JOURNEY OF ODYSSEUS
Retracing the Odyssey Through the Ancient Mediterranean
Aboard the All-Suite, 57-Cabin Corinthian II
August 31 - September 11, 2009
In the shade of pine trees, next to vineyards heaving with September grape, having just explored glorious ruins and places of myth, gather to read or sing a few rhapsodies each day from Homer’s glorious poem on the adventures of Odysseus in those very same caves and woods, rocks and beaches, that you’ve just stepped through, and at night, sailing under the stunning Mediterranean stars, gather on deck and listen to haunting ancient music and sing some more, the song of the Sirens, the passage from Circe to Calypso.

For the first time aboard a cruise retracing Odysseus’s epic voyage, the renowned international group The Readers of Homer will lead the Journey of Odysseus travelers in a participatory experience of this glorious epic, having just staged similar marathon renderings of The Iliad and The Odyssey at the magnificent Library of Alexandria, on Chios island on the rock where Homer is said to have sang and taught, and in New York, with hundreds of audience-participants of all ages and backgrounds, in Greek, English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, German, French, Italian, and Swahili!

Those travelers who wish to participate in the readings will receive their pre-assigned passages (though they will be encouraged to propose their own favorite verses) from the acclaimed Robert Fagles translation of The Odyssey in the weeks preceding the cruise, and will be in direct communication with their TROH leaders, Dr. Kathryn Hohlwein, the group’s founder and head, and Yannis Simonides, Emmy-winning actor/producer, who will guide them through all essential preparations. We are pleased that Dr. Hohlwein and Mr. Simonides will be joining us on this cruise, and will personally conduct the proceedings related to the readings.

Travelers will be encouraged to offer part of their passage also in the language of their ethnic origin. (It is said that Homer has been translated in 187 tongues!) The entire experience, along with the most poignant moments of the cruise, will be filmed, and a DVD will be available to all, along with their own souvenir copy of the Fagles translation. Thus their effort will become an achievement, and all participants will become part of The Readers of Homer.

Finally, this unique journey and epic celebration will be enhanced by sumptuous meals in the Homeric tradition, with all the purity and richness described in the immortal verses, with fresh ingredients picked in the very gardens, fields, and seas praised there.

Let the Great Song Begin!
Dear Columbian,

Homer’s epic account of Odysseus’ journey home after the fall of Troy is more than just a poem for the literati—it is a beacon to the adventurer. Nearly 3,000 years after he first recounted the legend of The Odyssey, the story still inspires the spirit of exploration. The Odyssey remains the ultimate journey, and many of its pinnacle sites not only persist in the collective imagination, but even now wait to awe a new generation of travelers. The islands Odysseus visited, the caverns he explored and the mountain peaks he climbed are among the most magical places in the Mediterranean.

Join Professor Elena Tzelepis of Columbia University’s Classics Department, fellow alumni, family and friends August 31 – September 11, 2009 tracing Odysseus’ fabled route home from the burning towers of Troy via the enchanted realms of gods and nymphs. Set sail from Istanbul and call at Canakkale to reach Troy, the legendary site of the Trojan War, the city that guarded the strategic narrows of the Hellespont. Call at ancient Delos, birthplace of Apollo and Artemis and Pylos, site of the Palace of Nestor. After a full day at sea, explore the Islands of Malta and Gozo, where the nymph Calypso entrapped Odysseus and Trapani, Sicily, the abode of the man-eating Laestrygonians. The adventure continues during our discovery of the Phlegrean Fields outside Naples, where Odysseus faced the Cyclops, through the Strait of Messina where he confronted Charybdis and the legendary Scylla to modern day Taormina, the ancient Kingdom of Helios. Before transiting the Corinth Canal to disembark at Athens, safely return Odysseus to the pristine beaches of Ithaca, his long-sought home.

The renowned international group, The Readers of Homer, will lead Journey of Odysseus travelers in a first-time in situ participatory experience of the glorious epic. Professor Tzelepis and other onboard speakers will enhance the program with thought-provoking lectures, further enriching an already sumptuous adventure.

