TURNING POINTS of HISTORY

Malta to Istanbul aboard the Variety Voyager

JUNE 1–13, 2016

featuring MLADA BUKOVANSKY, PhD, Professor of Government, Smith College
DEAR SMITH ALUMNAE,

The geopolitical map of the Mediterranean region that we recognize in the 21st century is in large part the result of age-old power struggles between Eastern and Western empires—definitive turning points in the course of history. On this springtime cruise from Malta to Istanbul aboard the intimate 36-cabin Variety Voyager, visit significant sites where civilizations collided and imperial destinies were determined:

- **MALTA**, where the Knights Hospitaller were victorious at the Great Siege of 1565, securing Western domination of the Mediterranean
- **SIRACUSA**, described by Cicero as “the most beautiful [Greek city] of them all,” which was swallowed up by the Roman and Byzantine empires beginning in the 5th century B.C.
- **PREVEZA**, overlooking the Bay of Actium, where Octavian’s victory over Mark Antony and Cleopatra ensured the continuation of the Roman Empire for another 400 years
- **PYLOS**, where victory at the Battle of Navarino in 1827 led to Greece’s declaration of independence from the Ottomans
- **DELOS**, once the epicenter of the Athenian Empire
- **ATHENS**, a much-contested strategic gem coveted by Persian kings Darius and Xerxes
- **GALLIPOLI**, site of a rare victory for the East over the West during World War I
- **ISTANBUL**, which straddles Europe and Asia and where Byzantium capitulated in 1453

Accompanied by Smith Professor **MLADA BUKOVANSKY**, soak up the fascinating history unfolding throughout this cruise while enjoying visits to noteworthy cathedrals, ancient temples, beautiful palaces and gardens, local markets, museums new and old, and fascinating archaeological sites.

This cruise is co-sponsored by Princeton and Yale, and the group’s chartered vessel, Variety Voyager, has accommodations for only 60 guests. To ensure your place on this voyage, please call Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029 or go to http://alumnae.smith.edu/travel.

Best regards,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director, Smith Travel
Office of Alumnae Relations

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**MLADA BUKOVANSKY**, Professor of Government at Smith College, teaches courses in international relations, European politics, corruption, humanitarianism, international organizations, and international political economy. Her research focus is on the evolving norms and institutions that govern world politics. She is the co-author of *Special Responsibilities: Global Problems and American Power* (Cambridge University Press) and the author of numerous scholarly articles and book chapters on subjects ranging from agricultural trade to international ethics. Her first book, *Legitimacy and Power Politics: The American and French Revolution in International Political Culture* (Princeton 2002), is still in print. Mlada is especially interested in the politics and ethics of European responses to current refugee crises.
DENIS FEENEY, Giger Professor of Latin and Professor of Classics at Princeton, was educated at Auckland University and Oxford, where he obtained a doctorate in 1982. After teaching positions both in Britain and the United States, he joined the Princeton faculty in 2000. Named chairman of Princeton’s Council of the Humanities, he also directs the Program in Humanistic Studies and the Stewart Seminars in Religion. Professor Feeney teaches and publishes on Latin literature and on Roman culture more broadly, with a special focus on Roman religion and time.

KIRK FREUDENBURG, Professor of Classics at Yale and chair of that department, was educated at Valparaiso University, Washington University in St. Louis, and the University of Wisconsin, where he wrote his PhD dissertation under the direction of one of this program’s co-lecturers, Denis Feeney. His research has focused on the social life of Roman letters and its practical implementation in poetic forms, especially satire. Professor Freudenburg is currently editing a volume of the Roman poet Horace’s satires, which explore the secrets of human happiness and literary perfection.

Visit Athens (COVER), often referred to as “the birthplace of democracy” and uniquely crucial to the development of Western civilization; Birgu (THIS PAGE, LEFT), also known as Vittoriosa, which played a vital role in the Great Siege of Malta in 1565; and Delos (BACK COVER), one of the most significant mythological, historical, and archaeological sites in Greece.
Wednesday & Thursday, June 1 & 2  
HOME ➔ VALLETTA, MALTA  
Depart home on an overnight flight to Valletta. Upon arrival, check in to the Excelsior Hotel. Enjoy a welcome orientation, reception, and dinner this evening at the hotel.  
EXCELSIOR HOTEL (R,D)

