Jordan, the Red Sea, Egypt, and Greece on LE BELLOT

with Jen Thum, Assistant Director of Academic Engagement and Assistant Research Curator

October 29 to November 11, 2021
Join this one-of-a-kind 12-night sojourn on three continents to explore the ancient treasures and engineering marvels of the greatest civilizations of Greece, Egypt, and Jordan. Cruise for eight nights from the Mediterranean Sea and across the azure Aegean through the Suez Canal into the brilliant Red Sea aboard the exclusively chartered, five-star *LE BELLOT*, featuring only 92 suites and staterooms, each with a private balcony. Tour the island of Santorini and visit nine UNESCO World Heritage sites, including an excursion into dramatic Wadi Rum and a specially arranged visit into the tomb of Queen Nefertari. Mid-cruise, overnight in awe-inspiring Luxor in a Nile-view room. Spend three nights in Amman to visit the Greco-Roman town of Jerash and one night in Aqaba to visit the “rose-red city” of Petra, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. See the Great Pyramids, the only remaining Wonder of the Ancient World.

The safety and well-being of our travelers remains our highest priority. Cruise lines and some other providers of services (as well as, potentially, some countries) require all passengers traveling on our programs to present confirmation of a full COVID-19 vaccination, and, as well, passengers may have to produce evidence of a recent negative COVID test. All our staff are committed to adhering to all health and safety protocols from the start of your trip to the end as directed by the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, overseas health officials as well as those protocols mandated by your cruise company (if applicable) and other suppliers of services. Detailed protocol information tailored to your travel program will be mailed to you along with additional pre-departure information.

The mythology surrounding the Nile River has shaped the region’s consciousness for thousands of years.

**Study Leader**

**Jen Thum** is the Assistant Director of Academic Engagement and Assistant Research Curator at the Harvard Art Museums, where she creates learning experiences for Harvard students with works from across the collections. She holds a B.A. in Anthropology from Barnard College, an M.Phil. in Egyptology from the University of Oxford, and a Ph.D. in Archaeology and the Ancient World from Brown University. She is a specialist in the art and archaeology of ancient Egypt and has conducted archaeological fieldwork since 2006 in Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Sudan, Cyprus, and Saudi Arabia.

Before arriving at Harvard, Jen worked in various capacities at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the Haffenreffer Museum of Anthropology, and the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. For her dissertation research—which centered on Egyptian royal monuments carved into rock outcrops—she was awarded fellowships from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers and the American Research Center in Egypt, as well as a Spatial Archaeometry Research Collaborations fieldwork award from the Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies.

**PHOTO CREDITS:** Alamy, Age Fotostock, Bridgeman Art Library, Shutterstock, Water Rights Images, Barbara Ann Weibel; all images are rights managed and cannot be used without permission.

Activity Level 3: 🚺 🚴 🚀 🚗 🚷

**A LITTLE MORE TO IT**

My walking shoes are laced up tight and I’m ready to keep up with my traveling companions. I look forward to getting to know them on the drives and/or flights we’ll take between cities. I enjoy getting around in Zodiac rafts and 4x4 vehicles for short durations. A little mental and physical stimulation will do me good!

**TO BOOK A TRIP, CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL**

Respect for the Environment: A new addition to the Ponant “Clean Ship” fleet, an important certification among ocean-cruising vessels, Le Béllot is energy efficient and eco-friendly, protecting fragile marine ecosystems.

Chic and Casual Dining: Dine indoors or alfresco on international and regional cuisine served in the stylish restaurant, at the casual pool grill or from 24-hour room service. Meals include breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and four-course dinner.

Elegant Suites and Staterooms, 100% with Private Balconies: Each of the 92 five-star staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features a private balcony. Grand Deluxe Suites have a bay window and spacious private terrace. Accommodations offer two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control, private bathroom with a shower, and luxury hotel-style amenities.

Life on Board: Enjoy views from the indoor-outdoor lounges and educational lectures, cultural performances, or film screenings in the state-of-the-art theater. Relax in the spa or infinity-style swimming pool. The ship has a beauty salon, a fitness room, and three elevators. Complimentary Wi-Fi access is available (conditions permitting).

