

# PERSIAN GULF CRUISE

OMAN, ABU DHABI,  
QATAR AND DUBAI

Aboard the *Crystal Esprit*  
January 2–12, 2020



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE  
OF AMERICA TOURS

FEATURING Trevor Marchand  
*Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology at SOAS, London*

## DEAR TRAVELER,

You are invited to join Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host Trevor Marchand for this compelling cruise aboard the yacht-like, all-suite, 31-cabin *Crystal Esprit*. In the Persian Gulf states, old and new co-exist in innovative and intriguing ways. During this exploration of Dubai, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, and Oman you will visit the mosques, souks, educational institutions, and museums that reflect a fascinating juxtaposition of past and present that is unique to the Islamic world.

Begin your exploration among the dazzling skyscrapers of Dubai, the business and cultural hub of the Middle East and home to some of the most stunning architectural masterpieces of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Continue to Qatar, where visits to the old souq and the new Education City illustrate how dramatically change has come to the Gulf States. In the emirate of Abu Dhabi, museums, mosques, and Masdar City amaze with both their sheer grandeur and minute detail. Wrap up your journey with a cruise through the fjord-like waterways of Oman's Musandam Peninsula and visits to some of the country's culturally rich museums, mosques, and markets. For those who wish to further explore the region, optional pre- and post-cruise extensions in Dubai and Oman's interior are also available.

You will learn about the cultures, art, architecture, and history of this region on daily shore excursions and during an enriching onboard educational program with AIA lecturer Trevor Marchand and other onboard lecturers. Professor Marchand is an anthropologist and architectural historian with extensive knowledge of the Arabian Peninsula and Indian Ocean trade, and his talks will elucidate the region's rich historical legacies, distinct architectural traditions, and shared craft heritage, as well as the aspirations of its modern, progressive identities that honor the past.

This program is co-sponsored by other organizations, and *Crystal Esprit* comfortably accommodates just 48 guests, so I encourage you reserve your preferred suite today by contacting AIA Tours at [aia@studytours.org](mailto:aia@studytours.org) or (800) 748-6262.

Sincerely,



R. Todd Nielsen  
Director, AIA Tours  
Archaeological Institute of America

### THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA AND THE AIA TOURS PROGRAM

The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world's archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA's network of scholars and worldwide contacts.



## STUDY LEADERS



### ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA LECTURER AND HOST TREVOR MARCHAND

is Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology at the School of Oriental and

African Studies (SOAS, London) and recipient of the Royal Anthropological Institute's Rivers Memorial Medal (2014). He studied architecture (McGill), received a PhD in anthropology (SOAS), and qualified as a fine woodworker at London's Building Crafts College. Marchand is an independent advisor on World Heritage for the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and an advisor on the international experts panel for the British Museum's Endangered Material Knowledge Programme. During the past 25 years, Marchand has conducted

fieldwork with masons and craftspeople in Northern Nigeria, Yemen, Mali, and the UK, and he has lectured on Islamic art, architecture, and archaeology of Central Asia, the Arabian Peninsula, and West and North Africa. He has been leading lecture tours to Oman for two decades, and has delivered talks in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates on regional building traditions and on recovery and reconstruction of World Heritage sites damaged by conflict. With extensive knowledge of the region, Marchand's lectures on the UAE, Qatar, and Oman showcase religious identities and practices along the western shores of the Persian Gulf; the dynamics of political dynasties, cultural change, and seismic economic transformations; the rich history of Indian Ocean trade and global connections; local heritage and craftwork; and traditional and contemporary architecture.

"Trevor gave an awesome tour...[he] answered each and every question from everyone in the group."—COLLEEN, CA

"The lectures and commentary by Trevor were excellent. He is a wonderful resource."—JEFFREY, TN



**JOHN MEFFERT,** consultant on Heritage Conservation Services, has a long tradition with the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He has served as the Director for their Southern Office from 1982

to 1988 and was the director of the Preservation Society of Charleston, the oldest nonprofit organization in the United States. John has delighted many study tour groups with his lectures and insights on preservation and receives rave reviews as study leader.



FALCONS, ABU DHABI



GOLD MARKET, DUBAI



BURJ AL ARAB, DUBAI

**Thursday & Friday, January 2 & 3**

## Home / Dubai, UAE

Depart home on an overnight flight to Dubai. Upon arrival on January 3, transfer to the *Crystal Esprit* for embarkation.

