

Travelrite International invites you to join us on board
MS Oosterdam for the 2023 fully escorted

Voyage to the Holy Lands and Ancient Kingdoms

FULLY ESCORTED CRUISE

With **Bernard Salt**



8 - 24 June, 2023

Venice, Italy; Athens, Olympia,
Argostoli and Rhodes, Greece;
Haifa, Israel and Limassol Cyprus





This will be a wonderful experience cruising in luxury on the MS Oosterdam. The cruise is fully escorted and includes sightseeing tours in most of the ports of call and special events for tour members. We hope that you can join us.

Bernard Salt

Bernard Salt AM is widely regarded by business and the broader community. He was one of Australia's leading social commentators. He built his corporate career working at the highest level as a partner in a global advisory firm. He writes two weekly columns for *The Australian* newspaper that officially discuss consumer trends but often spill into such topics as modern manners, generations and social mores. His smashed avocado column went global instantly and continues to shape popular culture. Bernard is one of the most in-demand speakers on the corporate speaking circuit. He is known for identifying such social trends as the 'seachange shift', the 'bank of mum & dad', the 'man drought' and that much-favoured hipster-haunt, the 'goat's cheese curtain'. Bernard has popularised social commentary through his books, columns and media appearances for 25 years. His body of work is encapsulated in six popular best-selling books, a business TV series on Sky Business and a Podcast series. Bernard will be leading the Holy Lands and Ancient Kingdoms Cruise, delivering a series of presentations on the outlook for Australian culture and society in the 2020s and beyond. Bernard looks forward to meeting and chatting with you over dinner.



Voyage to the Holy Lands and Ancient Kingdoms Cruise

Itinerary

Day 1 Thursday 8 June, 2023

Departure

Today we depart on our flights to Venice, Italy.

Day 2 Friday 9 June, 2023

Venice, Italy

Early afternoon we arrive in Venice and are transferred to our hotel. Built on 117 islands, Venice was once the head of the Mediterranean empire. We will have two nights here before the cruise to enjoy the canals, renaissance palazzos and of course, the fabulous food and wine from the Veneto region. The rest of the day will be free for individual exploration.

Day 3 Saturday 10 June, 2023

Venice, Italy

Today we will have a sightseeing tour of this beautiful city. We visit St Mark's Square, see the Grand Canal, St Mark's Cathedral, the Doge's Palace and the Bridge of Sighs. We will wind our way through the narrow alleyways to the market square of the Rialto. There will be free time in the afternoon to explore the meandering laneways and bridges of this magical city. Perhaps try an espresso or gelato and take in the sights and sounds of Venice.

Day 4 Sunday 11 June, 2023

Embarkation

This morning we are transferred to the nearby city of Trieste where we embark the MS Oosterdam.

Day 5 Monday 12 June, 2023

Day at Sea

A day at sea to explore the magnificent facilities of the ship. In the afternoon Bernard will deliver an engaging insight.

Day 6 Tuesday 13 June, 2023

Katakolon/Olympia, Greece

This morning we visit Olympia, the site of the ancient Olympic Games. The Ancient Greeks flocked here every four years for more than a millennium to celebrate the sacred games dedicated to Zeus. We visit the ruins of the Sanctuary, with its athletic quadrangles, stadium, temples and treasuries; then visit the modern Archaeological Museum, a treasure house of Archaic, Classical and Roman sculptures, including the famous Niki Winged Goddess of Victory.



Day 7 Wednesday 14 June, 2023

Athens, Greece

Today we call into the ancient city of Athens, capital of Greece. Athens is the home of the Acropolis and the ultimate in ancient Greek architectural perfection, the Parthenon, built to honour the goddess Athena. Our sightseeing tour today delves into the glorious history of Athens. We see such famous sights as the first modern Olympic stadium, the Acropolis, and Parthenon. We will have time in the Plaka district, a maze of winding streets with shops, café's and restaurants and one of the wonders of the ancient world.



