

From the Canals of Venice to the Walls of Troy

The Mediterranean through the Ages

Aboard the All-Suite, 114-Guest Corinthian II

October 17 – 28, 2010



JOIN US THIS OCTOBER ON A VOYAGE TO SOME OF THE MEDITERRANEAN'S MOST BEAUTIFUL AND ILLUMINATING SITES.

Setting out from Venice's Grand Canal, our route will take us to cities on the Adriatic coast, in the Greek Isles, and on the Turkish coast that are poised in the magical spot between history and myth, and which link the medieval Mediterranean with the ancient world. Explore the immense Palace of Diocletian, which forms the heart of the Dalmatian coastal city of Split, where shops, cafés and homes flourish within intact 4th-century A.D. chambers. After sailing up the awe-inspiring fjord of Kotor, we'll investigate the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint, said to be founded by Trojans fleeing the ruins of Ilium. Visit the Palace of Knossos, where Theseus came to slay the Minotaur; ascend the mountain-wreathed shrine of Delphi, tracing the Castalian Spring to the very spot where hallucinatory vapors inspired the Pythian Oracle's visions; and gaze out over the soaring, multi-hued cliffs of Santorini, where the Minoans achieved their artistic zenith. Upon disembarking in Istanbul we will gaze out upon the palaces and minarets.



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ITINERARY

Sunday, October 17, 2010

FLY FROM USA

Monday, October 18

VENICE, ITALY | EMBARK

Arrive in Venice and embark *Corinthian II*. Sail in the evening.

Tuesday, October 19

SPLIT, CROATIA

Originally a Greco-Illyrian settlement called Aspalathos, Split is an ancient city centered around the formidable Palace of Diocletian, built in A.D. 295. An extensive structure, much of which is well preserved, the palace contains within its walls Split's medieval town, making it the only palace that has been continuously inhabited since Roman times. Also visit the Archaeological Museum.

Wednesday, October 20

DUBROVNIK, CROATIA |

KOTOR, MONTENEGRO

A tour of Dubrovnik includes the Rector's Palace, the Gothic cloister, the garden of the Dominican Monastery, and the baroque cathedral, which contains works by Renaissance painters Titian and Andrea del Sarto. In the afternoon, *Corinthian II* navigates the deep, fjord-like Bay of Kotor to reach the port town of the same name. Kotor was well regarded for its masons and icon artists. On a walking tour through this UNESCO World Heritage Site, visit the 12th-century Cathedral of St. Tryphon, as well as the Cathedral Square and the Lapidarium.

Thursday, October 21

SARANDA | BUTRINT |

SARANDA, ALBANIA

From the Albanian port of Saranda, drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Butrint. Inhabited since prehistoric times, the city was founded by the Trojans, or so claimed the poet Virgil. A gem of an archaeological site, its ruins span 2,500 years, and include, among other buildings, the remains of a Greek acropolis, a Roman theater, a 6th-century baptistery, and a fortress erected by the warlord Ali Pasha Tepelena in the 19th century.

Friday, October 22

ITEA | DELPHI | ITEA, GREECE

Arrive in Itea for an excursion to Delphi. The famed Sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi, once home to the Pythian oracle, is one of the most impressive

sites in Greece. Our exploration of the site begins at the Castalian Spring and continues up the Sacred Way, passing the Treasury of the Athenians, the Temple of Apollo, the theater, and the stadium. Also visit the Archaeological Museum.

Saturday, October 23

HERAKLION | KNOSSOS |

HERAKLION, CRETE

Crete, Zeus's legendary birthplace, was home to the Minoan civilization, Europe's first. A morning tour visits the excavations at Knossos, where the brilliance and refinement of the Minoans are revealed in the excavations found here. The largest palace of the period on Crete, Knossos is a labyrinth of corridors, stairways, and chambers decorated with frescoes illustrating life as it was 4,000 years ago. Continue to the Heraklion Museum's temporary exhibit. There will also be the opportunity to visit alternative sites, including Phaestos and Gortyn.

Sunday, October 24

SANTORINI

In the 2nd millennium B.C., volcanic eruptions shrouded the island in a blanket of pumice and ash, preserving many buildings in the town of Akrotiri. At the time of the eruptions, Akrotiri was inhabited by a sophisticated Bronze Age society. Visit the Nomikos Exhibition, where excellent reproductions of the frescoes at Akrotiri are on display, and the Prehistoric Museum of Thira. Then visit the unspoiled town of Oia and enjoy time at leisure.

Monday, October 25

KUSADASI | EPHEBUS OR

APHRODISIAS | KUSADASI, TURKEY

From Turkey's port city of Kusadasi, drive to the ancient city of Ephesus, renowned for its great mother goddess, Cybele, later identified as Artemis, or Diana of the Ephesians. Ephesus was for a time the most important commercial city in Asia Minor. The immense Hellenistic and Roman excavation site includes the ancient theater, the imposing Library of Celsus, the hill houses with their fantastic mosaics and frescoes, and early Byzantine remains. Alternatively, an excursion takes us to Aphrodisias, located in a lovely orchard-filled region near a picturesque small village. Set on a high plateau, remains include the temple of Aphrodite, dating from 100 B.C.; the monumental gateway and baths built by the Roman Emperor Hadrian; and the well-preserved stadium, one of the largest surviving from the Greco-Roman era.

Tuesday, October 26

KAVALLA | PHILIPPI | KAVALLA, GREECE

Call at Kavalla, formerly Neapolis, the port of Philippi that marked the eastern boundary of ancient Rome's European empire. Continue to Philippi, founded by and named after Philip II. It was here that Antony and Octavian defeated Brutus and Cassius in 42 B.C., after the two had assassinated Julius Caesar. Investigate the town's ruins, which are mostly Roman or early Christian, including an acropolis, ancient sanctuaries, a theater, and two Byzantine basilicas.

Wednesday, October 27

CANAKKALE | TROY |

CANAKKALE, TURKEY

Call at Canakkale, our gateway for Troy, where ongoing archaeological excavations have revealed nine different layers of cities superimposed in rings on a massive mound rising above the "windswept" Plain of Ilium. It was to one of these cities, as legend has it, that the Greeks fought the Trojans as told by Homer in his *Iliad*.

Thursday, October 28

ISTANBUL | DISEMBARK | FLY TO USA

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- 10-night cruise aboard the all-suite, 114-guest *Corinthian II*
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
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