Aboard the 34-Guest Yacht Callisto

The Road to Timbuktu and the Rivers of West Africa

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January 13 - 28, 2006
Judith Byfield, a Professor of History at Dartmouth University who specializes in African and Caribbean studies, received her Ph.D. from Columbia University. The primary focus of her scholarship has been women’s social and economic history in Nigeria. Her first book *The Bluest Hands: A Social and Economic History of Women Indigo Dyers in Western Nigeria, 1890-1940*, examined the indigo dyeing industry in Abeokuta, a Yoruba town in western Nigeria. Byfield has published a number of articles on dress, marriage and divorce, and nationalism. Recently, she received a Fulbright Fellowship (2002) and a National Endowment of the Humanities Fellowship (2003) for her current project, “The Great Upheaval—The Egba Women’s Tax Revolt: Gender and Nationalist Politics in Nigeria.” In addition to her teaching and scholarship, Prof. Byfield has served on the Board of Directors of the African Studies Association and as Co-convener of the Women’s Caucus of the African Studies Association. Currently, she is on the editorial board of the *Journal of African History*, Indiana’s University Press’s *Blacks in the Diaspora Series* as well as Chair of the Association of African Studies Programs.
Dear Columbian,

At the edge of the Sahara, dusty light hallows corridors of clay. Figures walk by in indigo robes and white turbans, smiling, laughing, singing, and praying. Musty tomes, centuries old, describe ancient histories—themselves but mysterious transcriptions of tales told to children, handed down to generation after generation. And a fantastical temple rises up, studded and turreted with hand-sculpted mud, forged anew each year for the last thousand years.

This is the road to Timbuktu—the legendary city poised at the edge of the Sahara, as far away as the imagination can peer. In the long centuries before Magellan, Timbuktu was the destination of camel caravans, bearing salt from the Sahara in exchange for gold, jewels, and precious ivory. It rose to prominence as a scholarly center of Arab Africa before a long period of decline, with the sand dunes inexorably closing in. Only in 1828 did the first European traveler return from Timbuktu. Almost nowhere else is a place so fabled and so prominent in history and myth also so isolated from the rest of the world.

Join us in early 2006 as we explore not only this most fabled of West African cities, but also the exotic sites en route. Our journey takes us to the 19th-century French colonial town of Segou, the Grand Mosque of Djenne, and the bustling city of Mopti, known for its trade in carved wood sculptures and dramatically colored fabrics. Explore the Dogon region, where a complex animistic cosmology reigns, inspiring mask ceremonies, vibrant rock paintings, and mystical cliff dwellings. Unlike most pilgrimages to Timbuktu, a short flight will transport us to this most legendary of cities, bypassing a lengthy and arduous drive for your comfort and convenience.

Sub-Saharan civilizations are only half the story of West Africa. And we will complete the picture. Join us aboard the 34-guest Callisto, an elegant private yacht hailed for its wonderful combination of superb cuisine, impeccable service and intimate ambience, for a dazzling cruise down the Casamance, Gambia, and Saloum rivers of Senegal and The Gambia. You will be surrounded by the extraordinary wildlife of the Casamance, Kiang West National Park, and Abuko Nature Preserve—a completely different experience of nature than in the well-trodden safari routes of Kenya and Tanzania. Kingfishers swoop, baboons howl, and warthogs rut and snuffle along the banks; marsh mongoose and roan antelopes dart through isolated expanses of woodland and grassland. An awe-inspiring display of bird life, with hundreds of species from carmine bee-eaters to yellow-billed storks and paradise flycatchers, will amaze champion and neophyte birdwatchers alike. Conclude in Dakar, the musical capital of West Africa, for a pilgrimage to Goree Island, creating a comprehensive educational experience in the natural and cultural history of this unbelievably varied region.

We are privileged to be joined by guest lecturer and Columbia alumna, Dartmouth Professor Judith Byfield, along with alumni from Dartmouth University.

Please join us for this exciting, illuminating, and thoroughly awe-inspiring exploration of West Africa. We encourage you to reserve soon, as spaces aboard the 17-cabin luxury yacht Callisto are extremely limited.

Sincerely,

Eric J. Furda
Vice President for Alumni Relations

Call: 866-3-ALUMNI (866-325-8664)
E-mail: travelstudy@columbia.edu
Itinerary

Friday, January 13, 2006
USA
Depart the United States on a flight to Bamako, Mali.

Saturday, January 14
BAMAKO, MALI
Arrive in the evening and transfer to the Hotel Salam Bamako. (D)

Sunday, January 15
BAMAKO | SEGOU
This morning, visit the National Museum, housing one of the best ethnographic collections in West Africa. After lunch, drive to Segou. Built on the banks of the Niger River, Segou was the capital of the French administration in the 19th century and retains an air of its former colonial glory. Transfer to the Hotel Independence for the night. (B, L, D)

Monday, January 16
SEGOU | DJENNE | MOPTI
In the morning, depart for Djenne, truly one of the great towns of West Africa. Picturesquely situated on an island, Djenne has changed little since its heyday during the 14th and 15th centuries when, like Timbuktu, it profited from the trans-Sahara trade. See mud-brick houses and madrassa schools en route to the Grand Mosque, a wondrous, Gaudi-like example of Sahel-style architecture and the largest mudbrick building in the world. Its design dates from the 11th century, and is repaired and rebuilt each year after the rainy season. Continue to Mopti and the Hotel Kanaga. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, January 17
MOPTI
Mopti, once the third largest city in Mali, lies at the confluence of the Niger and Bani Rivers. After a walking tour of the city, spend time at leisure exploring the markets, where handicrafts, including jewelry, sculptures, and Dogon and Peul blankets are on display. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, January 18
MOPTI | DOGON REGION | MOPTI
Drive to the Dogon Region, which contains some of the most impressive sites in all of West Africa. Visit the Dogon villages, built along the cliffs of an escarpment, where we can see their elaborate art forms and unique architecture. (B, L, D)

Thursday, January 19
MOPTI | TIMBUKTU | BAMAKO
Fly from Mopti to Timbuktu, once one of the wealthiest cities of Islamic Africa and a center of Muslim scholarship. Tour the city, visiting the Djingareyber and
Sankore mosques, both dating from the 15th century. Walk through the city’s narrow streets to see its distinctive architecture. In the afternoon, fly to Bamako and spend the night at the Hotel Salam Bamako. (B, L, D)

Friday, January 20
BAMAKO | DAKAR, SENEGAL | EMBARKATION
Fly to Dakar, the capital of Senegal. Upon arrival, embark on Callisto and sail in the evening. (B, L, D)

Saturday, January 21
CASAMANCE RIVER
In the morning, Callisto enters Senegal’s Casamance River, a maze of creeks and lagoons dotted with small islands. Anchor close to Karabane Island, an early trading center near the mouth of the river. Land at the village of Kachouane, where we are greeted by local dancers. After exploring the village, drive to Cap Skirring and the Hotel La Paillote for lunch and a swimming opportunity. After lunch, board local boats to explore the traditional village of Ourong. Spend the night aboard anchored near Karabane Island. (B, L, D)

Sunday, January 22
CASAMANCE RIVER
In the morning, explore the village of Elinkine and then drive to nearby M’Lomp, known for its two-story banco architecture, a rare example of African tribal house design. In addition to touring the village, we will also meet with its chief and visit St. Joseph School. Reboard the ship and spend the rest of the afternoon at sea. In the evening, Callisto will enter the Gambia River. (B, L, D)

Monday, January 23
GAMBIA RIVER, THE GAMBIA
This morning, Callisto continues cruising upriver to call at the traditional village of Albreda, known for its batiks and dyed cloth, characteristic houses and huts, and fortified trading station. Continue to Jufureh, which became famous in the 1970s after the publication of Alex Haley’s Roots. Return to Callisto and enjoy lunch aboard as the ship journeys upriver to Tendaba. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, January 24
KIANG WEST NATIONAL PARK | BANJUL
Explore the Kiang West National Park, where mangroves, creeks, and mudflats alternate with dry woodland and grassland. Look for baboons, colobus monkeys, warthogs, marsh mongoose, and roan antelopes, as well as some of the 250 bird species that inhabit the park. In the afternoon, cruise downriver to Banjul, the capital of The Gambia. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, January 25
BANJUL | SALOUM RIVER, SENEGAL
Tour the Abuko Nature Reserve, a small area that boasts a tropical riverine woodland and a wide variety of bird life. Alternatively, explore Banjul, including visits to the National Museum and the Albert Market. Then, sail to Senegal’s Saloum River, whose delta comprises the Saloum Delta National Park. Formed by the convergence of the Saloum and Sine Rivers, it is an area of channels, lagoons, sand islands, and mangroves. (B, L, D)

Thursday, January 26
SALOUM RIVER | DAKAR
This morning, continue exploring the islands and channels and visit the village of Fediout, whose houses are built of shells. Spend the afternoon at sea cruising toward Dakar. (B, L, D)

