



VANDERBILT
Alumni Association



Epic Journey Across Time
Cyprus, Rhodes & Turkey's Lycian Coast
Aboard *Emerald Azzurra*

April 9 – 18, 2025

The background of the page is a mosaic featuring several figures, likely saints or historical figures, rendered in a traditional Byzantine style. The figures are depicted with halos and are set against a background of intricate geometric and floral patterns. The color palette is dominated by earthy tones like ochre, terracotta, and muted blues, with some highlights in gold and green.

CRUISE HIGHLIGHTS

SAIL the Eastern Mediterranean from **Cyprus** to **Turkey's Lycian Coast** and the storied **Greek island of Rhodes**—less-traveled shores where remarkable civilizations thrived

CRUISE over seven nights aboard the new, 50-cabin ***Emerald Azzurra***, which *Cruise Critic* editors picked as their "**Best New Luxury Ship**" in 2022

UNCOVER the ancient secrets of **Nicosia**, Cyprus, the **world's last divided capital city**, where expert guides will show you ancient Byzantine art amid its Venetian walls and Ottoman architecture

VISIT **Aphrodite's birthplace of Paphos**, Cyprus, where experts will guide you through Greco-Roman ruins with well-preserved mosaic floors

IMMERSE yourself in one of the most intriguing cultures of antiquity, the **Lycians**, joining local scholars in Turkey to see the **distinctive rock-cut tombs** in their capital, **Xanthos**

WITNESS some of the world's finest Byzantine frescoes at **St. Nicholas of the Roof**, a UNESCO-listed church in Cyprus's Troodos Mountains

BOARD **glass-bottom boats** as you sail above a **submerged ancient Lycian city** in Turkey's Kekova Bay, gaining a fascinating perspective on the ruins through crystal-clear waters

GO behind the scenes in ancient cities such as **Perge** and **Aspendos** in Turkey, home to some of the Mediterranean's most impressive ancient theaters and amphitheaters

STEP into the realm of the Knights of St. John in **Rhodes**, exploring **one of Europe's best-preserved medieval walled cities** with local scholars

BEHOLD remnants of one of the "Wonders of the Ancient World," the **Mausoleum of Halicarnassus**, in Bodrum, Turkey

ENJOY an inside look at ancient shipwreck treasures in the **Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology**, including Byzantine glassware from an 11th-century ship



VANDERBILT Alumni Association

Dear Vanderbilt Alumni and Friends,

Where can you see underwater ancient cities, Neolithic settlements, early Christian ruins, Lycian cliffside tombs, exquisite Roman villas, Crusader castles, and UNESCO-listed Byzantine mountainside churches—all in one spectacular region?

In April 2025, you're invited to join a thrilling Eastern Mediterranean voyage aboard the new *Emerald Azzurra*. Sail from Cyprus to the legendary Greek island of Rhodes and Turkey's sun-kissed Lycian Coast. Discover these less-traveled yet stunning lands as early cultural crossroads. Expert guides will take you behind the scenes of the rarely explored wonders these ancient cultures created.

Prepare to fall in love with the island nation of Cyprus, with its ancient Greek settlements, Phoenician temples, Roman mosaics, Venetian walls, Byzantine art, and Ottoman architecture. Explore the ancient Cypriot capital, Nicosia, the world's last divided capital city and a microcosm of Cyprus's multilayered past. In the Troodos Mountains, marvel at vividly colorful medieval churches, which have earned UNESCO recognition for housing some of the world's most significant Byzantine frescoes. In Paphos, Aphrodite's birthplace, trace the spread of early Christianity to the church St. Paul founded here.

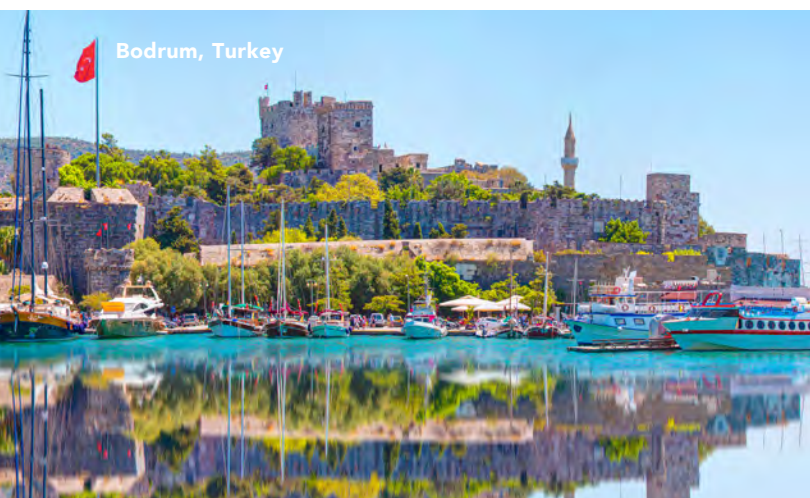
Sail to the Lycian Coast for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. In Kekova Bay's crystal-clear water, board glass-bottom boats to view a submerged ancient Lycian-Byzantine city. Onshore in Xanthos, discover the ancient ingenuity of the intriguing Lycians, marveling at their unique rock-cut tombs. Step into ancient hubs of trade and culture like Perge, wandering through well-preserved Roman baths, marketplaces, and fortifications.

