



VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY  
Alumni Association

# Cruising the Red Sea & Aegean Sea

INCLUDING A TRANSIT OF THE SUEZ CANAL

March 8 to 21, 2024



**EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER**  
**DR. TAREK SAYED TAWFIK AHMED**



# CRUISING THE RED SEA & AEGEAN SEA

Stand at the crossroads of religion and cultural enlightenment as you journey to the storied lands of Jordan, Egypt, and Greece. This one-of-a-kind, 14-day, land and sea itinerary includes visits to centuries-old sites across three continents—cruising from the Red Sea to the Aegean Sea via the Victorian-era Suez Canal. Portals of antiquity lead to a treasure trove of ancient wonders and UNESCO marvels that defy the limits of the imagination. The achingly beautiful Greco-Roman temples of Jerash, the “rose-red city” of Petra, the ethereal desert majesty of Wadi Rum, and the pharaonic riches of Egypt summon awe and wonder like few other sites in the world. Attend on-board lectures by renowned Egyptologist Dr. Tarek Sayed Tawfik Ahmed throughout the tour and enjoy exclusive, up-close visits to The Great Sphinx of Giza and the tomb of Queen Nefertari. Our exploration of these ancient civilizations concludes in Crete with a visit to the labyrinthine palace of King Minos—the site where, according to Greek myth, Theseus defeated the legendary minotaur.





## VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY Alumni Association

Dear Vanderbilt Alumni and Friends:

Join us on a carefully curated, 14-day journey to the classical world's cradle of civilization, featuring five nights in ideally located, luxury hotels and a eight-night 5-star cruise. Visit three continents; navigate the legendary waterways of the Red Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Aegean Sea; and transit the seminal Suez Canal on a world antiquities tour like no other.

Follow in the footsteps of nomadic Bedouins across Wadi Rum, an orange-hued sea of sand where Lawrence of Arabia established his base. Enjoy excursions to the revered sites of the Nile Valley city of ancient Thebes, including the magnificent Karnak Temple Complex, Luxor Temple, and a specially arranged visit to Queen Nefertari's tomb in the Valley of the Queens. Stand in the shadows of the three iconic pyramids of Giza, an incredible engineering feat that still dominates the horizon and stands guarded by The Great Sphinx. Marvel at one of the greatest sites of the ancient world, the Minoan Palace at Knossos in Crete.

Enjoy expert lectures from special guest speakers as you cruise aboard the exclusively chartered LE BOUGAINVILLE, which features just 92 elegant suites and staterooms, each with a private balcony. Enhance your journey with our Pre-Program Option to visit the Holy Land of Israel and our Post-Program Option in ancient Athens, Greece.

Reserve your place today on this incredible itinerary while space and early booking savings are still available.

Sincerely,

Cary DeWitt Allyn  
Director, Vanderbilt Travel

***The Vanderbilt Travel Program strives to engage Vanderbilt alumni, parents and friends of all ages, keeping them connected with each other and the mission of Vanderbilt. Each carefully designed program offers unparalleled educational opportunities, for an exclusive "beyond the classroom" experience.***

**To secure your spot, call or contact the Vanderbilt Travel Office at 615-322-3673 or [alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu)**



## GUEST SPEAKER

### **Dr. Tarek Sayed Tawfik Ahmed**

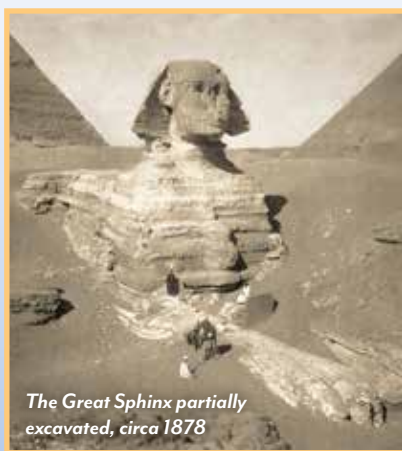
Dr. Tarek Sayed Tawfik Ahmed joins us on board for exclusive lectures on the culture, way of life, and iconic creations of ancient Egypt. With a BA and MA of Egyptology from Cairo University and a PhD in Egyptology from the University of Bonn, Germany, this renowned Egyptologist serves as Director of the Centre for Archaeological Studies and International Héritage in Luxor and is the former Director General of the Grand Egyptian Museum Project. Paired with his esteemed positions, experience lecturing in Italy, Malta, India, Jordan, and other countries, Dr. Ahmed is well equipped to illuminate our experiences as we visit some of antiquity's most legendary sites.



# THE LEGENDARY GIZA PLATEAU

Walk in the path of pharaohs and kings as we journey to one of the most famous historical sites in the world—the limestone plateau at the Egyptian city of Giza. Located just south of Cairo on the left bank of the Nile River, its sprawling desert necropolis includes three main tombs that are the largest pyramids in Egypt.

