

2024

HARVARD ALUMNI TRAVELS

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ATHENS TO ROME

*Cruising the Mediterranean By Luxury Yacht
Aboard the 50-Cabin Emerald Sakara*

September 26–October 5, 2024

With Professor Gordon Teskey



HARVARD
Alumni Travels



Port of Piraeus

Athens to Rome—Cruising the Mediterranean by Luxury Yacht *Emerald Sakara*

Join fellow alumni and friends of HAA aboard the luxury 50-cabin yacht, *Emerald Sakara*, for a **seven-night Mediterranean cruise**. This unique educational program highlights archaeological sites that are remnants of the grand civilizations of ancient Greece and Rome. Begin the program in **Athens**, with a special visit to the private Goulandris Museum of Cycladic Art, then embark the spectacular, new *Emerald Sakara* at the Port of Piraeus. Launched in 2023, this beautiful, modern vessel is designed to allow **access to smaller ports not accessible to larger cruise ships**.

Engage with your expert Harvard study leader and other guest lecturers through illustrated lectures and informal discussions along the way. Cruise through the **Corinth Canal** to see where the Oracle spoke to Greek citizens at **Delphi**. If you wish, go for a run on the original track at **Olympia**. Call at 2,700-year-old **Siracusa**, rich with Greek and Roman history and stay for a late departure that allows an evening stroll or sightseeing excursion. Marvel at the 3rd c. BC Greco-Roman amphitheater at **Taormina** and the stunning Greek Temple of Neptune at **Paestum** before visiting fascinating **Pompeii** for a glimpse into what Roman life was like before Mt. Vesuvius erupted. There will also be an opportunity to participate in an optional **post-tour extension in Rome**.

Study Leader



Gordon Teskey is Francis Lee Higginson Professor of English at Harvard, where he has been on the faculty since 2002. He took his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto and taught at Cornell University before coming to Harvard. He has been a Guggenheim fellow and a Visiting Research Fellow at Merton College, Oxford. In 2016 his book, *The Poetry of John Milton*, was awarded the Gauss Prize for Literary Criticism. Teskey has traveled and lectured extensively in Europe and has taught for some years at the Harvard Summer School in Venice.

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Delphi

Activity Level 3:

This is a moderately active program with considerable walking most days, often on cobblestoned and uneven terrain, and extended periods of standing. Participants must be in good health and able to keep up with the group with limited assistance from tour staff. Many historic buildings and archaeological sites do not have elevators, and you'll occasionally encounter steps without handrails. These adventure-filled days are offset by relaxing time spent cruising at sea, with the opportunity to enjoy the ship's amenities and the full lecture program. The *Emerald Sakara* has elevator service to all decks.

Participants should be capable of navigating hallways and stairs on rolling seas. Anyone with a serious medical problem, whose medical situation might be adversely affected by active travel, or who might have difficulty walking, should not consider this program. This promises to be a memorable journey, but as with all travel, a flexible attitude, a spirit of adventure, and a willingness to explore new areas will enhance your enjoyment of this program. You do not have to participate in all of the scheduled activities, except when traveling to the next destination. We are sure you will be pleased with the exciting educational program provided, but we want you to be aware of the pace and activity level.



Right photo: Corinth Canal

Schedule by Day

THURSDAY–FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26–27

Home / Athens, Greece

Depart the U.S. on independent overnight flights to Athens, Greece. Arrive Friday, September 27, and transfer to the centrally located Athens Capital Hotel—MGallery Collection located at Syntagma square for an orientation, welcome reception, and dinner.

Athens Capital Hotel—MGallery Collection (R,D)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Athens / Embarkation

Visit the private Goulandris Museum of Cycladic Art in Athens, a collection specializing in prehistoric art from the Cyclades islands of the Aegean Sea. Drive to the Port of Piraeus, the largest port in Greece, and board the luxurious *Emerald Sakara*. This evening attend the Captain's welcome reception and dine aboard the ship.

Emerald Sakara (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Corinth Canal / Delphi

Cruise through the dramatic Corinth Canal, whose steep limestone walls soar nearly 300 feet overhead, before docking at Itea to climb to the spectacular ruins of Delphi. Located on the slopes of Mt. Parnassus, Delphi was the influential oracular sanctuary to Apollo, considered by the ancient Greeks to be the center of the world and where the Oracle's pronouncements were sought for

centuries. Its stunning setting and architecture evoke the same reverence today as they did thousands of years ago.

