The Black Sea
Crossroads of Culture from the Ancient Past to the Present

Aboard the All-Suite, 114-Guest Corinthian II
August 18 - 29, 2006
Columbia Faculty

Professor Richard Brilliant is the Anna S. Garbedian Professor in the Humanities at Columbia University, where he teaches a variety of courses on Greek and Roman art, ancient city planning, visual narrative, portraiture, and theory of art history. He received his B.A. in Classics from Yale, LL.B. at Harvard, and returned to Yale to earn his M.A. and Ph.D. in Art History. He has been awarded a Fulbright grant and fellowships from the American Academy in Rome, the Guggenheim Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has lived in Rome and has traveled extensively throughout Europe.

In addition, the following lecturers will also be accompanying the voyage:

Charles King is Chairman of the Faculty and Ion Ratiu Associate Professor in the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, with a joint appointment in the Department of Government. A former Marshall Scholar, he has worked as a research fellow at New College, Oxford, and as a research associate at the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. His books include The Black Sea: A History and The Moldovans. His essays have appeared in Foreign Affairs, The Times Literary Supplement, the Los Angeles Times, The Wall Street Journal, and other journals and newspapers. He has lectured widely on international affairs and European politics and has worked with media including CNN, NPR, The History Channel, and MTV. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas and a master's and doctorate from Oxford University.

Dr. C. Brian Rose, lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America, has been Head of Post-Bronze Age Excavations for more than a decade at Troy, Turkey, where he began excavating back in 1988. He is James B. Pritchard Professor of Archaeology in the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Classical Studies, as well as Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section of the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. As a Professor at the University of Cincinnati for the last 18 years, he has taught a wide variety of courses in ancient Greek, Roman, and Anatolian art, archaeology, and ancient history.
Legend has it that while searching for the Golden Fleece, Jason and his intrepid Argonauts were the first Western sailors to navigate the Black Sea. Today, the magnificent Black Sea area is still new territory for the majority of Western visitors, which is why we are especially pleased to be offering this unusual program with guest lecturer Professor Richard Brilliant—The Black Sea: Crossroads of Culture from the Ancient Past to the Present, aboard the all-suite, 114-guest Corinthian II.

A wide span of recorded history is represented along the Black Sea rim, from the ancient sites of Trabzon in Turkey and Nesebur in Bulgaria, to the landmark 19th- and 20th-century events in Odessa and Yalta. Today, the area has once again transformed itself as the Iron Curtain has lifted, ushering in democratic governments and market economies, as prominently evident in Ukraine. And in addition to its splendid history and culture, the Black Sea region—particularly the Crimean coast—enjoys a subtropical climate akin to that of the Mediterranean. Palm trees, rare flowers, vineyards, and orchards flourish in the warm, clement weather, and the golden beaches and invigorating mineral spas draw visitors from throughout Europe.

Sailing from Athens, we cruise up the Dardanelles and Bosphorus Straits and along the largely tourist-free northern coast of Turkey, where Ottoman mosques and Byzantine churches lie in the shadow of soaring citadels, built by kingdoms established in the wake of Alexander the Great. Next, in the Crimea, visit the site of the world-altering Yalta Conference, and explore the Black Sea Fleet city of Sevastopol, the focus of the Crimean War, and off-limits to Westerners until 1996. Stand on the great Potemkin Steps in Odessa, a city of faded, cosmopolitan glories, now re-establishing itself as Ukraine celebrates its emergence as a fully-fledged democracy. Then, after cruising southward, wander through the charming streets of Bulgaria’s Nesebur, with its timbered fishermen’s houses, and admire the splendid Byzantine churches of this city almost entirely unknown to Western travelers. We conclude with one night in Istanbul, one of the great cities of world history, and the dazzling convergence-point of East and West.

We are pleased to be accompanied on this voyage not only by Columbia Professor Richard Brilliant and Columbia alumni, but also by travelers and guest lecturers from Georgetown University, the Archaeological Institute of America, and The Explorers Club.

Seldom is there an opportunity to enjoy such intriguing destinations so far from the well-traveled capitals of Europe and Asia Minor; it is rarer still, aboard such a lovely ship in the company of like-minded travelers and wonderful guest lecturers illuminating our itinerary. We have little doubt this will be a splendid experience for all. But we must emphasize: spaces are limited, so we encourage you to place your reservation as soon as possible.