CRYSTAL ESPRIT (MEALS ALOFT, D)

**Saturday, January 4**

## Dubai

After a welcome orientation and lecture, explore modern Dubai, including the Burj al Arab Hotel, which stands 1,053 feet above the ground and is located on an artificial island connected to Jumeirah Beach; Ski Dubai, an indoor ski resort complete with ski slopes, toboggan and sled runs, giant snowballs, ice caves, and resident penguins; and Burj Khalifa, at 2,722 feet the tallest artificial structure in the world. From an observation deck on the 124th floor, marvel at the panoramic views over the surrounding city. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner onboard.

CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,R,D)

**Sunday, January 5**

## Doha, Qatar

Doha is the fast-growing capital of Qatar, and an important Middle Eastern financial center. Explore the Museum of Islamic Art, designed by I.M. Pei and located on the city's Corniche. This architectural gem houses collections of metalwork, ceramics, jewelry, woodwork, textiles, and glass dating from the 1600s to the 1900s. Stroll through Souq Waqif, founded a century ago and noted for offering traditional garments, spices, and handicrafts. Continue to Education City, which covers more than five square miles and houses facilities for pre-school through graduate-level research and education, as well as branches of six U.S. universities and several European educational institutions. Conclude the day at the Doha Racing and Equestrian Club, where horse racing is serious business and horses, which have played an important role in the history of the Arab world for centuries, live like royalty.

CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)

**Monday, January 6**

## Doha

This morning travel over towering sand dunes in four-wheel-drive vehicles to Qatar's magnificent Inland Sea, a shallow tidal lake with a narrow outlet to the sea and shores in both Qatar and Saudi Arabia. After lunch in the desert, return to the ship and depart Qatar.

CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)

**Tuesday, January 7**

## Abu Dhabi, UAE

This morning we arrive in Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE and largest of the seven emirates.

Visit the majestic Sheikh Zayed Mosque, a dazzling construction of white marble, gold leaf, semi-precious stones, crystals, and ceramic tiles. Also visit Masdar City, a \$20 billion enterprise showcasing Abu Dhabi's investments in renewable energy and green technology.

CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)

**Wednesday, January 8**

## Abu Dhabi

Spend the morning at the breathtaking cultural highlights of the newly opened Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum on Saadiyat Island. There are 12 galleries curated masterfully in partnership with the Louvre, Paris. The stunning floating dome of light designed by renowned architect Jean Nouvel is a photographer's delight. Continue to Qasr Al Hosn, the oldest stone building in Abu Dhabi, and experience the history of Abu Dhabi through a series of exhibitions.

CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)

**Thursday, January 9**

## Musandam Peninsula, Oman

The Musandam Peninsula, a region of fjord-like landscapes and traditional small villages, is one of the Gulf States' last wilderness areas. Board a traditional wooden *dhow* to access scenic inlets, and snorkel near a coral reef to view butterfly fish, groupers, and even dolphins.

CRYSTAL ESPRIT (B,L,D)

**Friday, January 10**

## Muscat

Disembark the *Crystal Esprit* this morning and visit the Bait Adam Museum, whose interactive exhibits on Muscat's history and culture will be explained by the head of the museum. Continue to Muttrah Souk, the oldest market in Oman and an exotic, fragrant treasure chest filled with gold and silver, antiques, frankincense, clothing, toys, and spices. Check into the Al Bustan Palace, a Ritz Carlton hotel overlooking the Gulf of Oman.

AL BUSTAN PALACE HOTEL (B,L,D)

**Saturday, January 11**

## Muscat

Begin the day at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque. The primary place of worship in Oman, it is the only mosque in the country that allows non-Muslims to enter. The main hall, which can accommodate more than 6,000 worshippers, is crowned by an enormous chandelier of Swarovski crystal and delicate gold-plated metalwork. Continue to the Omani Heritage Gallery, a nonprofit that supports Omani artisans working in traditional crafts. The Gallery is a wonderful place to view a wide range of authentic, high-quality products including jewelry, tribal weavings, camel trappings, woven baskets, textiles, and copper



and leather articles. End the day's activities at the Bait Al Zubair Museum. Built by Sheikh Al Zubair as a residence in 1914, it was converted into a museum by his son in 1998 to display a comprehensive collection of Omani art and artifacts. Celebrate your journey this evening with a farewell reception and dinner at the hotel. **AL BUSTAN PALACE HOTEL (B,L,R,D)**

**Sunday, January 12**

## Muscat / Home

Transfer to the airport for flights home. **(B)**

### OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION

#### Dubai

**January 1–3, 2020**

Explore "Old Dubai" on this pre-cruise extension. Depart home on January 1 and fly overnight to Dubai, arriving January 2. On January 3, board an abra (water taxi) to cross Dubai Creek and explore the historic Bastakia district. Learn about Dubai's history at Al-Fahidi Fort and Dubai Museum, and enjoy lunch and a special presentation on Islam at the Sheikh Mohamed Centre for Cultural Understanding. Embark the *Crystal Esprit* in the late afternoon to begin the main tour. **RADISSON BLU DEIRA CREEK (1B/1L)**.

