



RICE ALUMNI TRAVELING OWLS

APRIL 7-15, 2025

with optional
Athens Pre-Tour and
Istanbul Post-Tour

AEGEAN SEA ODYSSEY

CRUISE THE GREEK ISLES AND HISTORIC TÜRKIYE
SANTORINI, MYKONOS, RHODES, EPHEBUS AND TROY



Orbridge

ABOARD PONANT'S PRIVATE 5-STAR
SMALL SHIP *LE DUMONT-D'URVILLE*





Dear Traveling Owls,

Join us on a captivating journey cruising the Aegean Sea, weaving through a tapestry of enchanting destinations and cultural coastal gems of Greece and Türkiye.

From the sacred island of Delos to the iconic landscapes of Santorini and the historic streets of Istanbul, each destination unfolds like a chapter from the epic tales of antiquity. You'll traverse through the timeless wonders of Mykonos, Rhodes, Ephesus and Troy, where echoes of the past resonate in every cobblestone street and archaeological site.


The exquisite luxury cruise ship, *Le Dumont-d'Urville*, will be your floating sanctuary of sophistication and comfort, promising relaxation and an immersive cultural experience. Indulge in gourmet dining, unwind in spacious staterooms and savor panoramic views throughout the vessel.

With significant savings of more than \$1,000 per couple, we anticipate this tour will fill quickly. Reserve today online at rice.orbridge.com, by calling 866-639-0079 or returning the attached reservation form.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Deanna Perez'.

Deanna Perez, Ed.M
Assistant Director, Alumni Engagement

 Orbridge takes seriously the responsibility to minimize our global environmental impact. Each year we plant 100,000 trees in U.S. State Forests with afforestation needs as an ongoing initiative among our evolving sustainability efforts. Learn more at orbridge.com/going-green.

Aegean Sea Odyssey | Itinerary and Highlights *(subject to change)*

Day 1: EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day 2: **ARRIVE IN ATHENS, GREECE | PIRAEUS – EMBARKATION** Upon arriving an Orbridge representative will be waiting to assist with your transfer to Piraeus. As embarkation begins, take time to unpack and become familiar with your accommodations. This evening gather with fellow travel companions for a welcome reception to celebrate the exciting journey ahead. Overnight: *Le Dumont-d'Urville* (R,D)

Day 3: **DELOS | MYKONOS** Disembark for a guided archaeological tour of Delos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Observe the Terrace of Lions, the majestic Temple of Apollo and the Theatre District. Later enjoy leisure time to discover Mykonos, a charming island known for its role in Greek mythology and as a key trading port. Overnight: *Le Dumont-d'Urville* (B,L,D)

Day 4: **SANTORINI** Located on the southern coast of Santorini rests Akrotiri, considered one of the most well-planned and advanced cities of its time. Buried in lava stone after the catastrophic volcanic eruption that occurred around 1627 BC, the site was discovered in 1967 by archaeologist Spyridon Marinatos. Excavations have revealed a wealth of artifacts including tools and other objects that indicate a sophisticated level of craftsmanship. This afternoon, enjoy free time on the island or choose to join a winery tour and tasting excursion. Overnight: *Le Dumont-d'Urville* (B,L,D)

Day 5: **RHODES** This morning join a guided walking tour through the medieval city of Rhodes. Later choose to join the optional excursion to the Acropolis of Lindos. View the Temple of Athena Lindia which dates back to the 4th century BC. Overnight: *Le Dumont-d'Urville* (B,L,D)

Day 6: **EPHESUS, TÜRKIYE** This morning arrive at Kuşadası, the gateway to the ancient city of Ephesus. At the ancient agora, explore the ruins of temples and public areas that once buzzed with activity. Later visit a carpet weaving center followed by a traditional Turkish lunch. Overnight: *Le Dumont-d'Urville* (B,L,D)