Among them is The Great Pyramid built for King Khufu (also known by his Greek name, Cheops) during the Fourth Dynasty. Constructed over a period of ten to 20 years in the 26<sup>th</sup> century B.C., experts continue to marvel at how this ancient masterpiece was achieved. Standing at 281 feet, The Great Pyramid was the tallest man-made structure in the world for 3,800 years and was a tourist attraction as early as the Roman times. Today, it remains the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the only one to be largely intact. Our guided excursion to the Giza Plateau includes visits to the newly unveiled Grand Egyptian Museum and The Great Pyramid, followed by lunch with panoramic views of all three pyramids. We conclude our immersion in the storied land of Old Kingdom Egypt with a specially arranged visit to one of the most iconic monuments of antiquity—The Great Sphinx of Giza.



*The Great Sphinx partially excavated, circa 1878*



## INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.







## 14-DAY/12-NIGHT ITINERARY

### Depart Home City

#### Day 1

Depart home city for Amman, Jordan.

### Amman, Jordan

#### Day 2

Arrive in Amman and check in to the 5-star FAIRMONT HOTEL AMMAN.

### Amman

#### Day 3

Discover Amman's ancient Citadel to see the ruins of the Temple of Hercules and walk through the Umayyad Palace. Marvel at the modern architecture of the blue-domed King Abdullah Mosque and visit the Jordan Museum, which contains the Ain Ghazal statues, the oldest in the world. (B,R)

### Amman/Jerash/Amman

#### Day 4

Embark on a scenic journey to Jerash, Jordan's most captivating

Greco-Roman site. See baths, theaters, plazas, fountains, and arches—incredibly still as they were 2,000 years ago. Gaze up at the three-gated Hadrian's Arch, walk the Sacred Way to the Temple of Artemis, and savor the sublime architecture of the Forum. Enjoy lunch in Jerash before heading back for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

### Amman/Petra

#### Day 5

Walk the narrow Siq gorge to explore the ancient "rose-red city" of Petra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Its majestic ensemble of temples, dwellings, and tombs—carved directly into the sandstone cliff face—still holds a mythical appeal. Tonight, check into an ideally located hotel. (B,L,D)

### Petra/Wadi Rum/ Embark the ship/Aqaba

#### Day 6

Check out of the hotel and traverse the awe-inspiring wilderness of UNESCO World Heritage-designated Wadi Rum, known as the "Valley of the Moon." Enjoy a Jeep ride through this ethereal landscape of striated canyons, soaring mountains, undulating sand dunes, and rocky caverns. After lunch, travel to Aqaba to embark LE BOUGAINVILLE at 3:00 p.m. (B,L,R,D)

### Safaga for Luxor, Egypt

#### Day 7

Travel into the mountains and across the arid desert to Luxor to see the great temples of ancient Thebes. Arrive in Luxor and enjoy an overnight stay in a Nile-view room. Explore UNESCO-designated Thebes with a visit to the magnificent Karnak Temple complex.

Wadi Rum, Jordan





*Jerash Hadrian's Arch*



*Suez Canal, Egypt*

Walk along the avenue of the ram-headed sphinxes into the Great Court and then continue to the Luxor Temple. (B,L,D)

### **Luxor/Hurghada**

#### **Day 8**

Cross the Nile to visit one of the world's most important archaeological sites, the Necropolis at Luxor in the Valley of the Kings. Explore the tomb of Tutankhamen and enjoy an exclusively arranged visit to Queen Nefertari's tomb in the Valley of the Queens. (B,L,D)

### **Ain Sokhna for Giza Plateau**

#### **Day 9**

See the last remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, The Great Pyramid, along with two other pyramids of the Old Kingdom pharaohs at Giza. Visit the Grand Egyptian Museum and enjoy a specially arranged excursion to see

The Great Sphinx up close. (B,L,D)

### **Transit the Suez Canal**

**Day 10**  
Experience one of the most momentous voyages between continents as you transit the 120-mile Suez Canal. Enjoy a lecture on board the ship with renowned Egyptologist Dr. Tarek Sayed Tawfik Ahmed. (B,L,D)

### **Alexandria**

#### **Day 11**

Walk back in time in Egypt's most enchanting city—founded by Alexander the Great in the fourth century B.C. Visit the Alexandria Library, the Roman Amphitheater, and tour Qaitbey Fort. (B,L,D)

### **Cruising the Mediterranean Sea**

#### **Day 12**

Enjoy stunning views as you spend a day cruising the Mediterranean Sea. (B,L,D)

### **Heraklion, Crete, Greece**

#### **Day 13**

Journey to one of the most legendary sites of antiquity, the Minoan Palace at Knossos where, in Greek myth, Theseus defeated the Minotaur in the labyrinth built by Daedalus. Dating from the 17th century B.C., the palace is a maze of chambers, staircases, and courtyards. Continue to Heraklion to visit the Archaeological Museum. This evening, attend the Captain's Farewell Reception. (B,L,R,D)

### **Athens/Disembark the ship/Return to home city**

#### **Day 14**

Disembark the ship and join the Ancient Greece Post-Program Option, or transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)



*Qaitbey Fort, Alexandria*



*Minoan Palace at Knossos*



**LE BOUGAINVILLE** Join us aboard this exclusively chartered, 5-star small ship, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. Each of the 92 staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features an ocean view and most have a private balcony. All accommodations feature individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower, and luxury hotel-style hotel amenities. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages and internet access are available throughout the cruise. All meals aboard ship are included.