Our home for the voyage is the elegant Corinthian II. Please join participants from our co-sponsors, the Archaeological Institute of America, Explorers Club and Johns Hopkins University on this uniquely satisfying exploration of the ancient world.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Feagin
Executive Vice President
Columbia University Office of Alumni and Development

Telephone: 866-325-8664 • E-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu

Front Cover: A scene from a 6th-century B.C. vase depicting a Siren and Odysseus tied to the mast of his ship
**ITINERARY**

**Monday, August 31, 2009**

**FLY FROM USA**

**Tuesday, September 1**

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY | EMBARK**

Arrive in Istanbul and transfer to embark *Corinthian II*. Set sail in the evening. (*D*)

**Wednesday, September 2**

**CANAKKALE | TROY: Priam’s Kingdom | CANAKKALE**

Explore famed Troy, site of Odysseus’s embarkation, which consists of nine 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 Paris abducted the beautiful Helen, igniting the Trojan War. Here, King Priam’s city finally fell to Odysseus’s clever ruse of the Trojan Horse. This evening, enjoy a welcome cocktail reception and dinner hosted by the captain. (*B, L, D*)

**Thursday, September 3**

**DELOS, GREECE**

In the heart of the Aegean, tiny uninhabited Delos is one of the most important archaeological sites in Greece. Legend identifies it as the birthplace of twins Apollo and Artemis. A walking tour leads to the excavations of the main shrines dedicated to these gods as well as to the Terrace of the Lions, with its deftly carved archaic figures, originally constructed to overlook and protect the Sacred Lake. (*B, L, D*)

**Friday, September 4**

**PYLOS**

*Corinthian II* enters spacious Navarino Bay, which is fronted by the uninhabited isle of Sphakteria. Land at the picturesque village of Pylos, situated at the head of the bay, and drive to the Palace of Nestor, dating from the 13th century B.C. Even in ruins, the structure gives a vivid picture of the grandeur of the Mycenaeans. (*B, L, D*)

**Saturday, September 5**

**AT SEA | VALLETTA, MALTA:**

**Calypso’s Island**

As *Corinthian II* plies the blue waters of the Ionian Sea, attend lectures by our expert study leaders, and enjoy the ship's amenities. In the evening, dock in the Grand Harbor of Valletta, the fortified bastion of the Knights of Malta. Ruled successively by the Phoenicians, Greeks, Carthaginians, Romans, Byzantines, Arabs, and the Order of the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem, Valletta’s hundreds of monuments make it one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world. (*B, L, D*)

**Sunday, September 6**

**VALLETTA or GOZO | VALLETTA**

Today, choose between sightseeing in Malta or the nearby island of Gozo. On the cliffs overlooking Ramla Bay on Gozo, retrace Odysseus’s footsteps to the smooth-walled cave where the nymph Calypso is said to have kept him for seven years. Visit the underground Alabaster Caves in the tiny town of Xaghra and the spectacular Ggantija temple complex. Alternatively, wander the narrow streets of Valletta, exploring the picturesque squares surrounded by medieval palaces. Visit the National Museum of Archaeology and the Grand Master’s Palace. Also stop for a glimpse of St. John’s Co-Cathedral. A short scenic drive takes you to the remarkable Neolithic Tarxien Temples, which date back to 2800 B.C., and onto Hagar Qim, an even older temple that stands atop a hill on the southern edge of the island overlooking the sea. (*B, L, D*)

**Monday, September 7**

**TRAPANI | ERICE | SEGESTA | TRAPANI, SICILY, ITALY:**

**Land of the Laestrygonians**

Trapani, on Sicily’s stunning west coast, is where the cannibal Laestrygonians attacked Odysseus and his companions. Drive up winding roads to the medieval town of Erice, situated on a high plateau overlooking the coast. The town was known for its temple to the fertility goddess, Astarte, who was later identified with Venus and worshipped by the Romans. Peek around the magnificent 12th-century Venus Castle that was built upon the ruins of the ancient temple. Fringed by a lush park, the views from this medieval hilltop castle are breathtaking. Continue to Segesta for a glimpse of its Doric temple, built in 420 B.C. and ranked as one of the best-preserved ancient Greek sites to be found anywhere. The ruins stand in majestic solitude atop a bucolic hill with
The walls of Troy at the entrance to the ancient city

virtually no modern-day structures marring the vista, making it easy to imagine the Sicily of antiquity. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, September 8

NAPLES | POMPEII or PHLEGREAN FIELDS: Land of the Cyclops | NAPLES

From Naples, drive to the Phlegraen Fields, where Odysseus and his men were captured by Polyphemus, the Cyclops. Drive by Lago d’Averno, the ancient Avernus Lake, home of the Cimmerians in The Odyssey, and Lago di Fusaro, the ancient Archerusian Lake, where Odysseus entered Hades. Continue to Monte di Cuma and the cave of the Sibyl of Cumae, who prophesied the future. Alternatively, visit Pompeii, the fabled city both destroyed and preserved by the volcanic eruption of Mount Vesuvius in a.d. 79. After lunch at a local restaurant, visit the Archaeological Museum in Naples. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, September 9

MESSINA | TAORMINA: The Kingdom of Helios | MESSINA, SICILY

Cross the Strait of Messina, the site of the legendary Scylla, a terrifying six-headed monster, and Charybdis, a treacherous whirlpool. Odysseus was cast ashore in the Kingdom of Helios, modern Taormina, where his companions slaughtered and ate the sacred oxen. To avenge the death of his beloved oxen, Helios sent a lightning bolt that destroyed their ship, drowning all aboard except Odysseus. Picturesque Taormina is situated on a mountainside affording magnificent views of Mount Etna. Here we visit the superbly situated Greek theater, built in the 3rd century b.c. (B, L, D)

Thursday, September 10

ITHACA, GREECE: The Home of Odysseus | CORINTH CANAL

Ithaca, the legendary home of Odysseus, is a stunning island of pristine beaches and verdant forest. Visit the bay of Dexia, Homer’s harbor of Phorkys, where the Phaeacians left Odysseus sleeping on the beach. Admire the Cyclopean Walls (Alalkomenai), a ruined site known locally as Odysseus’s Castle, and stand atop the Plateau of Marathia, where Odysseus’s loyal servant Eumaeus kept his swine. Later, sail along the Corinth Canal. (B, L, D)

Friday, September 11

PIRAEUS | DISEMBARK | ATHENS | FLY TO USA (B)

The historic harbor of Valletta, Malta

Program Inclusions

- 10-night cruise aboard the all-suite, 114-guest Corinthian II
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard ship
- All meals aboard ship, including house wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner
- Open bar aboard ship throughout the cruise
- Complete program of tours and excursions
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by accompanying Columbia faculty and guest lecturer
- Special guided, participatory reading program conducted by The Readers of Homer
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Complete pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and transfers aboard on the designated program arrival and departure dates
- Port and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; visa and passport fees; luggage, trip cancellation, and accident insurance; meals and beverages other than those specified above; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, faxes and e-mail service; and gratuities to shipboard personnel
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.

Effortless Elegance Each Day and Night

Returning from excursions, enjoy complimentary refreshments, afternoon tea, and all-day coffee in The Club, a comfortable 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.

Gracious Living in Spacious Suites

The deluxe Corinthian II is an all-suite 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 and feature beds that can be configured as two twin-size beds or one queen-size bed, a sitting area, generous storage space, air conditioning, mini-refrigerator, safe, telephone, TV, DVD/CD player, and a marble-appointed bathroom with fine toiletries. Guests staying in the spacious Penthouse Suites and Veranda Suites (400 and 300 square feet, respectively) will also enjoy a private balcony, private butler service, and other exclusive in-suite amenities.

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.

COLUMBIA FACULTY

ELENA TZELEPIS holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy from the New School for Social Research, New York. She teaches at the Classics Department of Columbia University. In her two forthcoming books, a co-edited volume on Ancient Greek thought and Contemporary French philosophy (SUNY Press) and an edited volume on Sophocles’ Antigone (Athens: Nissos), she revisits Ancient Greek philosophy and literature and tries to make them relevant to some of the most complex and pressing issues of the current historical moment. Dr. Tzelepis looks forward to sharing her expertise with alumni, family and friends on this voyage of discovery.

