

CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE

Black Sea

Aboard the Island Sky

SEPTEMBER 25–OCTOBER 6, 2016

SANTA BARBARA
MUSEUM OF
ART



Dear Members & Friends,

SEPARATING CONTINENTAL EUROPE AND ASIA MINOR, the strategically important Black Sea has long provided the stage upon which the fortunes of ancient empires have risen and fallen. Aboard the recently refurbished all-suite *Island Sky*, circumnavigate this legendary body of water, exploring the region's storied past and challenging future and enjoying the cultural traditions that make each country visited unique and memorable.

From Istanbul, depart on a 10-night cruise to intriguing cities in Turkey, Georgia, Ukraine, and Bulgaria: Amasya, rich with traditional wooden Ottoman houses backed by the rock tombs of the Pontic kings; Batumi, site of a world-renowned botanical garden; Tbilisi, whose varied history is evident in the mix of medieval, classical, and Soviet structures; Trabzon, home of the 4th-century Sumela Monastery, adorned with biblical frescoes; Odessa, whose Potemkin Steps were made famous in the 1925 silent movie *Battleship Potemkin*; and Varna, where the archaeological museum houses a magnificent display of Scythian gold treasures.

Along the way, enjoy an excellent series of lectures and discussions with your study leader team, be entertained by vibrant and colorful dance and music performances, and sample a variety of local cuisines. To extend your adventure, join the optional pre-trip extension to Istanbul, the cultural crossroads of Europe and Asia and a repository of astonishing treasures, and/or the optional post-trip extension to Cappadocia, land of towering fairy chimneys, in Central Anatolia.

The *Island Sky* comfortably accommodates 96 guests, and Santa Barbara Museum of Art travelers are sharing this cruise with travelers from Harvard, Stanford, and the Archaeological Institute of America. I encourage you to contact us today to reserve your preferred cabin.

Sincerely,

Lisa Hill
Manager of Travel & Special Programs
Santa Barbara Museum of Art



For information or to reserve space, please contact the Santa Barbara Museum of Art at (805) 884-6436 or travel@sbma.net.



STUDY LEADERS



KATHLEEN LYNCH, interim department head and associate professor of classics at the University of

Cincinnati, is a classical archaeologist with a focus on ancient Greek ceramics. She earned her PhD from the University of Virginia and has worked on archaeological projects at sites in Turkey, Greece, Italy, and Albania. Kathleen's research considers what ancient





ceramics can tell us about their use and users. At Cincinnati, Professor Lynch teaches Mythology, Classical Civilization courses, Greek and Roman archaeology, and graduate seminars on a variety of topics. She expects to address Greek colonies in the Black Sea, the Jason and the Argonauts myth, and ancient views of eastern “barbarians,” among other topics, during our Black Sea voyage.



DAVID A. AGUILAR, former director of public affairs and science information at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, is an internationally recognized author, lecturer, astronomy expert, naturalist, and space artist whose expertise lies in explaining the fascinating connections between the universe and ourselves. He has been

featured on the BBC, History Channel’s *The Universe* series, ABC News, CNN, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *National Geographic*, *Sky & Telescope*, *Astronomy*, *Scientific American*, and NPR, among many others. In 2015 David joined the New Horizons Spacecraft Team as part of NASA’s “Mission to Pluto” to lead media communications on the Pluto flyby in July 2015. He has the added distinction of being a Grammy-nominated musician.

The countries bordering the Black Sea offer a rich diversity of historical and cultural attractions, including the splendid Viennese Baroque and French Rococo opera house in Odessa (cover); the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, whose varied history is reflected in a mix of medieval, classical, and Soviet architecture (THIS PAGE); and the spectacularly situated Sumela Monastery, high in the Pontic Mountains of Turkey (BACK COVER).