World-Class Service: The highly trained, English-speaking crew is personable and attentive, and the ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and a nurse.

Rates Per Person

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Picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3, forward. (limited availability)

Picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3, midship.

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 4, forward.

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 4, midship.

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 5, forward. (limited availability)

Single Pricing: $17,210

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 5 and 6, aft. (limited availability)

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 5, midship.

Single Pricing: $20,410

Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 5, forward. (limited availability)

Suite with expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, sitting area with sofa. Decks 3, 4, 5, and 6. (limited availability)

Two-room suite, expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 5. (limited availability)

Large suite with expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, sitting area with sofa. Decks 5 and 6. (limited availability)

Extra-large, one-bedroom suite, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath, sitting room with sofa. Deck 6. (limited availability)

Extra-large, one-bedroom suite, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath, sitting room with sofa. Deck 5. (limited availability)

Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel are included.
Schedule by Day

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 29 AND 30

U.S. / Athens, Greece

Depart the U.S. and arrive in Athens. Embark the five-star LE BELLOT. (1D)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

Santorini
Santorini’s whitewashed villages and blue-domed churches cascade to cerulean waters. The remarkable Bronze Age ruins of Akrotiri, held intact by layers of pumice and ash for over 3,500 years, reveal the architectural sophistication and advanced culture of its Minoan inhabitants. Findings from Akrotiri are elegantly exhibited in the Museum of Prehistoric Thera. By cable car, descend from Fira, where stunning white-walled buildings stand in stark contrast against volcanic cliffs.

This evening, attend the Captain’s welcome reception on board the ship. (B,L,R,D)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Cruising the Mediterranean Sea

Enjoy educational lectures on board while cruising the Mediterranean Sea. (S,L,D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Alexandria, Egypt

The Lighthouse of Alexandria—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—shone as a beacon of enlightenment, while the Library of Alexandria, with its vast archive of over 140,000 manuscripts and papyrus scrolls, formed a magnet for the ancient world’s greatest scientists. The library’s visionary reincarnation, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, resembles a giant discus embellished with hieroglyphs. Visit the Catacombs of Kom el Shoqafa, the largest known burial site in Egypt. (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Suez Canal Transit

One of the most momentous voyages between continents transits the 120-mile Suez Canal, Egypt’s glorious, Victorian-era engineering achievement. The canal was first conceived in the 1830s by French explorer and engineer Linant de Bellefonds and opened in 1869. Connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea, the canal reduced the journey between Africa and South Asia by over 4,000 miles, redefining international maritime trade. (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Ain Sokhna for Giza

See the last remaining Wonder of the Ancient World, the pyramids of the Old Kingdom pharaohs Cheops, Chephren and Mycerinus; along with the Great Sphinx, they are enduring symbols of the glory of Egypt that have towered over the Western Desert for nearly 5,000 years. (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Hurghada for Luxor

From the port of Hurghada, travel through scenic mountains to the Nile Valley. Arrive in Luxor and check into a Nile-view room in the STEIGENBERGER NILE PALACE HOTEL. Begin your exploration of UNESCO World Heritage-designated Ancient Thebes with a visit to Karnak Temple, one of the largest religious structures ever built. Karnak’s vast complex of obelisks, shrines and sanctuaries reaches its apogee with the hypostyle hall, comprised of 134 colossal stone columns arranged in rows and embellished with hieroglyphs. Continue to the Luxor Temple and view the temple’s fascinating bas reliefs depicting such seminal events as Ramses’ victory at the Battle of Kadesh in 1274 B.C. The dramatic “Avenue of the Sphinxes” once stretched from Karnak to Luxor.