Friday, June 3  
VALLETTA (EMBARK)  
Valletta, the capital of Malta and a UNESCO World Heritage site, was built by the Knights Hospitaller Order of St. John to defend against the Ottomans in the 16th century. Today, visit the baroque Co-Cathedral to see the knights’ inlaid tombs; the Baptistry’s masterpiece by Caravaggio, *The Beheading of St. John the Baptist*; and Fort St. Elmo, which withstood a 28-day assault by the Ottomans before falling during the Great Siege of Malta in 1565. Cross the harbor to Vittoriosa (Birgu) to explore the old fortified city that also played a crucial role in the Great Siege. Embark Variety Voyager in the late afternoon and gather for the captain’s welcome reception and dinner.  
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Saturday, June 4  
SIRACUSA, SICILY  
Once a powerful threat to the hegemony of Athens, Siracusa, a UNESCO World Heritage site, was founded around 734 B.C. by Greek Corinthians and subsequently ruled by Romans, Saracens, Byzantines, Normans, and Ottomans. Take an excursion to the Archaeological Park’s amphitheater and Ear of Dionysius limestone cave. On the island of Ortigia, which separates Siracusa’s two harbors, visit the 6th-century B.C. Temple of Apollo, the cathedral, and the Arethusa Fountain. Enjoy a private wine tasting, as well as a private cheese-making lesson and tasting.  
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Sunday, June 5  
AT SEA  
Relax on board ship during a full day at sea, with time to enjoy presentations by the lecture team.  
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Monday, June 6  
PREVEZA, GREECE  
This morning disembark the ship in Preveza to delve into the historic Battle of Actium, the decisive naval engagement between Octavian and the combined forces of Mark Antony and Cleopatra in 31 B.C. Climb the promontory overlooking the battle site where the Roman navy’s smaller and more nimble ships defeated Antony’s 500 heavy galleys and sent Queen Cleopatra and her paramour scurrying for Alexandria and ignominy. Also explore the archaeological treasures from Roman and Early Christian times at the new Nikopolis Museum.  
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Tuesday, June 7  
PYLOS  
Pylos, also known by its Italian name, Navarino, is the site of a decisive battle during the Greek War of Independence in 1827. In nearby Methoni, visit the castle, an impressive fortress separated from the mainland by a deep moat, where the Crusaders stopped en route from Venice to the Holy Land.  
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Wednesday, June 8  
DELOS  
Spend the morning on the island of Delos, which is near the center of the Cyclades archipelago and is one of the most important mythological, historical, and archaeological sites in Greece. Designated in Greek mythology as the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, Delos is a UNESCO World Heritage site, exceptionally rich in monuments, temples, and statues. This evening enjoy time at leisure on Mykonos, which buzzes with a vibrant nightlife.  
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L)
Thursday, June 9
ATHENS
Today is devoted to Athens. Visit the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum, which opened in 2009. Because the museum is built over an extensive archaeological site, parts of the floor are transparent to allow visitors to view the ongoing excavations below. The top level of the museum sits at an angle to the lower levels to replicate the orientation of the ancient temple on the Acropolis. Lunch is on your own, with time to explore the historic Plaka District.
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,D)

Friday, June 10
AT SEA
As the ship cruises to the Dardanelles, relax on board and enjoy the continuation of the lecture program.
VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Saturday, June 11
CANAKKALE, TURKEY (GALLIPOLI & TROY)
Dock in Canakkale, a seaport located at the narrowest point of the Hellespont (Dardanelles) Strait. Visit the battlefields and cemeteries at Gallipoli, where a brutal conflict took place between Allied and Ottoman forces during World War I and where Kemal Ataturk forged his reputation as a defender of the Turkish motherland. Then continue to the Bronze Age site of ancient Troy, where the Achaeans defeated the Trojans in the 12th century B.C. to avenge Paris’s kidnapping of Helen, Queen of Sparta—an event dramatically recounted in Homer’s Iliad. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Sunday, June 12
ISTANBUL
Discover the masterpieces of Old Istanbul (Sultanahmet), including many UNESCO World Heritage sites: the Hippodrome, center of Byzantine civic life; the splendid Sultan Ahmet Mosque, commonly called the Blue Mosque for its dazzling blue Iznik tiles; the breathtaking Hagia Sofia Basilica, the Eastern Roman Empire’s beacon of Christianity until, in 1453, Sultan Mehmet “The Conqueror” ended Byzantine reign in favor of the Ottomans; and Topkapi Palace and its lavishly decorated Imperial Harem, the primary residence of the Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years. This evening celebrate your experience at the captain’s farewell reception and dinner. VARIETY VOYAGER (B,L,D)

Monday, June 13
ISTANBUL = HOME
Disembark the ship and transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)
The yacht *Variety Voyager*, launched in 2012, is an intimate vessel with just 36 cabins, designed to host small exclusive charters. Cabins range in size from 129 to 292 sq. ft. and are comfortably furnished. They feature en suite facilities, individually controlled air-conditioning, and TV/DVD. Throughout the ship, guests enjoy unobstructed views of the sea and the ports visited, and the services of a friendly crew of 28. There are opportunities to dine both inside and al fresco, and complimentary beer and wine are served with lunch and dinner. Public areas include a partly shaded sundeck lounge bar, a library, and a mini-spa with massage room, sauna, steam room, and fitness equipment. There is an Internet Corner and access to 24-hour Wi-Fi in the lounge.

