Archaeological Institute of America Tours

PETRA TO THE PARTHENON: JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA, EGYPT & GREECE

ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS OF THE RED SEA AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

MARCH 23–APRIL 5, 2024

ABOARD THE 59-CABIN, ALL-SUITE ***HEBRIDEAN SKY***

WITH ARCHAEOLOGIST

OKASHA EL DALY

DEAR TRAVELER,

Experience four countries and the distinct ancient cultures that span 5,000 years of history on this **14-day journey with engaging Archaeological Institute of America lecturer/host Dr. Okasha El Daly**. Cruise aboard the **59-cabin, all-suite *Hebridean Sky***, gazing upon true modern marvels in addition to a fascinating mix of historic wonders.

Begin at the ancient Spice Route outposts of Jordan's **Petra** and Saudi Arabia's **Mada'in Saleh** before exploring Egypt's iconic **pyramids of Giza** and mysterious **Sphinx**, the treasures of Cairo's famous museums, and decorated tombs in the **Valley of the Kings**. Continue to the Bronze Age **Minoan palace of Knossos** on Crete, then experience the glory of Greece's **Acropolis**, including the mighty Parthenon and nearby **Acropolis Museum**.

Jump forward thousands of years while the ship transits the modern engineering marvel of the **Suez Canal**, and be immersed in local culture with a traditional lunch at a **Wadi Rum** desert camp and an optional horse ride to the gates of Petra. Along the way, enjoy **engaging presentations by knowledgeable local guides and a team of onboard lecturers**, including two archaeologists and a classicist, who will bring ancient times to life and help put people and places into historical context.

As you cruise between destinations, **relax in a spacious suite aboard the ideally sized *Hebridean Sky***, enjoying the small-ship atmosphere, delicious meals, attentive service, and views of stunning seaside landscapes.

We are co-sponsoring this program with other organizations and, with only 59 cabins total aboard ship, I urge you to reserve your space today. Call AIA Tours at **(800) 748-6262** or email **aia@studytours.org**.

Sincerely,

Lauren Cummings
Education & Program Manager, AIA Tours
Archaeological Institute of America

COVER PHOTOS FRONT: PETRA, BACK: KARNAK-PILLARS OF GREAT HYPOSTYLE HALL, ATHENS–ERECHTHEION, NABATAEAN TEMPLE TRAIL, JORDAN

KNOSSOS

LUXOR TEMPLE ENTRANCE

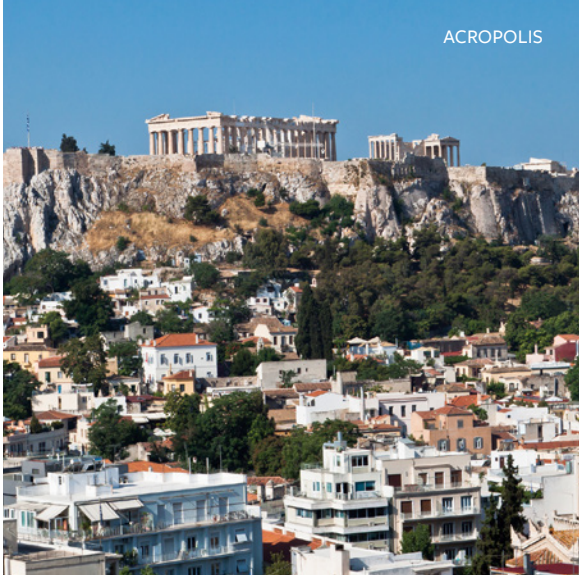
MADA'IN SALEH

STUDY LEADERS

Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host Okasha El Daly (Ph.D., University College London) is an Egyptian historian specializing in the history, art, religion, and languages of Egypt and the Middle East. His research interests cover the history and cultural heritage of Egypt and the Middle East from the birth of civilization to contemporary history and current affairs. Dr. El Daly has been a lecturer on Mediterranean cruises travelling widely around the archaeological sites of Cyprus, Malta, Turkey, Greece, and Italy; and he has led two prior AIA Tours in Egypt.

