In Search of Alexander the Great: Following Alexander’s Steps in the Eastern Mediterranean

Aboard the All-Suite, 114-Guest Corinthian II

October 16 - 31, 2006
Guest Lecturers

Francesca Schironi is Assistant Professor in the Department of the Classics at Harvard University. Born and raised in Italy, she received her first degree in Classics at the University of Pavia in 1997 and her Ph.D. in 2002 from the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa. From October 2001 to June 2004 she was Junior Research Fellow at Somerville College, Oxford. In 2003-2004 she also served as lecturer at both Exeter College, Oxford, and at Reading University, and worked as a research assistant in the Oxyrhynchus Papyri Project. One of Francesca’s main research interests is ancient scholarship and literary criticism. She has published works on grammatical theory and exegesis in the Hellenistic and Imperial periods and an edition with commentary of the fragments on Aristarchus of Samothrace, the most famous grammarian working at Alexandria of Egypt in the 3rd-2nd centuries B.C. Francesca’s other main interest is papyrology, the study and editing of Greek papyri, which come mainly from Egypt. In particular, she works on papyri from Oxyrhynchus, which are kept in Oxford and make up the richest and most diverse collection in the world. Another of Francesca’s interests is reception studies, especially of Greek drama, opera and Renaissance Italian theatre.

Corinne Ondine Pache teaches in the Department of Classics at Yale. She obtained her B.A. from Hunter College and her Ph.D. from Harvard University. Her interests include Greek poetry, especially Homer and the Homeric Hymns, and Greek religion and myth. She has published articles and books, including Baby and Children in Heroes in Ancient Greece (University of Illinois, 2004). She is currently working on a new book on the topic of goddesses who fall in love with mortal men, and how this theme plays out in Greek poetry and cult. “I look forward to following in Alexander’s footsteps,” she says, “and will enjoy revisiting sites that are central to Greek history, literature and culture.”

Below: The ageless Pyramids and Sphinx at Giza
Front Cover: A marble bust of Alexander the Great
Dear Columbian,

Few figures in history loom so large as Alexander the Great. The young Macedonian king, tutored by Aristotle, set out in the 4th century B.C. to conquer the world—and might well have done so, had malaria or poison not felled him in Babylon. In the course of a mere twelve years, from 335 to 323 B.C., this military genius conquered the mighty Persian Empire and its possessions, stretching from the Mediterranean to the Indus River.

We are proud to invite you on an unprecedented travel-study voyage tracing the first heady years of Alexander the Great’s conquest, following his route from Macedonia into the ancient Asia Minor dominions of Mycia, Caria and Cilicia, and through Phoenicia to Egypt and the great city he founded, Alexandria. Though more than 2,300 years have elapsed since Philip II’s son mounted his legendary horse Bucephalus, many ruins and monuments remain from this dramatic period in ancient history; and, on our tour through the Turkish countryside and the Egyptian deserts, one can still readily imagine Alexander’s astoundingly massive, 35,000-strong army advancing through the fields.

Arriving in Thessaloniki, named after Alexander’s sister, visit Pella, the ancient city where Alexander was born. Continue to Macedonian Royal Tombs in Vergina, the ancient Macedonian capital of Aigai, where Philip II lies buried. Then, embarking on the five-star Corinthian II, and settling into one of its 57 luxurious suites, we set off for legendary Troy. Throughout his campaigns, Alexander slept with a copy of the Iliad underneath his pillow; here, he paid homage to Achilles before destroying the Persian armies of Darius III.

The lightning-quick Macedonian advance down the coast of modern Turkey is the stuff of legend. We will concentrate on a couple of Alexander’s most coveted possessions, Ephesus, Xanthos and Perge, before turning toward the eastern Mediterranean coast where—according to Plutarch—he dispatched 110,000 of his Persian enemy at the Battle of Issus. Calling at Alexandretta (Iskenderun), the city founded to commemorate that victory, we visit fascinating Antioch, capital of the Seleucid Empire, the successor state to Alexander’s Persian territories.

In Egypt, we will replicate one of Alexander’s most famous adventures—his pilgrimage, through the trackless wastes of the desert, to the Temple of Amun at Siwa, where he was confirmed as the son of Zeus by the temple’s oracle. Though dangerous and destitute of water, the way was made safe for the Macedonian soldiers by heavy rains and the guidance of ravens. We will also visit the great Pyramids and the ruins of Memphis, and in Alexandria, explore the great city founded by the 25-year-old Alexander in 332 B.C.