**Program Rates, Per Person**

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Deck</th>
<th>Size (sq. ft.)</th>
<th>Double</th>
<th>Single</th>
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<td><strong>C</strong></td>
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<td>Riviera Deck</td>
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<td><strong>A</strong></td>
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<td>227–248</td>
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<td>Horizons Deck</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>P</strong></td>
<td>Owner’s Suite</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>$13,995</td>
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**Air Arrangements**

U.S. domestic and international airfare is not included in the program rates. Round-trip economy-class airfare from New York to Valletta, Malta, with return from Istanbul, is approximately $1,400 per person as of June 2015 and is subject to change without notice. Information about making flight arrangements will be sent to all participants.

**Program Rates Include**

- All accommodations and meals as specified in the itinerary
- All excursions as specified in the itinerary
- Full program of briefings, lectures, and presentations
- Individual or group transfers for all participants on group arrival and departure days
- Baggage handling
- Gratuities to porters, wait staff, guides, drivers, and shipboard personnel
- Entrance fees
- Welcome and farewell wine receptions
- Wine, beer, and soft drinks with group lunches and dinners aboard *Variety Voyager*
- Bottled water on motorcoaches
- Professional tour manager

**What to Expect**

June is an excellent time for a Mediterranean cruise. Temperatures and humidity are moderate, rain is infrequent, and seas are generally smooth. The pace of this tour is active and all participants should be in good health, physically fit, and capable of walking over rough terrain without assistance from tour staff. Daily programs involve walking one to two miles, such as through archaeological sites, from coach drop-off points, in museums, and on city tours—sometimes on uneven terrain including dirt and cobblestoned paths.

**Fuel Costs**

Program rates are based upon the prevailing fuel rates at the time of brochure printing. While we will do everything possible to maintain the published rates, if fuel costs increase significantly, it may be necessary to institute a fuel surcharge. In that case, we will notify participants in advance of departure.

**Photo Credits**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE  U.S. domestic and international airfare  • Medical expenses and immunizations  • Travel insurance  • Deviations from the scheduled tour  • Excess-baggage charges  • Meals not specified in the itinerary; dishes and beverages not part of the included meals  • Laundry or dry cleaning  • Telephone, email, and fax charges  • Room service  • Other items of a personal nature

INSURANCE  A trip protection plan is available at extra cost. Upon receiving your reservation, Smith Travel will send you information on this policy. This comprehensive guest protection plan covers trip cancellation insurance for medical reasons, trip delay, medical expenses, accidental death, lost baggage, and medical evacuation.

GROUP SIZE  This program is limited to 60 participants, including travelers from Smith, Princeton, and Yale.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS  To reserve space, return the completed reservation form with your $1,000 per person deposit to: Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063, or fax to (413) 585-2015. Balance of payment is due February 2, 2016 (120 days prior to departure). Cancellations within 120 days of departure are 100% nonrefundable. For this reason we strongly urge participants to purchase trip cancellation insurance. If the program is cancelled by Smith Travel or our tour operator, Criterion Travel, you will receive a full refund, without further obligation on our part. No refunds will be made for any part of this program on which you choose not to participate. Note: Neither Smith College nor Criterion Travel accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in conjunction with this tour.

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RESERVATION FORM

TURNING POINTS of HISTORY
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To reserve your space, please make your deposit check payable to Criterion Travel and mail to: Smith Travel, 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063. You may fax credit card information to: (413) 585-2015. For questions, call Smith Travel at (800) 225-2029.

CONTACT INFORMATION (PLEASE PRINT)

NAME #1 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)         SMITH AFFILIATION

NAME #2 (AS IT APPEARS ON PASSPORT)         SMITH AFFILIATION

ADDRESS / CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE         BUSINESS PHONE

FAX         E-MAIL

PAYMENT

☐ Enclosed is a check for $ ______________ ($1,000 per person) to hold ___________ place(s) on Turning Points of History, OR

☐ Charge my deposit of $ ______________ ($1,000 per person) to my VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CREDIT CARD NUMBER         EXP. DATE / SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS

Bed category preference: 1st __________________ 2nd __________________

Bed preference on ship: ☐ Twin beds joined ☐ Twin beds separate

Bed preference at hotel (not guaranteed): ☐ One bed ☐ Two Beds

SINGLE TRAVELERS

If this is a reservation for one person, please indicate:

☐ I prefer to have single accommodations.

☐ I plan to share accommodations with ____________________________

☐ I am willing to share with another participant (not guaranteed). I am a ☐ smoker / ☐ non-smoker.

I understand that if a roommate cannot be found by the final payment deadline of February 2, 2016, 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 herein.

SIGNATURE DATE

SIGNATURE DATE
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featuring
MLADA BUKOVANSKY
Professor of Government

LEGENDARY TROY / ISTANBUL’S TREASURES / FOUR UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS / HISTORICAL BATTLE ARENAS / ANCIENT ACROPOLIS