Professor C. Brian Rose (Ph.D., Columbia), representing the University of Pennsylvania, is currently the James B. Pritchard Professor of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Pennsylvania, and Curator-in-Charge of the Mediterranean Section of the Penn Museum. For 25 years he served as co-director of the excavations at Troy, and he is now director of the Gordion excavations in central Turkey. Dr. Rose was President of the Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) from 2007-2011, and received the AIA Gold Medal for Distinguished Archaeological Achievement in 2015.

Professor Clara Hardy (Ph.D., Brown), representing Carleton College, has taught Classics at Carleton since 1990. Her recent book is entitled *Athens 415: The City in Crisis* (U. Michigan Press). Clara's current research is on 21st-century Classical reception, particularly in a postcolonial context. She regularly teaches courses on women and gender in the ancient world, classical mythology, and ancient drama. Clara loves Greece, and is looking forward to exploring some of the lands of Cleopatra.

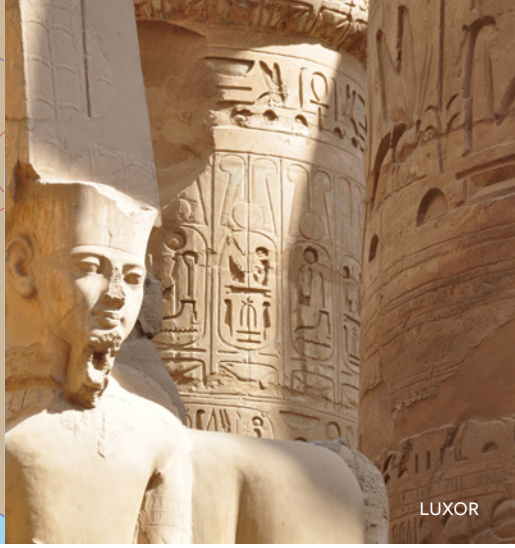

ACROPOLIS

HIGHLIGHTS

- Take a full day to explore Petra, followed by an additional optional morning visit, and then see the fabulous sandstone formations of Wadi Rum.
- Spend a full day in Saudi Arabia to see the phenomenal Nabataean site of Mada'in Saleh, sister city of Petra and Saudi Arabia's first designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Enjoy guided visits to several of Egypt's most iconic sites, including Karnak Temple, the Valley of the Kings, the Pyramids, and the Sphinx.
- Most lunches are arranged on land in order to optimize touring, to experience authentic local cuisine, and to support local businesses and workers.
- In Greece, see the iconic sites of Knossos on Crete, and the Acropolis and Acropolis Museum in Athens.
- A post-cruise hotel night in Athens is included, along with a gala farewell meal.

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.



ITINERARY

SATURDAY, MARCH 23 & SUNDAY, MARCH 24

HOME / AMMAN, JORDAN

Depart home on international flights to Amman. Arrive March 24th and transfer to the five-star Mövenpick Resort at Petra, just steps from the entrance to the ancient city. Spend the evening getting settled and enjoying views over the stunning desert landscape from the hotel's rooftop garden.

MOVENPICK RESORT PETRA

MONDAY, MARCH 25

PETRA

Embark on a full-day guided tour through the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Petra, one of the true marvels of the ancient world. Reaching its height in the 1st century A.D., the "Rose City" (so nicknamed for the color of its stone) was carved from the sandstone cliffs surrounding the settlement, growing to become one of the most important trading centers of its time. In the evening, enjoy a gala dinner event held under the star-filled desert sky at a nearby Nabataean village, with traditional music and dance entertainment.

