THE GULF STATES aboard Island Sky
November 29–December 9, 2016 (10 nights/11 days)

Marvel at the Gulf States’ unique juxtaposition of old and new, including the Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi (cover); Dubai’s Burj Al Arab Hotel (this page), built to resemble the sail of a traditional Arabian dhow; and Doha’s colorful Souq Waqif (back cover).

DURING THIS ALL-CRUISE EXPLORATION OF THE PERSIAN/ARABIAN GULF* STATES of Dubai, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, and Oman aboard the Island Sky, visit the mosques, souks, educational institutions, and museums that reflect a fascinating juxtaposition of past and present unique to the Islamic world.

Begin your exploration among the dazzling skyscrapers of Dubai, the business and cultural hub of the Middle East. Continue to Qatar, where visits to the old souq and the new Education City illustrate how dramatically change has come to the region. In Bahrain’s capital city, Manama, enjoy spectacular museum collections of Islamic art and calligraphy and, for those who wish, a trip across the King Fahd Causeway into Saudi Arabia to visit the Saudi Aramco oil complex. In Abu Dhabi, museums, mosques, and Masdar City amaze. Wrap up your Gulf States adventure with a cruise through the fjord-like waterways of Oman’s Musandam Peninsula and a visit to the only mosque in Oman that allows non-Muslims to enter.

During this cruise, a rich educational program presented by Harvard professor Charles Cogan and other experts will focus on the role of Islam in this part of the world; on the social, political, cultural, and economic development of these countries; and on the influence of Western politics and culture on them. Optional extensions to Dubai and Oman’s interior are also available.

*In deference to the sensitivities on both sides of the Gulf-naming issue, we prefer to use “Persian/Arabian Gulf” rather than align with either position.

TO BOOK A TRIP CALL 800-422-1636 OR VISIT HTTP://ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL
Charles Cogan PhD ’92 is a historian and an associate of the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. After graduating from Harvard College, he worked as a journalist and a military officer before entering the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He spent 37 years at the agency, serving much of the time overseas in India, Congo, Sudan, Morocco, Jordan, and France. From August 1979 to August 1984 he was chief of the Near East South Asia Division in the Directorate of Operations (the division stretches from Morocco to Bangladesh). From 1984 to 1989 he was CIA Chief in Paris. After leaving the CIA, he earned a doctorate in public administration at Harvard. He lectures and writes in English and French on topics such as politics and diplomacy.

Cogan’s articles and reviews have appeared in French Politics and Society, Défense Nationale, the Harvard French Review, and other publications. His book French Negotiating Behavior: Dealing with “La Grande Nation” was published by the United States Institute of Peace Press in December 2003; a French-language version, which appeared in September 2005, earned him the Prix Ernest Lémonon of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences of the Institut de France. He plans to lecture on initiatives by Qatar and the United Arab Emirates; Saudi-United States relations; and Oman’s role as a diplomatic intermediary in the Iranian nuclear negotiations and elsewhere.

**ADDITIONAL STUDY LEADERS**

Tarek Swelim is Associate Professor of Islamic Art & Architecture, and Urban Design & Architecture, on the Qatar Faculty of Islamic Studies at Hamad Bin Khalifa University in Doha. A native Egyptian, he is an expert on the art, architecture, and history of the Middle East.

Abbas Milani is the Hamid and Christina Moghadam Director of Iranian Studies at Stanford and a research fellow and co-director of the Iran Democracy Project at the Hoover Institution. His focus of study has been the culture, politics, and society of the Middle East through the prism of scholarship.

MAX WEISS is Associate Professor of History and Near Eastern Studies at Princeton University. His research and teaching interests span the cultural, intellectual, and social history of the modern Middle East. He is also a translator of modern and contemporary Arabic literature into English, and is currently writing an interpretive history of Syria in the 20th century.

Ambassador William Rugh, a U.S. Foreign Service Officer from 1964 to 1995, served as ambassador to Yemen (1981–84) and to the United Arab Emirates (1992–95), and as deputy chief of mission in Syria (1981–85). He has taught at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and is the author of books and articles on U.S. foreign policy and Middle Eastern issues, including Diplomacy and Defense Policy of the United Arab Emirates.