**RATES:** \$790 per person, double occupancy; \$990 per person, single occupancy.

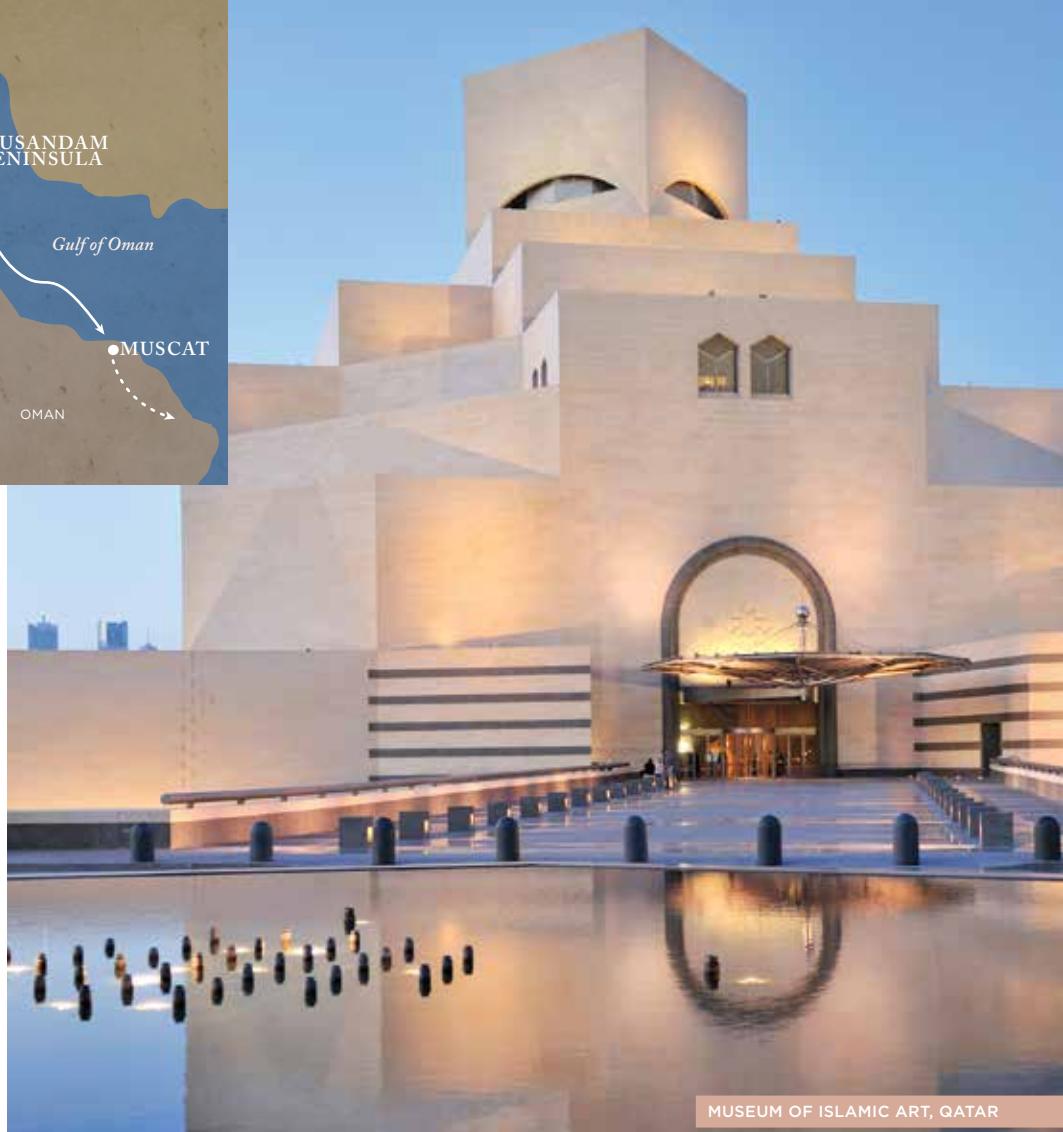
### OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

