

PRINCETON
JOURNEYS

JOURNEY OF
ODYSSEUS

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

OCTOBER 8-19, 2027





Dolmabahçe Palace

Dear Princetonian,

Trace the journey of Homer's legendary hero on a voyage from Istanbul to Naples that will bring *The Odyssey* to life. Cruising the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas, discover the history, archaeology, and epic landscapes behind one of the greatest stories ever told.

Walk among the fabled ruins of Troy, where legend tells Odysseus began his journey home; pay homage to Odysseus at his island home of Ithaca; visit the picturesque village of Pylos to see the 13th-century Palace of Nestor; and explore Catania and Trapani on Sicily's stunning east and west coasts, linked to the Cyclops Polyphemus and the cannibal Laestrygonians who attacked Odysseus and his companions.

Over the course of this unique adventure, call on the UNESCO-designated island of Delos, wander sun-drenched Mykonos, and explore archaeologically rich Delphi in Greece and Valletta in Malta. A robust line-up of faculty speakers will illuminate the fascinating stories of each magnificent stop.

For those wishing to continue the journey, a three-night pre-trip extension in Istanbul and a two-night post-trip extension in Naples will be offered.

Princeton participants will be joined on this co-sponsored cruise by those from Harvard, Yale, University of Pennsylvania, and the Archaeological Institute of America. We encourage you to reserve your preferred cabin today by scanning the QR code below. For more information feel free to contact us at journeys@princeton.edu or (609) 258-8686.

With best wishes for continued curiosity and lifelong learning,

Bridget St. Clair

Bridget St. Clair
Director, Alumni Education and Travel
Princeton University



**REGISTER FOR JOURNEY OF ODYSSEUS
ISTANBUL TO NAPLES**
SCAN CODE TO REGISTER ON MOBILE

Study Leader



Yair Mintzker is Professor of History and the Head of Yeh College at Princeton. Mintzker is an expert in European history, broadly defined, and the former head of Princeton's Humanities Sequence: the flagship

undergraduate program in which students read classical works in the Western tradition from Homer and Vergil in antiquity, through Maimonides and Dante in the Middle Ages, to Virginia Woolf and Toni Morrison in more recent times. Mintzker is the author or editor of five books in European cultural history. The books cover a wide range of topics, including the history of the European city, truth and fiction in European history, and wanderings, both ancient and modern.

Highlights

- In **Istanbul**, choose between visiting the magnificent **Dolmabahçe Palace**, the largest palace in Türkiye, or the iconic **Hagia Sophia Mosque**, the world's largest place of worship for nearly a thousand years.
- Cruise to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed island of **Delos**, the mythical birthplace of **Apollo and Artemis** and one of the most sacred sites of the ancient Greek world.
- Discover **Trapani** on Sicily's dramatic west coast, linked to the legendary land of the **Laestrygonians**, the fierce giants encountered by Odysseus in Homer's *Odyssey*.
- Walk among the extraordinary ruins of UNESCO-listed **Troy**, where Odysseus embarked on his legendary journey home following the Trojan War.
- Visit the picturesque town of **Pylos** and the ancient **Palace of Nestor**, home of the wise king immortalized in Homer's *Odyssey* and *Iliad*.
- Choose from three full-day excursions in historic **Malta**, one of the Mediterranean's richest crossroads of ancient civilizations.



Ancient Delos Ruins



Trapani



City walls in the ruins of Troy



Pylos



Blue Mosque



Windmills of Mykonos, Greece



Itinerary

FRIDAY–SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 8-9

HOME / ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE

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. Gather 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—Explore the iconic Byzantine and Ottoman landmarks of the Old City, including the UNESCO-designated Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque and Basilica Cistern, and a visit to the Grand Bazaar. Option 2—Discover the late Ottoman era at the opulent Dolmabahçe Palace, the exquisite Ortakoy Mosque, and the UNESCO-designated Rumeli Fortress. Later this afternoon, embark the *Hebridean Sky* with dinner together on board.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 11

CANAKKALE (TROY)

Today visit the world-class Troy Museum, where artifacts spanning millennia illuminate the city's story, then continue to the UNESCO-designated archaeological site itself. Explore 4,000 years of history with

the remains of nine successive settlements, including that associated with the Trojan War, the event which drove Odysseus away from home. In the afternoon, relax at sea as the lecture series continues.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

MYKONOS, GREECE / DELOS

Start the 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 enjoying lunch onboard the ship or independently on shore. In the afternoon, wander the charming, labyrinthine streets of Mykonos on your own, visiting its iconic windmills, picturesque waterfront, or lively cafes.