Optional PRE-TRIP EXTENSION

ISTANBUL

September 22–26, 2016

Spend three days exploring Istanbul's exceptional treasures: Hagia Sophia, once the largest cathedral in the world and renowned for its massive dome; Sultan Ahmed Mosque (Blue Mosque), its interior adorned with blue Iznik tiles; Chora Church, a Byzantine marvel with fine mosaics and frescoes; Topkapi Palace, an opulent walled complex in the historic Sultanahmet District; the Hippodrome, once the center of Byzantine life; Suleymaniye Mosque, the largest mosque in the city; and the Grand Bazaar, where 61 labyrinthine covered streets house more than 3,000 shops. During time for independent exploration, you may enjoy visiting the amazing Basilica Cistern, which made a cameo appearance in the James Bond movie *From Russia with Love*, and the Archaeological Museum.

HAGIA SOFIA HOTEL (3B,2L,1R,1D)

RATES:

\$2,090 per person,
double occupancy
\$2,480 per person,
single occupancy

Itinerary

Sunday–Monday,
September 25–26

HOME / ISTANBUL, TURKEY

Depart home on an overnight flight to Istanbul. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Island Sky* for a welcome orientation and reception while cruising the Bosphorus Strait.

ISLAND SKY (R,D)

Tuesday, September 27

AT SEA

Relax aboard ship as the *Island Sky* cruises along Turkey's coastline. Enjoy the beginning of the lecture program.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

Wednesday, September 28

SAMSUN / AMASYA

Dock in Samsun and travel to Amasya, the former capital of the ancient Pontic Kingdom and a treasure of rock-hewn tombs, classical wooden mansions, and Seljuk and Ottoman monuments. Also visit the Archaeological Museum, where artifacts from 13 civilizations are on display. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

Thursday, September 29

AT SEA / BATUMI, GEORGIA

Batumi, a seaport on the Black Sea coast of Georgia, lies at the northern edge of the humid subtropical zone. This afternoon, choose to visit either the Batumi Botanical Garden, which overlooks the Black Sea and is one of the richest



BATUMI BOTANICAL GARDEN

botanical gardens in the world; or Gonio Fortress, built by the Romans in the 1st century and the site of ongoing excavations. Enjoy dinner off the ship and a performance by a noted Georgian folk dance ensemble.

ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

Friday, September 30

TBILISI

Take an early-morning charter flight from Batumi to Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. On arrival explore the 4th-century Narikala Fortress, which dominates the Old Town skyline; Abanotubani, the historic bath house district; and the city's churches and Eastern Orthodox cathedral. Return to Batumi for dinner on board.

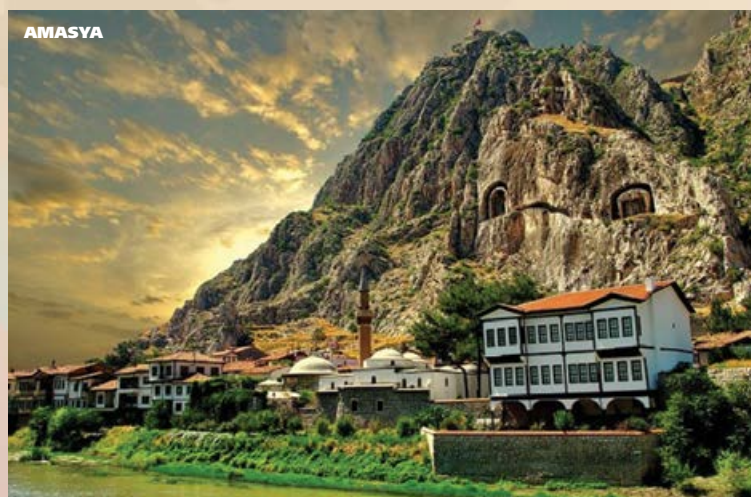
ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

Saturday, October 1
TRABZON, TURKEY

Upon arrival in Trabzon, travel to the spectacularly situated Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Virgin Mary (Sumela Monastery) in the Pontic Mountains. Afterward, enjoy a tasting of local cheese specialties and a visit to the colorful local market. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)

Sunday, October 2
AT SEA

The onboard lecture series continues as the ship cruises to Odessa. ISLAND SKY (B,L,D)