On the Greek island of Rhodes, experts will show you one of Europe's most wonderfully well-preserved medieval cities, built by the Knights of St. John. In Bodrum, Turkey, home of the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, explore an excellent archaeological museum of precious ancient shipwreck treasures, from bronze statues to glassware raised from the depths of the Aegean.

To reserve your cabin aboard *Emerald Azzurra* for this exceptional cruise, please contact the Vanderbilt Travel Office at 615-322-3673 or alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu. Reconnect with old friends from Vanderbilt while making new friends from co-sponsoring institutions like the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures and the alumni associations of Columbia, Harvard, and Tufts. We hope you can set sail with us to less-traveled corners of the Mediterranean in April 2025.

Sincerely,

Cary DeWitt Allyn
Director, Vanderbilt Travel Program



An optional prelude is available in Istanbul for more Byzantine and Ottoman treasures and the Turkish region of Cappadocia, a surreal landscape of fairy-chimney rock formations, ancient painted cave churches, and underground cities.

Activity Level:



Pace Level:



Visit *Arrangements Abroad's* website for more information about Activity and Pace Levels [here](#).

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

Epic Journey Across Time Cyprus, Rhodes & Turkey's Lycian Coast Aboard *Emerald Azzurra*

April 9 – 18, 2025



An optional prelude in Istanbul and the Turkish region of Cappadocia is offered from April 4-10, 2025.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9: DEPARTURE

Depart for Larnaca, Cyprus, on an overnight flight.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10: LARNACA, CYPRUS

Arrive this morning and transfer to the Radisson Blu Larnaca for check-in. Guests who opt for the suggested flights will meet our representatives at the airport and join the group transfer to the hotel. This evening, attend a **special welcome reception** with dinner at leisure. R

FRIDAY, APRIL 11: LARNACA / NICOSIA OR KITION & KOURION OR TROODOS MOUNTAINS / LIMASSOL / EMBARK EMERALD AZZURRA

Before setting sail on *Emerald Azzurra* today, you may choose between three enriching tour options highlighting Cyprus's Byzantine, Venetian, and Ottoman history. Your first option is an exciting tour of ancient **Nicosia**, "the world's last divided capital," with a UN-monitored buffer zone between the Greek Cypriot-controlled south and the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the north.

This morning, explore the **Cyprus Museum's** collection of ancient Cypriot and Byzantine art. After lunch take a guided look at 18th-century wall paintings in the **Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist**. Then visit the 16th-century **Büyük Khan, Cyprus's largest caravanserai (roadside inn)**, and the elaborately beautiful **Selimiye Mosque**, which has 13th-century roots as a Catholic cathedral.

As a second option, explore the ancient city of **Kition**, where Mycenaean Achaeans arrived in the 13th century B.C., followed by Phoenicians in the ninth century B.C. Explore Kition's remains, including the Phoenician-built **Temple of Aphrodite-Astarte** and a 60-foot-long Roman mosaic. In the village of **Kiti**, admire the **11th-century church of Panagia Angeloktisti** and its splendid early Christian mosaics.

Then discover the **Neolithic settlement of Choirokoitia**, with its mudbrick houses and protective walls, and gain a special look at local traditional baskets at the **Petros Nikolaou Basketry Workshop and Museum**, hosted in a traditional 19th-century house. Sample local cheeses and enjoy lunch. In the afternoon, visit the well-preserved ruins of the ancient Greek site of **Kourion**, including its impressive amphitheater, bathhouses, mosaic floors, and breathtaking views of the island's coast.

A third option takes you to the Troodos Mountains, where you'll find the UNESCO-listed, 11th-century **St. Nicholas of the Roof**, one of Cyprus's most fascinating Byzantine churches. Inside, behold the island's most significant surviving set of Byzantine frescoes from the 11th to the 17th centuries.