On our journey, we will be joined by alumni from Harvard and Yale universities, as well as travelers from the United States Naval Academy. This is an epic voyage, filled with possibilities for breathtaking sightseeing, fascinating conversations, and exciting historical discovery. We are immensely pleased to be undertaking it aboard the 114-guest, all-suite Corinthian II, which features elegant accommodations, public areas perfect for meeting like-minded traveling companions, and impeccable service. We strongly encourage you to place your reservation soon to avoid disappointment.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Furda
Vice President for Alumni Relations

Telephone: 212-472-4365 or 866-3-ALUMNI (866-325-8664)
E-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu

Unique Highlights

• Be a guest at a cocktail reception and dinner in Thessaloniki at a palace formerly owned by the Greek royal family.

• Visit the tomb of Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great, and view the gold and other treasures found in this and other royal tombs.

• Enjoy a magnificent outdoor private dinner by the Library of Celsus in Ephesus (weather permitting).

• View the stunning collection of mosaics at Antioch’s (Antakya) Archaeological Museum.

• Explore the rarely-visited Siwa Oasis, with its oracular Temple of Amun and other antiquities, visited by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C.

• See the statues and other finds recovered from the recent underwater excavations in Alexandria’s harbor. The excavations have revealed ancient landmarks of the fabled city.

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People who voyage with Columbia University and Travel Dynamics International share the same passion for discovery as the mythological adventurer Odysseus. We believe you are more than our guest—you are also a partner in our quest for discovery and learning. To thank you for choosing to travel with us, we invite you to share in the benefits of our rewards club, Odysseus Circle, an innovative, straightforward program that is exactly what you would want it to be—rewarding—with no membership fees or cumbersome restrictions. Earn Nautical Miles per distance sailed on each voyage, and redeem them for phenomenal savings on future journeys with Travel Dynamics International.

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Membership is as easy as a phone call. Details will be sent to you upon registration.

ON THIS VOYAGE YOU WILL EARN 2,100 NAUTICAL MILES
Monday, October 16, 2006
USA
Depart from the U.S. for Thessaloniki, Greece.

Tuesday, October 17
THESSALONIKI, GREECE
Arrive in Thessaloniki, named after the sister of Alexander the Great, and transfer to the Electra Palace Hotel, our accommodations for two nights. Enjoy a welcome cocktail reception and dinner this evening at the former summer palace of the Greek royal family. (D)

Wednesday, October 18
THESSALONIKI | PELLA | Vergina
In the morning, take an excursion to Pella, capital of Macedonia in the 4th century B.C. and Alexander’s birthplace. Tour the site, including the Agora, the Sanctuary of Aphrodite and Cybele, and several of the houses, which boast outstanding pebble mosaics. Also tour the Museum, exhibiting finds from the site, including several pebble mosaic floors. Then drive to Vergina, where the excavated palace and tombs of Philip II (Alexander’s father) are located. Visit the excavations and see the Macedonian burial mounds which dot the plain—one of which was confirmed as the tomb of Philip. Also tour the Archaeological Museum, featuring many of the treasures recovered from the tomb. (B, L)

Thursday, October 19
THESSALONIKI | EMBARK
Enjoy time at leisure in the morning followed by an afternoon tour of several of the city’s ancient churches, including the 5th-century Church of Hagia Sophia and St. Dimitrios, Greece’s largest church, which preserves the tomb of the martyred patron saint of Thessaloniki. Visit the Archaeological Museum, where more artifacts from the royal tombs of Vergina are on display. Later, transfer to the harbor to embark on Corinthian II and set sail. (B, L, D)

Friday, October 20
CANAKKALE | TROY, TURKEY
Arrive in Canakkale, a port town guarding the entrance to the Dardanelles—the narrow waterway that separates Europe from Asia—for an excursion to the famed archaeological site of Troy. In the spring of 334 B.C. Alexander crossed the Dardanelles (the ancient Hellespont) with an army of 35,000. They stopped at Troy to offer sacrifices at the Temple of Athena and at the place where Achilles was buried. They later defeated the Persians at the nearby Battle of Granicus, which solidified Alexander’s hold over Asia Minor. (B, L, D)

Saturday, October 21
KUSADASI | MILETUS | EPHESUS
From the seaside town of Kusadasi, visit Miletus, renowned in ancient times as a center of trade, science, and philosophy. Under Persian rule in the 4th century B.C., Alexander liberated the city as well as the other Greek Ionian cities during his campaign south. The most striking ruin is the great Roman theater, built to accommodate 15,000 spectators. Continue to the great ancient city of Ephesus, one of the most important sites in the history of the ancient world. Ephesus contains extensive ruins from the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods. Visit the large theater; the Library of Celsus; the Temple of Serapis; and the Byzantine Basilica of St. John, built in the 6th century by the Emperor Justinian over the Apostle’s tomb. In the evening, enjoy a private dinner by the famed Library. (B, L, D)