AMASYA





POTEMKIN STEPS



VARNA CATHEDRAL



Optional
**POST-TRIP
EXTENSION**

CAPPADOCIA

October 6–9, 2016

Spend three nights in World Heritage-listed Cappadocia, land of “fairy chimneys,” troglodytic villages, and underground cities. Fly to Kayseri, once an important stop on the Silk Road and rich in historical monuments, primarily from the Seljuk period. Explore Byzantine cave churches decorated with colorful frescoes in the Goreme Valley, visit an underground city in the Zelve Valley, marvel at the thousands of dovecotes in “Pigeon Valley,” and attend a Whirling Dervish ceremony.

ARGOS HOTEL (3B,2L,2D)

RATES:

\$2,590 per person,
double occupancy
\$3,150 per person,
single occupancy

Monday, October 3

ODESSA, UKRAINE

Odessa is a city of resplendent mansions and fine old churches. During a city tour, visit the Holocaust Memorial; the Potemkin Steps, famously depicted in Sergei Eisenstein’s classic 1925 silent film *Battleship Potemkin*; and the Odessa Archaeological Museum. Dine off the ship in central Odessa at a historic venue followed by a special performance of classical music. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Tuesday, October 4

ODESSA

This morning, tour the stunning Hapsburg-style opera house and delight in the enchanting singing of the Eastern Orthodox Uspensky Cathedral choir. Enjoy free time and an independent look at the heart of Odessa before returning to the ship. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Wednesday, October 5

VARNA, BULGARIA

Arrive in Varna, the largest city and resort on Bulgaria’s Black Sea coast, for an afternoon of exploration. Marvel at the world-class collection of

Scythian gold from the 5th millennium B.C. at the archaeological museum, visit the imposing domed Cathedral of the Assumption, and enjoy an a cappella choir performance. The *Island Sky* departs for Istanbul this evening as you celebrate your Black Sea voyage at a festive farewell reception and dinner on board. *ISLAND SKY* (B,L,D)

Thursday, October 6

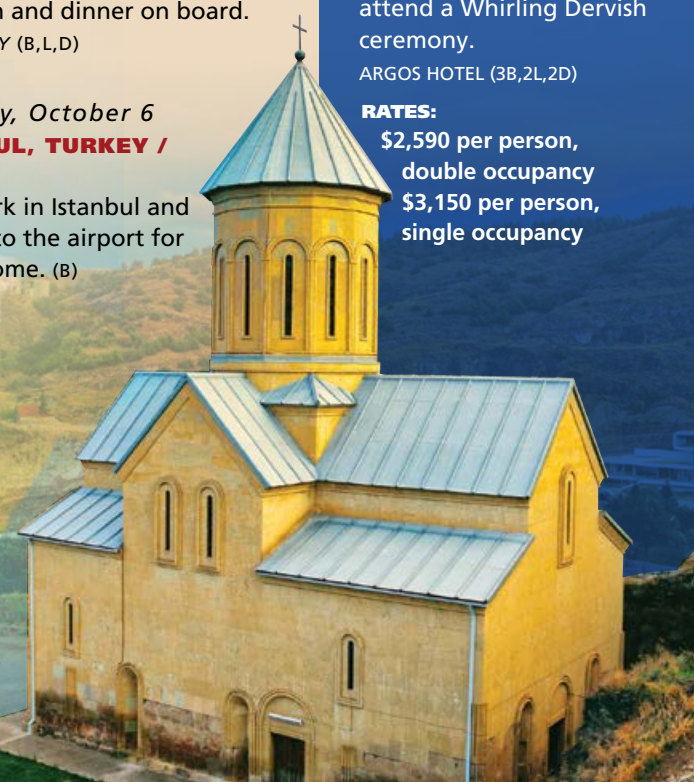
ISTANBUL, TURKEY / HOME

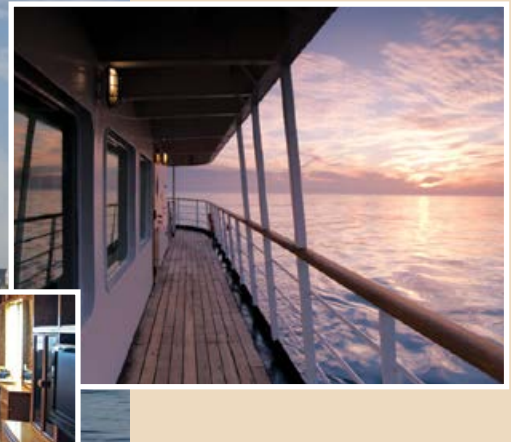
Disembark in Istanbul and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)