Day 7: **TURKISH COAST CRUISING** Savor a full day of leisure on board as you cruise north along the coast. Take advantage of the ship's plentiful amenities. Overnight: *Le Dumont-d'Urville* (B,L,D)

Day 8: **TROY** Tour the archaeological site of Troy, a UNESCO World Heritage site and location of the legendary Trojan War, as described in Homer's *Iliad*. Then visit the Archaeological Museum. After lunch join an optional excursion to see the ancient city of Assos and the Temple of Athena. Tonight gather for a farewell reception followed by a convivial gala dinner to commemorate this epic odyssey cruising the Aegean Sea. Overnight: *Le Dumont-d'Urville* (B,L,R,D)

Day 9: **ISTANBUL – DISEMBARKATION | DEPART FOR U.S.** After breakfast take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

(B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner, R = Reception)





Lindos Acropolis

What's Included

- 7 nights aboard luxurious *Le Dumont-d'Urville*
- All onboard hand-crafted meals: 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners (served with wine, beer or non-alcoholic beverages) plus special welcome and farewell receptions
- Unlimited select complimentary beverages available 24/7 on board the ship, including in the comfort of your stateroom
- Private tours and special small-group excursions as noted in the 9-day itinerary
- Full guiding services of a team of Orbridge Travel Directors and expert local guides
- Private motor coach transportation
- Luggage portage
- Gratuities to ship crew, Orbridge Travel Directors, local guides, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving and departing during the suggested times



Mykonos



Orbridge

Activity Level: Guests should be able to enjoy two hours or more of walking, be sure-footed on cobbled surfaces, and walk up and down stairs without assistance.



Ephesus

Le Dumont-d'Urville

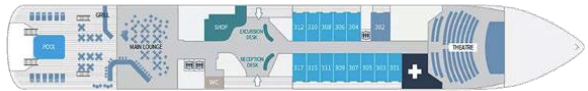
Accommodating 184 guests, *Le Dumont-d'Urville* redefines luxury and elegance in the world of cruising. On board, enter a world where the delicate balance between modern luxury and responsible travel is seamlessly achieved. Whether gazing at panoramic views from your private balcony or unwinding in one of the ship's inviting lounges, you'll find yourself embraced by a world of refinement.



Fred Michel®



Aft Deck



Deck 3



Deck 4



Deck 5



Deck 6



Deck 7



Lounge



Sauna



Dining



Deluxe (Deck 3) approx. 204 sq. ft.

One king or two single beds, private bathroom with shower, glazed panoramic swing door and rectangular window, private balcony with two armchairs.



Prestige (Decks 4, 5, 6) approx. 204 sq. ft.

One king or two single beds, one chaise lounge chair, private bathroom with shower, panoramic sliding bay window or panoramic swing door, panoramic sliding bay window, private balcony with two armchairs.



Deluxe Suite (Decks 3, 4, 5, 6) approx. 290 sq. ft.

One king or two single beds, an armchair and sofa, private bathroom with shower, glazed panoramic swing door and panoramic window (Deck 3), panoramic sliding bay window (Decks 4, 5, 6), private balcony with two armchairs.



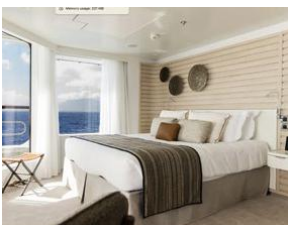
Prestige Suite (Decks 5, 6) approx. 409 sq. ft.

Priority boarding (Deck 6), champagne and fruit basket upon arrival, an assortment of sweet or savory canapés and fruit basket daily, one king or two single beds, lounge with sofa bed convertible to one king or two single beds, armchair, two TVs, sliding courtesy door, two private bathrooms with showers, two panoramic sliding bay windows, private balcony with four armchairs, butler service (Deck 6).



Privilege Suite (Decks 5, 6) approx. 344 sq. ft.

Priority boarding, champagne and fruit basket upon arrival and an assortment of sweet or savory canapés and fruit basket daily, one king or two single beds, lounge with chaise lounge and armchair, private bathroom with shower, panoramic sliding bay window, private balcony with two armchairs, butler service.