Sunday, October 22
FETHIYE | XANTHOS
Travel through the stunning turquoise waters of Fethiye Bay to call at Fethiye. From here, travel to Xanthos, ancient Lycia’s prominent capital city,
Pella, the ancient Macedonian capital

built on a great cliff overlooking the Xanthos River and out to the sea, Xanthos boasts several significant ruins, including the Nereid Monument, an exquisite Ionic building. Also see the acropolis, the theater, and the unusual pillar tombs, sarcophagi mounted on tall platforms. (B, L, D)

Monday, October 23
ANTALYA | PERGE | ASPENDOS
Arrive in Antalya, for an excursion to Perge, a Greek city that welcomed Alexander in 333 B.C. According to tradition, Greek settlers founded Perge following the Trojan War, and the city gained importance during the Roman Empire. The city’s Hellenistic ruins include its great stadium; the colonnaded and marble main street, which still bears the ruts of wagon wheels; and the theater, decorated with sculptures from the life of Dionysus, the god of wine and revelry. Continue to Aspendos, which Alexander occupied also in 333 B.C., the highlight of which is the grand 20,000-seat theater commissioned by Marcus Aurelius in the 2nd century A.D. Also, visit Antalya’s Archaeological Museum. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, October 24
ALANYA | SIDE
From the resort town of Alanya, former stronghold of the Seljuks in the 12th century, travel to one of Turkey’s most famous ancient sites—Side. Situated on a narrow peninsula, Side was a leading Eastern Mediterranean port until the 7th century when it came under the control of invading Arabs. See the ancient city’s magnificent theater, built on colonnaded arches; the Temple of Apollo; and the extensive Roman baths, which house one of Turkey’s finest archaeological collections. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, October 25
ISKENDERUN | ANTIOCH
Corinthian II calls this morning at Iskenderun (formerly Alexandretta), founded by Alexander to celebrate his victory over Darius III at Issus in 333 B.C. Travel to Antioch, one of the great cities of antiquity founded by Seleucus I around 301 B.C. and the capital of the Seleucid dynasty of Syria. The Romans later defeated the Syrians and many of the ruins still in existence date from the time of Roman rule. Tour the site and visit the Archaeological Museum. (B, L, D)

Thursday, October 26
AT SEA (B, L, D)

Friday, October 27
PORT SAID | MEMPHIS & SAQQARA OR GIZA & CAIRO | SIWA OASIS, EGYPT
This morning, Corinthian II enters Port Said, located at the entrance to the Suez Canal. From here, there will be a choice of two full-day excursions. Travel to the ancient capital of Memphis, where Alexander was declared a Pharaoh, and visit Saqqara, a vast burial ground dominated by the Step Pyramid of Zoser. Alternatively, visit Giza, site of the Pyramids of Cheops and Chephren, built between 2600 and 2530 B.C., and the mysterious Sphinx. Then drive to Cairo to explore the Egyptian Museum. Later in the evening, rejoin your fellow travelers for a chartered group flight from Cairo to Siwa. Overnight at the Siwa Paradise Hotel. (B, L, D)

Saturday, October 28
SIWA OASIS | ALEXANDRIA
Awaken today in the famed Siwa Oasis, site of the oracular Temple of Amun. In 331 B.C., Alexander made a pilgrimage to the temple, whose oracle confirmed his divinity as the son of Amun, an ancient Egyptian god whom the Greeks identified with Zeus. Enjoy a full day to explore the Oasis, including a visit to the Temple of Amun, located in the old town of Aghurmi, as well as other ancient ruins. Some archaeologists believe that a large tomb recently discovered in the area may be that of Alexander. In the evening, fly to Alexandria, and reboard Corinthian II. (B, L, D)

Sunday, October 29
ALEXANDRIA
Founded by Alexander in 332 B.C., Alexan-
**Spacious Suites**

The five-star deluxe *Corinthian II* is an all-suite mega-yacht accommodating no more than 114 guests. Originally built in Italy in 1992, *Corinthian II* was refurbished and redecorated in 2005 specifically to create an atmosphere of effortless elegance and easy conviviality. All 57 outside-facing suites are a minimum of 225 square feet, appointed in rich wood tones with two twin-size or one queen-size bed, sitting area, TV, mini-refrigerator, safe, and a marble-appointed bathroom with fine toiletries. Several suites include private balconies accessible via sliding-glass doors. Fresh flowers and a bowl of fruit provide a bright and comforting touch in each guest’s suite.

