



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
OF AMERICA TOURS

IN SEARCH OF ODYSSEUS

Istanbul to Naples Aboard the 59-cabin *Hebridean Sky*

OCTOBER 8-19, 2027

With archaeologist Laetitia La Follette





Dolmabahçe Palace

Dear Traveler,

We are delighted to invite you on a remarkable **voyage inspired by Homer's timeless *Odyssey*** in the company of **AIA lecturer and host Laetitia La Follette**. This cruise through the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas combines archaeology, legend, history, and breathtaking landscapes into an unforgettable journey.

Naturally, since Homer's epic poem originated in approximately the 8th or 7th century B.C. and was part of a long oral tradition, it is famous for having blended historical places with mythical ones, and is full of fanciful details. Thus, scholars have put forth myriad ideas about where Odysseus' adventures took place, and our voyage is inspired by what may have been stops on his arduous, ten-year trip home, peppered with named locations.

After a day in bustling **Istanbul**, we **embark the 59-cabin, all-suite *Hebridean Sky*** and cruise to **Troy**, from where Odysseus began his tortuous journey homeward. We cruise onward to visit the UNESCO World Heritage island of **Delos**, mythical birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, with its ancient temples and sun-bleached marble; and walk among the evocative ruins of **Delphi**, with its Temple of Apollo standing guard over the sweeping views across the valley below.

Visit the well-preserved site of the Mycenaean Palace of Nestor at **Pylos**, to where the *Odyssey* tells us King Nestor safely returned after the Trojan War and Odysseus' son consulted him for news about his father. Although it is not our final stop, no *Odyssey*-based itinerary could be complete without calling at **Ithaca**, Odysseus' home island and the place that this hero fought so hard to see once again. Continue to **Sicily**, steeped in myth as a land with sites linked to the legendary Laestrygonians and/or Cyclopes. In **Malta**, which may have been where Calypso held Odysseus captive for seven years, you have a choice of three full-day excursions, from prehistoric temples to medieval fortresses, before our journey concludes in **Naples**.

Throughout this program, you will be accompanied by a **team of expert study leaders** who will offer a **series of illustrated lectures and informal discussions** aboard ship. The team includes AIA lecturer/host Laetitia La Follette, an archaeologist and Past President of the AIA; U. Penn Professor Emily Wilson, best known as the first woman to translate the *Odyssey* into English; Princeton Professor Yair Mintzker, who specializes in European cultural history and has published on the relationship between history and storytelling; and others.

This voyage is co-sponsored by several organizations so, with only 59 cabins available, I encourage you to reserve your preferred cabin today by contacting AIA Tours at aia@studytours.org or **(800) 748-6262**.

Sincerely,

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

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA & 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 Leader



Archaeological Institute of America lecturer and host Laetitia La Follette

is Professor of Greek and Roman Art and Architecture Emerita, founding chair of the Department of the History of Art and Architecture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Past President of the Archaeological Institute of America. She earned her B.A.

in Classics at Harvard-Radcliffe and her Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology at Princeton. Laetitia has published in the field of ancient art and archaeology as well as cultural heritage policy. She has excavated in Greece and Israel, and her research interests include Greek and Roman architecture, Roman religion, Roman sculpture, and Roman women. Her book on the marble portraits of an ancient Roman noble family that were discovered in (and smuggled out of) Rome in the 1880s is forthcoming from Oxford. Laetitia looks forward to accompanying this program, during which we will explore some of her favorite places in the world.

Highlights

- Explore Istanbul, with a choice between visiting the magnificent **Dolmabahçe Palace**, the largest palace in Türkiye, or **Hagia Sophia mosque**, the world's largest place of worship for hundreds of years.
- Cruise to the **UNESCO World Heritage-designated island of Delos**, the mythical birthplace of Apollo and Artemis.
- Explore Trapani, on **Sicily's stunning west coast**, where the cannibal Laestrygonians attacked Odysseus and his companions.
- Walk among the **incredible archaeological ruins of Troy**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the site of Odysseus's embarkation at the end of the fabled Trojan War.
- Call at the picturesque village of **Pylos** to visit the **Mycenaean Palace of Nestor**. King Nestor was described as the wise king of Pylos in Homer's *Odyssey* and *Iliad*.
- Choose from one of three full-day excursions on the island nation of **Malta, one of the most concentrated historic areas in the world**.