Day 8 Thursday 15 June, 2023

Day at sea

A day at sea to explore the magnificent facilities of the ship. In the afternoon Bernard will deliver an engaging talk for the tour group.

Day 9 Friday 16 June, 2023

Jerusalem, Israel

Today we will enjoy one of the most inspiring cities in the world, renowned for its historical significance, spiritual symbolism and visual splendour – Jerusalem. We travel by coach first to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth and the biblical land of Lot and his family, and also known for its salty water.



MS Oosterdam

Grandly proportioned and recently enhanced, Oosterdam offers an on-board experience defined by spacious comfort and the latest amenities. Guests aboard Oosterdam will not only enjoy elegant dining rooms, a two million dollars art and antique collection, wide teak decks and spacious staterooms many with private verandahs, but also new and exciting venues, stateroom options along with a complete update to all stateroom furnishings. Oosterdam provides the ultimate on-board experience with a graceful combination of classic cruise ship features and state-of-the-art amenities. A voyage on Oosterdam is an experience to be savoured and remembered!



Clothing on board MS Veendam

Daytime dress is casual. Ensure that you wear shoes and a cover-up over a bathing suit when walking through the interior of the ship. Most evenings, Smart Casual is appropriate and can be defined as slacks and sports shirts or sweater for men and a skirt or trousers and sweater or blouse for women. Shorts, flip-flops, swimwear, distressed jeans and men's tank tops are best left to daytime and the poolside. For Gala Nights jacket and tie are appropriate for gentlemen, while ladies wear a cocktail dress or gown.

When ashore When you tour religious sites in Israel, be sure to wear clothing covering your shoulders and knees to respect the religious practices of the region.

Travelling on your own?

About a third of people on the cruise ships are singles. We will endeavour to match people in twin-share cabins when available to save you the single supplement. The Travelrite team will look after you. Travelling with a group offers security and camaraderie.

We continue to Jerusalem and for a view at Mount of Olives. We will continue to Kidron Valley to reach Zion Gate. Our tour of Jerusalem will include a visit to the last Supper Church, to the Western Wall and walk along the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrow) This walk follows the route of Jesus Christ after his condemnation as he bears his cross towards execution at Calvary. We visit the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which is the highlight of a visit to Jerusalem. You will also walk through the Armenian Quarter, the Jewish Quarter and Cardo the main Roman-Byzantine period street in the city.

Day 10 Saturday 17 June, 2023

Haifa, Israel

This morning we will arrive in Haifa. We will travel by coach to Nazareth where we will take a walking tour around the old city. The old city and surrounds has some impressive architecture and of course significant historical Christian sites such as the Church of the Annunciation. The tour will include some time to explore the traditional souk (the market). We continue on to the Sea of Galilee and the town of Tiberius. We will then head back to Haifa and visit the beautiful Hanging Gardens of Haifa, a Bahá'í Holy Place and UNESCO World Heritage Site. These spectacular terraced gardens surround the Shrine of Bab and provide spectacular views of Haifa and the Mediterranean Sea.



Day 11 Sunday 18 June, 2023

Limassol, Cyprus

The ancient port of Limassol is the second largest city in Cyprus. During its long history it has come under the rule of the Anglo-Normans, the Venetians, Ottoman Empire and the British. We visit the Kolossi Castle where Richard the Lionheart was married during the Crusades. We then see the fascinating Archaeological Museum and the beautifully restored house which is the Folk Museum.

Day 12 Monday 19 June, 2023

Rhodes, Greece

This morning we arrive at Rhodes, the largest island of the Dodecanese archipelago and the capital of this group of Greek Islands. It is world known for the famous Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, now long gone. On our tour see ancient temples and visit the very well-preserved Grand Masters residence, built by the Knights of Saint John. We will tour the well preserved old town and have time to shop before we return to the ship.

