



# Alumni Association

## SPRINGTIME IN THE CLASSICAL WORLD OF THE AEGEAN SEA Exploring Greece, the Greek Islands & Turkey

Aboard the New Expedition Cruise Ship *Diana*

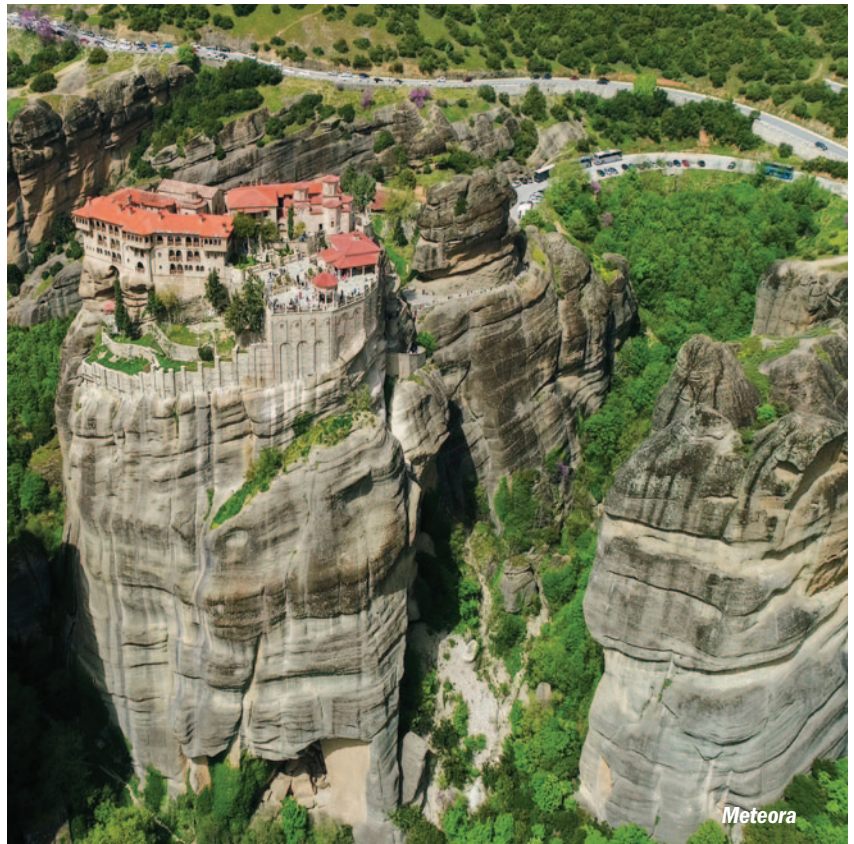
March 7-18, 2023



Ephesus



Delos



Meteora



### ITINERARY OUTLINE

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 7  | Depart the USA for Athens, Greece.  |
| March 8  | Arrive in Athens. Transfer to the <i>Athens Capital Hotel</i> .   |
| March 9  | Morning tour of the ancient Agora. Afternoon visit to the National Archaeological Museum.                               |
| March 10 | Morning at leisure. Afternoon tour of the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum, followed by embarkation on <i>Diana</i> . |
| March 11 | Morning in Delos, afternoon in Paros.   |
| March 12 | Bodrum, for the Museum of Underwater Archaeology and other sites.   |
| March 13 | Kusadasi for Priene and Ephesus   |
| March 14 | Chios, for the Monastery of Nea Moni and the mastic villages.   |
| March 15 | Volos for an excursion to Meteora.  |
| March 16 | Thessaloniki for a tour of the city's monuments and Vergina.  |
| March 17 | Thasos. Tour the ancient city.  |
| March 18 | Istanbul. Disembark and transfer to the airport.  |

**NOTE:** A two-day optional extension in Istanbul will be offered.

# PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Two nights in Athens at the *Athens Capital Hotel* including breakfast daily.
- Welcome dinner.
- 8-night cruise aboard the new expedition cruise ship *Diana*.
- All meals aboard ship with a selection of wines, beers and soft drinks with lunch and dinner.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night aboard ship.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages aboard ship.
- 24-hour room service aboard ship.
- Airport/hotel pier transfers and handling of luggage.
- Complete program of tours, excursions and other activities ashore, led by professional local guides and onboard experts.
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by Vanderbilt faculty member.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- Gratuities to shipboard personnel, local guides, drivers and porters.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard ship.
- Complete predeparture material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** Airfare; travel insurance; expenses of personal nature; any items not mentioned in the Program Inclusions.

**RATES:** Rates from \$7,990, per person, double occupancy.

# THE NEW EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP *DIANA*



The cruise ship *Diana* of Swan Hellenic, currently under construction in Finland, is a new-generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 12,250 tons, *Diana* is large enough to accommodate over 300 passengers, in fact the ship will accommodate only 192 guests in spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Scheduled to be launched in February 2023, *Diana* has been designed to be environmentally friendly, will be certificated as a Clean Ship, and will meet the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code. Its PC5 Category A ice-strengthened hull and other technical and mechanical attributes allow it to cruise around the world in safety and comfort. Technologically advanced hybrid engines make it possible for the ship to cruise in ecologically sensitive areas, leaving minimal footprint, while a computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System makes it possible to stay in position without dropping anchor, thus avoiding the possibility of damaging underneath marine life. Operated by a complement of 145 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Diana* will be

equipped with a fleet of Zodiacs, kayaks, and a remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV) that will reveal marine life in the deep.

All staterooms and suites face outside and will be equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections, ample closet space, as well as other amenities. Of the ship's 96 staterooms, 74 have roomy balconies. Public areas include several lounges; a restaurant that will accommodate all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness facility with a gym, spa, and sauna that includes an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; an infirmary that is attended by a resident medical doctor and nurse; and a "mud room" with lockers for storing cruise gear. The ship will also feature expansive open-deck areas. Attentive service will be provided on a 24-hour basis.

*Diana* is owned and operated by Swan Hellenic, one of the most storied travel and cruise companies. Thalassa Journeys is Swan Hellenic's exclusive partner in North America.

## ABOUT THALASSA JOURNEYS

Thalassa Journeys is a tour company founded in 2018 by the men and women who, working as Travel Dynamics International, pioneered educational travel in the 1970s in partnership with the leading educational and research institutions in the United States. For more than 45 years our mission was to provide robust, intellectually stimulating experiences to lifelong learners who see travel as an opportunity to expand their understanding of the world and their place in it.

This same mission guides us today, because we believe that the most rewarding travel experiences happen when small groups of like-minded people share an enthusiasm for engaging with the richly varied environments of the world and with the history, culture, ideas and ideals of the people who inhabit them.

## ABOUT SWAN HELLENIC

Swan Hellenic is one of the most storied travel companies in the world. Founded in London shortly after World War II by travel pioneer Kenneth Swan, Swan Hellenic was the first travel company in the English-speaking world to organize cruises with an emphasis on learning, with notable historians, archaeologists and other academicians drawn from British universities and museums accompanying each cruise. In 2020, Swan Hellenic was re-established as a small-ship expedition cruise company, ordering at a Finish shipyard three new-generation expedition ships, *Minerva*, *Vega* and *Diana*.



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VANDERBILT TRAVEL OFFICE AT  
615-322-3673**