Dr. Andrea Rugh has been a technical advisor for USAID, Save the Children, and UNICEF working on development projects in the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. A research associate at Harvard Institute of International Development from 1987 to 1994, she holds a PhD in social anthropology and has written extensively on culture and society in the Middle East, including The Political Culture of Leadership in the United Arab Emirates.

For detailed itineraries visit http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel
TuesDay, November 29– WenesDay, November 30
Home / Dubai, UAE
Depart home on an overnight flight to Dubai. Embark Island Sky beginning at 4:00 p.m. Island Sky (D)

ThursDay, December 1
Dubai
After a welcome orientation and lecture, take a tour of modern Dubai, including the Burj Al Arab Hotel, which rises 1,053 feet above the ground. Ski Dubai, an indoor ski resort complete with ski slopes, toboggan and sled runs, giant snowballs, ice caves, and resident penguins; and Burj Khalifa, at 2,722 feet the tallest artificial structure in the world. From an observation deck on the 124th floor, marvel at the panoramic views over the surrounding city. This evening enjoy a welcome reception and dinner on board the ship. Island Sky (B,L,D)

FriDay, December 2
Doha, Qatar
Doha is the fast-growing capital of Qatar and an important Middle Eastern financial center. This morning travel over towering sand dunes in four-wheel-drive vehicles to Qatar’s magnificent Inland Sea, a shallow tidal lake with a narrow outlet to the sea and shores in both Qatar and Saudi Arabia. Continue to the Museum of Islamic Art, designed by I. M. Pei and located on the city’s Corniche. This architectural gem houses collections of metalwork, ceramics, jewelry, woodwork, textiles, and glass dating from the 1600s to the 1900s. Stroll through Souq Waqif, founded a century ago and noted for offering traditional garments, spices, and handicrafts. Island Sky (B,L,D)

SaturDay, December 3
Doha
Visit Education City, which covers more than five square miles and houses facilities for preschool through graduate-level research and education, as well as branches of six U.S. universities and several European educational institutions. In the afternoon visit the Doha Racing and Equestrian Club, where horse racing is serious business and horses, which have played an important role in the history of the Arab world for centuries, live like royalty. Island Sky (B,L,D)

SunDay, December 4
Manama, Bahrain / Saudi Arabia (Optional)
Dock in Manama and visit the Al-Fateh Mosque, Bahrain’s largest place of worship, and the Beit Al Quran Museum, whose collections of Islamic calligraphy and rare Quranic manuscripts are internationally celebrated. Travelers also have the option to cross the impressive King Fahd Causeway to visit the Saudi Aramco oil complex. Island Sky (B,L,D)

MonDay, December 5
Abu Dhabi, UAE
Abu Dhabi is the capital of the United Arab Emirates and home to the enormous Sheikh Zayed Mosque, a dazzling construction of white marble, gold leaf, semi-precious stones, crystals, and ceramic tiles. Also visit the Louvre Abu Dhabi museum on Saadiyat Island (depending on construction schedules) or ecologically sustainable Masdar City. Island Sky (B,L,D)

TuesDay, December 6
Musandam Peninsula, Oman
The Musandam Peninsula, a region of fjord-like landscapes and traditional small villages, is one of the Gulf States’ last wilderness areas. Board a traditional wooden dhow to access scenic inlets, and snorkel near a coral reef to view butterfly fish, groupers, and even dolphins. Island Sky (B,L,D)
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

**Muscat**

Explore the Bait Al Baranda Museum, whose dynamic, interactive exhibits on Muscat’s history and culture run the gamut from geology to folk art; and Muttrah Souk, the oldest market in Oman and an exotic, fragrant treasure chest filled with gold and silver, antiques, frankincense, clothing, toys, and spices. *Island Sky (B,L,D)*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

**Muscat**

The Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque is the only mosque in Oman that allows non-Muslims to enter. The main hall, which can accommodate more than 6,000 worshippers, is crowned by an enormous chandelier of Swarovski crystal and delicate gold-plated metalwork. Continue to the Omani Heritage Gallery, a nonprofit that supports Omani artisans working in traditional crafts. End the day at the Bait Al Zubair Museum. Built by Sheikh Al Zubair as a residence in 1914, it was converted into a museum in 1998 to display a comprehensive collection of Omani art and artifacts. This evening enjoy a farewell reception and dinner aboard ship. *Island Sky (B,L,R,D)*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