Day 13 Tuesday 20 June, 2023

Chania, Crete

Today we arrive in Chania, Crete. On our sightseeing tour today we will travel inland through the Old Town to visit and explore the Minoan Palace of Knossos, legendary home of the Minotaur. We will walk through the ruins and excavations of the island's vast ancient palace and learn about the Greek mythological tales that are linked to it. We then return to the ship.

Day 14 Wednesday 21 June, 2023

Argostoli, Greece

This morning we drive up the slopes of Mount Ainos to the Cave of Drogarati. We will pass the famous bridge of Drapanos with its obelisk and see the traditional village of Fragata with its vineyards. The Cave of Drogarati is one of the most impressive on the island, lying 180 feet below the surface and dating more than 2 million years old. We will descend a steep passage into the cave which leads to a natural balcony overlooking a platform which is often used as a venue for concerts. We then visit the Old Monastery of Saint Gerasimos where the mummified body of the Saint Protector of the island is kept. We travel to the beautiful underground cave lake of Melissani. We board small wooden boats for the short trip around the lake and the surrounding caves. We then continue to the coastal summer resort of Sami on the northeastern shores of the island. Here, you have some free time to relax in one of the traditional coffee shops and enjoy a walk around the old port for some souvenir shopping.

Day 15 Thursday 22 June, 2023

Day At sea

A final day at sea to enjoy the facilities of the ship.

Day 16 Friday 23 June, 2023

Venice/Departure

We bid farewell to the MS Oosterdam. This morning we are transferred to the airport for our flights back to Australia.

Day 17 Saturday 24 June, 2023

Arrival Australia

We arrive in Australia and tour activities conclude.

Relax and enjoy!

Voyage to the Holy Lands and Ancient Kingdoms

8 to 24 June, 2023



Included in the Voyage to the Holy Land Cruise:

- 14 nights travel on Holland America MS Oosterdam in the selected cabin category
- All meals, entertainment and service charges on MS Oosterdam
- Tour management by Travelrite International Pty Ltd
- Return economy-class air travel from Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane to Venice
- Sightseeing tours as listed in the itinerary
- Two nights in centrally located four star accommodation in Venice
- Port and handling charges on Ms Oosterdam
- Cruise taxes and gratuities on Ms Oosterdam
- Air taxes and surcharges

Not included in the price:

- Passport and visa fees
- Travel insurance
- Meals unless specified in the itinerary
- Sightseeing and general expenses unless specified in the itinerary
- Additional travel arrangements not detailed in the itinerary will be quoted for separately

Extending: You can stay on in the Europe at minimal additional airfare. Business Class upgrades are available. Please contact Travelrite on 1800 630 343 for more information.



General information and booking conditions

International touring can involve a considerable amount of walking and stair climbing in the places visited and it is important that all tour participants have a level of physical fitness that allows them to take part in this activity without the need of assistance from others.

TOUR OPERATOR: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (ABN 64 005 817 078) is the tour organiser. MS Oosterdam is operated by Holland America Line and the fly cruise arrangements are subject to the terms and conditions and general information detailed on the Holland America website www.hollandamerica.com. All passengers must complete and sign a Travelrite International booking form and complete the cruise personaliser on the Holland America website.

DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT: A deposit of \$900 per passenger should be sent with a completed Travelrite International booking form that lists your requested cabin category. As soon as the booking is confirmed (usually within 24 hours) a cruise confirmation advice will be posted to the client. Final payments are due to be paid to Travelrite International 90 days prior to the commencement of the fly/cruise. A 1.5% administration fee will be added to all payments made by credit card. If fares and air taxes change due to government and airport regulations and currency fluctuations Travelrite International reserves the right to charge additional amounts.

CANCELLATION CHARGES: Number of days before sailing.

Days prior to Departure	Cancellation Fee
Over 90 days	\$900
90 - 61 days	25% of full fare
60 - 46 days	75% of full fare
45 days or less	100% of full fare
Non-appearance/no written notice:	100% of full fare.

