THE WASHINGTON AND LEE TRAVELLER presents

THE CLASSICAL WORLD OF THE AEGEAN SEA
A Voyage of Discovery from Ancient Greece to the Ottoman Empire
October 12 - 25, 2021
Aboard the luxurious All-Suite, Star Legend

RESERVE WITH CONFIDENCE KNOWING THAT YOUR DEPOSIT IS FULLY REFUNDABLE THROUGH JUNE 1, 2021
hat is it about the Aegean Sea that inspires such a notion of happiness? Is it the luminous depth of its blue, which Homer called “wine dark,” or the pervasive radiance of its fabled islands, home to the Olympian gods and the heroic legends of the Ancient Greeks? Or is it that the Aegean once cradled a brilliant civilization that so deeply influenced later generations? It’s all that and more. But it’s also that, in many ways, the Aegean is our cultural home. Democracy, Western philosophy, scientific inquiry, theater, and recorded history originated here. Much of the Western tradition and the course of subsequent history derives from the Ancient Greeks. The Aegean, with its colors, lights, contours, and heights, was our original neighborhood.

We invite you to join us on a voyage that captures the essence of the ancient world. In Athens, we’ll stroll the grounds where Socrates conversed with his fellow citizens and behold the Acropolis and its famed monuments. In Olympia, the Olympic Games were held every four years for over a millennium; Crete was the birthplace of Zeus and home to the brilliant Bronze Age Minoan civilization, Europe’s earliest civilization; and Santorini, home to a sophisticated and prosperous prehistoric society, presents an unforgettable spectacle with its volcanic landscape. In Ephesus, one of the most important cities of the Greco-Roman world, St. Paul preached Christianity; and Istanbul, straddling the narrow strait that separates Europe from Asia, once was the seat of the powerful Byzantine and later the Ottoman Empires.

We will travel in autumn, one of the best times of the year to visit the Aegean Sea. The temperature is ideal for exploring the ancient sites, and the summer crowds are gone. Our ship for the voyage is the elegant Star Legend, which offers spacious suite accommodations, beautiful lounges, expansive open decks, fine dining and many other amenities. The ship is presently undergoing a several million dollar expansion that will be completed in spring 2021.

We hope you will join fellow W&L alumni, parents and friends on this exceptional voyage to the Aegean, its wine-dark waters and remarkable shores.

Warm regards,

Rob Fure
Director of Lifelong Learning

P.S. For your peace of mind, your deposit is fully-refundable through June 1, 2021. We expect this voyage to be popular and encourage you to reserve now to secure your preferred suite aboard the newly-renovated Star Legend.

For more information, please call the W&L Office of Lifelong Learning at 540.458.8723. For the ease of reserving your space online, please visit lifelong.wlu.edu/Aegean21
**ITINERARY**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021**  
**DEPART THE USA**  
Depart the United States for Athens, Greece.

**Wednesday, October 13**  
**ATHENS, Greece**  
Arrive in Athens and transfer to the elegant Hotel King George, located on Syntagma ("Constitution") Square, the center of the city. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.  
**Meals:** D

**Thursday, October 14**  
**ATHENS**  
Athens’ ancient monuments attest to its glorious past. This is the birthplace of democracy and many other ideas and concepts that form the integral part of the Western tradition. In the morning, tour the Agora, the civic and commercial center of ancient Athens and the living heart of its democracy. See the remains of buildings and visit the Agora Museum, housed in the reconstructed Stoa of Attalus, originally built and the 2nd century AD, as well as the well-preserved 5th-century BC Temple of Hephaistos. Continue to the Benaki Museum, where lunch will be served in its terraced restaurant, followed by a visit to its important collections that chronicle the development of Greek culture through the centuries. The rest of the afternoon and evening will be at leisure for independent activities.  
**Meals:** B, L

**Friday, October 15**  
**ATHENS/PIRAEUS – Embarkation on the Star Legend**  
This morning 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 the other temples built in the 5th century BC represent the highest achievement of architecture and art of the Classical period. Also visit the Acropolis Museum, which houses an outstanding collection of sculpture and other artifacts. After lunch, transfer to Piraeus, ancient and modern Athens’ port, to embark on the Star Legend. Sail shortly thereafter.  
**Meals:** B, L, D