**Muscat / Home**

Disembark Island Sky and transfer to the airport for flights home (B)

PO HOTO CRED ITS: (FROM D R E A M S T I M E . C O M)

Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque © Luciano Mortula; Burj Al Arab Hotel © Subbotina; Gold market © Swisshippo; Oryx and dunes © Robert Gubiani; Detail, Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque © Zwowi; Traditional crafts © Tom Tenetz; Museum of Islamic Art © Sophiejames; Falcons © Aleksander Karpenko; Souq Waqif © Paul Cowan

DETAILS

Activity level: Moderate
Group size: 94 guests
Co-sponsors: Archaeological Institute of America, Princeton, Stanford, and National Trust for Historic Preservation

WHAT TO EXPECT

This is a moderately active trip for travelers who are flexible, comfortable traveling with a group, and can handle the vagaries of travel with good humor. Walking for up to one mile unassisted, standing for up to two hours in museums or at other sites, and climbing several flights of stairs, which may not have handrails, are the most strenuous activities. In addition, travelers must be able to board the ship via a metal gangplank with rope handrails and be comfortable with the rolling movement of the ship. Daytime temperatures during the trip will generally average in the mid-to-high 70s F, with infrequent rain. Participants must be physically fit, active, and in good health. Participants with medical issues and/or dietary restrictions must make them known to us well before departure, and impairments regarding mobility must be disclosed prior to booking. If you have any questions about the level of activity of this program or your ability to participate, please call HAA Travels at 800-422-1636.

OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE EXTENSION

**Dubai** NOVEMBER 28–30, 2016

Visit “Old Dubai” on this one-night pre-cruise extension. Fly overnight to Dubai, arriving the evening of November 29. On November 30, board an abra (water taxi) to cross Dubai Creek and explore the historic Bastakia district and gold souq. Learn about Dubai’s history at Al Fahidi Fort and Dubai Museum, and enjoy lunch and a special presentation on Islam at the Sheikh Mohamed Centre for Cultural Understanding. Embark the Island Sky in late afternoon to begin the main tour. *Radisson Blu Deira Creek (1B/1L). Rates: $795 per person, double occupancy; $995 per person, single occupancy.*

OPTIONAL POST-CRUISE EXTENSION

**Oman’s Interior** DECEMBER 9–12, 2016

Explore the Bedouin culture of the desert on this three-night post-cruise extension. Depart the Island Sky early on December 9 to visit the colorful Nizwa goat market. Explore forts, date plantations, orchards, and mountain villages from the luxurious Alila Jabal Akhdar Hotel in the awe-inspiring Al Hajar Mountains. Continue to the Desert Nights Camp and meet a Bedouin family at the Wahiba Sands, a vast, undulating red-and-white sea of sand dunes that rise to more than 650 feet high. *Alila Jabal Akhdar Hotel & Desert Nights Camp (3B/3L/3D). Rates: $2,995 per person, double occupancy; $3,990 per person, single occupancy.*
Originally built in 1992 and refurbished and redecorated in 2015, Island Sky accommodates all guests in 57 outside suites, each with sea views, a sitting room area, flat-screen TV, safe, mini-refrigerator, and an en suite, marble-appointed bathroom with robe, slippers, and hair dryer. Several suites have private balconies. Spacious and finely decorated public areas include a large lounge and elegant bar and a library. The dining room accommodates everyone at one seating, and house wine, beer, and soft drinks are included at lunch and dinner. Wi-Fi access is available throughout the vessel (at additional cost and dependent upon satellite reception). The ship amenities also include a hairdresser, onboard clinic and doctor, elevator serving all passenger decks, and two sun decks, one with a bar. Island Sky is served by 75 experienced officers and crew.

PROGRAM RATES, per person

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RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, & FINAL PAYMENT
To reserve a space on this program, a $1,000 deposit is required per person. Please either call us at 800-422-3636 or 617-496-0806 or fill out and mail or fax the registration form found in this brochure. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt until the maximum enrollment has been reached. Final payment deadline is August 1, 2016, 120 days prior to departure.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS
Notification of cancellation must be received in writing by HAA from the participant. Cancellations within 14 days of booking: full refund; cancellations received up to 120 days prior to departure are subject to 100% penalty of all deposits and payments, regardless of booking date.