Continue to the village of Omodos and visit the **Monastery of Timios Stavros (Holy Cross)**, one of Cyprus's oldest monasteries, founded before 327 A.D. Encounter the brilliance of Byzantine art as you peruse the intricate frescoes and meticulously crafted icons depicting saints and biblical scenes.

Afterwards, experience Omodos's long tradition in winemaking, stopping to sample local wines and liqueurs. Then savor a *mezze* lunch of local dishes at a traditional *taverna* in the village.

All participants will transfer to Limassol to embark **Emerald Azzurra**. Enjoy a private Cypriot dance performance and raise a Champagne flute on deck as we sail out of the harbor in the late afternoon. B,L,D

SATURDAY, APRIL 12: PAPHOS

Step ashore in **Paphos**, the mythical birthplace of the goddess Aphrodite. Established by Greek settlers during the Mycenaean era, the city was eventually captured by Ptolemy I of Egypt and later the Romans, who claimed it as the island's capital.

On a guided walking tour of the UNESCO-recognized **Archaeological Park of Nea Paphos**, visit exquisite ancient Roman villas built from the second through the fifth centuries A.D. Marvel at their beautifully well-preserved mosaic floors depicting mythological and hunting scenes. View the medieval ruins of the **Castle of Forty Columns**, a seventh-century fortress named for its many granite columns.

Transfer to the **Church of Chrysopolitissa**, originally founded by the apostles Paul and Barnabas in 46 A.D. See the ruins of its fourth-century basilica and medieval Ottoman baths. View the modest yet famous **St. Paul's Pillar**, said to mark the spot where the apostle Paul was whipped during his first missionary journey to Cyprus.

Enjoy lunch at leisure in the town of Paphos or opt for lunch aboard the ship. In the afternoon, visit the Tombs of the Kings, followed by a visit to the **Monastery of St. Neophytos**. Carved out of the mountains, it houses a noteworthy ecclesiastical museum containing icons dating from the 16th century. Return to the ship and set sail for Turkey. B,L,D

SUNDAY, APRIL 13: ANTALYA, TURKEY / PERGE / ASPENDOS

Attend a morning lecture as the ship sails to **Antalya**, Turkey's largest Mediterranean city, renowned for its Greek, Roman, and Byzantine landmarks against a backdrop of the Taurus Mountains. First head south along the coast to the ancient trade center of **Perge**, once claimed by Lycians, Greeks, and Romans. Perge's archaeological site features well-preserved bath complexes, an agora, basilicas, a theater, a stadium, and impressive fortifications.

Nearby is the **Antalya Archaeological Museum**, notable for its collection of sculptures unearthed from Perge. In **Aspendos**, stop at the renowned **Roman amphitheater** built during Marcus Aurelius's reign, known for its acoustics. Return to Antalya and *Emerald Azzurra*, gathering for the captain's welcome reception and dinner this evening. B,L,R,D



Old Town, Kas, Turkey

MONDAY, APRIL 14: KAS / KEKOVA BAY / SIMENA

Anchor off **Turkey's fabled Lycian Coast**, and board a tender into **Kas**, an ancient Lycian trading port. Explore the remarkably restored, **4,000-seat limestone Hellenistic Theater**, a rare relic of the ancient Lycian city, constructed in the first century B.C. Also, behold a well-preserved Lycian tomb located in Kas's historical center.

After lunch at leisure ashore or aboard the ship, transfer to Kekova Bay. Upon arrival, **step into glass-bottom boats** and cruise for a mesmerizing perspective on the ancient submerged city of **Simena**, a once-thriving Lycian and Byzantine port. In the clear turquoise waters below, peer into the depths and observe foundations of buildings, staircases, and broken columns that hint at the city's former grandeur. In the early evening, sail to Fethiye. B,L,D

TUESDAY, APRIL 15: FETHIYE / XANTHOS / LETOON / AFTERNOON AT SEA

The ancient Lycians, initially nomads, settled in mountainous southwestern Turkey in the eighth century B.C. and became known for their cliffside rock-cut tombs. Arrive in **Fethiye** and transfer to the UNESCO-listed ancient Lycian capital of **Xanthos**, set on a cliff overlooking the Xanthos River.

Join an expert guide to explore Xanthos's acropolis, Byzantine basilica, theater, and rock-cut tombs, remnants of its cosmopolitan past as a cultural, commercial, and political hub for the Lycians, Greeks, Persians, and Romans. While here, discover the **Nereid Monument**, an ornately crafted tomb built in the fourth century B.C. An early example of Greek-style temple-tombs, the monument was named after sea nymphs from Greek mythology.

