

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

From Oman to Dubai

THE ARABIAN GULF

November 13 to 23, 2024



EXCLUSIVE GUEST SPEAKER

JONNA MENDEZ, FORMER CIA CHIEF OF DISGUISE

FROM OMAN TO DUBAI

THE ARABIAN GULF

Embark on an unforgettable journey that celebrates the remarkable cultural facets—both ancient and modern—of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar. As you sail through the Gulf of Oman, the Strait of Hormuz and the Arabian Gulf, marvel at iconic landmarks of the Middle East, from breathtaking mosques and lively souqs to glittering skyscrapers and exquisite Islamic treasures.

Designed for those seeking for more elevated experience, this exclusive cruise allows you to explore at a relaxed pace while indulging in the upscale, intimate comforts of your small ship. Trim and sleek, it maneuvers easily into harbors inaccessible to larger vessels, transporting you to intriguing, lesser-known locales and hidden gems.

Savor a carefree, laid-back voyage where suitcases are unpacked only once and welcoming staff offer attentive service amid the casual elegance of your floating home at sea. Throughout your travels, look forward to stellar cuisine—a tantalizing combination of fresh, meticulously prepared meals on board and authentic regional specialties in your ports of call.

Join us for this exceptional adventure traversing the Arabian Gulf!

Front Cover: *Dubai, UAE*

This Page: *View from Jebel Al Harim, Oman*





Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi, UAE

VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

We invite you to join us on this wonderfully enriching, nine-night, deluxe journey that reveals the historic and contemporary riches of Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Qatar. Begin with two nights at the grand KEMPINSKI HOTEL MUSCAT in Muscat, Oman, and then cruise aboard your elegant small ship, LE BOUGAINVILLE, for seven nights in the Arabian Gulf.

From centuries-old forts to cutting-edge skyscrapers, the Middle East's incredible fusion of architectural styles is sure to be a memorable highlight. Among your included excursions is a specially arranged tour inside Abu Dhabi's resplendent Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, which reflects an international collaboration of more than 3,000 artisans. Other outings introduce you to traditional Arab markets, marvelous works of Islamic art and splendid views from atop lofty Jebel Al Harim. Plus, in selected ports, you can tailor your experience with a choice of engaging excursions.

VMFA is proud to be sharing this departure with travelers from Columbia University, Duke University, and Georgetown University and other fine organizations. During this expertly crafted program, you'll be in the capable care of a professional Travel Director. You'll also gain illuminating insights from expert guides that will deepen your appreciation for the sites you explore. Make plans to be a part of this unique adventure in the Arabian Gulf by reserving today!

Sincerely,

Adele "Hutch" Livingston
VMFA Coordinator of Member Travel

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088
or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve**



GUEST SPEAKER

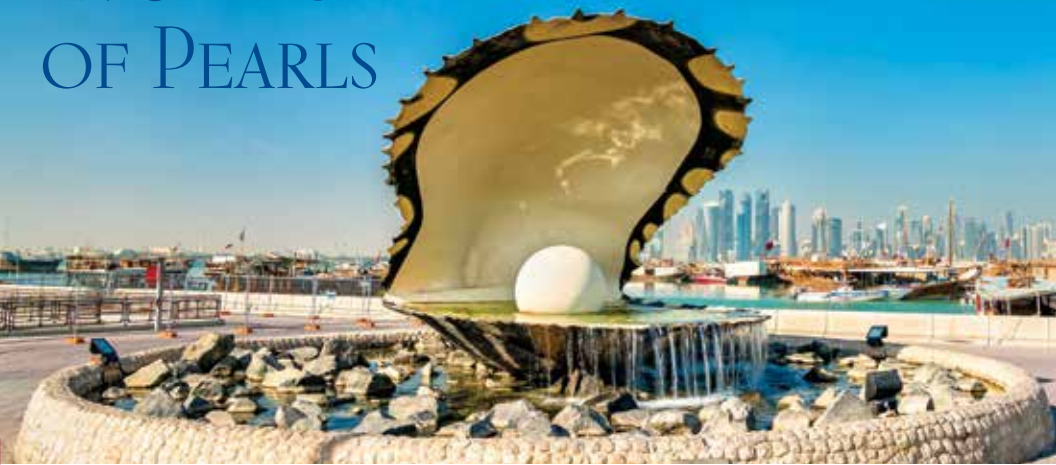
JONNA MENDEZ

A retired CIA intelligence officer, Jonna Hiestand Mendez served as a Chief of Disguise for the agency's Office of Technical Services. During her 27-year career, her responsibilities included preparing the CIA's most highly placed foreign assets to gather intelligence using espionage technology and techniques. With expertise in operational disguise and identity transformation, Jonna later focused her efforts in the most difficult and hostile areas, where she and her colleagues matched wits with the Soviet KGB, the East German Stasi and the Cuban DGI.

