Ancient Greece and Turkey

Cruising aboard the
Exclusively Chartered Small Ship
Five-Star M.S. Le Lyrial

September 28 to October 6, 2015
Dear Gator Traveler:

Over 3000 years ago, the Mycenaeans founded one of the earliest great civilizations of the world on the archipelago stretching from Greece to Turkey across Homer’s “wine dark” Aegean Sea. This exclusive and comprehensive University of Florida itinerary cruises these waters into the very cradle of Western civilization and the classical world to the coastal jewels of Greece and Turkey.

Join us for this spectacular cruise aboard the exclusively chartered, state-of-the-art, Five-Star M.S. Le Lyrial, launching in 2015, a new generation of small ship design and technology featuring only 110 Suites and Staterooms. Dock in small ports of call inaccessible to larger vessels while enjoying the advantages of Five-Star, small ship cruising—elegant accommodations, an exclusive itinerary carefully crafted with daily excursions led by experienced local guides and no waiting in long lines.

Call on Delos, Mykonos, Santorini, Pátmos and medieval Rhodes— islands steeped in both myth and history—and sail Turkey’s sun-drenched coast to visit Ephesus, the most spectacularly preserved Greco-Roman city in the world, where a specially arranged tour of the awe-inspiring, Roman-era Terrace Houses awaits, and the legendary site of Troy, immortalized by Homer in The Iliad. This unique University of Florida travel opportunity features guided tours in these storied destinations as well as free time to encounter their mysteries and delights at your own pace at the best time of the year. Learn more about contemporary island life during the exclusive ISLAND LIFE FORUM®, where you will meet local residents. There are also opportunities to visit eight UNESCO World Heritage sites on this once-in-a-lifetime journey.

We are pleased that historian Eleni Zachariou will share her extensive knowledge of the islands, peoples, art and cultures of Greece and Turkey, along with other guest speakers who will provide lectures throughout the cruise.

ISLAND LIFE® ANCIENT GREECE AND TURKEY is a popular, all-encompassing travel program and an excellent value—all accommodations, meals, exclusive CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS and one excursion each day are included, and you need to unpack only once! It is no surprise that this highly successful program sells out quickly year after year, so we encourage you to book now while Early Booking Savings and space are available.

Sincerely,

Danita D. Nias, Life Member
Executive Director &
Sr. Associate Vice President
University of Florida Alumni Association

P.S. University of Florida Alumni Association members will receive a gift placed in their room as a token of our appreciation. To join the UFAA, call 888-352-5866 or email ufalum@uff.ufl.edu.

Cover Photo: Admire the beauty of Santorini’s whitewashed villages overlooking the deep turquoise waters of the Aegean Sea.

The bronze stag symbolizes the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
ANCIENT GREECE AND TURKEY

Experience firsthand the true character and traditions of Greece and Turkey and discover the influence of prehistoric, Greco-Roman, Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman civilizations along the Aegean shoreline during this comprehensive voyage to windswept ancient islands, idyllic chora (countryside) and fabled coasts. Enjoy an enriching travel experience like no other aboard the Five-Star, small ship M.S. LE LYRIAL, featuring an included, specially designed shore excursion each day, Five-Star accommodations and all meals. Interact with local people; explore the ancient history, culture, architecture, art, language and cuisine; and unpack just once! This popular program is an intimate travel experience at just the right pace and during the best time of year, when the weather is delightful and the sites are less crowded.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENTS are custom-designed and specially arranged for this exclusive itinerary:

◆ Immerse yourself in a carefully planned, balanced itinerary of included guided historical and cultural excursions and time on your own to discover and observe the heart and soul of Greek and Turkish island and coastal life.

◆ Evoke the daily lives of ancient peoples as you walk through the ruins of Akrotiri, a Minoan city frozen in time more than three and a half millennia ago by a volcanic eruption, and the rarely visited Terrace Houses, the multichambered residences of first-century Ephesus’ most privileged citizens.

◆ Hear it from the Experts! Guest speaker Eleni Zachariou, study leaders and experienced, English-speaking local guides will accompany you throughout the program and discuss historical, cultural and contemporary Greek and Turkish topics.

◆ Engage with local Patmians and Aeginetans, residents of Pátmos and Aegina, during the ISLAND LIFE FORUM® where they share their candid perspectives of life today on these ancient islands.

◆ Enjoy a private performance of traditional Greek music and dancing.

◆ Sample authentic Greek cuisine during a specially designed, exclusive C’EST BON! CULINARY TRADITIONS™ OPTION featuring regional wines and local foods.