City walls in the ruins of Troy



Ancient Delos ruins



Spices at the Grand Bazaar



Erice, Sicily



Bronze Age Palace of Nestor at Pylos



Blue Mosque

Itinerary

FRIDAY–SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8–9

HOME / ISTANBUL, TÜRKİYE

Depart home on overnight flights to Istanbul, Türkiye. Upon arrival on October 9th, transfer with the group to the recently renovated *Hilton Istanbul Bosphorus*, beautifully situated overlooking the Bosphorus Strait. Take time to relax and settle in before gathering this evening for a welcome reception with your fellow travelers.

HILTON ISTANBUL BOSPHORUS (R)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10

ISTANBUL / EMBARKATION

Begin the day with an orientation and lecture, followed by a choice of two guided excursions: Option 1—Old City: Explore Byzantine and Ottoman landmarks, including Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, the Basilica Cistern, and the Grand Bazaar. Option 2—Palaces: Discover the late Ottoman era at Dolmabahçe Palace, Ortaköy Mosque, and Rumeli Fortress. Later this afternoon, embark the *Hebridean Sky* and continue discussions over dinner onboard.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

CANAKKALE (TROY)

Today, visit the Troy Museum, where artifacts spanning millennia illuminate the city's story, then continue to the UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site itself to see the remains of successive settlements. In the afternoon, relax at sea while attending engaging lectures.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

DELOS, GREECE / MYKONOS

Start your day with a scenic boat ride to the archaeological site of Delos, once a sacred sanctuary and a thriving center of trade and religion in the ancient Greek world. Explore its well-preserved temples, mosaics, and market streets before continuing to Mykonos. Enjoy lunch onboard the ship or independently ashore, followed by free time to explore the island's iconic windmills, picturesque waterfront, and lively cafés.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13

CORINTH CANAL / DELPHI

This morning, glide through the narrow passage of the Corinth Canal, where towering limestone walls rise steeply from the water. Completed in the 19th century, this slender channel linking the Aegean and Ionian Seas remains one of Greece's most impressive

engineering achievements. This afternoon, travel into the mountains to legendary Delphi. At the site's Archaeological Museum and the remarkable archaeological site itself, explore the sanctuary once believed to be the center of the ancient world. Stroll along the Sacred Way, stand before the Temple of Apollo, and admire sweeping views across the valley below.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

ITHACA

Discover the timeless beauty of the island of Ithaca, storied home of Odysseus. Begin at the tranquil Bay of Dexia, often associated with Homer's harbor of Phorcys, before continuing to the village of Stavros and the evocative "School of Homer" archaeological site, currently thought to be the site of a shrine to legendary king Odysseus. In the afternoon, take a guided walk through Vathy, the island's picturesque harbor town, followed by time at leisure to explore inviting shops or enjoy the relaxed waterfront setting.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

PYLOS

Explore the remarkable Bronze Age site of Nestor's Palace at Pylos, Greece's best-preserved Mycenaean palace. Walk among the ruins of its grand halls, storerooms, and throne room, and see where the famous



Windmills of Mykonos



Rumeli Hisari Fortress



Segesta



Street in Valletta



Uçhisar Castle

Linear B tablets were discovered. Continue to the Chora Archaeological Museum to view finely crafted pottery, fresco fragments, and jewelry that illuminate daily life, culture, and trade in this ancient kingdom. In the afternoon, relax onboard as the ship cruises the sparkling Ionian.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16 CATANIA, (SICILY) ITALY

Spend a relaxing morning at sea with lectures that set the stage for today's Sicilian adventures. In the afternoon, choose from three excursions exploring landscapes long linked to Homer's *Odyssey*: visit Aci Castello and nearby Aci Trezza, where the "Faraglioni" sea stacks are associated with the Cyclops Polyphemus; journey to Taormina to explore its 3rd-century B.C. Greco-Roman theater overlooking the Ionian Sea, traditionally tied to Odysseus' journey; or ascend to about 1,900 feet on Mount Etna, Europe's tallest active volcano, once imagined as the home of the Cyclops.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17 VALLETTA, MALTA