ITINERARY CHANGES
The itinerary contained in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing. We reserve the right to change the program or accommodations as conditions warrant.

INSURANCE
We highly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. An application for insurance will be provided by HAA upon confirmation.

RESPONSIBILITY
Certain other provisions apply regarding limitations of liability and rights of HAA and the tour operator. The statement of responsibility is available at http://alumni.harvard.edu/travel/trips/gulf-states-2016. If you are not able to access the internet, please call HAA Travels at 800-422-3636 or 617-496-0806.

DISCLAIMER
Every reasonable effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information presented in this publication. Neither HAA nor the tour operator is responsible for errors in or damages resulting from use of the information contained herein. Information contained in this brochure is subject to change.

QUESTIONS
Please call HAA Travels at 800-422-3636 or 617-496-0806; email: haatravels@harvard.edu

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HUNTINGTON LAMBERT

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MAR 9–19, 2016
CARLOS DIAZ ROSILLO

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THOMAS KELLY

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APR 5–9, 2016

BERLIN: PAST & PRESENT
APR 6–16, 2016
JONATHAN EVERETT

EXPERIENCE THE MASTERS
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JEFFREY QUILTER

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APR 20–MAY 2, 2016
JORG DOMINGUEZ

VILLAGE LIFE IN DORDOGNE
MAY 22–30, 2016
PATRICE HIGONNET

MOROCCAN DISCOVERY
MAY 25–JUNE 6, 2016
SUE WEAVER SCHOFF

INSIDE THE RUSSIAN SPACE PROGRAM
MAY 24–JUNE 1, 2016
CATHLEEN LEWS

THE DESERT KINGDOMS OF PERU
MAY 25–JUNE 5, 2016
JEFFREY QUILTER

HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS: TIBET, NEPAL & BHUTAN
MAY 29–JUNE 12, 2016
MARC VAN BAALLEN

MONGOLIA: LAND OF THE BLUE SKY
MAY 29–JUNE 10, 2016
ANDREW BERRY

MOAB MULTI-SPORT ADVENTURE
JUN 12–17, 2016

CLASSICAL HIGHLIGHTS OF CHINA
JUNE 22–JULY 2, 2016

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT’S AMERICA
JUN 24–30, 2016

TANZANIA: EXPLORING THE CRADLE OF HUMANKIND
JUL 16–30, 2016

SANTA FE: ART & LANDSCAPE IN THE CITY OF ENCHANTMENT
JUL 27–31, 2016
JOHN STEWART

SILK ROAD ODYSSEY: THE FIVE ‘STANS
SEP 6–23, 2016

FIVE NIGHTS IN VIENNA
SEP 10–16, 2016
JOHN STEWART

REGISTRATION FORM

To register, fill out this form and return to HAA Travels with your deposit of $1,000 per person.

Please return this form by mail to:
HAA Travels, Harvard Alumni Association
124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th Floor, Cambridge, MA 02138
Or by fax: 617-496-4011

Please call with any questions:
800-422-1636 or 617-496-0806

□ I AM NOT ABLE TO MAKE THIS TRIP, BUT PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST

Program Name
START DATE
FIRST PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT
DATE OF BIRTH
EMAIL ADDRESS
STREET ADDRESS
CITY / STATE / ZIP OR POSTAL CODE
HOME TELEPHONE
WORK TELEPHONE
SECOND PERSON NAME ON PASSPORT
DATE OF BIRTH
EMAIL ADDRESS
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HOME TELEPHONE
WORK TELEPHONE
METHOD OF DEPOSIT
☐ CHECK (please enclose check)
☐ MASTERCARD
☐ VISA
☐ AMEX

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE
3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE

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BUY CONFIRMATION THAT I HAVE READ AND ACCEPT THE GENERAL INFORMATION FOR THIS TOUR, INCLUDING REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS AND THE RESPONSIBILITY CLAUSE AT HTTP://ALUMNI.HARVARD.EDU/TRAVEL.

SIGNATURE

SIGNATURE

ACCOMMODATIONS

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□ 2ND CHOICE

BED PREFERENCE
☐ Two beds
☐ One bed

ROOMMATE

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