Emerald Sakara (B,L,D)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Katakolon / Olympia

Today visit Olympia, the iconic site of the ancient Olympic Games. During the Games, the Greek city-states were bound by a truce that forbade hostilities and focused attention strictly on athletic competition. Here visit the temples, stadium, sanctuary, and stoa and view the museum's impressive statues and artifacts. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to race on the original Olympic track.

Emerald Sakara (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Siracusa, Italy

Founded around 734 B.C. by Greek Corinthians, Siracusa was conquered and ruled by Romans, Saracens, Byzantines, Normans, and Ottomans, who each left a legacy of archaeological treasures that have earned the city UNESCO World Heritage status. Tour the expansive archaeological park, home to the stunning Greek theater and Roman amphitheater that combine to make this one of the greatest archaeological sites in all of Italy. Continue to the adjacent fortified island of Ortygia with highlights including lively morning market, Cathedral Square, Santa Lucia Church with famed Caravaggio, and a Jewish mikveh (bath). Later, in a nearby private palazzo dating

back to the Middle Ages, enjoy a reception hosted by a nobleman and view a collection of etchings of ancient Siracusa and Sicily. This evening either join an after-dark architectural walk or explore independently before returning to the ship.

Emerald Sakara (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2

Giardini Naxos / Taormina

Today choose between three excursion options: 1) An early departure for the slopes of Mt. Etna to see the Silvestri Crater and an opportunity to ride the cable car to the summit; 2) A visit to the 3rd century B.C. Greco-Roman amphitheater of Taormina followed by free time in town; 3) A journey through the Sicilian countryside for a hike in Alcantara Gorge, an impressive canyon formed by the Alcantara River and lava flows from Mt. Etna.

Emerald Sakara (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3

Salerno / Amalfi Coast

Dock this morning in Salerno for a short drive to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Paestum, an ancient Greek city famous for its three excellently preserved Doric Greek temples, dating from 550 to 450 BC. Admire the magnificent Temple of Neptune—the most complete of the three temples—which is said to be modeled after the Temple of Zeus in Olympia. This afternoon cruise along the picturesque Amalfi Coast to Sorrento, a small coastal city famous for its sea cliffs.

Emerald Sakara (B,L,D)

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Left photo: Amphitheater of Taormina / Right photo: Harbor of Civitavecchia

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

Sorrento / Pompeii

Sorrento, with its spectacular views over the Bay of Naples, is the base for today's excursion to the UNESCO World Heritage site, Roman Pompeii. This ancient city was buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD and its well-preserved ruins continue to provide a unique glimpse into ancient Roman daily life. Explore the fascinating ruins of Pompeii and discover an ancient city frozen in time.

Emerald Sakara (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

Civitavecchia / Home

Disembark this morning and transfer to the airport for flights home or begin the optional post-tour extension in Rome. (B)

Pre-Tour Extension

SEPTEMBER 23–27, 2024

Nafplio, Corinth, Mycenae & Epidaurus

This three-night pre-trip extension features visits to the fascinating archaeological sites of Corinth, Mycenae, and Epidaurus. Begin in Athens and continue to Corinth to view the remains of this strategically important city that connects the Peloponnese to the mainland. Arrive at the seaside town of Nafplio with ample time to explore the Old Town and to stroll along its seaside paths. Venture to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mycenae, the legendary home of King Agamemnon, and marvel at its Cyclopean walls, Lion Gate, and royal tombs. At Epidaurus, visit the renowned Ancient Theatre built around 340 BCE and the healing Sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius, the ancient Greek god of medicine. Return to Athens and take a guided tour of the National Archaeological Museum, home to one of the largest and most important collections of ancient Greek art.

Athens Capital Hotel— MGallery Collection;
Grand Bretagne Nafplio (3B,2L,D)

Post-Tour Extension

OCTOBER 5–7, 2024

Rome

Upon conclusion of the main tour, experience two nights of deluxe accommodation in the heart of Rome. Take a guided tour of the striking Borghese Gallery, one of the most fascinating museums in Italy. Housed in a splendid 17th-century villa, this museum contains bas reliefs and mosaics of outstanding quality, preserving works of beauty without equal. Here admire paintings by Titian and Caravaggio and sculptures by Canova and Bernini, before enjoying an afternoon at leisure to explore the city independently. Visit the Domitian Stadium ruins, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which holds all that remains of the only masonry athletics stadium known in Roman history. Delve into the underground archaeological complex of the Basilica Clemente, one of the best locations to observe the history of Rome through the ages.