(Please note that a minimum number of participants is required to confirm faculty participation.)

GUEST LECTURER

SHELLEY WACHSMANN, lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America (whose members will also be participating on this program), is the Meadows Professor of Biblical Archaeology in the Nautical Archaeology Program at Texas A&M University, where he has been teaching courses in ancient seafaring and biblical archaeology since 1990 (Ph.D. Hebrew University, Jerusalem’s Institute of Archaeology, 1990). From 1976 to 1989 he served as the Inspector of Underwater Antiquities for the Israel Department of Antiquities and Museums, during which time he was directly responsible for the nautical heritage of Israel. Professor Wachsmann has published four books and over sixty articles on the results of his field research and on other archaeological subjects. He is currently completing a book dealing with a 13th-century B.C. wooden ship model from Gurob, Egypt, which is the most detailed representation known of a Helladic (Greek) galley from the designated period of Odysseus.
COMBINATION OF CRUISE-SHIP AND SMALL-SHIP INTIMACY

DECK PLAN

Cruise and Land Rates
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 beds that can be configured as two twin-size beds or one queen-size bed, sitting area, ample closet space, mini-refrigerator, satellite TV, DVD/CD player, marble-appointed bathroom with shower, and other amenities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DOUBLE OCCUPANCY per person</th>
<th>SINGLE OCCUPANCY (†)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 225 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Suites 250 - 252 $7,595</td>
<td>$10,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 225 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Suites 254 - 329 $8,595</td>
<td>$11,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 235 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Suites 253 - 252 $9,595</td>
<td>$12,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Suites 333 - 348 $10,595</td>
<td>$13,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Suites 416 - 428 $11,595</td>
<td>$14,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with forward and side windows and sitting area. 285 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Suites 415 - 414 $12,395</td>
<td>$15,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Deluxe Veranda Suites on Erickson Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 300 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Suites 505 - 512 $13,795</td>
<td>$16,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHS</td>
<td>Deluxe Penthouse Suites on Explorer Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 400 sq. ft.</td>
<td>Suites 601 - 604 $14,795</td>
<td>$17,790</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(†) A limited number of suites have been set aside for single occupancy at no additional cost. Single travelers will pay the per person, double occupancy rate listed above if reservation is made by April 3, 2009. After this date, a single supplement of $2,995 will apply.

Book by April 3, 2009 to:
- Save $1,500 from the per person, double occupancy rates in Categories VS & PHS
- Save $1,000 from the per person, double occupancy rates in Categories E - AA
- Waive the single supplement (other discounts do not apply)

SPECIAL OFFERS

AIRFARE: Airfare is not included in the Cruise and Land Rates. Please contact your preferred airline, travel agent, or the Travel Dynamics International air desk operated by Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. (VWTI), the recommended agency handling the air arrangements for this program, for airfare information and to reserve flights to Istanbul, returning from Athens. Consultants are available Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm (EST) at toll-free 1-877-711-9896. Please have your tour code (9424) handy for reference.
The majesty of Segesta’s Greek temple in its pastoral setting
**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 $400 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 effecting 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 effected 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 Columbia Alumni Travel Study group. We reserve the right to cancel or substitute lecturers. Faculty participation is contingent upon a minimum number of participants.

**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.

**Ship’s Registry:** Malta  
CST # 2043599-40 TDI
Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for $________ ($1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _______ place(s) on Journey of Odysseus. 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 Alumni Travel Study Program, 245 Mill St., 2nd Floor, Greenwich, CT 06830 (Or, fax to 203-724-0844)
Phone: 866-3-ALUMNI (866-325-8664)
E-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu

- AmEx  - Discover  - Visa  - MasterCard

No. ________________________________
Exp. ________3- or 4-Digit Security Code _______

Please select cabin category in order of preference:

- Twin Beds
- Double Bed
- Single Occupancy
- Share (Cannot be guaranteed, but I will pay the single supplement if need be.)

Please book me/us on the Two-Night Optional Pre-Cruise Extension in Istanbul, Turkey. More information will be sent upon tour registration.

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

Signature ___________________________ Date ________________

Signature ___________________________ Date ________________

---

Taormina’s grandly situated ancient theater