◆ Taste authentic Turkish dessert during a baklava cooking demonstration by the ship’s pastry chef.

◆ Learn key phrases and pronunciation of the Greek and Turkish languages to make your interactions with local residents all the more enjoyable.

◆ Enjoy time on your own—stroll the medieval fortress town of Rhodes, explore the pristine beauty of Pátmos and enjoy a spectacular sunset sipping ouzo harbor-side in Mykonos’ Little Venice.

ELENI ZACHARIOU
A native of Greece and more than 25-year veteran study leader of Greece and Turkey, Eleni Zachariou is fluent in five languages, has an M.A. in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of La Verne and has completed graduate work in Byzantine and Biblical studies. She will share her extensive knowledge of the islands, peoples, art and cultures of Greece and Turkey throughout the program.

Scheduled guest speaker may be altered due to circumstances beyond our control. See Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.
ITINERARY

Day
◆ ATHENS® PRE-Cruise Option
1 Depart the U.S.
2 ATHENS, GREECE/PIRAEUS/
Embark M.S. Le Lyrial.
3 DELOS/MYKONOS
   - Walking tour of Delos.
   - Afternoon at leisure on Mykonos.
4 SANTORINI
   - Dramatic cruise into Santorini harbor.
   - Visit to the Museum of Prehistoric Thera.
Cultural Enrichment:
   - Tour of the Bronze-Age ruins of Akrotiri.
Crest Bon® Culinary Traditions® Option:
   - Exclusive lunch featuring Greek specialties with local wine.
5 RHODES®
   - Walking tour of Rhodes Town.
   - Leisure time in Rhodes.
Optional Excursion:
   - Visit to the Acropolis of Lindos.
6 PÁTMOS®
   - Visits to the Monastery of St. John
   and the Cave of the Apocalypse.
   - Time at leisure on Pátmos.
Cultural Enrichments:
   - Island Life Forum®.
   - Traditional Greek music and dance performance.
7 KU¸SADASI, TURKEY, for EPHESUS
   - Visits to the Hellenistic Grand Theater
   and the Celsus Library.
Cultural Enrichment:
   - Specially arranged tour of the
   well-preserved Terrace Houses.
8 ÇANAKKALE for TROY®
   - Excursion to legendary Troy.
Cultural Enrichment:
   - Special cooking demonstration
   presented by the ship’s pastry chef.
9 ISTANBUL®/Disembark ship/
Return to the U.S.
◆ CAPPADOCIA® & ISTANBUL
Post-Cruise Options

Athens, Greece
Birthplace of democracy and home to many of history’s greatest philosophers and poets from Socrates to Herodotus, Athens is unmatched in its contributions to early Western civilization. Today, the ancient city’s enduring grandeur is encapsulated in the spectacular Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the gracefully proportioned Parthenon, a perfect example of Doric architecture dedicated to the goddess Athena in 438 B.C.

Delos
The mythical birthplace of Apollo and Artemis, Delos is today a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is considered to be one of the most sacred islands in the Greek world, as central to Grecian spiritual life as Olympia and Delphi. The Sanctuary of Apollo is a spectacularly rich archaeological site with remains of three separate temples from the fifth and sixth centuries B.C. Delos’ awe-inspiring ruins also showcase an entire district of Hellenistic and Roman-era houses and the 5500-seat Theater (300 B.C.), the site of choral competitions during the quadrennial Delian festival.

See the magnificent Terrace of the Lions, where legendary statues carved from Naxian marble have guarded the island for nearly 2600 years.

Mykonos
According to ancient legend, the craggy hills and clefts of Mykonos were formed from the petrified bodies of giants defeated by Hercules. Mykonos’ iconic windmills, sugar-white, cube-shaped houses and azure bays epitomize the spectacular beauty of the Greek Isles. The Little Venice neighborhood resembles, in design, Italy’s famed canal city. Enjoy free time to stroll the whitewashed streets or stop in an ouzeri to nibble mezethes and sip ouzo, the quintessentially Greek aperitif.

Santorini (Akrotiri)
Be on deck as the ship cruises into the spectacular harbor at Santorini, a naturally created caldera, beneath which is believed to have once been a volcano, but is now a beautiful and peaceful island.
to be the legendary lost city of Atlantis. A cable car descends to sea level from the elevated town of Fira, whose stunning white-walled buildings stand in stark contrast against the dark volcanic cliffs.