#### Oman's Interior

**January 12–15, 2020**

Explore the Bedouin culture of the desert on this three-night post-cruise extension. Depart Muscat for Oman's interior to explore forts, date plantations, orchards, and mountain villages from the luxurious Alila Jabal Akhdar Hotel in the awe-inspiring Al Hajar Mountains. Continue to the Desert Nights Camp and meet a Bedouin family at the Wahiba Sands, a vast, undulating red-and-white sea of sand dunes that rise to more than 650 feet high. **ALILA JABAL AKHDAR HOTEL AND DESERT NIGHTS CAMP (4B/3L/3D)**.

**RATES:** \$2,990 per person, double occupancy; \$4,180 per person, single occupancy.



**MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC ART, QATAR**



**DHOW, OMAN**



**SULTAN QABOOS GRAND MOSQUE, MUSCAT**



## CRYSTAL ESPRIT

Launched in 2015, this newly refurbished, 31-stateroom yacht offers an atmosphere of classic elegance mixed with modern comfort, an elegant enclave of gorgeous interiors and inviting social spaces with a staff of 90 catering to just 48 guests. Unhampered by crowds or lines, she's much like a private club with a relaxed and unregimented ambience. The *Crystal Esprit* offers the unique option for luxury travel to small ports, harbors, and islands not accessible to larger cruise ships. Each guest suite features a master bedroom with an ultra-thin high-definition TV with on-demand movies and interactive bedside iPad, full picture windows, seating area, and custom-designed bathroom with high-end finishes and modern technology. Wi-Fi and a private butler are provided for each suite. The ship's four dining options boast Michelin-inspired menus, with included wines, champagne, and spirits, and 24-hour in-suite dining is available. The ship's recreational facilities include a swimming pool, sauna, gym, spa, and a variety of aquatic equipment.



## PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including 2 hotel nights and 7 nights aboard *Crystal Esprit* • Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure days • Visa fees for U.S. citizens for Oman, Qatar, and the UAE • Port charges • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel • Entrance fees • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • Wine, beer, champagne, spirits, soft drinks, and water at lunch and dinner aboard *Crystal Esprit*; wine and beer may be included at some group meals off the ship • Bottled water

on motor coaches • Professional tour manager throughout the program

## WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately active trip for travelers who are flexible, comfortable traveling with a group, and can handle the vagaries of travel with good humor. Walking for up to one mile unassisted, standing for up to two hours in museums or at other sites, and climbing several flights of stairs, which may not have handrails, are the most strenuous activities. In addition, travelers must be able to board the ship via a metal gangplank with rope handrails and be comfortable with the rolling movement of the ship. Daytime temperatures during the trip will

generally average in the mid to high 70s F, with infrequent rain.

## AIR ARRANGEMENTS

**PLEASE NOTE:** U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare from New York to Dubai, with return from Muscat, is approximately \$905 per person as of January 2019 and is subject to change without notice. Valerie Wilson Travel, Inc., can help with airline arrangements for this trip and can be reached at (877) 376-1754. You are also welcome to book your air transportation through your local travel agent, an online travel site, or the airline of your choice.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE** U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses not noted as included for U.S. citizens • Medical expenses and immunizations • Airport transfers on days other than group arrival and departure days • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess baggage charges • Meals and beverages other than those specified as included • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

**INSURANCE** Travel insurance for trip cancellation and interruption, medical problems, baggage loss and delay, etc., is highly recommended. Trip cancellation policies that apply to this expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

**A NOTE ABOUT COSTS** Tour costs are based upon current fuel prices, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

**GROUP SIZE** This program is limited to 48 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America, Harvard University, and The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

## TERMS & CONDITIONS

### RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS

To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Archaeological Institute of America Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main St., Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938 or fax to 603-756-2922. Balance of payment is due September 4, 2019. We accept personal checks, payable to Criterion Travel, as well as VISA, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. By submitting your deposit, you are bound to the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure.

### CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of a deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be effective until they are received in writing and confirmed by AIA Tours. Deposits are refundable (less a \$250 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of reservation; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. Cancellations after final payment deadline of September 4, 2019: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by AIA Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. Refunds cannot be made to participants who do not participate in any part of the program, who do not complete the tour for whatever reason, or whose documentation for entry into any country on the itinerary is delayed or denied. **NOTE:** Neither AIA Tours nor Criterion Travel accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a non-refundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

**HEALTH** All participants should be in good health and capable of keeping up with an active group of travelers. By forwarding the deposit for passage, the passenger certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/ herself or other passengers.