Over her career, Jonna has briefed presidents and prime ministers and has lectured extensively. In addition, she and her late husband Antonio Mendez co-wrote several books, including *Spy Dust*, *Argo* and *The Moscow Rules*.

A recent recipient of the Patriot Award from the Daughters of the American Revolution for "lifelong service to America in the defense of freedom," Jonna is also a founding Advisory Board member of the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C.

IN SEARCH OF PEARLS



Before oil was discovered in the Arabian Gulf, the region's economy centered on an elusive, rare beauty—the natural pearl. A livelihood for more than 7,000 years, pearl diving was integral to coastal communities and reached its peak during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The warm gulf waters, ideal for oyster beds, were shallow enough that divers could submerge for as long as they could hold their breath.

The typical season ran from June to October, and the crew included, among others, the boat owner, the captain, the divers, a musical leader who motivated and entertained, and a team to lower and haul up the divers by rope. Retrieving the oysters was demanding and dangerous work. Closing their noses with clips made from turtle shell or bone, the divers would sink down to the seabed by wearing stone weights attached to their legs by rope. Taking as many as 50 dives a day, they would collect oysters in a woven bag around their necks and then tug on a rope to be brought up to the surface.

After flourishing for thousands of years, the pearling industry declined due to the development of cultured pearls in Japan and the emergence of the more lucrative oil business. Pearl diving continues today in the Arabian Gulf but on a very small scale with divers outfitted in scuba gear and limits on the number of oysters.



INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary bottled water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



11-DAY/10-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1

Depart your home city for an overnight flight.

Muscat, Oman

Day 2

Arrive and transfer to the deluxe KEMPINSKI HOTEL MUSCAT. Meet for a Welcome Reception, then make your own dinner plans. (R)

Muscat

Day 3

Travel inland this morning for a guided tour of the imposing Nakhal Fort. Built atop craggy rocks, it offers impressive views of the Hajar Mountains and the surrounding palm tree orchards. Pause for lunch nearby, then return to Muscat for a choice of afternoon excursions. The first takes you inside the magnificent Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, the largest in Oman. The second features a pleasant, scenic stroll

on the Corniche promenade beside the Gulf of Oman. (B, L)

Muscat/Embark ship

Day 4

On a guided tour, revel in the colorful, fragrant and bustling scene within Muscat's bazaar, Mutrah Souq, and perhaps purchase some Omani frankincense. See the striking Al Alam Palace, the Sultan of Oman's official residence, then savor lunch at a restaurant. Next, delve into Oman's history and culture at the fascinating Bait Al Zubair Museum before embarking LE BOUGAINVILLE. Tonight, enjoy the Captain's Welcome Reception and a delectable dinner. (B,L,R,D)

Fujairah, United Arab Emirates

Day 5

Appreciate the coastal scenery on your drive to picturesque

Dibba Al-Fujairah, a favorite vacation getaway in the region. During free time, soak up its relaxed charm and explore the souq. Return to the ship for lunch. Then, select from three afternoon outings: a guided visit to the 15th-century Al Bidya Mosque, the oldest in the UAE; a tour of the Fujairah Museum, which houses archaeological artifacts and exhibits on Emirati history; or relaxation time at lovely Al Aqah Beach. (B,L,D)

Khasab, Oman

Day 6

Set off on an exciting, guided drive up Jebel Al Harim, the Musandam Peninsula's highest mountain. Along your route, admire spectacular, expansive vistas of the rugged mountains and sparkling water, and study fossilized rocks and ancient petroglyphs. Following lunch on the ship, choose from two

Museum artifacts, Doha, Qatar



Al Alam Palace, Muscat, Oman





afternoon excursions. Visit the 17th-century Khasab Fort, built by the Portuguese and now filled with Omani cultural exhibits, or sail through the Musandam's tranquil, fjord-like splendor on a traditional wooden *dhow*. (B,L,D)

