

DEPARTURES

NOVEMBER • DECEMBER 2014

Magnificent Obsessions

GREAT, BIG, BEAUTIFUL
BALL GOWNS
BY HORACIO SILVA

THE NEW FLAVORS OF
LIMA, PERU
BY TOM PARKER BOWLES

THE BATTLE FOR THE
MOST EXCLUSIVE
RESORTS IN THE WORLD
BY MARK SEAL

INSIDE THE METROPOLITAN
MUSEUM OF ART
BY MERYL GORDON

WHY PHILANTHROPY
MATTERS NOW
BY MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG



BEYOND THE CHARTER

CRUISING TO ADVENTURE

Not so long ago, a traveler looking to set sail on a vessel other than a private charter like the one featured in “Sailing the Seas With Breeze!” (page 76) would have been hard-pressed to use the words “luxury cruise” and “adventure travel” in the same sentence. The first was grand, the latter serious, and the two mixed like oil and seawater. Being pampered on board meant sticking to tried (if not *tired*) and true itineraries in the Mediterranean and the Caribbean, while venturing into remote destinations, often best reached by boat, meant sacrificing creature comforts. Recently, however, smart outfitters took notice of this dichotomy and created high-end adventure voyages. The trips are for small groups of people to nearly impossible-to-reach places, all aboard ships—many new—that offer the more glamorous side of travel by sea. As the soon-to-debut itineraries make clear, the coming year promises some of the highest tides we’ve ever seen in the rising waters of luxe-adventure cruising. —Andrew Sessa

Academic Arrangements Abroad's Sea Cloud



THE OUTFITTER

ACADEMIC ARRANGEMENTS ABROAD

From \$8,995; 212-514-8921
arrangementsabroad.com



THE TRIP

The “Sailing the Mediterranean in the Age of Odysseus” itinerary ventures from **Turkey to Greece** (pictured) on a **seven-night trip** designed by Joan Aruz, a curator at New York City’s Metropolitan Museum of Art.

THE SHIP

Built in 1931—and having hosted FDR and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor—the **Sea Cloud** is a **32-cabin windjammer**. Marble fireplaces and antique furnishings nod to the golden days of small-ship cruising.

THE THRILL

The involvement of Aruz—who will be one of the trip’s onboard lecturers—grants private off-board access to ongoing **excavations at important sites of antiquity** and meetings with local archaeologists and scholars.

APT

From \$7,995; 800-290-8687
aptouring.com



The Australian outfit makes its Indian debut in January with three different itineraries, each of which includes a **seven-night journey through West Bengal** on the lower stretches of the sacred Ganges river.

The smallest ship chartered by APT, the new **56-guest RV Ganges Voyager** is decorated in fine British colonial Raj style, offering French balconies off every cabin, decoratively painted walls and gilded details.

Guests get well off the beaten path in areas almost untouched by tourism with activities such as taking a **rickshaw ride, visiting a temple**, participating in a local henna ceremony and playing in village cricket games.

AQUA EXPEDITIONS

From \$3,000; 866-603-3687
aquaexpeditions.com



Having introduced luxury river cruising in the Peruvian Amazon, Aqua just expanded into Asia with a new boat exploring remote areas of the Mekong river between **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and Siem Reap, Cambodia**.

The 40-passenger **Aqua Mekong’s** style extends from its **glass-fronted, balconied cabins** to its Southeast Asian cuisine by Michelin-starred chef David Thompson to its screening room, spa, gym and plunge pool.

Fancy some enlightenment? One day sees guests making the climb up **pagoda-dotted Sam Mountain**, near the Vietnam-Cambodia border, for one-on-one meetings with the Mahayana Buddhist monks who live atop it. **CONTINUED ►**

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