**ITINERARY CHANGES** The itinerary and study leaders presented for this tour are subject to modification and change by AIA Tours and Criterion Travel. Every reasonable effort will be made to operate the program as planned; however, should unforeseen world events and conditions require the itinerary to be altered, AIA Tours and the tour operator reserve the right to do so for the safety and best interest of the group. Any extra expenses incurred in this situation are the responsibility of the participant.

**RESPONSIBILITY** Complete Terms & Conditions will be sent to participants upon confirmation and are available to prospective travelers upon request. As a condition of participation, each passenger will be required to sign a Release of Liability, which will be sent along with the Terms & Conditions.

California Seller of Travel Program  
CST #2088800-40

**PHOTOS** Man looking over Dubai  
© Tomas Marek • Sheikh Zayed Mosque © Luciano Mortula • Oryx in desert © Robert Gubiani • Burj al Arab © Subbotina • Falcons © Aleksander Karpenko • Gold © Swisshippo • Burj al Arab interior © Hel080808 • Museum of Islamic Art © Edwardstaines • Dhow in Oman © Julius Yls • Details Grand Sultan Qaboos Mosque © Zwawol

## RESERVATION FORM

# PERSIAN GULF CRUISE

OMAN, ABU DHABI,  
QATAR AND DUBAI

January 2–12, 2020

Please send your deposit check, payable to **Criterion Travel**, and this form to: AIA Tours, P.O. Box 938, 47 Main Street, Suite One, Walpole, NH 03608-0938; Fax: 603-756-2922. For questions, or to hold your space while you send in your Reservation Form, please contact us at 800-748-6262; or by email: aia@studytours.org. Website: www.aiatours.org.

### CONTACT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

NAME 1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME 2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

E-MAIL

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

No  Yes, \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person, made payable to Criterion Travel) for \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on the *Persian Gulf Cruise* program, or

Please charge my deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) to my  
 VISA  MasterCard  American Express  Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

### ACCOMMODATIONS

Cabin category preference:

1ST CHOICE 2ND CHOICE

Bed preference:  Two Beds  One bed

### SINGLE TRAVELERS

I prefer to have single accommodations.  
 I plan to share accommodations with \_\_\_\_\_  
 I would like to know about roommates. I am a  smoker  non-smoker.

*I understand that if a roommate cannot be located for me by the final payment date of September 4, 2019, I will pay the single rate.*

I/We have read the Terms and Conditions section of this brochure and understand and agree with them as stated herein.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE



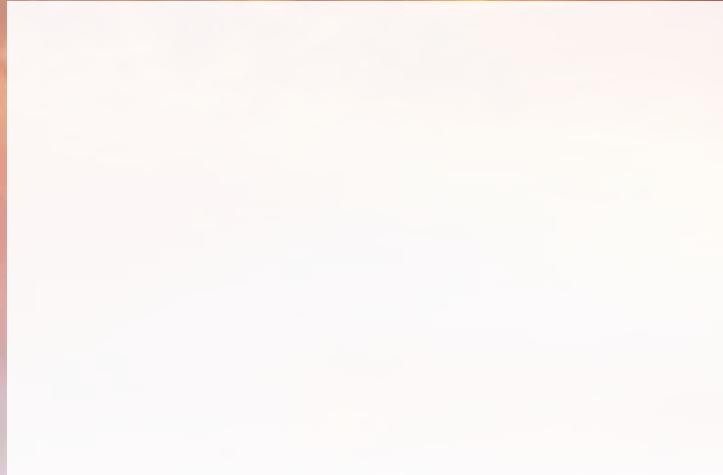
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# PERSIAN GULF CRUISE

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QATAR AND DUBAI

Aboard the *Crystal Esprit*  
January 2–12, 2020



## HIGHLIGHTS

Modern architectural marvels astonishing in their creativity and audacity, from the Burj Khalifa skyscraper to the ecologically sustainable Masdar City

Breathtakingly beautiful mosques that herald the importance of Islam in this part of the world

Unique cultural and historic sites, including Oman's Heritage Gallery, Abu Dhabi's Louvre Museum and Qatar's Education City

Inviting museums and souqs showcasing the arts and crafts traditions of the Gulf States

Remarkable natural wonders such as Qatar's spectacular sand dunes and Inland Sea to the Musandam Peninsula's fjord-like waterways