

With Professor of Classical  
Studies, **Bryan Burns**

# FROM SICILY'S ANCIENT MONUMENTS TO THE CANALS OF VENICE:

A Voyage Exploring Sicily, the Aeolian Islands, Southern  
Italy, Montenegro, Croatia & Venice

**Aboard the New Elegant Small Cruise Ship *DIANA***



**August 20 - September 1, 2025**



## WELLESLEY COLLEGE FACULTY LEADER

### PROFESSOR BRYAN BURNS

Classics Department

Dear Wellesley Alumna,

On a splendid and informative voyage from Sicily to Venice, you will explore iconic sites associated with the rich legacy of the Greco-Roman World and the Venetian Empire. In pursuit of the unusual, you'll also call at several sites seldom visited by larger ships on conventional Mediterranean cruises. **Professor Bryan Burns**, will again serve as Wellesley's faculty escort.

Setting forth from Sicily's capital of Palermo, you will sail across the Tyrrhenian Sea to Lipari, largest of the Aeolian Islands, mythological home of the Greek god of the winds. Further to the northeast lies Stromboli, an active volcano whose pyrotechnics still illuminate the night sky. The lofty resort town of Taormina, with its renowned Greco-Roman theater, awaits you at Giardini Naxos on Sicily's eastern shore. Leaving Sicily, you'll head for Puglia for visits to a remarkable series of small ports and towns that reveal Italy's abiding embrace of traditions that defy the passage of time. Across the Adriatic lies Dubrovnik, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities. After a full day's visit, you'll sail through the scenic Bay of Kotor for a visit to Montenegro's historic port. Croatia's legendary sites of Split, Hvar, and Rovinj reveal why the Dalmatian Coast is one of Europe's most fascinating cruise destinations. And then arrive in Venice—bella Venezia, the jewel of the Adriatic—for a day of inexhaustible wonder.

Your vessel for this extraordinary voyage is Swan Hellenic's *Diana*, a state-of-the-art, new-generation expedition cruise ship. Launched in April of 2023, *Diana* welcomes guests in beautifully appointed staterooms and balcony suites. Featuring several lounges, an outstanding restaurant, outdoor café, spa, and library, *Diana* is also equipped with the latest safety and environmentally-friendly technology.

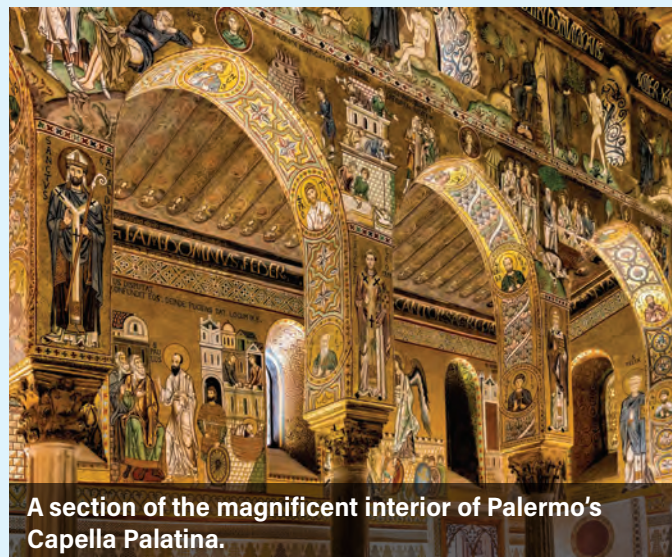
Please join fellow Wellesley alumnae and Professor Burns on this thoughtfully designed voyage of discovery and rediscovery of the ancient world.

Warm regards,

Kathryn Mackintosh '03  
Assistant Vice President for Alumnae  
Relations and Global Engagement



**Bryan Burns** is Professor of Classical Studies at Wellesley College, where he teaches courses on the representation of myths in Greek art, interaction between regions of the ancient Mediterranean, and the changing methods of archeological research. An active archaeologist, he also leads an excavation at ancient Eleon, where he and his team have uncovered houses and tombs of the Mycenaean period (1700-1100 BCE), and a religious shrine of the Classical period (500 BCE). Burns is particularly interested in how ancient Greek societies made connections across space and through time, an interest that will be especially valuable on our voyage to regions far removed from the center of Greek civilization in the Aegean.



A section of the magnificent interior of Palermo's Capella Palatina.

