious sites and visit the poignant Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum. Tour UNESCO World Heritage-designated Masada, see where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, visit Bethlehem and enjoy an unforgettable float in the Dead Sea. Visit Nazareth, Cana, the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum and the Ancient Boat Museum. Enjoy a cruise on the Sea of Galilee (weather permitting), stop beside the Jordan River at the Yardenit Baptismal Site and tour a traditional rural kibbutz, with lunch. Deluxe accommodations are for four nights in Jerusalem and two nights in Tiberias.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: $2895
Price per person, based on single occupancy: $4395

On this fascinating Pre-Program Option, experience Athens, the ancient city unmatched in its contributions to the foundation of the Western world. Tour the monumental Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and see its archaeological treasures in the Acropolis Museum. Visit the perfectly proportioned Parthenon, a graceful example of Doric architecture. Explore colorful Plaka, Athens's oldest neighborhood, at leisure. Enjoy a full-day excursion to the mystical UNESCO World Heritage site of Delphi and its Archaeological Museum. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe Athenaeum InterContinental Hotel.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: $995
Price per person, based on single occupancy: $1345

Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.

Please check one:

[ ] We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us.

Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s)
Email Address
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Send to: Commonwealth Club Travel
110 The Embarcadero
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or call: (415) 597-6720

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or call: (415) 597-6720

Title
Full Name (exactly as it appears on your passport)

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person and $200 per person Classical Greece Pre-Program Option and/or $200 per person Israel Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

[ ] Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $ as deposit.

[ ] I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $ to:

[ ] Visa  [ ] MasterCard

Card Number
Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by July 24, 2020.

We require membership to the Commonwealth Club to travel with us.

Please check one:

[ ] I am a current member of the Commonwealth Club.

[ ] Please sign me up/renew my membership with the credit card information provided here.

[ ] I will visit commonwealthclub.org/membership to sign up for a membership.

Please make my/our reservation(s) in category:

1st choice  2nd choice

[ ] Double occupancy (two twin beds).

[ ] Double occupancy (one queen bed).

[ ] Single accommodations.

[ ] I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

Classical Greece Pre-Program Option

[ ] Double at $995 per person.

[ ] Single at $1345 per person.

[ ] I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Israel Post-Program Option

[ ] Double at $2895 per person.

[ ] Single at $4395 per person.

[ ] I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

[ ] I/We want to book my/our air, at an additional cost to be advised, from:

(Tell in departure city)

[ ] Economy Class

[ ] Upgraded Economy

[ ] Business Class

[ ] First Class

Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

[ ] I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.
FALL UNDER THE SPELL OF SANTORINI, THE QUINTESSENTIAL GREEK ISLAND POSTED AS THE LOST CITY OF ATLANTIS.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND BINDING ARBITRATION AGREEMENT

The Commonwealth Club Travel and Gohagan & Company are the co-organizers of the program and its and its employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (collectively “Gohagan”), do not guarantee or warrant any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your program including, for example, lodging facilities, airline, vessel, or other transportation companies, guides or guide services, local ground operators, providers or organizers of optional excursions, food service or entertainment providers, etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors and Gohagan is not responsible to you or anyone for aacro or willful act or to failure to act of any such person or entity or of any other third party. 

In addition and without limitation, Gohagan is not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of God or force majeure, acts of government, acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection or revolt, bites from or attacks by animals, insects or pests, strikes or other labor activities, criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof, sickness, illness, epidemics or the threat thereof, the lack of availability of or access to services, political upheaval or problems with government, strikes or other labor activities, mechanical or other conditions beyond the control of Gohagan, transportation using hotels, inns or lodges for cruise accommodations, mechanical or other failure of airplanes, vessels, or other means of transportation, or for any failure of any transportation mechanism to be available or safe.

If due to weather, flight schedules or other uncontrollable factors, you are required to spend an additional night(s), you will be responsible for your own hotel, transfers and meal costs. Baggage is entirely at owner’s risk. The right is reserved to decline to accept as a participant, or remove from the program, without refund, any person Gohagan judges to be incapable of meeting the rigors and requirements of participating in the activities, or who is abusive to other program participants, leaders or third parties, or who, in Gohagan’s sole opinion, fails to respect the enjoyment of the program by others. Specific room/cabin assignments are within the sole discretion of the hotel or cruise line.

Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or program features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Shirts, suits, port calls, hours of arrival and departure, sightseeing events, special programs and guest lecture series (if applicable) are subject to change and are beyond the control of Gohagan. Gohagan is not responsible therefor and is not required to compensate passengers under these circumstances. Gohagan may cancel a program or provide substitute vessels, hotels or attractions of a similar category for those listed in the brochure or any other literature concerning the program, including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing to the Commonwealth Club. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a fee of $50 Per/Post Program(s) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 119 through 95 days prior to departure, $800 ($200 Per/Post Program(s) per person; from 94 through 60 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, ‘no-show’, or early return from the program will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs, in addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Information about trip insurance will be sent with your confirmation. Rates quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the program participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

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ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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