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

- Enjoy a private visit to Istanbul’s Hagia Sophia.
- Sail through the Dardanelles and Bosphorus, the strategic narrow waterways that have lured seafarers since antiquity.
- Be the guest of the mayor of Bartin in northern Turkey at a traditional feast.
- Learn about contemporary affairs from local experts.
- Attend a private concert at the newly restored Organ Hall on the grounds of Yalta’s Livadia Palace.
- Make a special visit to Sevastopol’s Panorama Museum to learn about the city’s heroic resistance during the Crimean War.
- Participate in a wine-tasting, sampling the products of Crimea’s finest estates.

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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 1,780 NAUTICAL MILES

Front cover: The distinctive architecture of Odessa
Back cover: Fabled Istanbul’s skyline
Itinerary

Friday, August 18, 2006
USA
Fly from the U.S. to Athens, Greece.

Saturday, August 19
ATHENS | PIRAEUS, GREECE | EMBARKATION
Arrive in Athens and transfer to Piraeus to embark on Corinthian II. (D)

Sunday, August 20
AT SEA
Relax aboard ship as Corinthian II cruises the Aegean Sea and the Sea of Marmara before entering the Black Sea. (B, L, D)

Monday, August 21
AMASRA, TURKEY
In the morning, Corinthian II cruises eastward alongside ancient Paphlagonia, a mountainous country that hosted a string of Greek colonies along its coast until the Romans conquered the region in 63 B.C. This afternoon, arrive in Amasra, a town situated atop a headland sheltering two bays. Known as Sesamus in ancient times, Amasra is one of the most beautiful towns on the coast. Founded by Milesians in the 6th century B.C., the city later became an important possession of both Byzantium and Genoa. On a tour of this pleasant and idyllic town, visit the Genoese citadel, which crowns one of the promontories with a formidable constellation of towers, battlements, and gates. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, August 22
SAMSUN | AMASYA | SAMSUN
The ancient historian and geographer Strabo wrote of Amasya, “My native city is located in a deep and large valley through which flows the river Iris. It has been endowed in a surprising manner by art and nature for serving the purpose of a city and fortress.” This dreamy destination, founded—legend says—by the Amazon queen Amasis, was later claimed by all manner of conquerors: the Hittites, Alexander the Great, Pontus, the Byzantines, the Selcuks, Genghis Khan, and the Ottoman Turks. True to Strabo’s word, Amasya’s massive Pontic and Ottoman-era citadel dominates the landscape; our tour ascends to the clifftop fortress for fantastic views of the town with its mosques and minarets. Also explore the fascinating rock tombs of the Pontic kings, which were carved into the cliff face, and admire the 15th-century Ottoman imperial mosques. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, August 23
TRABZON
Spend the morning in Trabzon, the ancient Trapezus, one of antiquity’s greatest cities and commercial centers. The city was founded by Greek colonists during the early part of the first millennium B.C. and continued to prosper under the Romans

Market, Istanbul Turkey

Yalta's attractive shoreline
and Byzantines, reaching its golden age in the 13th and 14th centuries. Drive to the Sumela Monastery, founded in the 4th century and rebuilt thereafter. Sumela is built precariously on a mountainside above evergreen forests. Returning to Trabzon, visit the Church of Hagia Sophia, built on the spot previously occupied by a temple dedicated to Apollo. Enjoy the afternoon at sea. (B, L, D)

Thursday, August 24

YALTA, UKRAINE

Call in the afternoon at Yalta, set in a narrow cypress-laden strip between the Crimean Mountains and the Black Sea, simultaneously reminiscent of Cornwall, the Costa del Sol, and the French Riviera. In the mid-19th century, the Russian Imperial family chose Yalta for its summer residence, and almost overnight the town grew into an elegant and popular resort. Tour the Alupka Palace, Crimea’s most spectacular palace, built from 1828 to 1848; the Chekhov Museum; and the Great Palace at Livadia. Begun in 1860 by the Russian royal family, the palace was the site of the 1945 Yalta Conference between Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin. After touring the palace, continue to its newly-restored Organ Hall for a private concert, followed by cocktails. Sail from Yalta late in the evening. (B, L, D)

Friday, August 25

SEVASTOPOL | CHERSONESOS | BAKCHYSARAY | SEVASTOPOL

Arrive in the morning in Sevastopol, a port city with beautiful architecture and broad tree-lined streets. Drive to nearby Chersonesus, an ancient city that was founded by Greeks in the 5th century B.C. Overlooking a bay, Chersonesus became a prosperous and wealthy city, its economy based on trade. Return to Sevastopol, which was the base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet from the days of Catherine II until the fall of the Soviet Union, for a brief tour of the city, including a visit to the Panorama Museum. In the afternoon, drive to the Crimean interior to explore Bakhchysaray, the seat of the Tatar state from the 16th to the 18th centuries. The Khan’s Palace, originally built in 1519, now houses the Historical and Archaeological Museum. (B, L, D)