— CRUISE
..... FLIGHTS

SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH, TBILISI





ISLAND SKY

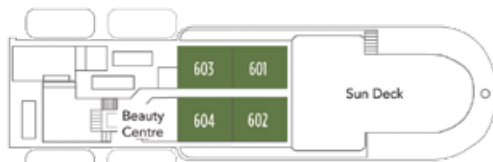
Originally built in 1992 and refurbished and redecorated in 2015, the *Island Sky* accommodates all guests in 57 outside suites, each with sea views, a sitting room area, flatscreen TV, safe, mini-refrigerator, and an en suite, marble-appointed bathroom with robe, slippers, and hair dryer. Several suites have private balconies. Spacious and finely decorated public areas include a large lounge and elegant bar and a library. The dining room accommodates everyone at one seating, and house wine, beer, and soft drinks are included at lunch and dinner. Wi-Fi access is available throughout the vessel (at additional cost and dependent upon satellite reception). The ship's amenities also include a hairdresser, onboard clinic and doctor, elevator serving all passenger decks, and two sun decks, one with a bar. The *Island Sky* is served by 75 experienced officers and crew.



PROGRAM RATES per person

CATEGORY/DECK	DOUBLE	SINGLE*
A Magellan	\$8,990	\$13,490
<i>Portholes (3 in cabin 250, 2 in cabin 252)</i>		
B Magellan	\$9,990	\$14,990
<i>Portholes (2, 3, or 4, depending on cabin)</i>		
C Columbus	\$11,490	\$17,240
<i>Windows (1 or 2, depending on cabin)</i>		
D Marco Polo	\$11,990	—
<i>Window</i>		
E Marco Polo	\$13,490	—
<i>Forward and side windows</i>		
F Erikson	\$15,490	—
<i>Sliding glass door, private balcony</i>		
G Explorer	\$16,490	—
<i>Sliding glass door, private balcony</i>		

*Single cabins are limited



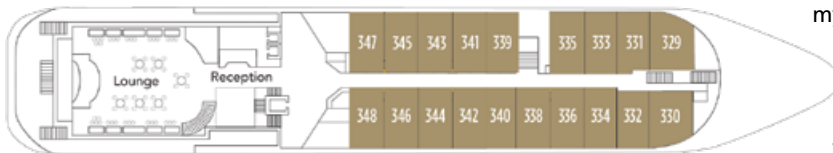
EXPLORER DECK



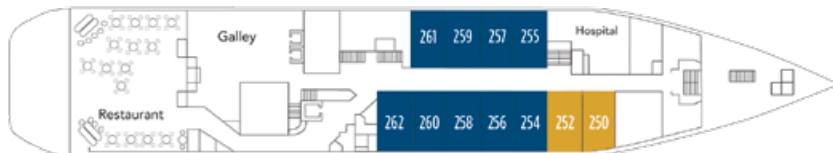
ERIKSON DECK



MARCO POLO DECK



COLUMBUS DECK



MAGELLAN DECK

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary ■ Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations ■ On-tour flights between Batumi and Tbilisi ■ Transfers on program and extensions arrival/departure days ■ Baggage handling ■ Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel ■ Entrance fees ■ Welcome and farewell wine receptions ■ Wine, beer, soft drinks, or water at lunch and dinner aboard *Island Sky* and at all group meals off the ship ■ Bottled water on motorcoaches ■ Professional tour manager throughout the program

WHAT TO EXPECT This is a moderately active trip for travelers who are flexible, comfortable traveling with a group, and can handle the vagaries of travel with good humor. Navigating uneven terrain, walking on cobblestone pavement, and standing for up to two hours in museums or other sites are the most strenuous activities. Some locations may have stairs without handrails. In addition, travelers must be able to board the ship via a metal gangplank with rope handrails and be comfortable with the rolling movement of the ship. Daytime temperatures during the trip will generally average in the mid to high 70s F, with infrequent rain.

A NOTE ABOUT COSTS Tour costs are based upon current airfares, fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, currency values, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. On-tour flights between Batumi and Tbilisi are included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare between New York and Istanbul is approximately \$1,300 per person as of October 2015 and is subject to change without notice. Information about making flight arrangements will be sent to all participants.

General Information

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT

INCLUDE U.S. domestic and international airfare ■ Passport/visa expenses ■ Medical expenses and immunizations ■ Private airport transfers on days other than program arrival/departure days ■ Travel insurance ■ Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour ■ Excess-baggage charges ■ Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals ■ Laundry or dry cleaning ■ Telephone, fax, Internet, and email charges ■ Room service ■ Other items of a personal nature

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.

GROUP SIZE This cruise will accommodate 96 guests, including travelers from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Harvard, Stanford, and the Archaeological Institute of America.

Terms & Conditions

Complete Terms & Conditions will be sent to participants upon confirmation and are available to prospective travelers upon request. As a condition of participation, each passenger will be required to sign a Release of Liability, which will be sent along with the Terms & Conditions.

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve space on this program. You may complete the reservation form included in this brochure and mail it with your check or credit card information to: Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2746. Or you may fax the completed reservation form to (805) 966-6840. If you have questions, please call (805) 884-6436 or email travel@sbma.net. Final payment deadline is May 28, 2016. For those who register after May 28, 2016, full payment is due upon registration.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% non-refundable. Final payment is due May 28, 2016 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations after final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. Note: Neither the Santa Barbara Museum of Art nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

HEALTH All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other passengers.

ITINERARY CHANGES The itinerary and study leaders presented for this tour are subject to modification and change by the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

California Seller of Travel
Program CST #2088800-40

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CIRCUMNAVIGATING THE

Black Sea

Aboard the *Island Sky*

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person, payable to Santa Barbara Museum of Art, to: Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2746. You can also fax the form to (805) 966-6840 or call (805) 884-6436 to reserve by phone.

NAME #1 (AS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (AS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE

WORK PHONE

FAX

EMAIL

PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to Santa Barbara Museum of Art), to reserve _____ place(s) on *Circumnavigating the Black Sea* OR

Please charge my deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person to my: VISA MasterCard AmEx Discover

CREDIT CARD NUMBER

EXP. DATE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

SEC. CODE

I/we understand that final payment is due May 28, 2016, 120 days prior to departure. Registrations after May 28, 2016: full payment is due.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Preferred bed configuration: Two Beds One Bed

SINGLE TRAVELERS

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

I prefer to have single accommodations.

I plan to share accommodations with _____

I'd like to know about roommates. I am a Non-smoker / Smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be located for me by the final payment date of May 28, 2016, I will pay the single rate.

I/we have read the tour information and agree to the Terms & Conditions therein.

SIGNATURE

DATE

SIGNATURE

DATE

SANTA BARBARA
MUSEUM OF
ART

Santa Barbara Museum of Art
1130 State Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2746

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HIGHLIGHTS

Visit the Narikala fortress and Orthodox churches in the Georgian capital of **TBILISI**.

Enjoy a cappella singers, private concerts, and folk dancing in **ODESSA, VARNA, and BATUMI**.

Explore historic **AMASYA**, where Pontic tombs honeycomb the mountains and classical Ottoman buildings line the riverbanks.

View the Greek Orthodox Monastery of the Virgin Mary (Sumela Monastery), carved into the Pontic Mountains near **TRABZON**.

Marvel at the spectacular collection of Scythian gold artifacts in the archaeological museum in **VARNA**.

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