



Travel Dynamics International
Excellence in Small-Ship Cruising Since 1969

THE UNIVERSE IS DYNAMIC.

WHEN WE ARE CREATIVE,

WE ARE THE MOST ALIVE

AND IN TOUCH WITH IT.

- Brad Dourif

The Voyage Out

In 1969, George and Vasos Papagapitos, two brothers from the Greek island of Rhodes, set out to reclaim the lost art of educational travel. The true voyager, they proposed, is an asker of questions — a seeker of connections between self and world. By marrying the goals of the university, the cultural foundation, and the museum with the pleasure of a cruise vacation, Travel Dynamics International created the very concept of the elegant study-voyage, establishing a type of trip simply unknown in the United States in 1969. Ever since, Travel Dynamics International has been a pioneer in cultural small-ship cruise expeditions, continually opening new destinations to American travelers, and creating itineraries that challenge its guests to think deeply, and admire graciously, with every step.

We welcome you to the world of Travel Dynamics International.



Remaking the Map

We are amazed by the world. And we think places have stories they'd like to tell us. We offer a unique perspective on our destinations by constructing our voyages around fascinating themes: a great historical figure, an ancient civilization, an artistic movement, or a current geopolitical question. And as the world changes, so do our voyages. New borders open. Fresh knowledge is gleaned. We keenly follow the latest cultural, archaeological, and political developments to create voyages that present timeless destinations with the most current questions.

Our very first voyage, to the pre-Columbian sites of Central America and Mexico's Yucatan, was itself a bold concept — in 1971, few people other than archaeologists had ever seen the ancient Mayan centers we visited — and it set the standard for Travel Dynamics International's ambitious adventures throughout the world. Travel Dynamics International was the first U.S. small-ship operator offering voyages to both Vietnam and Libya following the normalization of diplomatic relations; we were also the first to establish institution-sponsored educational voyages along the coasts of Brazil, China, India, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. In 1994, we pioneered the concept of family learning cruises with *Voyage to the Lands of Gods and Heroes*, introducing families to the history and mythology of ancient Greece and Rome. And in 2003, our guests enjoyed a grand journey the likes of which are seldom seen: a 70-day circumnavigation of the African continent.



CORINTHIAN II NAVIGATING IN ANTARCTICA

Around the World...

As close to home as the Great Lakes, and as distant as Antarctica, Travel Dynamics International's voyages broaden the traveler's world. Each year, we take great care in designing unique educational cruise itineraries across the globe. We don't limit ourselves — or our guests — to just the “star attractions,” “hot destinations,” or “the next great escape.” Instead, we create thoughtful, coherent voyages that place the most beautiful and significant sites in context with lesser-known gems. We may follow Magellan from Spain to Tierra del Fuego, or visit the world's most remote inhabited island en route from Cape Horn to the Cape of Good Hope. Whether it's to the coast of Brazil or Greenland, the Azores or India, Travel Dynamics International's goal since 1969 has been to expand the possibilities of the educational cruise, and open the world to global understanding — on all seven continents, and the lands between them.



KNOSSOS, CRETE, GREECE

...And in the Mediterranean

For Travel Dynamics International, the Mediterranean is much more than “the Med,” and far richer than the Riviera. Our love and understanding of the region’s ancient cultures, and our fascination with the currents of history, allow us to approach Mediterranean cruising in a manner that is uniquely enriching, enjoyable, and intelligent. Each year we offer a comprehensive portfolio of voyages that trace artistic, historical, literary, or cultural themes with a perceptiveness that no other Mediterranean cruise company can match. We have followed the journeys of Alexander the Great, St. Paul, Odysseus, and Aeneas. We have seen the legacy of the ancient Greeks in Italy, and the legacy of the ancient Romans in north Africa. Whether it’s comparing Minoans to Mycenaeans, or Venetians to the Byzantines, our itineraries offer uncommon enlightenment for the cultured traveler.



ODYSSEUS AND THE SIRENS. MOSAIC. BARDO MUSEUM, TUNIS, TUNISIA

Fathoming

Imagine: a university course in Greek mythology, taught by one of the world's best professors, that travels to the birthplaces of the Olympian gods. Or consider: a study of post-Soviet international relations, while cruising along the coast of Ukraine and the Crimea, with U.S. diplomats and journalists as tutors. Imagine further that you never have to take a test; your classmates are fascinating, genial, and accomplished; you're provided with impeccable and friendly service throughout; and every day is not merely a new lecture but a new epoch, a new city, a new country.