Cover photo: Grand Canal, Venice, Italy



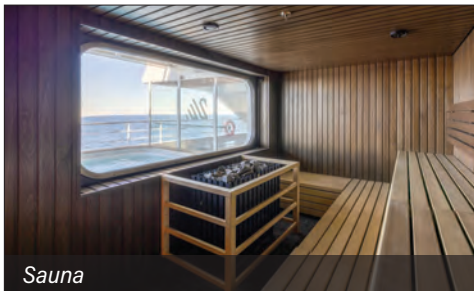
# THE NEW 192-GUEST EXPEDITION CRUISE SHIP *DIANA*



Oceanview Stateroom



Balcony Suite



Sauna



Observation Lounge



Outdoor Café/Bar with swimming pool

Built in Finland, and launched in April 2023, Swan Hellenic's *Diana* is a new generation expedition cruise ship. Although at 12,100 tons the ship is large enough to accommodate more than 350 passengers, *Diana* will accommodate a maximum of 192 guests in 96 spacious staterooms and balcony suites. The low guest density results in one of the most generous indoor and outdoor space-to-guest ratios among cruise ships.

Featuring the latest advances in technology and engineering, *Diana* is among the world's first environmentally responsible ships. Equipped with hybrid engines and a unique water filtration system, *Diana* leaves a minimal footprint. For cruising in Polar regions, the ship meets the stringent requirements of the new Polar Code with its high PC5 Category A ice strengthened hull and other advanced features. A computer-controlled Dynamic Positioning System allows the ship to maintain position without anchoring. Operated by a complement of 135 experienced European officers and international crew members, *Diana* will

carry a fleet of Zodiacs, versatile landing boats, and kayaks. Powerful stabilizers provide a smooth ride.

*Diana's* interior spaces exude sophisticated elegance, with most rooms opening to panoramic views of the sea. All staterooms and suites face outside and are equipped with private facilities, climate control, TV, Wi-Fi and USB connections and other amenities. Of the ship's 96 staterooms, 76 have balconies. Public areas include a spacious observation lounge equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for lectures and presentations; a club lounge; a restaurant that accommodates all guests at one seating; an outdoor café/bar that surrounds the heated swimming pool; a wellness area with gym, spa, and sauna with an adjoining outdoor jacuzzi; library; beauty salon; and an infirmary that is attended by a full-time doctor and nurse. The ship also features expansive open-deck areas. Two elevators connect all decks. Attentive service is provided on a 24-hour basis. The outstanding cuisine is complemented by fine wines at lunch and dinner.

# ITINERARY



The unique *trulli* houses of Puglia's Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2025

## DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Thursday, August 21

### PALERMO, Sicily

Arrive in Palermo and transfer to the elegant *Grand Hotel Wagner* (or similar), your home for the night. Gather with our Wellesley faculty leader and fellow travelers this evening for a welcome dinner. (D)

Friday, August 22

### PALERMO/EMBARKATION

Palermo is one of the Mediterranean's most enchanting cities. Founded by the Phoenicians in 827 BC and conquered by the Saracens in the 9th century, Palermo became one of Europe's greatest cities in the 12th century, under Norman rule. Enjoy a tour of Palermo, including a visit to Cappella Palatina, the royal chapel built by Roger II between 1132 and 1143. A wonder of Byzantine-Arab-Norman artistry, it features dazzling mosaics, an exquisitely carved wooden ceiling, and magnificent inlaid marble floors and walls. In the afternoon, transfer to the pier to embark *Diana*. (B,L,D)

Saturday, August 23

### LIPARI/STROMBOLI, Aeolian Islands

Lipari is the largest and most populous of the Aeolian Islands, and according to Greek mythology, the home of Aeolus, God of the winds. Visit the 16th-century Norman castle that sits atop the town's ancient acropolis and houses the Aeolian Archaeological Museum, displaying finds from all of the islands to illustrate the evolution of the archipelago as an active volcano system. In the evening, *Diana* will cruise by the island of Stromboli, affording views of its volcanic activity against the night sky. (B,L,D)

Sunday, August 24

### GIARDINI NAXOS/TAORMINA, Sicily

Giardini Naxos is your gateway to Taormina, one of Italy's most attractive hill towns. A maze of narrow streets, splashed with the vibrant colors of bougainvillea and oleander, the site has attracted the attention of many civilizations over the centuries. Tour the town, including the magnificent Greek theater, still in use for concerts today, as well as other sites. (B,L,D)