Dinner is in the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

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What is Included:

- Expert insights from Study Leader Jen Thum and Dr. Tarek Sayed Tawfik Ahmed, internationally acclaimed Egyptologist
- Eight-night cruise aboard the LE BELLOT
- Elegantly appointed, five-star suite or stateroom, each with a private balcony
- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access throughout ship (conditions permitting)
- Egypt and Jordan visas
- All activities, excursions, entrance fees, and meals per detailed itinerary
- Taxes and gratuities to ship personnel, guides, and drivers
- Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and during excursions
- Services of a tour manager throughout the program
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s)
- $200,000 emergency medical evacuation insurance

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6

**Luxor / Safaga**

Check out of the hotel and cruise across the Nile to the west bank’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated Necropolis. In the Valley of the Kings, 63 illustrious pharaohs of Egypt’s New Kingdom and their worldly wealth were laid to rest in tombs engraved with hieroglyphs. Passageways descend to the burial chambers of King Ramses IV. The tomb of Tutankhamen contained the largest collection of Egyptian treasures and was discovered in 1922 by Harold Carter. In the Valley of the Queens, enjoy an specially arranged visit to Queen Nefertari’s tomb.

Enjoy the Captain’s farewell reception and dinner on board the ship this evening. (B,L,R,D)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

**Aqaba, Jordan / Wadi Rum / Aqaba**

Enjoy breakfast on board as the ship arrives in Aqaba. Traverse the wilderness of UNESCO World Heritage-designated Wadi Rum, known as the Valley of the Moon. This landscape of striated canyons, soaring mountains, undulating sand dunes and rocky caverns is best experienced from a four-passenger open-air vehicle.

Your afternoon is at leisure. Check into the KEMPINSKI HOTEL AQABA and enjoy dinner in the hotel this evening. (B,L,D)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8

**Aqaba / Petra / Amman**

The ancient “rose-red city” of Petra is one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. The city ignited Western scholarly interest when Swiss explorer Johann Ludwig Burckhardt was led through the Siq—a narrow, serpentine gorge—to Petra’s Khazneh (Treasury) by a Bedouin guide in 1812.

Transfer to Amman and check into the Five-Star FAIRMONT HOTEL. (S,L)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

**Amman**

Amman’s wealth of archaeological artifacts stands testament to centuries of cultural influences. From the Citadel, see the towering columns of the Temple of Hercules looming over the capital, where the magnificent 6,000-seat Roman Theater, dating from the second century, forms the city’s centerpiece and still stages performances. Everyone is welcome in the beautiful blue-domed King Abdullah Mosque. (S)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

**Amman / Jerash / Amman**

Journey through wheat fields and olive groves to reach Jerash, Jordan’s most captivating Greco-Roman site.

Marvel at the prodigious three-gated Hadrian’s Arch, walk the Sacred Way to the Temple of Artemis and take in Behold the timeless Sphinx and the Great Pyramids of Giza, testament to the might of Egypt’s Old Kingdom.
Admire Athens’s spectacular Acropolis, a distillation of ancient greatness.

Classical Greece Athens • Delphi
PRE-PROGRAM OPTION
$995 per person, double occupancy
$1,345 per person, single occupancy
Experience the ancient city immersed in its contributions to the Western world—Athens, the birthplace of democracy.
Tour the monumental Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and the perfectly proportioned Parthenon, a graceful example of Doric architecture; see its archaeological treasures in the Acropolis Museum. Explore Plaka, Athens’s oldest neighborhood, at leisure. Enjoy a full-day excursion to the mystical UNESCO World Heritage site of Delphi and its Archaeological Museum. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe GRAND BRETAGNE ATHENS HOTEL.
Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

The Holy Land
Jerusalem • Masada • Sea of Galilee
POST-PROGRAM OPTION
$2,895 per person, double occupancy
$4,395 per person, single occupancy
In fascinating Jerusalem, a holy city for three of the world’s major religions, walk in the footsteps of Jesus, see evocative religious sites and visit the poignant Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum. Tour UNESCO World Heritage–designated Masada, visit Bethlehem and enjoy an float in the Dead Sea. Visit Nazareth, Cana, the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum and the Ancient Boat Museum. Enjoy a cruise on the Sea of Galilee (weather permitting), a stop beside the Jordan River at the Yardenit Baptismal site and a tour of a traditional rural kibbutz with lunch. Deluxe accommodations are for four nights in Jerusalem and two nights in Tiberias.