**Cultural Enrichment:** Tour the phenomenal Bronze-age ruins of Akrotiri, recently reopened to visitors. Held intact by layers of pumice and ash for over 3500 years, Akrotiri's streets reveal the architectural sophistication and advanced culture of its Minoan inhabitants.

**C'est Bon! Culinary Traditions Option:** By special arrangement, savor distinctive island dishes presented by a local chef and paired with native Santorini wines in Fira.

**Rhodes**

The island of Rhodes has been one of the most prosperous and strategic strongholds in the eastern Mediterranean since the Neolithic period. Dock at the fortified wall of Rhodes Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and step into this extraordinarily well-preserved medieval city, built over a great Hellenistic metropolis. A major Christian outpost during the Crusades, it is the site where the Knights of St. John erected the splendid 14th-century Palace of the Grand Masters.

**Optional Excursion:** Walk through the ancient village of Lindos to see the magnificent frescoes on the Byzantine church and the breathtaking views from its clifftop acropolis.

**Pátmos**

The small island of Pátmos and its Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. John, a UNESCO World Heritage site, loom large in the history of Christianity. Built in 1088, the monastery is still inhabited by monks who continue to preserve it as a pilgrimage site and place of religious study. St. John the Apostle of Ephesus very possibly wrote the Book of Revelation here in A.D. 95.

**Cultural Enrichments:** Meet residents of Pátmos and Aegina who will discuss contemporary daily life on these ancient Greek islands during the specially arranged Island Life Forum®. Later, enjoy a performance of traditional Greek music and dance on board the ship.

**Ephesus, Turkey**

The Greco-Roman city of Ephesus is one of the world's most dazzling architectural treasures, offering an enthralling glimpse into ancient coastal life. The beautifully restored façade of the Library of Celsus is breathtaking, and the Marble Way leads to an impressive 24,000-seat amphitheater where St. Paul delivered his Epistle to the Ephesians. According to legend, St. John the Apostle traveled with Mary, the mother of Jesus, to Ephesus, where he wrote his Gospel and later died and was buried.

**Cultural Enrichment:** By special arrangement, visit the Terrace Houses, where the wealthiest and most prominent families of first-century Ephesus lived, and admire the monumental arched colonnades, well-preserved mosaics and brightly colored frescoes of these superbly crafted residences, rarely seen by today's visitors to Ephesus.

**Troy**

Located on a windswept plain near Çanakkale, Troy was immortalized by Homer's 13th-century B.C. Trojan War epic, The Iliad, and inspired the tales of ancient Greek mythology at the core of Western literature. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site, remnants of the Bronze Age citadel and nine cities built over a span of millennia stand on the very site where Troy fell.

**Istanbul**

This legendary metropolis straddling the Bosphorus Strait is the only city in the world that naturally bridges two continents: Europe and Asia. Its historic treasures are designated a UNESCO World Heritage site and include the magnificent Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace and the Blue Mosque.
Small Ship, State-of-the-Art Design
The exclusively chartered M.S. Le Lyrial, launching in 2015, represents the newest generation of state-of-the-art Five-Star small ships, featuring only 110 Suites and Staterooms and distinctive French sophistication.

Spacious 100% Ocean-View Suites and Staterooms, 95% with Private Balconies
Each air-conditioned deluxe Stateroom and Suite (200 to 592 square feet) features a private bathroom with shower and luxurious Five-Star hotel amenities. Most accommodations have two twin beds that convert to one queen bed, individual climate control, satellite flat-screen television, wireless Internet access, safe, minibar, full-length closet, writing desk/dressing table, plush robes and slippers.

Chic and Casual Dining
International and regional cuisine is served in the stylish, spacious dining room in single, unassigned seatings; alfresco in the casual indoor-outdoor restaurant; or from 24-hour room service. Continental and buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and a four-course dinner are served daily. Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.

Spacious Public Areas/World-Class Service and Facilities
Inviting and spacious public areas accommodate all passengers comfortably. Enjoy views from the Panoramic Lounge, nightly entertainment in the Main Lounge, and lectures, cultural performances and film screenings in the state-of-the-art theater. There is a library, Internet salon, Sun Deck, swimming pool, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room, full range of fitness equipment and two elevators. The infirmary is staffed with a doctor and nurse. The highly trained and personable, English-speaking, international crew provides attentive service.

Respect for the Environment
The state-of-the-art propulsion system and custom-built stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage by minimizing vibration and engine noise. By design, the ship is energy efficient and environmentally protective of marine ecosystems. The ship has two tenders.
Seven-night cruise from Athens, Greece, to Istanbul, Turkey, with port calls at Delos, Mykonos, Santorini, Rhodes and Pátmos, Greece; and Kuşadası for Ephesus, and Çanakkale for Troy, Turkey.

