THE BLACK SEA
Crossroads of Cultures from the Ancient Past to the Present

Featuring Guest Lecturer
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author
JARED DIAMOND

Private-Style Cruising
Aboard the 50-Suite Corinthian

September 3 – 13, 2013
Dear Alumnae and Friends,

Long ago, the world ended, and myths began, on the Black Sea coast. After the Great Flood came Jason and the Argonauts, ancient Greek colonists, and Julius Caesar, who pronounced “Veni, Vidi, Vici” over the kings of Pontus. For millennia, the lands bordering the Black Sea have been a bridge between East and West.

Please join acclaimed author, Jared Diamond, and other distinguished speakers to discover this fascinating region, so often neglected in our mental geographies, yet so crucial to the fortunes of world history.

Our voyage begins and ends in Istanbul, old Constantinople, founded by Emperor Constantine the Great on a site that is both spectacular and strategic. Like Venice, this is a city best seen from the sea, and you will have that experience twice, when we embark and when we return. From the deck of Corinthian, you’ll enjoy an unforgettable view of the great dome of Hagia Sophia, the slender minarets of the Blue Mosque, and the bustling port. Cruise to the seldom-visited north coast of Turkey to explore the soaring citadel of ancient Amasya and the remains of an ancient Milesian colony at Amasra. Discover Ukraine’s Odessa, a city rich in 19th-century architecture, including the famous Potemkin Steps, as well as Yalta and Sevastopol, crucible of the Crimean War. Also call in Constanța, Romania’s main port, to explore the ruins of Tomis Danubius and in Bulgaria to see Nessebur’s old, timbered houses.

Throughout the voyage enjoy lectures and discussions with Jared Diamond and his colleagues as they offer a variety of perspectives on the history and culture of the region. Professor Diamond, whose Guns, Germs, and Steel won a Pulitzer Prize and was the basis for a documentary produced by the National Geographic Society, will bring his expertise in physiology, geography, and ecology to bear. Literary scholar Harvey Goldblatt will join historian and archaeologist Hugh Elton in sharing the insights they have earned through decades of study. And, we hope to send a distinguished Smith College host to accompany our alumnae travelers as well.

The Black Sea is a destination few travelers have visited. Please join us next summer aboard the all-suite, 100-guest Corinthian as we explore this captivating seaway.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Bigwood
Director for Travel
Alumnae Association of Smith College
Along the shores of Nessebur

Professor Hugh Elton, lecturer for the Archaeological Institute of America, will share with us insights into the fascinating history of the Black Sea region from ancient times to the end of the Byzantine Empire. Hugh is Dean of Humanities and Professor of Ancient History and Classics at Trent University, Ontario. He has conducted extensive archaeological fieldwork, most recently in Turkey, and his current research interests cover Roman and late Roman political military history.

Harvey Goldblatt, Professor of Slavic Literatures at Yale, is a specialist in Slavic literary and cultural traditions. He is the editor of Yale Russian and East European Publications and also serves on the editorial boards of several journals on Slavic literature in the U.S. and abroad. Professor Goldblatt has authored numerous studies of the Slavic cultural past as well as its present. He has also devoted much of his time over the past two decades to nurturing the intellectual and social lives of Yale undergraduates as Master of Pierson College. Lauded by students for his cogent lectures and insights as well as for his warmth, humor, and accessibility, Professor Goldblatt brings to this voyage an extensive knowledge of the literary history and rich cultural heritage that underpins Eastern and Central European society.

Jared Diamond, a globally renowned ecologist, evolutionary biologist, and professor of geography at the University of California, Los Angeles, is the author of *Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed* and *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies*, for which he won a Pulitzer Prize. The recipient of a MacArthur Foundation Genius Award, the National Science Medal, and research prizes and grants from the National Geographic Society and the American Physiological Society, he has won many teaching awards and has been elected a member of leading U.S. national scientific and academic honorary societies such as the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society.
Tuesday, September 3, 2013
USA
Fly from the U.S. to Istanbul, Turkey.

Wednesday, September 4
ISTANBUL, TURKEY | EMBARK
Arrive in Istanbul. Named Constantinople by Emperor Constantine the Great in A.D. 330, Istanbul has been the capital of the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman empires. Here the traditions of East and West commingle, evident in the diverse architecture of the city. Board Corinthian and spend the night aboard ship docked in port. (D)

Thursday, September 5
ISTANBUL
Istanbul, set on the Bosphorus, is a city that blends the cultures and traditions of East and West. Tour the city’s principal landmarks, including the majestic Hagia Sophia basilica, built by the emperor Justinian I in A.D. 537; the Topkapi Palace, once the principal residence of the Ottoman sultans and, from the mid-15th to 19th centuries, the administrative center of the Ottoman Empire; the Blue Mosque; and the Spice Market, where you may enjoy time at leisure. (B, L, D)