Monday, August 25

### GALLIPOLI/LECCE, Puglia

After a morning at sea and lunch aboard ship, arrive in Puglia's Gallipoli for an excursion to Lecce, one of many cities and towns in Puglia that rightfully boast of their dazzling Baroque architecture. Visit the Piazza del Duomo and Cathedral, the Basilica of Santa Croce, and the Amphitheater in Piazza Oronzo. Return to Gallipoli, reminiscent of Greek fishing towns in the Aegean, and enjoy some time at leisure to explore on your own. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, August 26

### MONOPOLI/ALBEROBELLO/LOCOROTONDO, Puglia

The fishing town of Monopoli, dominated by a castle built in 1552,



Dubrovnik, Croatia

is your gateway to the region's trulli villages, with their curious dwellings. Alberobello, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is perhaps the most famous of these towns, featuring over 1,500 of the remarkable white-washed structures with pyramidal, conical, or domed roofs built of corbelled local limestone without mortar, using a prehistoric building technique that has survived to this day. Also visit nearby Locorotondo, frequently cited as one of the most beautiful towns in Italy. Set on a hilltop, its stone-paved streets lead to a pedestrian historic center where the lovely public garden offers panoramic views of the surrounding Valle d'Itria. (B,L,D)

**Wednesday, August 27**  
**DUBROVNIK, Croatia**

Set on a rocky peninsula jutting into the Adriatic Sea, Dubrovnik is one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its ancient walls enclose narrow cobblestoned streets and alleyways, palaces, and mansions. The city contains within its ramparts the Rector's Palace; the Franciscan Monastery, which houses a 13th-century pharmacy (the oldest in Europe); and the baroque Cathedral, with works by Renaissance painters Titian and Andrea del Sarto. *Diana* is in port until late in the evening, providing ample opportunity to continue exploration of this fascinating city on your own, and perhaps to have a meal ashore as well. (B,L,D)

**Thursday, August 28**  
**KOTOR, Montenegro**

Sail the fjord-like Bay of Kotor to reach the Montenegrin port town of the same name, located at the head of the bay beneath towering mountains. One of the most striking and best-preserved towns along the Adriatic coast, Kotor is also designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A tour of this delightful town reveals its magnificent walls, palaces, and churches, including the Drago Palace, with its elegant Renaissance windows, the 12th-century St. Tryphon Cathedral, and the baroque Lipovac Palace. (B,L,D)

**Friday, August 29**  
**SPLIT/HVAR, Croatia**

This morning, *Diana* docks in Split, an ancient city built around the formidable Palace of Diocletian, constructed between 295 and 305. An extensive structure, much of it well-preserved, the palace contains

within its walls Split's medieval town, making it the only palace that has been continuously inhabited since Roman times. Over lunch, the ship sails to Hvar, a fertile island of stone houses surrounded by rosemary, lavender, and laurel. Your tour of the island's principal town includes the 17th-century Municipal Theater, the Franciscan Monastery, the city's Loggia, and St. Stephen's Square. (B,L,D)