Cruising the Arabian Gulf

Day 7

While at sea, attend lectures, unwind at the pool or relish quiet time in your luxurious cabin or a cozy lounge. (B,L,D)

Manama, Bahrain

Day 8

This morning, learn about Bahrain's former pearl trade on the Pearling Path and tour its national museum. Afterward, visit the rig where oil was first discovered in Bahrain in 1932. Enjoy lunch on the ship, followed by a guided visit to the UNESCO-listed Bahrain

Fort, the site of the capital of the Dilmun civilization, a Bronze Age trading power. In place of this excursion, you can opt to book a guided drive through Bahrain's desert in a 4x4 vehicle at an additional cost. (B,L,D)

Doha, Qatar

Day 9

Get a delightful glimpse of Qatari life as you meander in the winding aisles of Doha's Souq Waqif, brimming with aromatic spices, handicrafts, jewelry and textiles. Continue to the Museum of Islamic Art inside a stunning building by famed architect I.M. Pei, and marvel at extraordinary masterpieces of Islamic craftsmanship. Finish with a scenic waterfront drive to admire Doha's modern wonders like West Bay's futuristic towers and Pearl-Qatar, a man-made island development. (B,L,D)

Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

Day 10

On a guided tour, behold the gleaming Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, the UAE's largest mosque, which welcomes people of all faiths. Be awed by its decorative details, from the dazzling marble courtyard and serene reflective pools to the world's largest hand-knotted carpet. After lunch on the ship, learn about Abu Dhabi's roots at Heritage Village, which brings to life Bedouin traditions. This evening, gather for the Captain's Farewell Reception and your final dinner. (B,L,R,D)

Dubai/Disembark/Return to Home City

Day 11

After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the Dubai airport for your return flight home. (B)

Petroglyphs, Jebel Al Harim



Dhows, Musandam Peninsula





LE BOUGAINVILLE Cruise aboard this exclusively chartered, deluxe small ship, where distinctive French sophistication meets innovative nautical design. Each of the 92 staterooms and suites (up to 484 square feet) features an ocean view, and most have a private balcony. All accommodations feature individual climate control, two twin beds or one queen bed, a private bathroom with shower, and luxury hotel-style amenities. Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages and internet access are available throughout the cruise. All meals aboard the ship are included.



2024 DEPARTURE DATE: November 13 to 23 (Tour Begins: November 14)

Category	LAND/CRUISE RATES <i>per person, based on double occupancy, excluding taxes</i>	Early Booking Rate through June 21, 2024	<i>Rates after June 21, 2024</i>
8	Deluxe stateroom with a picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. <i>Deck 3, midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$7,195	\$7,995
7	Prestige stateroom with sliding glass door, private balcony. <i>Deck 4, midship.</i>	\$7,915	\$8,795
6	Prestige stateroom with sliding glass door, private balcony. <i>Deck 5, midship and aft.</i>	\$8,365	\$9,295
5	Prestige stateroom with sliding glass door, private balcony. <i>Deck 6, midship and aft.</i>	\$9,265	\$10,295
4	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, private balcony. <i>Deck 3, midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$9,715	\$10,795
3	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, private balcony. <i>Deck 4, midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$10,435	\$11,595
2	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, private balcony. <i>Deck 5, midship.</i>	\$11,335	\$12,595
1	Deluxe suite with sliding glass door, private balcony. <i>Deck 6, midship.</i>	\$11,785	\$13,095
Prestige Suite II	Two-room Suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony, two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. <i>Deck 5, midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$12,235	\$13,595
Prestige Suite I	Two-room Suite, expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony, two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. <i>Deck 6, midship.</i> (limited availability)	\$12,685	\$14,095
Privilege Suite	Large Suite with expansive sliding glass door, larger private balcony, sitting area with sofa. <i>Decks 5 and 6, aft.</i> (limited availability)	\$13,405	\$14,895
Grand Deluxe Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. <i>Deck 6, aft.</i> (limited availability)	\$14,755	\$16,395
Owner's Suite	Extra-large, one-bedroom Suite and separate sitting room with sofa, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath. <i>Deck 5, aft.</i> (limited availability)	\$19,255	\$21,395

Single supplements apply to categories 6, 7, & 8 at 160% of the per person double price and subject to availability. All other categories are at 200%.

BONUS SAVINGS! Pay in full at time of booking for additional savings. Bookings made inside 121 days prior to departure are not eligible for this discount. Please call for details.