**Saturday, October 16**  
**ITEA/DELPHI**  
In the morning, the ship will navigate the Corinth Canal, the narrow waterway that separates the mainland of Greece from the Peloponnese. In the afternoon, arrive in the small port of Itea for an excursion to nearby Delphi. One of the most impressive sites in Greece, Delphi stands on high ground and is surrounded by towering mountains split by a ravine. This place of extraordinary beauty has been sacred from the earliest times. Steam and fumes emerge from cracks and crannies in the rocks giving the region an awesome majesty that perhaps inspired the building of the fabled shrines starting in the 7th century BC. Explore the site and visit the Museum, which houses the famous bronze statue of the Charioteer, among other treasures.  
**Meals:** B, L, D

**Sunday, October 17**  
**KATAKOLON/OLYMPIA**  
From Katakolon, on the western coast of the Peloponnese, drive to Olympia, whose beautiful setting in a river valley covered with oaks, poplars, planes and pines, coupled with its importance throughout antiquity, make it one of the most significant archaeological sites in Greece. A sacred precinct dedicated to Zeus, it was at Olympia that the Panhellenic games were held every four years from 776 BC to AD 393, giving rise to the modern Olympics. View the temples, other public buildings and the stadium where the games were held. The Museum, which we will also visit, exhibits some of the best Classical and Roman sculptures in Greece.  
**Meals:** B, L, D

**Monday, October 18**  
**CRETE**  
Spend the day in Crete, the largest of the Greek

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islands, renowned for its historic cities, ancient sites, magnificent landscape, and the warm hospitality of its people. Crete is the reputed birthplace of Zeus and home of Europe’s earliest civilization, the Minoan, which dominated the Aegean world and parts of the Mediterranean during the Bronze Age, from about 2000 BC to 1600 BC. It was during this period that the magnificent Minoan palaces were built. From Souda Bay, where the ship will dock, travel along the island’s coastal road to Knossos, site of the largest and most impressive Minoan palace in Crete. Clustered around a spacious courtyard, the palace contains a maze of rooms, passages and stairways that probably inspired the concept of the labyrinth, home of the mythological monstrous Minotaur, half-man, half-bull. More than any other palace, Knossos reveals the brilliance and refinement of the Minoan civilization. After lunch at a local restaurant, continue to the superlative Heraklion Museum, home to the world’s finest Minoan artifacts. Return to the ship late in the afternoon. An alternative excursion will be available to Chania. Located near the port of Souda, Chania, with its strong and well-preserved Venetian architecture (Crete was a Venetian possession from 1204 to 1669), is Crete’s most attractive town. After touring the town, drive to the attractive hill-country south of Chania, where lunch will be served at the Doumas restaurant, perhaps Crete’s most traditional restaurant serving authentic Cretan dishes. On the return to the ship, stop at the monastery of Chrysopigi (“golden fountain”), founded in the 16th century, now a nunnery. Meals: B, L, D

Tuesday, October 19

SANTORINI

Be on deck as the ship approaches Santorini to admire the spectacle of the island’s white-washed town perched on the 1,000-foot-high volcanic caldera. Undoubtedly one of the most celebrated islands of the world, Santorini, known as Thera in classical antiquity, was a flourishing trading center inhabited by a sophisticated society during the Bronze Age. In the late 17th century BC, a massive volcanic eruption collapsed half of the island and buried Akrotiri, its main prehistoric town, in a thick layer of ash and pumice, preserving its houses, streets and squares as they existed 3,700 years ago. Some have connected the disappearance of half of the island to the legend of Atlantis. Excavations brought Akrotiri to life, and it is now one of the world’s most important archaeological sites. Our visit to the site will give a powerful lifelike picture of a well-organized Aegean prehistoric town. In addition to exploring Akrotiri, we will also visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which houses the extraordinary finds excavated at Akrotiri. After lunch at a local restaurant, spend time at leisure to explore and enjoy this incredible island. Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, October 20