**Saturday, August 30**  
**ROVINJ, ISTRIA, CROATIA**

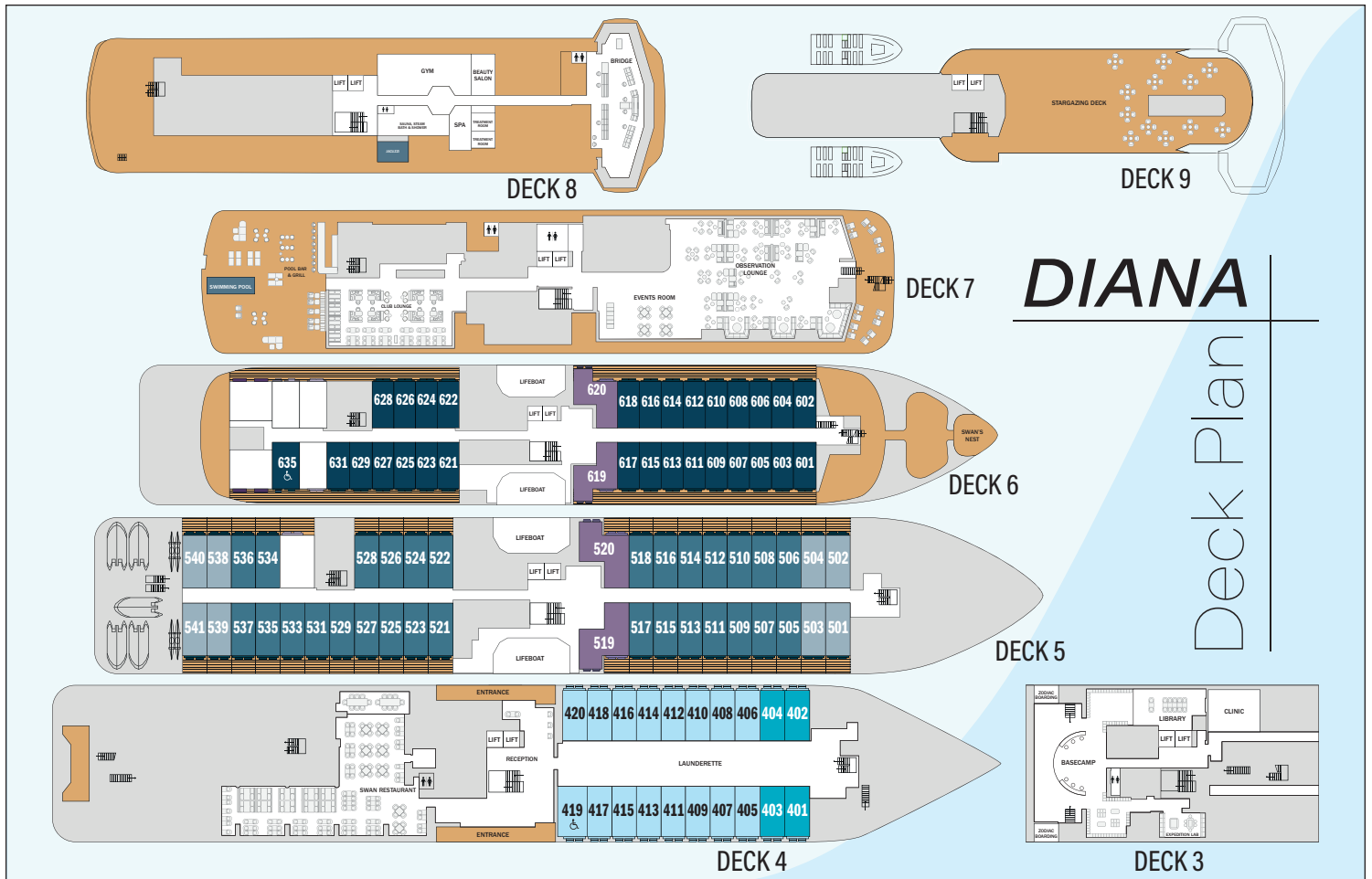
After a morning at sea, arrive in Rovinj, which was for centuries the center of Venetian control of the Istrian Peninsula. It continues to display Venetian influence in its architecture and urban design. Explore this attractive town, including the Baroque Basilica of Saint Euphemia, which house the saint's relics, brought here from Constantinople in the 9th century, and explore Rovinj's narrow streets and alleyways. As in Dubrovnik, *Diana* remains in port until late in the evening. (B,L,D)

**Sunday, August 31**  
**VENICE, Italy**

Be on deck as the *Diana* sails in the morning into Venice. In the morning, explore St. Mark's Basilica and the Doge's Palace. The interior of the Basilica is covered with 14,000 square feet of gold mosaics, and the altarpiece known as Pala d'Oro is universally considered the most refined expression of Byzantine sensibility in the world. The Doge's Palace, combining Gothic, Renaissance, and Mannerist elements, was the working center of Venetian government when Venice dominated the entire eastern Mediterranean. Following lunch aboard, visit the Scuola Grande di San Rocco, whose walls and ceilings are covered with murals by Tintoretto, and the Basilica Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, which, despite its rather plain exterior, contains a treasure trove of paintings and sculptures by artists including Titian, Canova, Sansovino, Donatello, and Bellini. Overnight aboard the ship, docked in Venice. (B,L,D)

**Monday, September 1**  
**VENICE/DISEMBARK**

After breakfast aboard, disembark and transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)