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 nineteenth century, this slender channel linking the Aegean and Ionian Seas remains one of Greece's most impressive engineering achievements. In the afternoon, travel into the mountains to legendary Delphi on the slopes of Mount Parnassus. At the Delphi Archaeological Museum and the UNESCO-designated Delphi Archaeological Site, 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 a valley of olive trees extending to the Gulf of Corinth.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

ITHACA

Discover the timeless beauty of Ithaca, the storied homeland of Odysseus. Begin at the tranquil Bay of Dexia, often associated with Homer's harbor of Phorcy, before continuing to the village of Stavros and the School of Homer Archaeological Site, long linked by tradition to the palace of the legendary king. 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, traditionally identified as the home of wise King Nestor in *The Odyssey* and *The Iliad*, and offering unique insights into Mycenaean life. Walk through its grand halls, storerooms, and throne room, and see where the famous 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 aboard as the ship sails the sparkling Aegean.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)



Ortakoy Mosque



Streets of Valletta



Uçhisar Castle



Herculaneum

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16
CATANIA, (SICILY) ITALY**

Spend a relaxing morning at sea with lectures that set the stage for the afternoon’s Sicilian adventures. Then choose from three excursions exploring landscapes long linked to Homer’s *Odyssey*: Option 1—Visit Acì Castello and nearby Acì Trezza, where the famous “Fraglioni” limestone sea stacks are known as “Islands of the Cyclops,” identified by legend as the rocks thrown by the Cyclops Polyphemus at Odysseus and his companions. Option 2—Journey to Taormina to explore its 3rd-century B.C. Greek-Roman theater overlooking the Ionian Sea, traditionally tied to Odysseus’s journey and a filming location for Christopher Nolan’s 2026 film adaptation. Option 3—Ascend Mount Etna, Europe’s tallest active volcano at about 1,900 feet, once imagined as the home of the Cyclops.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 17
VALLETTA, MALTA**

Enjoy a full day excursion with lunch ashore, choosing from three options: Option 1—Explore Valletta and Mdina, including the vibrant, UNESCO-designated fortified capital city of Valletta, medieval Mdina, the prehistoric UNESCO-designated Hagar Qim Temples, and views from the Upper Barrakka Gardens. Option 2—Go ashore on the slower-paced island of Gozo, believed by some to be Ogygia, where Calypso held Odysseus captive for seven years, visiting the prehistoric UNESCO-designated Ggantija Temples, the fortified hilltop citadel in Victoria, and taking

in the dramatic coastal scenery of Xlendi and Dwejra Bays. Option 3—Take a deep dive into Malta’s rich archaeology, featuring the National Museum of Archaeology and two UNESCO-designated prehistoric sites: the underground Hal Saflieni Hypogeum and the Tarxien Temples.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 18
TRAPANI, (SICILY) ITALY**

This morning explore Trapani, known by legend as the home of the cannibal Laestrygonians who destroyed 11 of Odysseus’s 12 ships. Ascend Mount Barbaro to the Doric Greek temple at Segesta, where its 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. This evening toast to an epic adventure with fellow Princetonians at your final dinner together.

HEBRIDEAN SKY (B,L,D)

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19
NAPLES, ITALY / HOME**

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

OCTOBER 5-9, 2027

**PRE-TRIP EXTENSION
CAPPADOCIA, TURKEY**

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.

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.

For more information, call Princeton Journeys at (609) 258-8686 or email journeys@princeton.edu.



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 two receptions • 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 • Welcome and farewell wine receptions • 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 immunization • 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

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 tourflights@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.

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

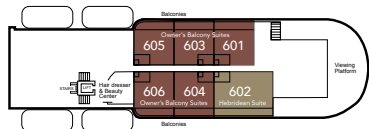
HEBRIDEAN SKY

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.

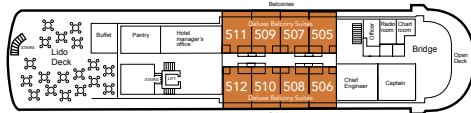
MAIN PROGRAM RATES (PER PERSON)

CATEGORY		DOUBLE	SINGLE
A	STANDARD SUITE Amundsen Deck (Cabins 250 & 252) 226 sq ft, portholes	\$9,990	\$15,990
B	STANDARD SUITE Amundsen Deck 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	—