Friday, September 6
BARTIN | AMASRA | BARTIN
From the port of Bartin, drive to Amasra, a town situated atop a headland sheltering two bays. Known as Sesamus in ancient times, Amasra is one of the most beautiful towns on the coast. Founded by Milesians in the 6th century B.C., the city later became an important possession of both Byzantium and Genoa. On a tour of this pleasant and idyllic town, visit the Genoese citadel, which crowns one of the promontories with a formidable constellation of towers, battlements, and gates. (B, L, D)

Saturday, September 7
SAMSUN | AMASYA | SAMSUN
From Samsun, drive to Amasya, which (legend has it) was founded by the Amazon queen Amasis. Admire its setting amid a narrow gorge on the Iris River, flanked by cliffs. Ascend to the cliff-top fortress for panoramic views and see the rock tombs of the Pontic kings, which were carved into the cliff. Also visit the 15th-century Sultan Beyazit Mosque, whose buttressed domes and columns commend it as an architectural hallmark. Visit the Archaeological Museum in Samsun before returning to the ship. (B, L, D)

For reservations or information, please contact Elizabeth Bigwood at 413-585-2029 or 800-225-2029, or email alumtrav@smith.edu.
Sunday, September 8

**YALTA, CRIMEA, UKRAINE**

In the mid-19th century, the Russian imperial family chose Yalta for its summer residence, and almost overnight the town mushroomed into an elegant and popular resort. Tour the Alupka Palace, a stunning 19th-century edifice with both English Tudor and Byzantine embellishments, and Anton Chekhov’s House. Visit the Livadia Palace, famed site of the 1945 Yalta Conference among Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin. (B, L, D)

Monday, September 9

**SEVASTOPOL | CHERSONESOS | BAKHCHYSARAY | SEVASTOPOL**

Arrive in Sevastopol, a beautiful port city and the former base of the Russian Black Sea Fleet from the days of Catherine II until the fall of the Soviet Union. Drive to nearby Chersonesos, an ancient city founded by Greeks in the 5th century B.C. that became a prosperous trading post. Return to Sevastopol to visit the Panorama Museum, featuring a circular, three-dimensional work of art depicting the defense of the city during the Crimean War. Enjoy time at leisure in Sevastopol, or alternatively, drive to the Crimean interior to explore Bakhchysaray, the seat of the Tatar state from the 16th to the 18th centuries. Visit the imperial Khan’s Palace, built in 1519. (B, L, D)
Tuesday, September 10

ODESSA
Stroll through Odessa’s elegant leafy streets, lined with stately mansions. Discover its prime landmarks, including the grand, Viennese Baroque-style Opera House; the historic Potemkin Steps, site of the 1905 uprising of workers and sailors from the battleship Potemkin; and the Archaeological Museum. In the afternoon, you will have the chance to meet with local families in their homes, or enjoy time at leisure in the city. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, September 11

CONSTANTA, ROMANIA
Arrive in Constanta, Romania’s main port. A tour of the city will include the ruins of Tomis Danubius, the Archaeological and National History Museum, the Archaeology Park, and Piata Ovidiu, the central square of the old quarter where you will have time at leisure. (B, L, D)

Thursday, September 12

NESSEBUR, BULGARIA
Arrive in charming Nessebur, known in ancient times as Messembria. Enjoy a walking tour of the town and its old wooden timbered houses. Visit the Byzantine churches of St. Stephen and Christ Pantocrator and the Archaeological Museum. (B, L, D)

Friday, September 13

ISTANBUL, TURKEY | DISEMBARK | USA
Disembark in Istanbul and transfer to the airport for return flights to the U.S. (B)
Corinthian Sets the Standard for Private-Style Cruising

In an era of mega cruise ships that carry thousands of passengers, Corinthian is a delightful alternative. More like a private yacht than a cruise ship, Corinthian accommodates only 100 guests in 50 suites. Corinthian’s limited guest capacity, fine facilities, and distinctive style of operation attract like-minded travelers who return again and again to enjoy its custom-crafted itineraries and a style of cruising that is rarely found today.

All of Corinthian’s suites face outside, providing views of the sea and landscape. Several have a private balcony. There are expansive open deck areas and attractive facilities, including a gym, spa, library (with Internet access), beauty salon, boutique, two lounges, a sun deck with Jacuzzi, and an outdoor café. An elegant restaurant accommodates all guests in an open, unassigned seating. An elevator serves all decks. A resident physician attends a well-equipped infirmary. Wi-Fi is available throughout the ship.