Port taxes are an additional \$580 per person. Customers will be notified of any fuel surcharge fee prior to final payment. This fee will then be charged and collected by the vessel operating company while on board. Deck plans available upon request.

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions, and surcharges at any time.

Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/



POST-PROGRAM OPTION

Dubai

November 23 to 26, 2024 (Tour Ends: November 26)

Bask in the glamour and rich heritage of dynamic Dubai on this wonderful, post-cruise journey featuring three nights at the deluxe BAB AL SHAMS DESERT RESORT, your stylish oasis in the Arabian Desert. Enjoy guided tours of the atmospheric Al Bastakiya Quarter, the Dubai Museum and the captivating Gold and Spice Souqs. Choose from two excursions to iconic cultural landmarks: Jumeriah Mosque or the Sheikh Saeed Al Maktoum House. While in the desert, try your hand at falconry, a UAE tradition, and take an exhilarating drive across the pristine sand dunes in a 4x4 vehicle! You can also book an optional hot-air balloon ride over the desert at an additional cost.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: **\$1,885**

Price per person, based on single occupancy: **\$2,450**

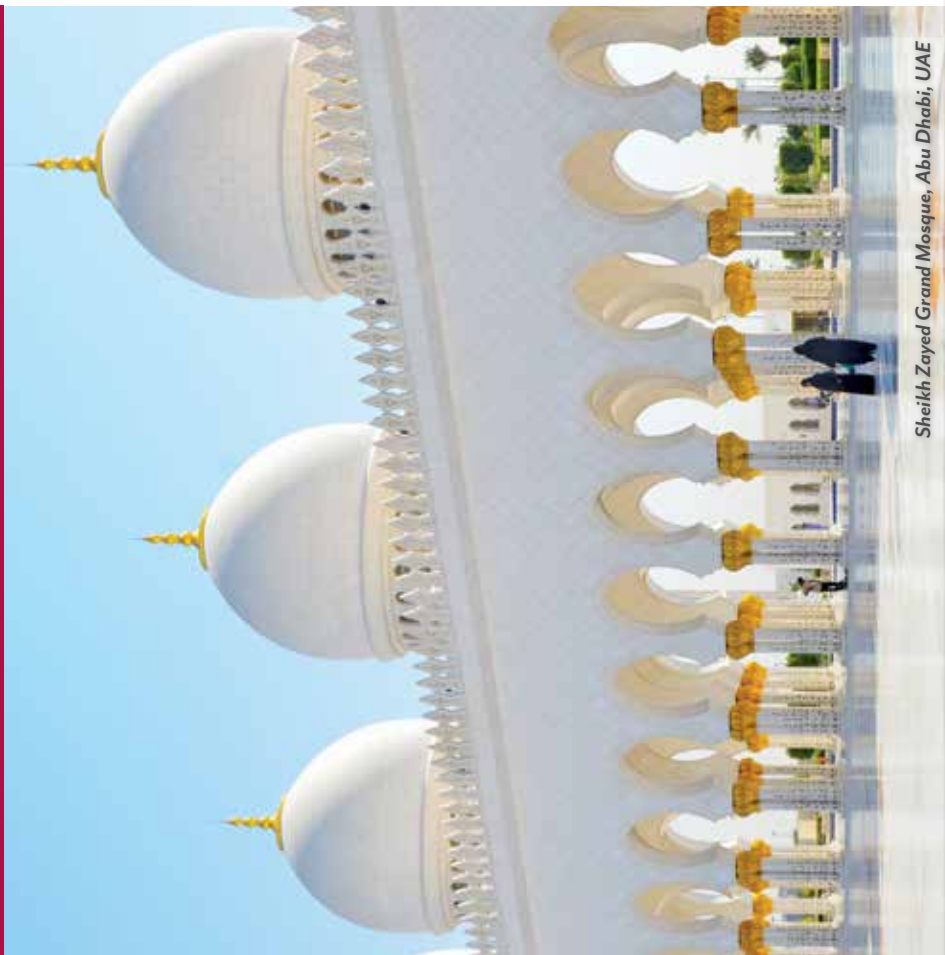
Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.



SPECIAL SAVINGS! Early Booking up to \$4,280 per couple, plus receive Bonus Savings if you pay in full at the time of booking! Call for details.

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Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Abu Dhabi, UAE