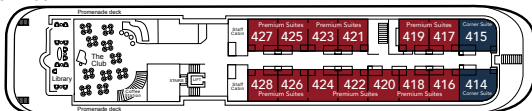
Shackleton Deck



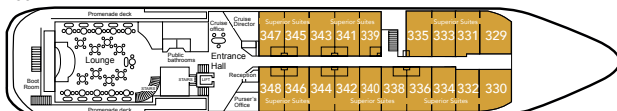
Scott Deck



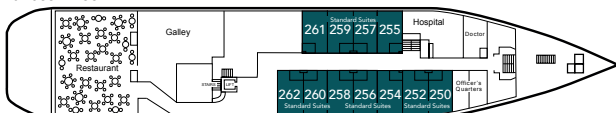
Mawson Deck



Byrd Deck



Amundsen Deck



PRINCETON JOURNEYS

JOURNEY OF ODYSSEUS

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

OCTOBER 8-19, 2027



**REGISTER FOR JOURNEY OF ODYSSEUS
ISTANBUL TO NAPLES
SCAN CODE TO REGISTER ON MOBILE**

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 Princeton Journeys 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.

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 expedition are included in this brochure. Information about travel insurance will be sent to confirmed participants.

GROUP SIZE

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

A NOTE ABOUT RATES

Tour 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 a Statement of Responsibility will be made available 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

Reserve your space online at https://account.criteriontravel.com/Booking/RefStart/PJ/271008_ODH/tour or complete the reservation form and return with your \$1,000 per person deposit to: Princeton Journeys, P.O. Box 5256, Princeton, NJ 08543. Balance of payment is June 10, 2027. After June 10, 2027, full payment is due upon registration. Final payment may be made by check, wire transfer or credit card (credit card payments will incur a processing fee of 2%).

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS

Upon payment of the \$1,000 per person deposit, all reservations are subject to the cancellation provisions set

forth below and by which the passenger agrees to be bound. Cancellations shall not be in effect until they are received in writing and confirmed by Princeton Journeys. 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. Trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. NOTE: Neither Princeton Journeys nor Criterion Travel, the tour operator, accepts liability for any airline cancellation penalties incurred with the purchase of non-refundable tickets.

ITINERARY CHANGES

The itinerary presented for this tour is subject to modification and change by Princeton Journeys and Criterion Travel, the tour operator. 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, Princeton Journeys 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.

DISCLAIMER

Princeton University is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its Alumni and Friends through Princeton Journeys. Princeton Journeys works with tour operators to make available interesting and enriching travel opportunities for the Princeton family. Please note that neither the University nor Princeton Journeys conducts tours, nor does either act as an agent for guests interested in tours. Princeton Journeys acts as a facilitator with tour operators, and tour participants contract directly with tour operators to make arrangements for completing travel. Princeton Journeys encourages you to familiarize yourself thoroughly with the tour operator's cancellation and refund policies, and also to investigate available services such as trip cancellation insurance. The University is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses or additional expenses resulting from travel. Complete program terms can be found: <https://alumni.princeton.edu/connect/princeton-journeys/terms-and-conditions>.

California Seller of Travel
Program CST #2088800-40

PHOTO CREDITS

Dreamstime.com | COVER Statue of Odysseus © Smoox78; BACK COVER Corinth Canal © Nikolai Sorokin; Dolmabahce Palace; © Sjanikauskas; Ancient Delos Ruins © Andrei Stancu; Trapani © Iğdır; City walls in the ruins of Troy © Standret; Pylos © Dudajoz; Istanbul skyline with Blue Mosque © Robert Zehetmayer; Windmills of Mykonos, Greece © Jenifoto406; Ortakoy Mosque © Jurquijophoto; Streets of Valletta © Liseykina; Uçhisar Castle © Ekimyalgin; Herculeaneum © Andrei Stancu

Please make your deposit check payable to Criterion Travel and mail to: Princeton Journeys, P.O. Box 5256 Princeton, NJ 08543. For more information or to reserve by phone, contact Princeton Journeys at journeys@princeton.edu or (609) 258-8686.

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

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

MAILING ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

HOME PHONE MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL #1

EMAIL #2

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ (\$1,000 per person), payable to Criterion Travel, to reserve _____ place(s) on *Journey of Odysseus: Istanbul to Naples*.

Please charge \$1,000 per person to my credit card (circle one)

VISA MC AMEX

NAME ON CREDIT CARD

CARD # EXP. DATE / CVV SECURITY CODE

CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE DATE

ACCOMMODATIONS (not guaranteed)

Cabin category preference: 1st _____ 2nd _____

Bed Preference King / 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 tour information section of the brochure and agree to the Terms and Conditions stated therein.

SIGNATURE #1 DATE

SIGNATURE #2 DATE

PRINCETON JOURNEYS

Princeton University
P.O. Box 5256
Princeton, NJ 08543



JOURNEY OF ODYSSEUS

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

OCTOBER 8-19, 2027

alumni.princeton.edu/journeys