Next, continue to nearby **Letoon**, the ancient Lycian sanctuary dedicated to the goddess Leto and her twin children, Artemis and Apollo. See Letoon's temples and colonnaded galleries that shed light on the religious practices and mythological beliefs of the Lycians.



Roman statue, Antalya Archaeological Museum, Turkey

EMERALD AZZURRA

Return to the ship and either choose to have lunch on board or enjoy lunch at the many seafood restaurants along the port. Set sail for Rhodes in the afternoon. B,L,D

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16: RHODES, GREECE

The island of **Rhodes** was known in antiquity for its schools of philosophy, rhetoric, and sculpture, including its Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Upon morning arrival, explore the **UNESCO-listed fortified town**, one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities, occupied by the Knights of St. John from 1309 to 1523.

Walk along the **Street of the Knights** to see its abundant mosaics, finely carved portals, balconies, and coats of arms. Then visit the **Archaeological Museum of Rhodes**, housed in the medieval Hospital of the Knights, and see its collection of vases, figurines, Hellenistic mosaic floors, and more. A vibrant Jewish community thrived on the island for 2,300 years, with many Sephardic Jews settling in La Juderia quarter after their 1492 expulsion from Spain. Visit the island's last remaining synagogue, the Ottoman-style, 16th-century **Kal Kadosh Shalom Synagogue**, and the **Jewish Museum of Rhodes**.

You may enjoy lunch and time at leisure in the main town of Rhodes or lunch aboard *Emerald Azzurra*. The ship sails in the early evening. B,L,D

THURSDAY, APRIL 17: BODRUM, TURKEY

After morning arrival into Bodrum, visit an ancient wonder, the **Mausoleum of Halicarnassus**. Built for the ruler Mausolus by Greek master sculptors, this archaeological site has a still-palpable grandeur with its tombs, the shadowed entrance to Mausolus's burial chamber, ingenious ancient drainage systems, fragmented boundary walls, and mammoth marble column drums visible. Then join an expert for a tour of the **Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology**. This museum is housed in **Bodrum Castle**, built by the Knights of St. John from 1496 to 1522.

Marvel at this excellent museum's vast collections of ancient artifacts from shipwrecks in the Aegean. Highlights include exhibits on *amphorae*, clay jars used to transport goods across the Mediterranean; ancient glass objects, some dating back to 1400 B.C.; and finds from the wreck of 11th-century *Serce Limani*, a Byzantine merchant ship. Have lunch on board as the ship sails to Izmir. After an afternoon at sea, celebrate your journey at the captain's farewell reception and dinner. B,L,R,D

FRIDAY, APRIL 18: IZMIR / DISEMBARK / RETURN

Disembark this morning in Izmir and transfer to the airport for your flights home B

This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of Vanderbilt Alumni Association and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.

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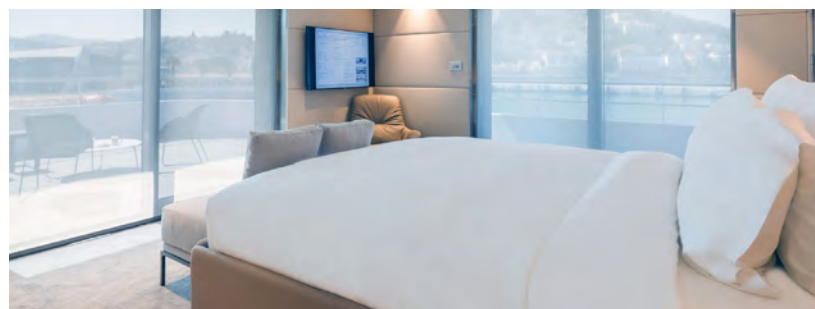
Emerald Azzurra

Discover why *Cruise Critic* editors picked *Emerald Azzurra* as their "Best New Luxury Ship" in 2022. Reaching an impressive 360 feet in length with only 50 cabins, this spectacular cruising vessel will exceed your yacht cruising expectations. Relax in your spacious, modern surroundings and enjoy a collection of luxurious amenities. Discover a secluded spot to read a book, enjoy unimpeded views of the unspoiled landscapes, or take a relaxing dip in the infinity-style pool.