Terms & Conditions

AA&D COMMUNITY EXPECTATIONS: Harvard University Alumni Affairs & Development (AA&D) programs and volunteer opportunities respect the rights, differences, and dignity of others. Those taking part in AA&D activities, including travel programs developed by Harvard Alumni Travels for the Harvard Alumni Association (“HAA”), are expected to demonstrate honesty, integrity, and civility and are accountable for their conduct with University alumni, students, parents, volunteers, employees, and invitees. AA&D reserves the right to suspend services to—and to exclude from participation in AA&D programs—any person whose inappropriate behavior adversely affects the safety, well-being, and inclusion of community members.

CONTRACT: Harvard Alumni Association does not itself conduct tours, but instead partners with several different tour operators to offer a broad range of travel programs. Tour participants contract directly with tour operators, although HAA is available to act as a liaison with tour operators should participants have any questions or concerns. HAA is not responsible for performing any of the tour operator’s obligations. The tour operator for this program is Gohagan & Company, based in Chicago, Illinois.

PROGRAM COST INCLUSIONS: Enrichment program of lectures and discussions; eight nights aboard Le Bellot; four nights land accommodation in Amman and Petra; welcome reception and farewell dinner; all meals as outlined in itinerary; complimentary alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages throughout cruise; internet access while on board; taxes; transfers and luggage handling at airports/piers/hotel for guests whose arrival(s) and departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfers; all excursions and visits with experienced local guides outlined in itinerary; all gratuities to ship personnel, restaurant staff, local guides, drivers, and tour manager throughout.

PROGRAM COST EXCLUSIONS: International airfare from the U.S.; baggage charges on aircraft; local departure air taxes; airport facility taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the “Inclusions” section; transfers and baggage handling to/from airport on day(s) of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving early or departing late; scheduled group transfers; passport fees; visas (excluding Egypt and Jordan) and fees for obtaining visas; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls, and internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel, optional sightseeing excursions; meals and beverages not listed in the “Inclusions” section; and all other services not specifically mentioned in the “Inclusions” section.

PROGRAM SIZE: Le Bellot can accommodate up to 145 passengers for this voyage. Harvard passengers will be joined by guests from the co-sponsoring institutions from Cal Berkeley, U of Chicago, Commonwealth Club California, Dartmouth, Duke, National Trust, U of Texas (Austin), and Wisconsin, as well as potential independent travelers. HAA reserves the right to cancel the program, levy a small group surcharge, and/or send the program without a Harvard study leader. HAA retains the right to add staff members and/or invited guests to any group departures regardless of the stated group-size limitation. RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person (plus $200 per person Pre- and/or Post-Program). Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Final payment is due July 26, 2021 (95 days before departure), payable by check or credit card to “Gohagan & Company.” Participants will receive an invoice directly from Gohagan & Company for all subsequent payments after the initial deposit. PARTICIPANT CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by HAA from the participant. Deposits are refundable through 95 days prior to departure. Cancellations received between 76 and 95 days prior to departure will be charged 70% of the trip cost. Cancellations received 75 days or less prior to departure are nonrefundable. TRIP INSURANCE: Neither HAA nor the tour operator, including all representatives, employees, and agents, will take responsibility for any costs or losses incurred or suffered by a participant, or a participant’s dependents or traveling companions before, during or after the tour. This includes, without limitation, cancellation or curtailment of the tour, emergency evacuation expenses, medical expenses, repatriation expenses, or damage/theft/loss of personal baggage, money, and goods. As noted below, neither HAA nor its tour operators shall be liable for any airline cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline ticket or for any other expenses incurred by tour participants in preparing for the tour. HAA highly recommends the purchase of trip insurance to cover unforeseen trip interruptions, cancellations, lost baggage, and emergency medical assistance and evacuation. Participants may purchase trip insurance through a Harvard provider. HAA will provide information from one provider, Redpoint Travel Protection, upon confirmation, which will detail available options. If a participant purchases a trip insurance policy from Redpoint Travel Protection

Feel the humbling scale of the hypostyle hall at Karnak Temple.

the immensity and sublime architecture of the Forum.

After lunch in a restaurant in Jerash, enjoy time for individual pursuits in Amman. Attend the Farewell Reception in the hotel this evening. (s,l,r)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Amman / U.S.