KUSADASI/PRIENE/EPHESUS, Turkey

Disembark in the morning in Turkey’s port of Kusadasi for an excursion to ancient Priene. Founded in the 4th century BC on a steep rock, Priene presents a good example of chessboard town planning that is similar to modern American cities. The main streets are intersected at right-angles by lanes, lined with houses and impressive public buildings, among them the Temple of Athena, dedicated in 334 BC by Alexander the Great; the Bouleuterion or Council House, cut into the hillside; the theater, which accommodated 6,000 spectators; the stadium; and the buildings in the agora. Return to the ship for lunch and rest before driving to

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Ephesus, one of the most prominent cities of antiquity, now a magnificent archaeological site. Founded by Greeks around 1100 BC, Ephesus flourished between 600 BC and AD 500, becoming one of the wealthiest cities of the Roman Empire. Ephesus was also an early center of Christianity. St. Paul lived here from AD 52-54. After exploring the imposing remains of the city and the houses with their sumptuous decorations that date from Roman times, attend an exclusive private event – dinner, accompanied by music, in front of the restored Library of Celsus, one of Ephesus’ most prominent landmarks.

Meals: B, L, D

Thursday, October 21
AT SEA
Relax aboard and enjoy the Star Legend’s facilities as it sails in the Aegean Sea and navigates the narrow strait of the Dardanelles on the way to Istanbul.
Meals: B, L, D

Friday, October 22
ISTANBUL
Istanbul, formerly Constantinople, was founded by the Roman Emperor Constantine in AD 324 on the site of the ancient Greek city of Byzantium, which faced the strategic Bosphorus, the narrow strait that separates Europe from Asia. Constantinople was the capital of the Byzantine Empire for over 1,000 years, later becoming the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Disembark to explore this glorious city and several of its most important sites. In the morning, visit two outstanding Byzantine monuments, the church of Our Savior in Chora, now called the Kariye Mosque, and the basilica of Aghia Sofia. Built in the early 14th century, the church of Our Savior in Chora is decorated with luminous mosaics and frescoes depicting the life of the Virgin and episodes in the life of Christ. Built by the Emperor Justinian and dedicated by him in 537, Aghia Sofia (“Divine Wisdom”) is one of the world’s greatest architectural landmarks. The patriarchal cathedral for about 1,000 years, Aghia Sofia was renowned for its grandeur and splendor of its decoration, much of which survives to this date. After lunch aboard the ship, visit the Topkapi Palace, the extensive palace of the Turkish Sultans, with its courtyards, the Harem and elegant pavilions that hold a collection of artifacts; and the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet, built in the 17th century, also known as the Blue Mosque because of its striking faience of mostly blue shades that line the interior. End the day at the old Byzantine Cistern for a private Washington & Lee event that will include a cocktail party and music. The Star Legend remains overnight in Istanbul.
Meals: B, L, D

Saturday, October 23
ISTANBUL
In the morning, visit the Grand Bazaar, the famous covered network of streets and alleyways lined with stores, workshops and stalls that sell a huge variety of merchandise. Then board a local boat for a private cruise along the Bosphorus to admire the beautiful scenery that includes the skyline of Istanbul and the elegant old mansions built along the shores. Sail from Istanbul early in the afternoon, entering the Sea of Marmara and the Aegean Sea.
Meals: B, L, D

Sunday, October 24
LIMNOS, Greece
Spend the morning in Limnos, the isolated Greek island in the northeast Aegean that has been inhabited since deep antiquity. Land in Myrina, the island’s capital, a picturesque town crowned by a hilltop castle that was built in the 13th century by the Venetians. A tour of the island will include Kontias, a pretty village of windmills and stone houses; the village of Portianou, where the Folklore Museum includes the chair on which Winston Churchill sat when he commanded the offensive of Gallipoli by the Allied forces; and Poliohni, one of the earliest prehistoric sites in the Aegean. In Myrina, we will also visit the Archaeological Museum, which displays artifacts excavated at the island’s ancient sites. Spend the afternoon at sea sailing to Piraeus.
Meals: B, L, D