Hotel Rose Garden Palace (2B,L,D)

Further details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

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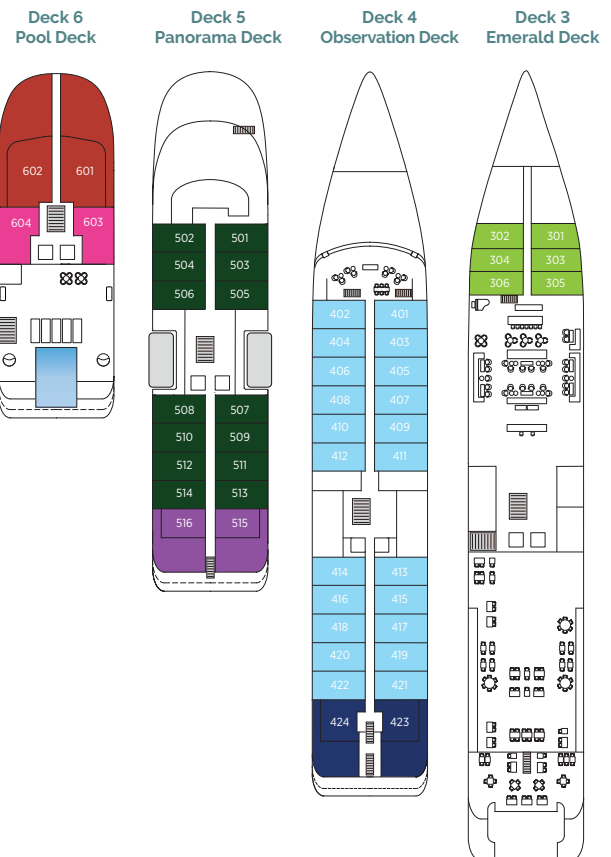
Emerald Sakara

Cruise on the elegant Luxury Yacht *Emerald Sakara*, launched in 2023. A full 360 feet in length but with only 50 cabins, she has ample space and a relaxed atmosphere on board. The staterooms and suites are uniquely designed and offer views of spectacular scenery. Forty-four of the fifty cabins have step-on balconies. Dining onboard includes menus with fresh locally-sourced ingredients. With its panoramic observation lounge, navigation bridge, marina platform, multiple pools, and wellness area—along with several fine dining, bar, lounge, and cafe areas and even a gym, spa, sauna, and boutique—this state-of-the-art vessel offers grandeur and opulence. Perhaps best of all, *Sakara* can tie up next to the promenades with other superyachts, rather than being banished to the commercial cruise piers where larger ships must dock.



Rates

CATEGORY		DOUBLE
D	OCEANVIEW STATEROOM 183–205 sq. ft., per person, sharing	\$7,990
B	BALCONY SUITE 285–306 sq. ft., per person, sharing	\$9,990
A	BALCONY SUITE 285–306 sq. ft., per person, sharing	\$10,490
S	DELUXE BALCONY SUITE 382–404 sq. ft., per person, sharing	\$11,990
T	TERRACE SUITE 648–670 sq. ft., per person, sharing	\$13,990
Y	YACHT SUITE 700–721 sq. ft., per person, sharing	\$14,490
SA	OWNER'S SUITE 1,163–1,193 sq. ft., per person, sharing	\$19,990
CATEGORY		SINGLE
D	OCEANVIEW STATEROOM 183–205 sq. ft., per person, sharing	\$12,790
B	BALCONY SUITE 285–306 sq. ft., per person, sharing	\$15,990



PROGRAM RATES INCLUDE All accommodations, meals, and excursions as specified in the itinerary including **one hotel night and seven nights aboard Emerald Sakara** • Full program of briefings, lectures and presentations • Transfers for all participants 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 group lunches and dinners and on board Emerald Sakara** • Filtered water on motorcoaches • Professional tour manager throughout the program..

PROGRAM RATES DO NOT INCLUDE U.S. domestic and international airfare • Passport/visa expenses • Medical expenses and immunizations • Airport transfers outside of group arrival and departure dates • Travel insurance • Optional excursions or deviations from the scheduled tour • Excess 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, fax, Internet and email charges • Room service • Other items of a personal nature.



**BOOK ONLINE
TO REGISTER**

Trip Registration is Easy

Step 1

Visit: <https://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/athens-rome-2024>

Step 2

Click the Blue “**Register Today**” button and fill out the online form with your contact information and payment details.

Step 3

Look for an **email confirmation** from Harvard Alumni Travels.

All bookings are conducted online only.

Find complete trip-specific terms and conditions on the trip web page (link above).

Left photo: Ortygia

Bottom photo: Pompeii and Mount Vesuvius



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