Spacious, Five-Star, ocean-view Suite and State Room accommodations, each with private bathroom.

Captain's Welcome and Farewell Receptions.

Tour of the Cave of the Apocalypse and the Monastery of St. John, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with a visit to the Sanctuary of Apollo and the Theatre Quarter.

Walking tour of medieval Rhodes Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with a visit to the splendid 14th-century Palace of the Grand Masters of the Knights of St. John.

Guided tour of the Phenomenal Minoan Excavation of Bronze-aged Akrotiri.

Specially arranged visit to the seldom-visited Terrace Houses of Ephesus, and the amphitheater where St. Paul delivered his Epistle to the Ephesians, with lunch.

Walking tour of Ephesus, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Walking tour of Rhodes and Pátmos, Greece; and Kuşadası for Turkey, with port calls at Delos, Mykonos, Santorini, Rhodes and Pátmos, Greece; and Kuşadası for Ephesus, and Çanakkale for Troy, Turkey.

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CAPPADOCIA • ISTANBUL OPTION

Inland Turkey holds one of nature’s most captivating treasures—the otherworldly landscape of Cappadocia, a UNESCO World Heritage site. On this post-cruise option, fly to the heart of Anatolia, the enchanting world of volcanic rock formations and vibrant valleys. Visit 2000-year-old rock-hewn villages and learn about the region’s distinctive culture. Attend a performance by the famous Whirling Dervishes.

In Istanbul, enjoy inclusive guided tours of the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace and the Blue Mosque and experience the legendary Grand Bazaar. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe CAPPADOCIA CAVE RESORT in the National Park of Göreme and two nights in the ideally located, Five-Star INTERCONTINENTAL ISTANBUL.

ISTANBUL OPTION

The only city in the world that naturally bridges two continents, Istanbul is a fitting post-cruise option for your odyssey. Experience Istanbul’s legendary beauty at sunset during a private cruise on the Bosphorus Strait and explore the landmark Topkapi Palace, the seat of the Ottoman government, home to the sultan’s legendary harem and today a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Visit the colorful Grand Bazaar; the Byzantine Hagia Sophia; and the Blue Mosque, celebrated for its dazzling mosaic interior. Accommodations are for two nights in the ideally located, Five-Star INTERCONTINENTAL ISTANBUL.

ATHENS OPTION

Begin your voyage in Western civilization’s first great center of democracy and philosophy, Athens, Greece. On this pre-cruise option, explore the Acropolis, the “High City” of ancient Athens, including the monumental Parthenon; see the archaeological treasures of the Acropolis Museum; and tour mystical Delphi.

Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe ATHENAEUM INTERCONTINENTAL ATHENS HOTEL.

Pre- and Post-Cruise Options are at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Delphi’s sanctuary of Athena Pronaia was named for the goddess of wisdom, sworn to protect her half-brother Apollo.
Please make my/our reservation(s) in Stateroom Category:

1st Choice _____  2nd Choice _____

1. Double occupancy (two twin beds).
2. Double occupancy (one queen bed).
4. I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):

Athens Pre-Cruise Option

Double at $770 per person.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.

Istanbul Post-Cruise Option

Double at $850 per person.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.

Cappadocia • Istanbul Post-Cruise Option

Double at $1920 per person.

I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.

I/We want you to book my/our air from

(please enter departure city)

Please allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

Send to:
University of Florida Alumni Association
c/o Thomas P. Gohagan & Company
209 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1446
Visit www.uflalumni.ufl.edu for more information on other Great Gator Escapes or any Alumni Association program.

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Preferred Name(s) on Badge(s) | Tour No. 063-09/28/15-034

Program reservations require a deposit of $600 per person and $200 per person Athens Pre-Cruise Option and/or $200 per person Istanbul Post-Cruise Option or Cappadocia • Istanbul Post-Cruise Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, live agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

- Enclosed is my/our check(s) for $__________ as deposit. Make checks payable to Great Gator Escapes.
- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $__________ to:
  - Visa
  - MasterCard

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature as it appears on credit card

ALL FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by June 25, 2015.
CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including PrePost Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($10 PrePost Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 PrePost Program(s)) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 39 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Gohagan and others for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs, even after full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: Cancellation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($10 PrePost Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $600 ($200 PrePost Program(s)) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 50% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 39 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement then existent. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for him/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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