REFUNDS: The tour is based on arrangements that do not allow for any refunds in respect to sightseeing, accommodation, meals, airfare or other services not utilised after the tour has commenced.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS: All passengers will require a valid passport. If you are not an Australian passport holder check with Travelrite International for visa requirements.

TRAVEL INSURANCE: Adequate travel insurance is highly recommended to cover cruise members for the consequences of unforeseen events during the cruise and for cancellation fees which could result from events such as illness, accident, death etc.

BAGGAGE: Passengers qualify for a 30kg free baggage allowance on flights to join or return from the cruise.

MINIMUM TOUR NUMBERS: The fly/cruise arrangements have been made on the basis of a minimum number of passengers travelling. In the event that less than the required number of passengers have confirmed their booking 90 days from the date of departure, Travelrite International reserve the right to cancel the tour, giving a full refund of monies paid, or offer arrangements to proceed with the tour at a modified fare.

RESPONSIBILITY: Travelrite International Pty Ltd is the tour organiser. Travelrite International Pty Ltd, its agents, officers, affiliates, and/or suppliers of services pursuant to or in connection with this fly/cruise shall act only as agents in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, including transportation by ship, restaurants, or any other service and do not assume any liability whatsoever for any injury, damage, death, loss, accident or delay to person or property due to an act of negligence or a default of any hotel, carrier restaurant company or person rendering any services included in fly/cruises, acts of terrorism, acts of God, acts of Government or any other authorities. Further, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labour disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or other causes beyond their control. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omission, delays, re-routing or acts of any government authority. Baggage is at owners risk throughout the fly/cruise. The passage contract between the carriers concerned when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of this fly/cruise and/or the passengers. The right is reserved to withdraw any fly/cruise and/or make such changes in the fly/cruise as may be found desirable or necessary for the convenience of the parties and the proper carrying out of the fly/cruise. This contract shall be construed in accordance of the laws of the State of Victoria, Australia and any legal action must be undertaken in the State of Victoria. Attention is also directed to the terms and conditions of the fly/cruise passage contract with Holland America Line, detailed on the back of the reservation form. If you do not have a copy of this form please contact us and we will send one to you.

DELAYS AND UNFORSEEN EVENTS: You engage Travelrite International to book this tour on your behalf and you acknowledge that Travelrite International acts as your agent for the purpose of making contracts between you and the various providers of accommodation, transportation and other services that comprise the tour. Travelrite International may without reference to you provide or make available

to you, or may as your agent engage any third party to provide or make available to you, any good or service which Travelrite International reasonably believes is necessary for your benefit to maintain the tour itinerary, repatriate you or otherwise accommodate, transport or sustain you in circumstances in which the tour itinerary fails wholly or partly for any reason. You appoint Travelrite International your attorney for this purpose. You agree to pay Travelrite International any cost thereof and you indemnify Travelrite International in respect of any cost it incurs in this regard. Travelrite advises you to obtain travel insurance generally including in respect of the risk that any such good or service may become required.

TRAVEL VACCINATION POLICY: The wellbeing of our guests is our top priority. All guests booked to travel internationally with Travelrite International are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, which may include a booster shot to keep it current and valid.

HOW TO BOOK: Bookings can be made by completing a booking form and sending it with a deposit of \$900 per person to:

Travelrite International Pty Ltd
423 Whitehorse Road
Balwyn, Victoria 3103

Further information can be obtained by telephoning

Toll Free: 1800 630 343
Telephone: (03) 8803 6868
Email: balwyn@travelrite.com.au
www.travelrite.com.au

ABOUT TRAVELRITE INTERNATIONAL: Travelrite International Pty Ltd (A.B.N.64 005 817 078) is a well-established travel company which has been operating in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne for more than 40 years. It is fully ATAS accredited: A10538 and IATA accredited. As such, it directly represents the major airlines of the world and all major domestic and international tour and transport operators. Travelrite International has been operating special interest tours for 30 years, and now runs over 90 tours a year. Travelrite International Pty Ltd is a full member of the Australian Federation of Travel Agents – AFTA.