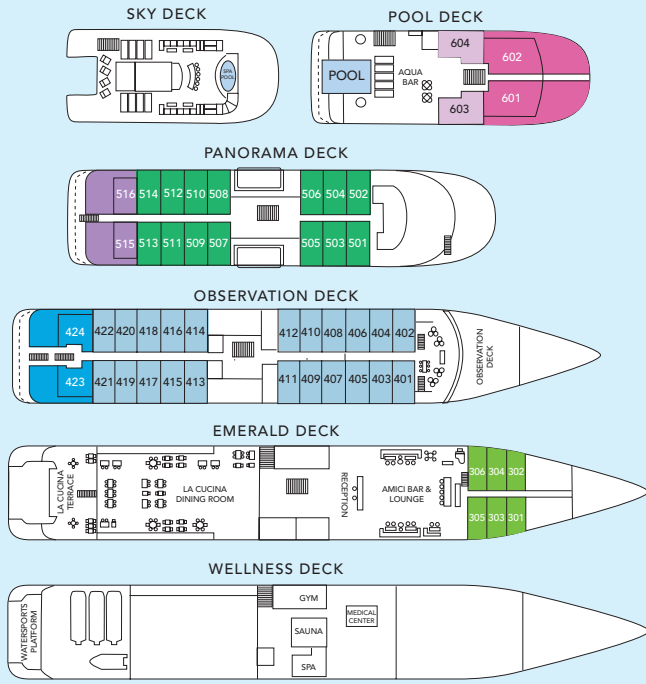
Savor fresh, locally sourced meals thoughtfully crafted by expert chefs and appreciate the ocean breeze from the large *al fresco* terrace. Have a nightcap in the plush, relaxed atmosphere of the Horizon Bar & Lounge. Unwind completely in the onboard Wellness Center, rejuvenating yourself with a selection of spa treatments and even a hairdresser. Complimentary Wi-Fi is available and a full selection of bikes is on board for your use.



Photos clockwise from top left: Pool; Dining room; and a Yacht Suite



EMERALD AZZURRA



Lycian tombs, Fethiye, Turkey

VANDERBILT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EPIC JOURNEY ACROSS TIME APRIL 9 – 18, 2025 RESERVATION FORM

To reserve a place, please contact The Vanderbilt Travel Office at 615-322-3673 or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person (of which \$500 is non-refundable for administrative fees), payable to *Arrangements Abroad*. Mail to: Arrangements Abroad, 260 West 39th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10018-4424.

CRUISE RATES

Cabins	Decks	Double	Single
301 to 306	Emerald Deck	\$8,999	\$13,499
Oceanview Stateroom, 205 sq. ft.			
401 to 422	Observation Deck	\$11,999	\$17,999
Balcony Suite, lower floor, private balcony, 285 sq. ft.			
501 to 514	Panorama Deck	\$12,999	\$19,499
Balcony Suite, higher floor, private balcony, 305 sq. ft.			
603 & 604	Pool Deck	\$14,999	Inquire
Deluxe Balcony Suite, private balcony, 390 sq. ft.			
515 & 516	Panorama Deck	\$17,999	Inquire
Terrace Suite, outside terrace, 650 sq. ft.			
423 & 424	Observation Deck	\$19,999	Inquire
Yacht Suite, outside terrace, 720 sq. ft.			
601 & 602	Pool Deck	\$21,999	Inquire
Owner's Suite, outside terrace, separate bedroom and lounge area, 1180 sq. ft.			

RATES INCLUDE

- One night hotel accommodations at the Radisson Blu Larnaca
- Seven nights cabin accommodations aboard *Emerald Azzurra*
- Meals as indicated on the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, R=Reception, D=Dinner). Bottled water, soft drinks, juices, and coffee/tea with all meals; premium cocktails, thoughtfully selected wine, and beer with onboard lunches and dinners
- Complimentary shipboard Wi-Fi
- Airport/hotel/pier/airport group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Enrichment program of lectures and talks
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Taxes, service, and portorage charges; gratuities to local guides and drivers; customary shipboard gratuities

NOT INCLUDED IN RATES: International airfare; passport/visa fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than what is noted in inclusions; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; excess baggage; trip insurance; optional Istanbul & Cappadocia prelude; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print. Class/Parent Year

Class/Parent Year

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Emerald Azzurra cabin preference (1) _____ (2) _____

I wish to share a room/cabin with _____

FORM OF PAYMENT

- Enclosed is my check (payable to *Arrangements Abroad*)
- Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this Program (see www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms to review or call for a copy). I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure. Each participant must sign below.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date



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Vanderbilt Travel Program
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Front cover: Lycian ruins at Kekova Bay, Turkey. Highlights page: Roman mosaics, Archaeological Park of Nea Paphos, Paphos, Cyprus Back cover: Amphorae, Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology, Turkey (top) and Kourion, Turkey (bottom).
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