MOVENPICK RESORT PETRA (BLD)

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

PETRA / WADI RUM / AQABA / EMBARK

Join an optional morning walk through Petra in the cool morning air, or relax at the hotel before a drive to the otherworldly desert landscape of Wadi Rum for a traditional Bedouin lunch. Venture into the sands on an optional four-wheel-drive excursion around the surrounding hills or take a stroll along trails from the tented encampment before driving to Aqaba to embark the *Hebridean Sky*. On board, enjoy a welcome reception with staff and crew, dine with the group, then relax in your room, at the ship's bar, or on deck as the ship navigates the Gulf of Aqaba toward the Red Sea.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLRD)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

AT SEA

Relax on board during a full day at sea, cruising between Egypt's Sinai desert and the coast of Saudi Arabia, then into the Red Sea. Enjoy the continuation of the expert lecture series, providing historical context as well as the modern significance of sites and excursions along the journey.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLD)

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

MADA'IN SALEH, SAUDI ARABIA

Dock at Al Wajh, Saudi Arabia, and board a motorcoach for a ride through the desert to the UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site of Mada'in Saleh, the historic Nabataean trading city with close ties to Petra. This southernmost outpost of the ancient Spice Route is similar to Petra with its massive carved rock façades, but far less visited. Your guide will help you explore and understand this "Capital of Monuments." Return to the ship for dinner on board and depart for Egypt.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLD)

FRIDAY, MARCH 29

LUXOR, EGYPT

Cross the Red Sea to disembark in Safaga, Egypt, for a drive to Luxor and the famed open-air Karnak Temple Complex, where the construction of hundreds of temples spanned nearly 2,000 years across the reign of 30 pharaohs. Take in the grandeur of Luxor Temple at sunset, known in its day as the Southern Sanctuary, famous for its iconic obelisks and avenue of sphinxes. Overnight in Luxor at the luxurious Sonesta St. George Hotel, situated on the banks of the Nile.

SONESTA ST. GEORGE (BLD)

SATURDAY, MARCH 30

VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Depart the hotel this morning and descend into the earth to explore some of the amazing hieroglyphics and painted walls of the royal tombs dug into the rocky grounds of the Valley of the Kings, including the beautifully decorated tomb of Seti I and the tomb of young pharaoh Tutankhamun. Return to

PYRAMIDS OF GIZA

PETRA

the ship in the afternoon and enjoy lectures that preview upcoming site visits while cruising up the Gulf of Suez toward Cairo.
HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLD)

SUNDAY, MARCH 31

CAIRO

Call at Sokhna and drive to Cairo, where you will experience the sole remaining site of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World: the Pyramids (and the Great Sphinx) at Giza. Soak in the atmosphere in the morning with an expert guide to reveal the latest insights on the construction, meaning, and continued significance of these monuments. After a lunch featuring local cuisine, take a tour of the new Grand Egyptian Museum (pending opening), featuring a comprehensive, multi-millennium-spanning collection of artifacts.
HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLD)

MONDAY, APRIL 1

SUEZ CANAL

This will be no ordinary day at sea, as the *Hebridean Sky* cruises through the Isthmus of Suez along the 120-mile-long Suez Canal. Stay on deck to watch the nearby landscape and shipping traffic as our vessel completes the transit process. The lecture series aboard will highlight the historic significance of the canal, from the ancient times of the Silk Road connecting Europe with Asia, to the 1859-1869 construction of the canal and the impact it has had on trade and politics ever since.
HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLD)

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

AT SEA

Enjoy a full day on board as the *Hebridean Sky* crosses the Mediterranean Sea. Relax in the lounges, on deck, or in your suite, and preview upcoming Greek ports of call with continued insight from expert lecturers.
HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLD)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

KNOSSOS, GREECE

Dock at Heraklion, the capital of the historic and beautiful Greek Island of Crete. In the morning, join a guided tour through the Bronze Age archaeological site of Knossos, considered by many to be Europe's oldest city, with colorful remnants of its ancient Palace. Feast on a traditional Cretan lunch accompanied by a wine tasting, only fitting on an island that was producing wines more than 3,500 years ago. After lunch, choose to either continue your exploration of Knossos or join a guided visit to the Heraklion Archaeological Museum before returning to the ship for a farewell reception and dinner.
HEBRIDEAN SKY (BLRD)