Saturday, August 26

ODESSA

One of the loveliest cities in Ukraine, Odessa was founded by Greek colonists in the 4th century B.C., and flourished in the early 19th century when the Duke de Richelieu transformed it into a center of free trade. By 1850, Odessa was Russia’s version of Hong Kong—a thriving, cultured trade nexus, with Yiddish, French, Greek, and Italian heard in the streets as much as Russian. Visit the city’s principal landmarks, including the Opera House, regarded as the grandest example of Viennese Baroque design after the Vienna Opera House; and the historic Potemkin Steps, site of the 1905 uprising of workers and sailors from the battleship Potemkin. Spend the afternoon at sea. (B, L, D)

Sunday, August 27

NESEBUR, BULGARIA

Arrive this afternoon in Nesebur, a city known in ancient times as Messembria, or “town amid the sea” according to Herodotus. Enjoy a walking tour of the main town and its old timbered houses—architecture typical of the Black Sea region. Visit the Byzantine churches of St. Stephen and St. John the Baptist—the latter of which is decorated with hundreds of shells, crosses, and ceramic panels. Continue to the Archaeological Museum and view the city’s ancient remains, which date mostly from the Hellenistic period and include an Acropolis, a Temple of Apollo, and an Agora. After lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy time at leisure to explore Nesebur’s charming streets on your own. (B, L, D)

Monday, August 28

ISTANBUL, TURKEY

The former capital of both the Byzantine and Ottoman empires, Istanbul offers an incomparable diversity of churches, mosques, palaces, and fortifications. This morning, visit two of Istanbul’s main Ottoman sites, the Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace, plus enjoy a private visit to the 6th-century Church of Hagia Sophia, the supreme architectural triumph of the Byzantine period and world-famous for its detailed mosaics. In the afternoon, enjoy time at leisure before a tour of the lively Grand Bazaar and the exotically scented Spice Bazaar. The ship remains docked in Istanbul overnight. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, August 29

ISTANBUL | DISEMBARKATION | USA

Disembark Corinthian II and transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)
Program Inclusions

- Ten-night cruise aboard the 114-guest yacht Corinthian II
- All meals aboard ship including breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner
- Complimentary house wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner aboard ship
- Welcome and farewell receptions aboard ship, hosted by the captain
- Complete program of tours and excursions as described in the itinerary
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by Columbia Professor Richard Brilliant and other guest lecturers
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Transfers and baggage handling abroad on the designated program departure and arrival dates
- Complete pre-departure materials including destination information, travel portfolio, document wallet, and name tag
- Port dues and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; visas; passports; luggage and trip cancellation insurance; meals, soft drinks, and alcoholic beverages other than those specified above; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, faxes, and e-mail service; and gratuities to shipboard personnel

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.

Fine Dining
Superb Continental cuisine is created by Corinthian II’s European chefs and served either in the stately restaurant or al fresco on the wide sun deck, which is specially equipped for outdoor dining service. Select regional wines are complimentary with lunch and dinner. Fresh ingredients are chosen locally at many ports of call. All meals are served at one, unassigned seating; varied seating arrangements assure comfort for all. Corinthian II’s widely praised service equals that of the finest restaurants.

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.
Deck Plan

Cruise and Land Rates  l  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>$7,495</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 225 sq. ft.</td>
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<td>A</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$9,895</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with forward and side windows and sitting area. 265 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$10,695</td>
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<td>VS</td>
<td>Deluxe <strong>Veranda Suites</strong> on Erickson Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 300 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$12,695</td>
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<td>PHS</td>
<td>Deluxe <strong>Penthouse Suites</strong> on Explorer Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 400 sq. ft.</td>
<td>$14,895</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 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 Athens, Greece, returning from Istanbul, Turkey, 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 (6423) handy for reference.
Registration

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for $_________ ($1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold ______ place(s) on The Black Sea. 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.
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PLEASE SELECT CABIN CATEGORY
IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE:

[ ] Twin Beds   [ ] Double Bed
[ ] Single Occupancy   [ ] Share
  (cannot be guaranteed)

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

SCHOOL/YEAR   DATE OF BIRTH

SCHOOL/YEAR   DATE OF BIRTH

Address

City/State/Zip

Telephone (Day)   (Evening)

E-mail

[ ] 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 ________________
DISCOVER THE HISTORIC & CULTURAL TREASURES OF THE BLACK SEA

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