Grand Deluxe Suite (Deck 6) approx. 484 sq. ft.

Priority boarding, an assortment of sweet or savory canapés and fruit basket daily, one king or two single beds, lounge with sofa bed convertible to double bed, armchair, two TVs, private bathroom with shower and Baleno tub, two panoramic sliding bay windows, private terrace with two deckchairs and four-seat dining table, butler service.



Owner's Suite (Deck 5) approx. 505 sq. ft.

Priority boarding, champagne and fruit basket upon arrival, assortment of sweet or savory canapés and fruit basket daily, one king or two single beds, lounge with armchair and double sofa bed, two TVs, private bathroom with shower, Baleno tub, and smart mirror, two panoramic sliding bay windows, one-hour spa treatment (for two), selection of premium spirits at the bar, butler service.

Optional Athens Pre-Tour

Enjoy additional time in the ancient city of Athens, where history and modernity entwine.

Day +1: EN ROUTE FROM U.S.

Day +2: ARRIVE IN ATHENS, GREECE Upon arrival to Athens International Airport transfer to the hotel to enjoy the evening at leisure.
Overnight: King George, a Luxury Collection Hotel

Day +3: ATHENS Following breakfast join your local guide for a tour of Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Acropolis has a history dating back to the Mycenaean period and has been continuously inhabited and developed over the centuries. The area has undergone extensive restoration and conservation efforts over the years to ensure its continued preservation. Before returning to the hotel stop at a local taverna for lunch. The remainder of the afternoon and evening are at leisure.
Overnight: King George, a Luxury Collection Hotel (B,L)

Day +4: ATHENS | MAIN PROGRAM BEGINS Join your guide for a combination bus and walking tour to explore Athens' vibrant tapestry. Visit a variety of local shops and cafés to sample an array of traditional coffees, pastries and finger foods, savoring each sip, bite and flavor along the way. Afterward transfer to the Port of Piraeus to join guests arriving for the main program and embarkation. (B)

What's Included

- 2 nights at King George, a Luxury Collection Hotel (or similar)
- 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Guided tour of the Acropolis
- Admission to the Acropolis Museum
- Guided culinary and cultural city tour
- Transportation for included tours
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guide, driver, porters, hotel staff and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving during the suggested times



Optional Istanbul Post-Tour

Experience Istanbul's architectural wonders, cultural treasures and heritage.

Day 9: ISTANBUL Join your local guide for a full-day city tour. Notable sights include Hippodrome Square and the iconic Blue Mosque. After lunch proceed to the Hagia Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Descend into the Basilica Cistern, an ancient underground reservoir built in the 6th century. Conclude the day with a visit to the Grand Bazaar, one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets. The remainder of the evening is at leisure.
Overnight: Çırağan Palace Kempinski (L)

Day 10: ISTANBUL Set out for Topkapi Palace to explore the sprawling grounds, magnificent courtyards and lavish chambers. Afterward take a leisurely stroll through Pera district—Istanbul's bustling pedestrian street lined with shops, cafés and historic landmarks. Following lunch visit Taksim Square. This evening enjoy the hotel's plentiful amenities.
Overnight: Çırağan Palace Kempinski (B,L)

Day 11: ISTANBUL | DEPART FOR U.S. After breakfast take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

What's Included

- 2 nights at Çırağan Palace Kempinski (or similar)
- 2 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- Full day guided touring of Istanbul highlights, plus visits to Topkapi Palace, Grand Bazaar and Taksim Square
- Transportation for included tours
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to local guides, drivers, porters and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests departing during the suggested times

AEGEAN SEA ODYSSEY

APRIL 7-15, 2025 Athens Pre-Tour: April 5-8, 2025 | Istanbul Post-Tour: April 15-17, 2025