**2024 DEPARTURE DATE: March 8 to 21** (Tour Begins: March 9)

Category	<b>LAND/CRUISE RATES</b> <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	<b>Early Booking Rate through Nov. 3, 2023</b>	<i>Rates after Nov. 3, 2023</i>
8	Deluxe stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. <b>Deck 3, midship.</b> (limited availability)	<b>\$8,545</b>	\$9,494
7	Prestige stateroom with sliding glass door, <b>private balcony.</b> <b>Deck 4, midship.</b>	<b>\$9,265</b>	\$10,294
6	Prestige stateroom with sliding glass door, <b>private balcony.</b> <b>Deck 5, midship and aft.</b>	<b>\$9,985</b>	\$11,094
5	Prestige stateroom with sliding glass door, <b>private balcony.</b> <b>Deck 6, midship and aft.</b>	<b>\$10,705</b>	\$11,894
4	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, <b>private balcony.</b> <b>Deck 3, midship.</b> (limited availability)	<b>\$11,605</b>	\$12,894
3	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, <b>private balcony.</b> <b>Deck 4, midship.</b> (limited availability)	<b>\$12,325</b>	\$13,694
2	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, <b>private balcony.</b> <b>Deck 5, midship.</b>	<b>\$13,225</b>	\$14,694
1	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, <b>private balcony.</b> <b>Deck 6, midship.</b>	<b>\$14,125</b>	\$15,694
<b>Prestige Suite II</b>	Two-room Suite, expansive sliding glass door, <b>larger private balcony,</b> two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. <b>Deck 5, midship.</b> (limited availability)	<b>\$15,025</b>	\$16,694
<b>Prestige Suite I</b>	Two-room Suite, expansive sliding glass door, <b>larger private balcony,</b> two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. <b>Deck 6, midship.</b> (limited availability)	<b>\$15,925</b>	\$17,694
<b>Privilege Suite</b>	Large Suite with expansive sliding glass door, <b>larger private balcony,</b> sitting area with sofa. <b>Decks 5 and 6, aft.</b> (limited availability)	<b>\$16,645</b>	\$18,494
<b>Grand Deluxe Suite</b>	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, <b>spacious private terrace,</b> full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. <b>Deck 6, aft.</b> (limited availability)	<b>\$17,545</b>	\$19,494
<b>Owner's Suite</b>	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, <b>spacious private terrace</b> with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. <b>Deck 5, aft.</b> (limited availability)	<b>\$18,445</b>	\$20,494

Single supplements apply across all categories at an additional 60% of the per person double price.

Port taxes are an additional \$655 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment.

This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit [gohagantravel.com/reserve](http://gohagantravel.com/reserve)

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## PRE-PROGRAM OPTION

### Israel: The Holy Land March 4 to 9, 2024 (Tour Begins: March 5)

Begin your exploration of ancient civilizations with a four-night tour of captivating biblical, historical, and cultural sites in and around Jerusalem. Discover UNESCO World Heritage-designated Masada, see where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, visit Bethlehem, and enjoy an unforgettable float in the Dead Sea. In historic Jerusalem, a holy city for three of the world's major religions, walk in the footsteps of Jesus, see evocative religious sites, and visit the poignant Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum. Enjoy four nights in the 5-star hotel.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*     **\$2,695**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*     **\$3,595**



## POST-PROGRAM OPTION

### Ancient Greece March 21 to 23, 2024 (Tour Ends: March 23)

Continue your antiquities tour with an immersion in the city of Athens. Enjoy a full-day excursion to the mystical UNESCO World Heritage Site of Delphi and its Archaeological Museum. At the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Acropolis, see the archaeological treasures in the Acropolis Museum and tour the perfectly proportioned Parthenon, a graceful example of Doric architecture. Explore Plaka, Athens' oldest neighborhood, at leisure. After an included lunch at an authentic local restaurant. Accommodations are for two nights in the 5-star GRAND BRETAGNE ATHENS HOTEL.

*Price per person, based on double occupancy:*     **\$1,095**

*Price per person, based on single occupancy:*     **\$1,535**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

**EARLY BOOKING SAVINGS UP TO \$4,100 PER COUPLE**



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