Enjoy a full day of excursions, with lunch ashore, choosing from three journeys across Malta and its islands: Valletta & Mdina, visiting the fortified capital, medieval Mdina, and

Hagar Qim Temples, and enjoying views from the Upper Barrakka Gardens; Gozo, visiting the Ggantija Temples, the citadel in Victoria, and viewing the coastal scenery of Xlendi and Dwejra Bays; or exploring Malta's Archaeology at the National Museum of Archaeology, the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, and the Tarxien Temples.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18 TRAPANI, (SICILY) ITALY

This morning, ascend Mount Barbaro to the Doric Greek temple at Segesta, whose weathered columns rise above the surrounding countryside. After lunch ashore, continue to the hilltop town of Erice, wandering its winding streets and enjoying panoramic views across western Sicily.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19 NAPLES, ITALY / DISEMBARKATION / FLY HOME

Disembark in Naples and transfer to the airport for your flights homeward, or continue your journey with the Naples post-trip extension. (B)

OCTOBER 5-9, 2027 PRE-TRIP EXTENSION CAPPADOCIA, TÜRKİYE

Arrive early for a three-night extension in Cappadocia, a landscape of fairy chimneys and honeycombed hills. Visit ancient cave churches, explore the underground city of Kaymaklı, tour a traditional ceramics workshop, and attend a whirling dervish ceremony. Take in panoramic views from Uçhisar Castle, the highest point in the region.



Herculaneum

OCTOBER 19-21, 2027 POST-TRIP EXTENSION NAPLES, ITALY

This two-night extension in Naples draws on the mythic world of Odysseus, whose legendary voyage unfolded along the shores of southern Italy. Explore the National Archaeological Museum, walk the storied streets of Naples, and visit Herculaneum beneath the shadow of Mount Vesuvius, continuing your exploration of the landscapes and classical heritage that shaped Homer's epic.

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.



Ancient theater at Taormina

HEBRIDEAN SKY

The *Hebridean Sky* has 59 exceptionally spacious and well-designed suites. Each suite has ocean views, and several suites have private balconies. All suites feature a sitting room, ensuite bathroom, flat screened TV, spacious wardrobes, a dressing table, and beds that can be configured as twins or a double. Refillable water bottles, bathrobes, and slippers are also provided for your comfort. After a major refurbishment in 2016, and further enhancements since, the *Hebridean Sky* now boasts beautifully designed public spaces including a large lounge, elegant club and bar with piano, library, and two outdoor seating areas. Onboard chefs prepare international and regional cuisine served at a single open seating in the Restaurant or Lido Deck, weather permitting. Afternoon tea and pre-dinner canapés take place daily and special diets can be catered for with sufficient notice. The ship also has a doctor and an elevator to all cabin decks. A friendly crew provides exceptional service with a 1:2 crew to passenger ratio. The ship features advanced satellite navigation and communication equipment, roll stabilizers, and a fleet of Zodiacs to access remote shorelines and islands.