**Effortless Elegance Each Day and Night**

Returning from excursions, enjoy complimentary refreshments, afternoon tea, and all-day coffee in The Club, a civilized space for relaxation with panoramic windows. Before or after dinner, savor a cocktail while the ship’s pianist plays arrangements ranging from jazz to classical to contemporary.

*Corinthian II* also features a library, Internet center, beauty salon, gym, elevator serving all decks, and a wraparound sun deck with jacuzzi. The 70 European officers and crew ensure an atmosphere akin to a private club for the length of your voyage.
**Cruise and Land Rates** | **per person, double occupancy**

All accommodations aboard Corinthian II are suites. They face outside, affording sea views, and several have balconies with sliding doors. All suites include a bedroom with twin or queen-size beds, sitting area, ample closet space, mini-refrigerator, TV, marble-appointed bathroom with shower, and other amenities.

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<td>D</td>
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**Single Supplement**: A limited number of cabins have been designated for single travelers in Categories D - A at a supplement of $2,695 to the per person, double occupancy rates. Singles in Categories AA - PHS are available at double the per person, double occupancy rates.

**Airfare**: Airfare (except for the Cairo to Siwa and Siwa to Alexandria flights) is not included in the cost of the program. Please contact Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., the agency handling the air arrangements for this program, for competitive airfares to Thessaloniki, Greece, returning from Athens, Greece, in your selected class of service. To reach VWTI, kindly call toll-free 877-711-9896 or 212-592-1340 for air reservations and ticketing information, and please have your program tour code (6429) handy for reference.
General Information

Payment Schedule: A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. For your convenience, you may charge your deposit to your American Express, Visa, Discover, or MasterCard. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Credit cards are not accepted for final payment. However, personal checks are accepted for both deposits and final payment.

Cancellations & Refunds: All cancellations of confirmed reservations are subject to a $300 per person administrative fee. Additionally, passengers are subject to any cancellation fees assessed by the purveyors of services, including airlines or hotels used in the itinerary. 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. Service fees may apply to deviations and are non-refundable.

Insurance: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance through a company of your choice. 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. Further information will be sent upon registration.

Itinerary: The itinerary, accommodations, and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Travel Dynamics International.

Responsibility: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the passenger and Columbia University, its agent, TSS LLC, and operator, Travel Dynamics International. The passenger is also advised to review his/her separate ticket passage contract with the vessel’s owner/operator, which will constitute the sole, legally enforceable terms of carriage for this tour and is available on request from Travel Dynamics International. Columbia University, its agent TSS LLC, and operator, Travel Dynamics International act solely as agents for the passenger with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the passenger’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 passenger or in affecting these tours. We, Columbia University, our agent TSS LLC, and operator, Travel Dynamics International, 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 passenger, 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 passenger 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 passenger’s behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the passenger beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour’s itinerary and to substitute hotels, ships, 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 passenger 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 passenger 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 passengers. 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 passengers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the passenger’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. We cannot guarantee the size of the Columbian Alumni Travel Study group. We reserve the right to cancel or substitute lecturers.

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. Due to fluctuations in fuel costs, a fuel surcharge may be levied.

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In the uncertain, often volatile oil market of late, it is difficult—if not impossible—to predict fuel costs over the long term, and, more specifically, at the time of operation of this voyage. Our prices are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing (usually nine months before departure). While we will do everything possible to maintain our prices, if the fuel rates increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge. If one is necessary, the total surcharge for your voyage will not exceed $180 per person. Thank you for your understanding.

Registration

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for $_________ ($1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _______ place(s) on In Search of Alexander the Great. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure.

Please make check payable to: Travel Dynamics International and mail with this registration form to: Columbia University, Alumni Travel Study Program, P.O. Box 169, New York, NY 10028.
(Or, fax to 212-517-7770.)

Phone: 866-3-ALUMNI (866-325-8664) or 212-472-4365 in New York City

E-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu

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Exp. _______________________

Please select Cabin Category

PHS VS AA A B C D E
☐ Twin Beds ☐ Double Bed
☐ Single Occupancy ☐ Share
(cannot be guaranteed)

DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST
SCHOOL/YEAR DATE OF BIRTH

DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST
SCHOOL/YEAR DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)

☐ Yes, please send my pre-departure materials via e-mail.

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the “General Information” section and agree to its terms.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE
The magnificent theater of Aspendos

For further information about this travel program, please contact the Columbia University Alumni Travel Study Program. You may reach us toll-free at 866-3-ALUMNI (866-325-8664). New York City area residents may reach us at 212-472-4365. Fax 212-517-7770 • e-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu