



**Commonwealth
Club Travel**

Informed Travel for the Discerning Mind

EMPIRES *of the* SEA

*The Epic Struggle Between the Ottoman Empire
and European Powers for Control of the Mediterranean*

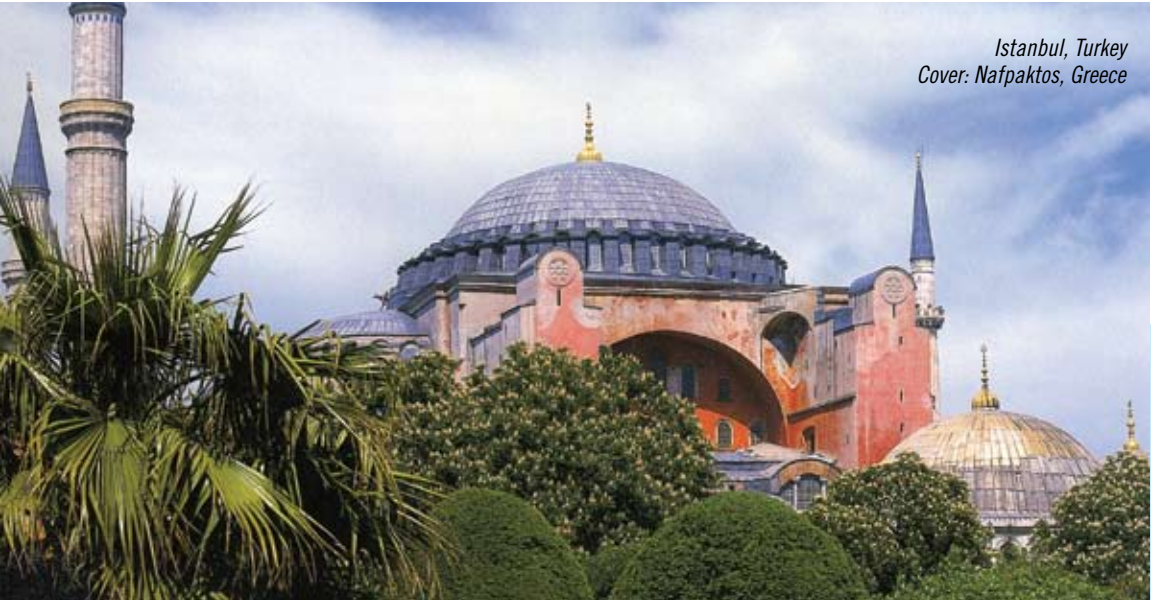
Aboard the All-Suite, 114-Guest Corinthian II

October 5 - 18, 2010



SPECIAL SAVINGS, REDUCED RATES!

See Inside



Guest Lecturers

Dr. Christine (Chris) Drake, lecturer for the American Geographical Society, focuses on the cultural, political, and environmental geography of the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East and has traveled extensively throughout this region. She is interested in the use and management of resources, issues of economic development, and the forces that both bind countries together and tear them apart. Professor Drake is a prolific author on such subjects both for the scholarly world and for an appreciative wider readership. She was University Professor of Geography and Director of the Geography Program at Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, VA, where she was an acclaimed member of the faculty for thirty years. Her lectures deal with the epic struggle for the Mediterranean sparked by politics, trade, and religion; insights into where and why early civilizations flourished and then declined; characteristics of places we will visit; and analyses of the contemporary landscapes in this north-east quadrant of the Mediterranean.

Traugott Lawler, Professor of English at Yale, has always had a strong interest in the ancient world, particularly in Greece and Italy. He began the study of Greek and Latin in high school and continued with both in college, even as he majored in English. He has taught the *Iliad*, the *Odyssey*, Greek tragedy, and the *Aeneid* numerous times. Professor Lawler has lectured on four previous Yale educational travel programs, including “The Journey of Odysseus” in 1998, when he was thrilled to see the Homeric places at last. He and his wife Peggy look forward to returning to the Aegean and the Mediterranean, and to exploring new islands and new coasts.

Jodi Magness holds a senior endowed chair in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her research interests include the art and archaeology of two Mediterranean empires – Rome and Byzantium. On this program, she will focus on Byzantine art and architecture and on the rich civilizations of the Bronze Age Aegean.



Dear Club Member,

The Mediterranean is the cradle of empires, and for centuries one of the most powerful was the Ottoman Empire. The Byzantines, the Venetians, the Crusader Knights of St. John, eventually almost all Europe struggled to contain this mighty realm. Our autumn voyage sails to islands, coastlands, and towns, well-known to the Ottomans and their rivals, that witnessed some of the most dramatic moments in the long history of the Mediterranean.

We will explore magnificent cultural sites that offer eloquent testimony to the clash of civilizations. The splendor of the Church of Hagia Sophia in Istanbul and the glorious Byzantine mosaics at Nea Moni monastery on the island of Chios recall the glory of the Byzantine Empire. And the lavishly decorated palaces and churches of Valletta on the island of Malta celebrate the Knights of St. John's near-miraculous victory over the Turks in 1565.

As we wander the medieval streets of Dubrovnik, Kotor, and Rhodes, we'll see wonderful examples of Gothic and Renaissance architecture, all preserved behind old city walls that have witnessed so many momentous events. We've included a special stop at the Bay of Lepanto where in 1571 a coalition of European powers inflicted a decisive defeat on the Turkish navy.

With 57 exterior suites accommodating only 114 guests, the small cruise ship *Corinthian II* is the ideal ship for this splendid itinerary. Exquisitely designed and furnished, this elegant ship features spacious accommodations, a beautiful dining room, comfortable lounges and public areas, and broad decks for sunning or watching the passing scene. Join us, as well as travelers from the American Geographical Society, Columbia University, Smithsonian Institution, and Yale University, aboard *Corinthian II* as we discover some of the loveliest towns and cultural sites of the Mediterranean, and relive events that changed the course of history.

Sincerely,

Kristina Nemeth
Director of Club Travel

Itinerary

Tuesday, October 5, 2010 • **FLY FROM USA**

Wednesday, October 6 • **ISTANBUL, TURKEY**

Arrive in Istanbul and transfer to the *Ceylan InterContinental Istanbul*.

Thursday, October 7 • **ISTANBUL I EMBARK**

The battle for control of the Mediterranean between the Muslim Ottoman and Christian Europe is one of the world's epic struggles. Explore the principal Byzantine and Ottoman monuments of Istanbul, former Constantinople, one of the centers of the Ottoman Empire, including the basilica of Hagia Sophia, the Topkapi Palace, the seat of Ottoman sultans, and the Sultan Ahmet Camii (or Blue Mosque). Board *Corinthian II* and sail. (B, L, D)

Friday, October 8 • **CHIOS, GREECE**

Arrive at the rugged island of Chios, the reputed birthplace of Homer. Under Byzantine control from the 4th to the 13th centuries, the island became a possession of the Genoese, who lost it to the Turks in 1566. Visit the beautiful Nea Moni monastery, founded in 1042 and renowned for its richly colored mosaics and other treasures. (B, L, D)

Saturday, October 9 • **RHODES I**

LINDOS I RHODES

Positioned along the main Mediterranean maritime and trading routes, Rhodes was a major naval power in antiquity. In 1529, the Ottoman ruler Suleiman the Magnificent led an invasion force against Rhodes, capturing the island after a six-month siege. This battle marked the beginning of the struggle between rival powers and faiths for control of the Mediterranean. Tour Rhodes's Old Town, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval towns, and take an excursion to Lindos, one of the island's ancient towns, whose acropolis sits on a huge rock overlooking the sea and the white-washed village. (B, L, D)

Valletta, Malta



Sunday, October 10 • **HERAKLION I KNOSSOS I HERAKLION, CRETE**

Arrive in Crete, home of Europe's earliest civilization, the Minoan, which developed during the Bronze Age (c. 3500 – 1100 B.C.). Later a prominent Byzantine center, Crete fell to the Venetians in 1204, who held it as their prized possession until 1669, when they lost it to the Turks. See the Minoan Palace of Knossos and the superb exhibits of the Heraklion Museum. Also tour Heraklion, the capital of Venetian Crete. (B, L, D)

Monday, October 11 • **AT SEA (B, L, D)**

Tuesday, October 12 • **VALLETTA, MALTA**

Rich in prehistoric remains, the island of Malta became the home of the Knights Hospitallers of St. John, after they were expelled from Rhodes in 1523. In May 1565, a formidable armada consisting of the finest Muslim forces appeared before Malta, but the Turkish forces were defeated after a bloody four-month fight. Tour Valletta's medieval monuments, including the Grand Master's Palace and St. John's Co-Cathedral. In the afternoon, tour the Museum of Archaeology and the Tarxien Temples, Malta's most important megalithic structures, or explore Mdina, and Rabat, with its Roman remains. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, October 13 • **ROCCELLA IONICA I GERACE, ITALY**

From Roccella Ionica in southern Italy, visit the medieval hill village of Gerace, with its castle ruins, and the 11th-century Duomo, the largest in Calabria. (B, L, D)

Thursday, October 14 • **NAFPAKTOS (LEPANTO), GREECE**

It was at Nafpaktos (the medieval Lepanto) that the celebrated Battle of Lepanto was fought in 1571 between the Turkish fleet and an allied fleet of Venice, Genoa, the Papal States, Spain, Sicily, and Naples. The overwhelming defeat of Muslim sea power was one from which they never recovered. Nafpaktos's medieval appearance is well-preserved. Enclosing walls come down to the sea, while an imposing castle sits above the town in a beautiful forest of pines. (B, L, D)

Friday, October 15 • **OTRANTO, PUGLIA, ITALY**

Built around an attractive bay, Otranto was the embarkation port of the Crusades and a leading trading center between Venice, the cities of Dalmatia, and the Eastern Mediterranean. In the center of the town stands a 15th – 16th-century castle, with its bastions facing the sea. Nearby is the 11th-century cathedral, known for its floor mosaic depicting biblical and other scenes and also the Byzantine church of San Pietro, whose interior is covered with frescoes. After touring the town, drive to a masseria, or farm house, to enjoy a wine and olive oil tasting. (B, L, D)

Saturday, October 16 • **KOTOR, MONTENEGRO I DUBROVNIK, CROATIA**

In the morning, *Corinthian II* will navigate the fantastic fjord-like Bay of Kotor, where soaring mountains flank the scenic waterway, to dock in the town of Kotor, known during the medieval period for its flourishing maritime



trade. Faced with the threat of Turkish expansion, Kotor was forced to ask for the protection of Venice in 1402. Tour Kotor's old town, with its stately palaces, churches, and wonderful squares, and then drive along the scenic road to Dubrovnik, the medieval stronghold of Ragusa, which rivaled Venice for control of the Adriatic Sea and maritime trade. Today Dubrovnik is one of Europe's best-preserved and loveliest medieval cities, which we will tour on foot. Reboard the ship in Dubrovnik. (B, L, D)

Sunday, October 17 • AT SEA (B, L, D)

*Monday, October 18 • VENICE, ITALY |
DISEMBARK | USA*

Disembark in Venice and transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)

Rhodes, Greece





Suite

CORINTHIAN II

In an era of mega cruise ships that carry thousands of passengers, the *Corinthian II* is a delightful alternative. More like a private yacht than a cruise ship, *Corinthian II* accommodates only 114 guests in 57 suites. *Corinthian II*'s limited guest capacity, fine facilities, and distinctive style of operation attract like-minded travelers who return again and again to enjoy its custom-crafted itineraries and a style of cruising that is rarely found today. More than just a cruise, each voyage provides a comprehensive experience that reveals the singular aspects of the destinations. Aboard, a sense of community and a spirit of camaraderie prevail.

All of *Corinthian II*'s suites face outside, providing views of the sea and landscape.

Several have a private balcony. There are expansive open deck areas and other facilities, including a gym, library, beauty salon, two lounges, a sun deck with Jacuzzi, and an outdoor cafe. A spacious restaurant accommodates all guests in an open, unassigned seating. The cuisine is outstanding, and the overall service is efficient and friendly while unobtrusive. An elevator serves all decks. A resident physician attends a well-equipped infirmary.

Served by 70 seasoned officers and crew, *Corinthian II* complies with the latest international safety regulations and is outfitted with the most current navigational technology.

CRUISE & 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 include two twin-size beds that can convert to a queen-size bed, sitting area, mini-refrigerator, safe, spacious closets, climate control, telephone, TV, DVD/CD player, and bathroom with marble vanity, shower, and other amenities.

CATEGORY		NORMAL RATES	YOUR SPECIAL RATES
E	Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 225 sq. ft. Suites 250 - 252	\$9,995	\$7,995
D	Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 225 sq. ft. Suites 329 - 332	\$11,495	\$8,995
C	Deluxe suites on Magellan Deck with portholes and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 254 - 262	\$12,995	\$9,995
B	Deluxe suites on Columbus Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 333 - 348	\$14,995	\$10,995
A	Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 416 - 428	\$15,995	\$11,995
AA	Deluxe suites on Marco Polo Deck with forward and side windows and sitting area. 285 sq. ft. Suites 414 - 415	\$17,495	\$12,995
VS	Deluxe Veranda Suites on Erickson Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 300 sq. ft. Suites 505 - 512	\$19,495	\$13,995
PHS	Deluxe Penthouse Suites on Explorer Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 400 sq. ft. Suites 601 - 604	\$20,495	\$14,995

VS & PHS suites are provided with private butler service and other exclusive amenities.

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: A limited number of cabins have been designated for single travelers in Categories D - A at a supplement of \$1,995 to the per person, double occupancy rates indicated above. Singles in Categories AA - PHS are available at double the per person, double occupancy rates.

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) for airfare information and to reserve flights. Consultants are available Monday - Friday from 9:00 am - 5:30 pm (EST) toll-free at 866-834-6721. Please have your tour code (10426) handy for reference.

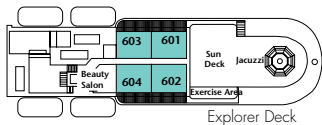


The Club

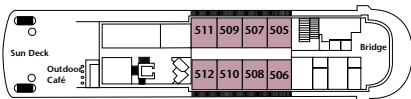
An Exceptional Value for the Times

Now more than ever, a cultural or an expedition voyage can be an antidote to these changing times, but we recognize the need for increased incentives. That is why for this exceptional voyage, our tour operator, Travel Dynamics International, is offering unprecedented incentives, including rates that are substantially lower than our normal prices. Lowering the prices, however, does not mean that we have compromised the quality and standards of our operation, or that we have taken away services and arrangements we normally include. The voyage prices still include the excursions and special shore events; transfers from the airport to the ship (and vice versa) are provided; wine is served with meals aboard; and the open-bar policy is continued. And the operating standards of our ships are among the highest in the industry. We urge you to take advantage of the lower prices and other incentives we are presenting. We will deliver to you an experience of a lifetime.

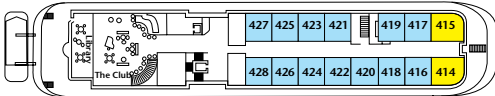
DECK PLAN



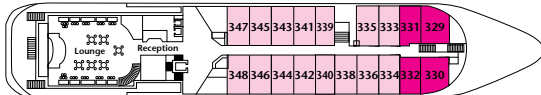
Explorer Deck



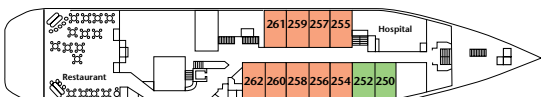
Erickson Deck



Marco Polo Deck



Columbus Deck



Magellan Deck

MAIN SPECIFICATIONS

Length: 297 feet | Beam: 50 feet
 Draft: 12 feet | Gross Tonnage: 4,200
 Flag: Malta | Suites: 57

REGISTRATION

CMWC 10426

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$_____ (\$1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold ____ place(s) on ***Empires of the Sea***. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check only.

Please make check payable to:
Travel Dynamics International,
 and mail or fax with this registration form to:
Commonwealth Club Travel
 595 Market St., 2nd Floor
 San Francisco, CA 94105
 Phone: 415-597-6720
 Fax: 415-597-6729

AmEx Discover Visa MasterCard

No. _____

Exp. _____

3- or 4-Digit Security Code _____

Please select cabin category in order of preference:

PHS_ VS_ AA_ A_ B_ C_ D_ E_

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

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

CLASS/PARENT YEAR

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

CLASS/PARENT YEAR

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY) (EVENING)

EMAIL

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

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE

Dubrovnik, Croatia

**SPECIAL SAVINGS,
REDUCED RATES!**

See Inside



595 Market St., 2nd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94105



**FOR RESERVATIONS OR
FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
THE COMMONWEALTH CLUB TRAVEL DESK AT**

**(415) 597-6720
OR**

VIA E-MAIL AT

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CMWVC 10426

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENTS: A \$1,000 deposit per person is required to confirm your reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure & must be by personal check.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person fee. 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.

INSURANCE: We recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. Details will be sent upon registration.

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

SHIP'S REGISTRY: Malta

CST #204 3599-40 TDI

Commonwealth Club Travel #2096889-40

**DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, THIS IS ABBREVIATED
INFORMATION. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR COMPLETE
TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**