All accommodations aboard *Diana* are spacious staterooms and balcony suites. They are elegantly decorated, face outside, affording sea views, and include a queen-size bed that can be arranged as two twin beds, a spacious bathroom, mini-refrigerator, safe, ample closet space, climate control, telephone, TV, Wi-Fi, and USB connections, as well as other amenities.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	RATES PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
<b>E</b>	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 401-404.	\$ 9,990
<b>D</b>	Oceanview staterooms with two large oval windows. 206 sq. ft. Deck 4. Staterooms 405-420.	\$ 10,490
<b>C</b>	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 501-504, 538-541.	\$ 12,390
<b>B</b>	Suites with balcony & living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 5. Suites 505-518, 521-529, 531-537.	\$ 12,890
<b>A</b>	Suites with balcony and living room area. 300 sq. ft. Deck 6. Suites 601-618, 621-635.	\$ 13,490
<b>AA</b>	Suites with large balcony, separate bedroom & living room. 474 sq. ft. Decks 5 & 6. Suites 519, 520, 619 & 620.	\$ 16,990

**FOR SOLO TRAVELERS** | A limited number of cabins are available for single occupants in Category D at 120% of the per-person, double occupancy rate, and in Categories C, B, and A at 150% of the per-person, double occupancy rate.

**LOYALTY REWARD PROGRAM**

Travel on this cruise program and enjoy savings of **\$400 to \$900** per person on your next voyage with **WELLESLEY COLLEGE and THALASSA JOURNEYS** aboard a Swan Hellenic ship.

Savings are determined by the stateroom category booked and is applicable when you reserve your trip within 30 days of the completion date of

**FROM SICILY'S ANCIENT MONUMENTS TO THE CANALS OF VENICE**

This saving cannot be combined with other offers and is subject to change.

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The rates are all-inclusive. There are no hidden costs and no additional charges such as shore excursions or embarkation and port charges. Other than the international airfare and expenses of a personal nature, all else is included. Specifically, the rates include:

- One night at *Grand Hotel Wagner* (or similar) in Palermo.
- Welcome dinner in Palermo, and lunch on the day of embarkation.
- Cruise aboard the Swan Hellenic *Diana*, as described in the itinerary.
- Group airport/hotel/pier transfers overseas at designated times on the indicated arrival and return dates, and handling of luggage.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- Program of lectures and discussions with Wellesley Professor Bryan Burns.
- Complete program of activities ashore as described, led by professional local guides.
- All meals aboard the ship, with a selection of wines, beer and soft drinks during lunch and dinner.
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions aboard the ship hosted by the captain.
- Open bar with select alcoholic beverages.
- Coffee, including espresso and cappuccino, tea and soft drinks throughout the day and night.
- 24-hour room service.
- Gratuities to the ship's crew, guides, porters and drivers.
- Basic Wi-Fi aboard the ship.
- All local taxes and service charges, including port and embarkation taxes.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.



Street scene in Lipari, the main island of Italy's Aeolian Islands

## REGISTRATION

WELL 25D-0820

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1,500 per person) as a deposit to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **FROM SICILY'S ANCIENT MONUMENTS TO THE CANALS OF VENICE**, August 20 - September 1, 2025 with Wellesley College. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

**For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611**

or make a check payable and mail with this registration forms to:

**Thalassa Journeys:** 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

AmEx                       Discover                       Visa                       Master Card

No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. \_\_\_\_\_ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE SELECT STATEROOM CATEGORY IN ORDER OF PREFERENCE

1st choice  \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd choice  \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd choice  \_\_\_\_\_

Double Occupancy                       Single Occupancy (Inquire for rates)

### PREFERRED BED CONFIGURATION

Double  \_\_\_\_\_ Twin  \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST                      MIDDLE                      LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FIRST                      MIDDLE                      LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (HOME) \_\_\_\_\_

(CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.**

### GENERAL INFORMATION

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of \$1,500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 71-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 70 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

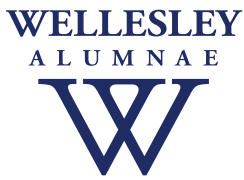
**INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

**ITINERARY:** The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

**RATES:** Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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Join **Professor Bryan Burns** on **FROM SICILY'S ANCIENT MONUMENTS TO THE CANALS OF VENICE | August 20 - September 1, 2025**



For Reservations and Information, Please Call **866-633-3611**  
or email: [reservations@thalassajourneys.com](mailto:reservations@thalassajourneys.com)



Ancient Greek  
theater in Taormina,  
Sicily, Italy

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