Friday, January 27
DAKAR | DISEMBARKATION | GOREE ISLAND | DAKAR
Disembark in Dakar and visit Goree Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Return to Dakar and visit the IFAN Museum, then shop at the Marche Soumbedioune, a craft market with the best variety of artisan workmanship. Transfer to the Hotel Sofitel Teranga for dinner and accommodations until your evening flight. (B, L, D)

Saturday, January 28
USA
Arrive in the United States.
Program Inclusions

- Two nights in Bamako at the Hotel Salam Bamako; one night in Segou at the Hotel Independence; three nights in Mopti at the Hotel Kanaga; day rooms in Dakar at the Hotel Sofitel Teranga
- Seven-night cruise aboard the 34-guest yacht Callisto, including welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- All meals throughout the trip, both on land and aboard Callisto
- House wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunch and dinner aboard ship
- Flights in West Africa: from Mopti to Timbuktu, from Timbuktu to Bamako, and from Bamako to Dakar
- Complete program of tours and excursions
- Educational program of lectures by accompanying study leaders
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Complete pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and transfers abroad on the designated program dates
- Port dues and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers
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- Complete pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and transfers abroad on the designated program dates
- Port dues and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers

**NOT INCLUDED:**

- Airfare (other than the flights in West Africa listed above); visas; passports; luggage, cancellation, and accident 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

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**The 34-Guest Yacht Callisto**

The finest, most memorable voyages take place aboard a luxurious private yacht, where one is part of a small, select, sociable community. Cabins resemble guest rooms in a fine home—beautifully furnished, comfortably arranged, and complete with the amenities that one would expect from a thoughtful host. The yacht's public areas, whether indoors or out on deck, are warm, inviting places where friends meet for conversation and refreshments, or to spend a pleasant hour with a good book. The cuisine is superb, and the service is considerate and congenial.

**A Private Yacht Experience**

This is the exceptional experience that you will enjoy aboard Callisto, a private ocean-going yacht that is the fulfillment of a traveler's dream. Callisto is furnished with rich fabrics, handsome woodwork, gleaming brass, rare antiques, and fine works of art. The guest list is limited to no more than 34—a group large enough to bring together an interesting mix of travelers, but small enough to foster a genuine spirit of camaraderie.

**An Uncommon Itinerary**

In addition to all the other pleasures of Callisto, her guests enjoy an advantage that eludes travelers aboard larger vessels: because Callisto is a yacht, she can visit those unspoiled islets, pristine beaches, and intimate coves and harbors that have been familiar to fishermen and other sailors of small craft for thousands of years, but which are inaccessible to large commercial cruise liners.

**Elegant Facilities, the Latest Technology**

Callisto was designed with the comfort of her guests in mind. All 17 cabins are exterior with large windows (portholes on Daphne Deck) that look out on the sea; they are air-conditioned and feature generous storage space, a telephone, two-channel radio, TV/VCR, refrigerator, and a marble bathroom with shower. The yacht's public areas include a spacious lounge; a dining room in which all guests are accommodated at a single open seating; two broad decks for sunbathing and dining al fresco; a library with computer access; and a swimming platform at the yacht's stern. Callisto flies the Greek flag, is served by a crew of 18, and is equipped with the latest navigational instruments, including satellite communication systems. Callisto also offers e-mail service.

Join us aboard Callisto and discover for yourself the pleasure of exploring the world from a private yacht.

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**Odysseus Circle—Your Passport to Savings**

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 our 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:

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**ON THIS VOYAGE YOU WILL EARN**

450 NAUTICAL MILES

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Typical Cabin

Marble-appointed cabin bathroom

Lounge

Sun Deck

Dining Room
Cruise and Land Rates

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<td>B</td>
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Registration

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for $_____ ($1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold ___ place(s) on Timbuktu and the Rivers of West Africa.

Please make check payable to: Travel Dynamics International and mail 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

I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure.

☐ AmEx  ☐ Discover  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard
No.__________ Exp. ________

PLEASE SELECT CABIN CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE:
A___  B___  C___  D___

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

SCHOOL/YEAR
DR./MR./MRS./MS.  FIRST LAST
ADDRESS
CITY/STATE/ZIP
TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)
EMAIL

☐ 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

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: A limited number of singles are available in Categories B & C for an additional charge of $3,695.

AFIRE: Airfare (other than the group flights from Mopti to Timbuktu, Timbuktu to Bamako, and Bamako to Dakar) is not included in the cost of the program. Please call Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc. (VWTI), the agency handling air arrangements for this program, for competitive airfares to Bamako, Mali, returning from Dakar, Senegal, in your selected class of service. To reach VWTI, kindly call toll-free 877-711-9896 or 212-592-1340 for reservation and ticketing information, and please have your program tour code handy for reference: 6802.
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