This is the Travel Dynamics International cruise experience, and it's why over 200 of America's most prestigious universities, museums, cultural foundations, and non-profit institutions sponsor our voyages. Not only do we feature fine scholars specially selected for their capacity as riveting lecturers; on many of our cruises, top names in American government, letters, science, and media also lead discussions in their field of expertise.



PRIVATE CONCERT AND DINNER IN THE LIBRARY OF
CELSUS, EPHESUS, TURKEY

Unexpected Pleasures

When creating our itineraries, we ask: What gives a destination a sense of place? What tells its story? Often, the answer isn't in a guidebook. We draw upon our 40 years of global experience, and the intimate knowledge of local residents, to craft a unique cruise experience for all the human senses. We may take an impromptu break for swimming in a secluded cove most travelers would never find. Or take you to an exclusive wine tasting of the region's finest vintages. On our voyages, local folk dancers or musicians may appear for after-dinner revelry. We'll schedule banquets at artisanal restaurants known only to local villagers. Concerts on deck. Theatrical performances among Greek ruins. And no matter the specific ways in which we make your voyage unique, we hew to this principle: our special arrangements are not merely splendid. They're not just exclusive moments of pleasure. They're organic elements that help us answer the questions: What is this place? What does it mean to us?



CALLISTO IN WEST AFRICA

Small Is Better

From our very first cruise, we discovered that elegant small cruise ships were ideal for creating successful educational voyages. Since then, Travel Dynamics International has been dedicated to the exclusive use of small cruise ships, which inspire an intimate learning experience among no more than 120 guests — and often far fewer. The ambience aboard a small ship is similar to a private club, with personalized service, a single unassigned seating at meals, and a relaxed, civilized atmosphere. A small ship ensures a personal, convivial group exclusively dedicated to the learning experience we offer, and enables us to dock in ports inaccessible to larger liners.

Frequently, we are the only visitors at a site; occasionally, we become the first American cruise operator to tour a particular destination. From 1982 to 1994, our *Illiria* was the only small cruise ship dedicated exclusively to educational and cultural voyages for American educational, cultural, and scientific institutions. Today our fleet, which encompasses large yachts and elegant small expedition cruise ships, inspires not merely admiration, but also true affection from our guests, who return again and again to recapture the pleasure of a Travel Dynamics International cruise.



EXPEDITION LEADER JOHN FRICK

The Travel Dynamics International Team

The door is always open at our New York City home office. Often it's because our international, polyglot staff is constantly flying out to the field, and returning with the newest, most detailed information to design our voyages. Our staff members hail from Portugal, Norway, Chile, Australia, The Philippines, Greece, Albania, Croatia, Russia, China, and Japan, among other far-flung nations. They are assisted in their efforts by a roster of sophisticated researchers, writers, and adventurers with degrees from such prestigious institutions of higher learning as Harvard University, Yale University, Brown University, University of Oxford, and Williams College. Travel Dynamics International selects the finest and most authoritative field staff in the travel industry for its cruise directors, expedition leaders, and tour directors. Together, our core field staff has logged more than 500 years' experience in the travel industry, including more than 60 combined seasons of directing Antarctic expeditions. They are constantly working behind the scenes, minute by minute and around the clock, to ensure smooth transitions between ship and shore, and satisfaction for all on board.



HAPPY THE MAN WHO, LIKE ULYSSES,
HAS MADE A FINE VOYAGE ... AND THEN RETURNS,
EXPERIENCED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE.

- Joachim du Bellay

Taking Care

Travel Dynamics International was founded to enrich our guests' understanding of the world and its peoples, cultures, arts, natural history, and environment. We consider environmental preservation and sustainable development to be priorities in a globalized world. We were one of the founding members of the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators, which set the standards for environmentally sensitive Antarctic tourism by which all visitors to Antarctica must abide. In 2004, we initiated fundraising alliances with charities protecting the Amazonian rain forest and its indigenous peoples, and achieving potable water resources in West Africa — directly contributing to the welfare of the destinations we visit. In 2009, Travel Dynamics International extends its charitable contributions to every destination we visit, in all corners of the world.



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