Disembark and continue on The Holy Land Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight to the U.S. (s)
within a 14-day window, the pre-existing medical conditions exclusion will be waived, and the participant will be eligible to purchase the "Cancel for Any Reason" upgrade. The 14-day window begins on the first day the participant's trip deposits become non-refundable. For participants who utilize a trip credit to book the trip, the 14-day window begins the first day the participant is subject to travel restrictions for cancellation purposes. The trip credit, therefore, will include the cost of the trip credit. An insurance policy, when issued, shall constitute a contract only between the participant and the insurance provider. HAA will not intervene in any transactional issues or claim disputes between the participant and the insurance provider.

AIR ARRANGEMENTS: International airfare is not included in the cost of the program. The tour operator can assist you with your air arrangements. Neither the Harvard Alumni Association nor the tour operator accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalties or for any other costs or expenses incurred in connection with your air arrangements. The tour operator will not be responsible for any airline changes or delays. Any airline, even if purchased through Gohagan & Company, will be responsible for handling any required equipment. Any physical or mental health condition that may require special medical attention or physical assistance must be disclosed in writing prior to booking so that HAA and the tour operator may evaluate whether they can meet the physical requirements of their trip and must complete and return any medical forms required by the tour operator. Participants with dietary restrictions also must make these known in advance. If the tour operator determines that it is unable to accommodate them, the tour operator may not be able to accommodate them.

PREPARING FOR THE TOUR: Participants will be provided with comprehensive pre-departure travel information, including specific suggestions for packing, health, and safety.

CANCELLATION / CHANGES TO ITINERARY / STAFFING & COSTS: The itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of HAA and the tour operator. HAA reserves the right to change program dates, staff (including study leader), itineraries, or accommodations as conditions warrant. HAA further reserves the right to cancel programs, levy a small per person refund, or substitute a study leader and/ or withdraw HAA sponsorship from a program. Please note that all participants are bound to the cancellation fee schedule and other terms and conditions of the program regardless of whether HAA takes action. Participants making deviations from the scheduled itinerary do so at their own expense. All prices quoted are based on prevailing fuel prices, airfares, and currency exchange rates in effect as of the date of this publication and are subject to change.

FAILURE TO OPERATE THE TOUR OR CANCELLATION OF THE TOUR BY THE TOUR OPERATOR: If the tour operator fails to operate the tour or cancels the tour, except as a direct result of adverse weather conditions, strikes, local laws, hostilities, wars, terrorist acts, significant health concerns (such as epidemics or pandemics requiring significant travel disruptions), or other causes beyond HAA and the tour operator’s reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), then the tour operator shall refund all monies received from the participant. Such refund will consist, in whole or in part, of credit toward future travel. If the tour operator accepts the liability for any airline cancellation penalties or for any other costs or expenses incurred in connection with your air arrangements, the tour operator will not be responsible for any airline changes or delays.

ASSUMPTION OF RISK: Tour participants understand and agree that participation in the tour involves risks that include, without limitation, the risk of injury from travel, pickup, and delivery services provided by local providers; the possibility of an epidemic or pandemic, the trajectory of which may differ from those to which they are accustomed; and health and safety risks for international travel that may be different from those to which they are accustomed. Without limiting the foregoing, tour participants understand and agree that there are risks associated with the possibility of an epidemic or pandemic, the trajectory of which may be unpredictable, and that as a result of such an epidemic or pandemic, local and national governments may enact travel, business, and stay-at-home restrictions, and health care systems may become overwhelmed. Tour participants recognize that they may be subjected to potential risks, illnesses, injuries, and even death and confirm that they authorize and indemnify Harvard Alumni Association and, on behalf of their family, heirs, and personal representative(s), to assume all risks and responsibilities surrounding their participation in the tour.

RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION: Tour participants understand and agree that the information contained in this document is subject to change. Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information presented in this document. HAA will not intervene in any transactional issues or claim disputes between the participant and the insurance provider. Tour participants are bound to the cancellation fee schedule and other terms and conditions of the program regardless of whether HAA takes action. Please call Harvard Alumni Travels at 800-422-1636 or email haatravels@harvard.edu.