Monday, October 25
PIRAEUS/ATHENS/USA
Arrive in Piraeus early in the morning. Transfer to Athens’ airport for the return flight home.
Meals: B

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The All-Suite STAR LEGEND

Measuring 522 feet in length and with a beam of 62 feet, the spacious and elegant cruise ship Star Legend accommodates only 312 guests in 156 suites that provide ocean views. The smallest suite measures a generous 277 square feet, and many of the suites feature French balconies. All suites are equipped with a queen size bed that can be rearranged as twins, walk-in closet, fully-stocked minibar/refrigerator and bathroom with granite countertop and full-size tub and shower. Fine toiletries and other amenities are provided. There are several lounges, a library, a spa and fitness center. There is also ample open deck space, including a deck that circles the ship, and an outdoor swimming pool. Fine cuisine is served in the Amphora Restaurant, the Star Grill, and the intimate Cuadro 44 restaurant. The Star Legend is being expanded and fully-renovated in late 2020 – early 2021 and will feature enhanced public facilities, new energy-efficient engines, and a state-of-the-art ventilation system that includes hospital-grade high-efficiency particulate (HEPA) filters and ultraviolet germicidal irradiation (UV-C light) through which all air is sanitized. Aboard Star Legend, guests enjoy the epitome of comfort, safety and award-winning service.

RATES

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* Inquire for Single Occupancy rates
**PROGRAM INCLUSIONS**

- Two nights at the elegant, 5-star King George Hotel in Athens.
- Welcome dinner in Athens.
- All breakfasts, lunches and dinners throughout the tour except one independent dinner in Athens.
- Ten-night cruise aboard the Star Legend in suite accommodations offering ocean views.
- All meals aboard ship: breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.
- Welcome reception aboard ship.
- Complimentary bottled water, sparkling water, sodas, fresh juices, fruit smoothies, tea, coffee, cappuccinos, lattes, mochas and espresso aboard ship.
- Private lectures in Athens and aboard ship by accompanying Washington and Lee appointed lecturer.
- Airport transfers in Athens on October 13 and October 25 at specified transfer times.
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary, operated by Thalassa Journeys, featuring experienced English-speaking guides. Lunch included ashore on full-day excursions.
- Entrance fees to museums and historic sites.
- Services of a Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- Gratuities to ship’s crew, guides, drivers and porters.
- All local taxes, including port dues and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of personal nature; any items not specified in the itinerary or in the Program Inclusions.

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**REGISTRATION**

I (we) wish to reserve ___ place(s) on The Classical World of the Aegean Sea, October 12 - 25, 2021, with Washington & Lee University. I/We understand that a deposit is $1000.00 per person is required. Enclosed is my check for $ __________ ($1,000 per person) made payable to Thalassa Journeys. Alternatively, indicate below if you prefer to make your deposit via credit card.

☐ I/We wish to pay the deposit by credit card and authorize Thalassa Journeys to contact us for credit card details. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

Mail this registration form (including your deposit check, if applicable) to:
Office of Lifelong Learning, Washington and Lee University
204 West Washington St., Lexington, VA 24450

For the ease of registering online, please visit lifelong.wlu.edu/Aegean21

For further info, contact W&L Office of Lifelong Learning at 540.458.8723

PLEASE SELECT SUITE CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ 3rd choice _____

☐ Double Occupancy ☐ Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates)

DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

SIGNATURE DATE

TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)

E-MAIL

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour which is fully refundable through June 1, 2021. On June 1 an interim payment of $1,000 per person is due. Final payment is due on July 15, 2021 and can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Cancellations received between June 2 and July 13 are subject to a $1,000 per person penalty. Cancellations received 90-61 days prior to departure (July 14-August 12) will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure (August 13-October 12) 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 and the tour’s sponsoring organization. Thalassa Journeys and the tour’s sponsoring organization act 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 the City of New York, pursuant to applicable New York 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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Caryatides, Acropolis Museum, Athens, Greece
Discover the timeless treasures of the Aegean Sea, Greece and Turkey aboard the newly-renovated, all-suite Star Legend.

Book with confidence. Your deposit is fully refundable through June 1, 2021.

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