Served by 67 seasoned officers and crew, Corinthian complies with the latest international safety regulations, including those of the U.S. Coast Guard, meets the requirements of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and is outfitted with the most current navigational and communications technology. Corinthian is equipped with retractable fin stabilizers and a fleet of Zodiac inflatable craft for forays ashore.
ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICES

Once aboard *Corinthian*, it's a challenge to find ways to spend money. There are no hidden fees. Port duties, group transfers, gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers – all are included – as is all sightseeing. The bar aboard ship is open, and wine at lunch and dinner is complimentary. Virtually the only expenses not covered are gratuities to shipboard personnel – because we believe tips are a reward for exceptional service and should be earned.

INCLUDED

- All tours and excursions
- Comprehensive pre-departure materials
- Baggage handling and transfers abroad on the designated arrival and departure dates
- Port and embarkation taxes
- Gratuities to porters, guides, and drivers
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- All meals and open bar aboard ship
- Professional Travel Dynamics International tour staff
- Educational Program of lectures and discussions with accompanying study leaders

NOT INCLUDED

- Airfare
- Visa and passport fees (if applicable)
- Trip cancellation and baggage insurance
- Incidental expenses aboard (laundry, telephone, Internet)

AIRFARE

Airfare is not included in the Cruise and Land Rates. Please contact your preferred airline, travel agent, or the Travel Dynamics International air desk for flight information. Consultants are available Monday – Friday from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm (EST) toll-free at 1-877-711-9896. Please have your tour code (13212) and dates handy for reference.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of $1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. For your convenience, you may charge your deposit to your American Express, Visa, Discover, or MasterCard. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Credit cards are not accepted for final payment. However, personal checks are accepted for both deposits and final payment.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a $300 per person fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. A brochure on travel insurance will be sent to you from Smith Travel upon receipt of your completed registration form.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations, and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Travel Dynamics International.

FUEL SUPPLEMENT: Travel Dynamics International reserves the right to charge a fuel supplement, without prior notice, if the NYMEX oil price exceeds $85 per barrel. This supplement may be charged even if the cruise fare has been paid in full.

SHIP’S REGISTRY: Malta CST #204 3599-40 TDI

DUE TO SPACE LIMITATIONS, THIS IS Abbreviated INFORMATION. PLEASE CONTACT US FOR COMPLETE TERMS AND CONDITIONS.
CRUISE & LAND RATES  |  per person, double occupancy

All accommodations aboard Corinthian are suites. They face outside, affording sea views, and include a bedroom with two twin-size beds that can convert to a queen-size bed, sitting area, mini-refrigerator, safe, spacious closets, climate control, telephone, TV, DVD/CD player, Internet connection, and bathroom with marble vanity, shower, and other amenities. All suites are non-smoking.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>RATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Ariadne and Leto Decks with windows and sitting area. 215 sq. ft. Suites *342 - *345,*428,*429 (PARTIALLY OBSTRUCTED VIEW)</td>
<td>$7,990</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Ariadne and Leto Decks with window and sitting area. 215 sq. ft. Suites 334 - 335, 433</td>
<td>$8,890</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Athena Deck with portholes and sitting area. 275 sq. ft. Suites 246 - 252</td>
<td>$9,790</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Ariadne Deck with windows and sitting area. 225 sq. ft. Suites 336 - 341</td>
<td>$10,790</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Leto Deck with window and sitting area. 235 sq. ft. Suites 420 - 427, 430 - 431</td>
<td>$11,690</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA</td>
<td>Deluxe suites on Cleo Deck with forward windows and sitting area. 285 sq. ft. Suites 505 - 506</td>
<td>$12,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>VS</td>
<td>Deluxe Veranda Suites on Cleo Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 245 sq. ft. Suites 507 - 519</td>
<td>$13,890</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHS</td>
<td>Deluxe Penthouse Suites on Pheebe Deck with private balcony and sitting area. 260 sq. ft. Suites 601 - 604</td>
<td>$14,990</td>
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VS & PHS suites are provided with private butler service and other exclusive amenities.

SINGLES: Single accommodations are available in select categories at a supplement to the per person, double occupancy rates. Single rates, per person: Category E: $9,590; Category C: $11,750; Category A: $14,030; Category VS: $23,615.

REGISTRATION  SMCO 13212

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for $_________ ($1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold ____ place(s) on The Black Sea. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check only.

Please make check payable to: Travel Dynamics International and mail with this registration form to: Smith Travel Alumnae Association of Smith College 33 Elm Street, Northampton, MA 01063

- AmEx  - Discover  - Visa  - MasterCard

No. ____________________ Exp. __________

3- or 4-Digit Security Code __________

Please select cabin category in order of preference:

PHS  VS  AA  A  B  C  D  E

- Twin Beds  - Double Bed

- Single Occupancy  - Share (cannot be guaranteed)

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the “General Information” section and agree to its terms.

SIGNATURE  DATE

SIGNATURE  DATE
EXPLOR
THE BLACK SEA

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With Special Guest Lecturer Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author JARED DIAMOND

The town of Amasya, flanked by cliffs