Stateroom Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Deluxe (Deck 3)	\$7,549	\$7,045
Prestige (Deck 4)	\$8,049	\$7,545
Prestige (Deck 5)	\$8,749	\$8,245
Prestige (Deck 6)	\$9,349	\$8,845
Deluxe Suite (Deck 3)	\$10,549	\$10,045
Deluxe Suite (Deck 4)	\$11,649	\$11,145
Deluxe Suite (Deck 5)	\$12,749	\$12,245
Deluxe Suite (Deck 6)	\$13,799	\$13,295
Prestige Suite (Deck 5)	\$15,249	\$14,745
Prestige Suite (Deck 6)	\$16,049	\$15,545

Stateroom Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Privilege Suite (Decks 5, 6)	\$16,549	\$16,045
Grand Deluxe Suite (Deck 6)	\$17,749	\$17,245
Owner's Suite (Deck 5)	\$18,949	\$18,445
Single Deluxe (Deck 3)	\$12,149	\$11,645
Single Prestige (Deck 4)	\$12,949	\$12,445
Single Prestige (Deck 5)	\$14,549	\$14,045
Single Prestige (Deck 6)	\$15,749	\$15,245

Category rates include the required \$450 per person port fee.

Athens Pre-Tour		
Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$1,399	\$1,195
Double Deluxe	\$1,799	\$1,595
Single	\$1,899	\$1,695
Single Deluxe	\$2,499	\$2,295

Istanbul Post-Tour		
Category	Standard Rate	Special Rate*
Double	\$1,699	\$1,495
Double Deluxe	\$2,099	\$1,895
Single	\$2,399	\$2,195
Single Deluxe	\$2,799	\$2,595

Deluxe Upgrade: King George (Deluxe Acropolis View Room)

Deluxe Upgrade: Çırağan Palace Kempinski (Çırağan Bosphorus View Room)

*Special group rates; limited offer. Rates are per person in U.S. dollars based on double occupancy except where noted as Single. Single availability limited. Airfare not included.

GUEST INFORMATION:

Guest #1 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Guest #2 Name (Title/Salutation): _____

Email: _____ Class Year: _____

Home Phone: _____ Alt. Phone: _____

DEPOSIT PAYMENT:

Check ACH (Automated Clearing House) MasterCard/Visa American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ CVV: _____

Name (as printed on card): _____

Billing Address (if different from above): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

CATEGORY SELECTION & DEPOSIT:

Category Preference: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

_____ guests joining pre-tour (\$500/person) +

_____ guests joining program (\$850/person) +

_____ guests joining post-tour (\$500/person) = **TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$** _____

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS (added to your final invoice):

_____ guests joining Santorini Winery Visit (\$95/person)

_____ guests joining Rhodes – Lindos Acropolis Tour (\$95/person)

_____ guests joining Çanakkale – Assos Tour (\$95/person)

Pre-Tour Category (choose one): Double Double Deluxe Single Single Deluxe

Post-Tour Category (choose one): Double Double Deluxe Single Single Deluxe

I/we have read, understand, and agree to the full Terms & Conditions at terms.orbridge.com; and I/we agree that Orbridge, LLC is authorized to charge my credit card above and/or take my/our deposit for this program.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reserve by Credit Card:

Online: rice.orbridge.com

Phone: 866-639-0079

Fax: 206-452-5655

Reserve by Check:

Made payable to

Orbridge, LLC

Mail to: Orbridge

P.O. Box 1376

Poulsbo, WA 98370

For questions and to learn more, call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu.

**A complement to the educational component of this journey, Expedition Libraries are curated collections of useful resources and background reading tailored to this program. Place your deposit on or before the specified date, and one Expedition Library per household will be sent after receipt of final payment. Libraries may be purchased; please call for details.

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TRAVELING
OWLS

Rice Alumni Traveling Owls
Office of Alumni Relations, MS 520
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892

AEGEAN SEA ODYSSEY

APRIL 7-15, 2025

Special Alumni Rate:

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October 11, 2024**

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