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

ATHENS

Disembark in Athens for a day of guided and independent touring. Begin with an expert-led tour of the iconic white marble structures of the Acropolis, including the famed Parthenon. Stop at a local restaurant for a gala farewell lunch with the group, then choose either a transfer to the hotel for time at leisure or a guided tour through the Acropolis Museum before a free evening of independent exploration.
HOTEL ELECTRA METROPOLIS (BL)

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Transfer to the airport for flights home or begin an optional two-night post-tour extension in Greece. (B)

OPTIONAL EXTENSIONS

JORDAN

MARCH 20–24, 2024

Visit history-rich Amman, Jerash, Mt. Nebo, and Madaba during three full days in Jordan, including the Jordan Museum and Crusader-constructed Shobak Castle.

GREECE

APRIL 5–7, 2024

Explore the National Archaeological Museum in Athens and the nearby Peloponnese Peninsula, with stops at the Corinth Canal, Nemea, Nafplio, Mycenae, and Epidaurus.

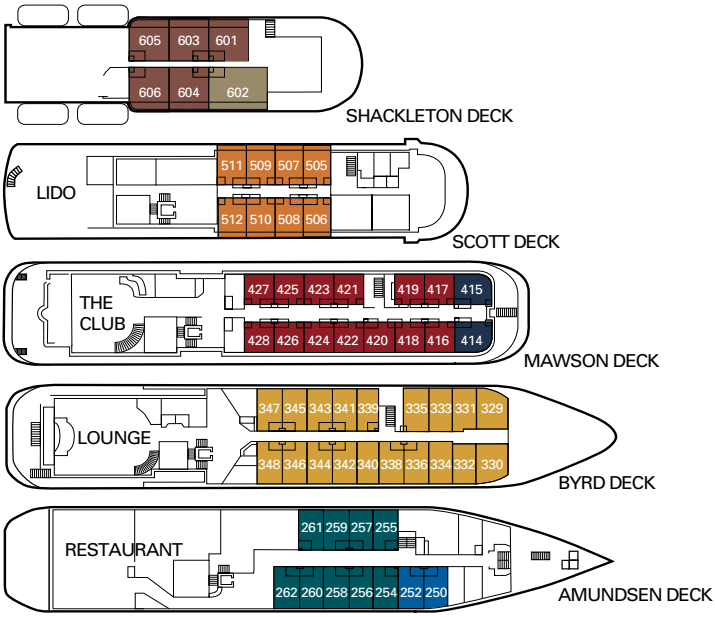
Further information will be sent to confirmed participants.

HEBRIDEAN SKY

The 59-cabin, all-suite *Hebridean Sky* is a spacious, yet intimate, expedition vessel. After a major refurbishment in 2016 and further enhancements since, she now boasts beautifully designed public spaces that include a large lounge, elegant club and bar with piano, library, and two outdoor seating areas. All suites have an ocean view and feature a sitting room, en suite bathroom, TV, spacious wardrobes and dressing table. An elevator services all passenger cabin decks. Wifi is available on board, though signal strength varies depending on location and demand. The *Hebridean Sky*'s chefs prepare quality international meals, predominantly Western-style, served at a single open seating. A friendly crew provides exceptional, personalized service, with more than a 1:2 crew-to-passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac landing craft.

PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

	CATEGORY	DOUBLE	SINGLE
A	STANDARD SUITE (FORWARD) portholes; 238 sq. ft.	$11,990	$17,990
B	STANDARD SUITE portholes; 238 sq. ft.	$13,990	$19,590
C	SUPERIOR SUITE picture window; 226–241 sq. ft.	$15,990	$23,990
D	PREMIUM SUITE picture window; 221 sq. ft.	$16,490	—
E	CORNER SUITE picture windows; 224 sq. ft.	$16,990	—
F	DELUXE BALCONY SUITE 221 sq. ft., plus 40 sq. ft. balcony	$17,990	—
G	OWNER'S BALCONY SUITE 245 sq. ft., plus 83 sq. ft. balcony	$18,990	—
H	HEBRIDEAN SUITE 349 sq. ft. plus 83 sq. ft. balcony	$19,990	—



GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary, including **four hotel nights and eight nights aboard *Hebridean Sky*** • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Group transfers on group arrival and departure dates • **Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel for all group activities** • Entrance fees and port charges • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • **House wine, beer, and soft drinks with all group lunches and dinners** • Complete packet of pre-departure information • Professional tour manager throughout the program

AIR ARRANGEMENTS

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. 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. Further information about making flight arrangements will be sent to confirmed participants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

The pace of this tour is moderately active with considerable walking each day, often over very uneven and cobblestoned terrain, and extended periods of standing. Participants should be capable of navigating stairs on rolling seas. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group without assistance from tour staff. Up-to-date COVID-related protocols and procedures will be communicated in pre-trip documents. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by AIA Tours or Criterion Travel, our tour operator; local staff; and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply.

GROUP SIZE

This program is limited to 92 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America, Carleton College Alumni Adventures, Harvard Alumni Travel, Penn Alumni, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses, immunizations, or COVID-19 testing if required at the time of travel • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Private transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure days • Deviations from the scheduled tour • Airline baggage charges • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals; liquor or soft drinks except as noted • Laundry or dry cleaning • Telephone, fax, internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature

TRAVEL 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 RATES
Program rates are based upon current fuel prices, currency values, taxes, tariffs, and a minimum number of participants. While we will do everything possible to maintain the listed rates, they are subject to change. If there are significant changes, details and costs will be advised prior to departure.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS
To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: AIA 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 120 days prior to departure (November 24, 2023). We accept checks, payable to **"Eos – AIA AqabaAthensCRI3/24"** as well as VISA, MasterCard and American Express for deposits. Reservations will be processed in order of receipt. Credit cards are NOT accepted for final payment.

PASSENGER CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
Cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Deposits are refundable (less a $250 per person admin fee) if written notice of cancellation is received within 30 days of booking; after that, deposits are 100% nonrefundable. After the November 24, 2023 final payment deadline: All payments are 100% nonrefundable, regardless of booking date. For this reason, we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. 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 entry into any country and/ or hotel or aboard any cruise vessel on the itinerary is delayed or denied.

TRIP CANCELLATION & REFUNDS
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. However, if trip cancellation, itinerary changes, and/or delays are mandated by causes beyond our control, the participant shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by AIA Tours or Criterion, or receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as AIA Tours and Criterion are able to recover on the participant's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc. Neither AIA Tours nor Criterion shall have any obligation or liability to the participant beyond the foregoing, including airfare and airline fees.

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 participant certifies that he/she does not have any physical or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants.

ITINERARY CHANGES
The itinerary, study leaders, and accommodations 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
By submitting your deposit, you are bound to the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure. Due to space limitations these are not AIA Tours' complete Terms & Conditions, which are available upon request, can be viewed on-line at www.aiatours.org, and will be sent to you along with a Release of Liability requiring your signature.

California Seller of Travel Program CST #2088800-40

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA TOURS

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RESERVATION FORM

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CONTACT INFORMATION (please print)

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

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

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program?

❑ Yes,_____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

❑ Enclosed is my check for $ _____ ($1,000 per person, payable to "Eos – AIA AqabaAthensCRI3/24," for _____ place(s) on *Petra to the Parthenon*.

❑ Please charge my deposit of $ _____ ($1,000 per person) to my
❑ VISA ❑ MasterCard ❑ American Express

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER EXP. DATE SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin Category Preference: 1st_____2nd_____
Bed Preference ❑ King / Queen ❑ Twins

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

❑ I prefer to have single accommodations. (limited availability)
❑ I plan to share accommodations with:

❑ I'd like to know about roommates.
I am a ❑ non-smoker ❑ smoker

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of November 24, 2023 I will pay the single rate.

I/We have read the tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE

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