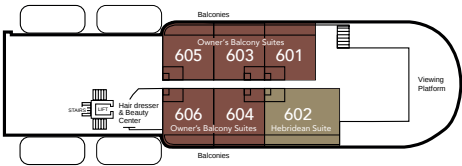


MAIN PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

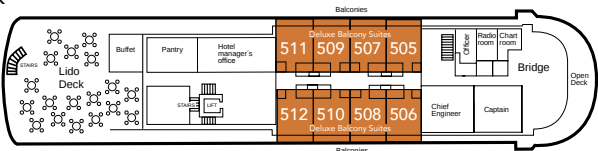
CABIN CATEGORY DOUBLE SINGLE

A	STANDARD SUITE Amundsen Deck (Cabins 250 & 252) 226 sq ft, portholes	\$9,990	\$15,990
B	STANDARD SUITE Amundsen Deck (Cabins 254–262) 226 sq ft, portholes	\$10,990	\$17,590
C	SUPERIOR SUITE Byrd Deck 237 sq ft, picture window	\$12,990	\$20,790
D	PREMIUM SUITE Mawson Deck 226 sq ft, picture window	\$14,990	—
E	CORNER SUITE Mawson Deck (Cabins 414 & 415) 237 sq ft, picture windows	\$16,490	—
F	DELUXE BALCONY SUITE Scott Deck 225 sq ft plus 43 sq ft balcony	\$17,990	—
G	OWNER’S BALCONY SUITE Shackleton Deck 237 sq ft plus 86 sq ft balcony	\$19,490	—
H	HEBRIDEAN SUITE Shackleton Deck (Cabin 602) 264 sq ft plus 101 sq ft balcony	\$21,490	—

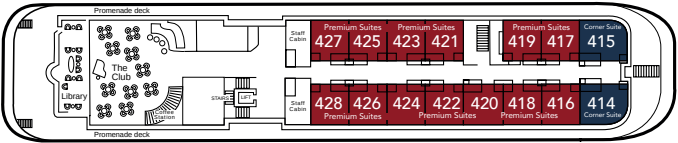
Shackleton Deck



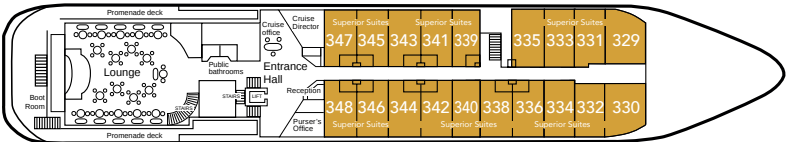
Scott Deck



Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE

One hotel night and nine nights aboard *Hebridean Sky* • Meals and excursions are included as noted in the itinerary, featuring ten breakfasts, eight lunches, nine dinners, and one reception • Comprehensive program of briefings, lectures, and presentations • Shared airport transfers on group arrival and departure dates • Baggage handling • Gratuities to porters, waitstaff, guides, and drivers • Gratuities to shipboard personnel • Port charges • Entrance fees • House wine, beer, and soft drinks with lunches and dinners • Professional tour manager throughout the program

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Private airport transfers or airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel and trip cancellation insurance • Excursions that deviate from the scheduled tour options • 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, Internet, and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature.

GROUP SIZE

This program welcomes up to 94 participants, including travelers from the Archaeological Institute of America, Harvard Travels, Penn Alumni Travel, Princeton Journeys, and Yale Alumni Academy.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This program is moderately strenuous and requires a good level of physical fitness and mobility. Participants should be able to walk one to two miles at a time over uneven terrain, including cobblestones, dirt paths, and archaeological sites, and be capable of walking up and down hills for 20 minutes without stopping. Shore excursions and on-land explorations involve visiting historic sites, archaeological ruins, and museums, some of which require navigating stairs or narrow pathways. Lectures, guided tours, and cultural activities are scheduled throughout the day, and participants should be prepared for full days with a balance of walking, sightseeing, and onboard learning. Participants must be able to stand outside for up to two hours with limited shade and no available seating. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by AIA Tours and Criterion Travel, 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.

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 or by e-mail at toutrflights@vwti.com. 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.

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 program 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

Complete Terms and Conditions, including Statement of Responsibility, will be made available to you at time of registration, or in advance upon request. A signed "Terms & Conditions, Release from Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Clause" is required from each applicant prior to participation on the tour.

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 (June 10, 2027). We accept checks, payable to "Eos AIA-OdysseusCRI10/27" 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.

PARTICIPANT 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 June 10, 2027 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 else 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.

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 leader 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

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NAME #1 (AS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME #2 (AS ON PASSPORT) DATE OF BIRTH

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

I plan to share accommodations with:

PAYMENT INFORMATION

☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person, payable to "Eos AIA-OdysseusCRI10/27") for _____ place(s) on *In Search of Odysseus*.

☐ Please charge my deposit of \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person) to my:

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE / SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

Bed Preference ☐ Queen ☐ Twins

SINGLE TRAVELERS (choose one)

☐ I prefer 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 June 10, 2027 I will pay the single rate.

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

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE



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