



THALASSA
JOURNEYS

Beyond the ordinary

Join **PROFESSOR BART D. EHRMAN** on

JEWELS OF THE LEEWARD & WINDWARD ISLANDS

Aboard the Superb 136-Guest **SEA CLOUD SPIRIT**

January 25 – February 1, 2027



St. Lucia's iconic Pitons

Dear Friends,

Have you ever wanted to escape winter in the U.S. for a trip to the Caribbean? Here's an opportunity. I will be sailing to the Leeward and Windward Islands on the cruise ship SEA CLOUD SPIRIT, January 25-February 1, 2027. This is an ideal time for the trip – holidays are over and the Caribbean is warm and inviting. It will be a great time to relax, explore, see amazing sites, and – why not? – learn more about early Christianity!

Those who join me will be spending their days enjoying the warmth and taking in the scenery and culture. In addition, I'll be giving lectures on an important and intriguing topic: "The Greatest Manuscript Discoveries of Modern Times," in which I talk about archaeological finds that have changed our understanding of the New Testament, the "other" Gospels (not in the Bible), and the history of early Christianity. These lectures will be accessible for anyone who has no background in such things and intriguing for those who do.

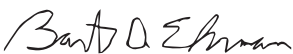
As to the trip! It begins in St. Maarten and unfolds across a string of idyllic islands, each with its own character and charm. On St. Lucia, we will marvel at the dramatic Pitons rising from the sea and wander through lush botanical gardens and cascading waterfalls shaped by the island's volcanic past. In Nevis, we'll stroll Charlestown's charming Georgian streets to take in colonial heritage and history. In Anguilla, we can revel in the clarity of the water just offshore, providing exceptional conditions to swim and snorkel (time permitting!) and to discover the vivid underwater world of this protected marine paradise, with its vibrant coral reefs and abundant marine life.

Equally enchanting will be the ship itself, SEA CLOUD SPIRIT, an unusually elegant sailing vessel with graceful lines, teak decks, and billowing sails – a classic windjammer that pairs the romance of traditional seafaring with modern comforts. Pleasant, consistent trade winds will make this an especially rewarding time to sail the Lesser Antilles, as the ship glides smoothly between islands under canvas. Days under sail are a delight – offering opportunities to watch the crew at work in the rigging, enjoying the camaraderie of fellow travelers, or simply savoring the serenity of the sea.

This is a trip that will combine scenic beauty, relaxing comfort, and a chance to learn and engage in interesting and thoughtful conversations with new friends who have interesting stories and insights. I too will be spending my leisure time with fellow travelers, answering queries, discussing shared interests, and thinking deep thoughts.

This promises to be an unusually engaging and memorable journey. I hope you can join me for an escape to lands of unforgettable natural wonders and times of relaxation, discovery, and connection.

Sincerely,



Prof. Bart D. Ehrman
James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

HOST AND LECTURER

PROFESSOR BART D. EHRLMAN



Bart D. Ehrman is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he has taught since 1988. Professor Ehrman has published extensively in the fields of New Testament and Early Christianity, having written or edited thirty-three books, including six New

York Times Bestsellers: *Misquoting Jesus*; *God's Problem*; *Jesus Interrupted*; *How Jesus Became God*; and *The Triumph of Christianity*.

His Introduction to the New Testament has been the most widely used textbook in colleges and universities for over twenty years and he has recorded ten lecture courses for The Great Courses (The Teaching Company). More than two million copies of his books and courses have been sold, and his books have been translated into twenty-seven languages.

Ehrman's work has been featured in the *New Yorker*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and other print media. He has appeared on NBC's Dateline, CNN, The History Channel, National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, the BBC, Fresh Air, other major NPR shows, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, the Colbert Report, and other top media outlets.

A widely sought after lecturer, and winner of numerous university awards and grants, Professor Ehrman also has a weekly podcast, *Misquoting Jesus*, runs a daily blog the New Testament and early Christianity (The Bart Ehrman Blog), and produces online courses connected with the historical study of the Bible and Christian antiquity (www.bartehрман.com).



Swim and snorkel in crystal clear waters

THE 136-GUEST SEA CLOUD SPIRIT

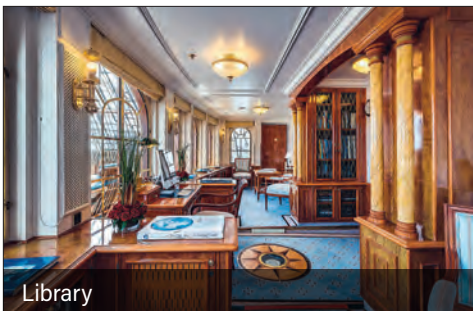
One of the World's Most Extraordinary Cruise Ships



Grand Stateroom



Lounge



Library



Restaurant



The SEA CLOUD ships are known for their fine cuisine

Built in 2021, the **SEA CLOUD SPIRIT** is undoubtedly among the world's most unique and beautiful cruise ships. Measuring 452 feet in overall length, and with a beam of 56 feet, SEA CLOUD SPIRIT is an authentic three-mast full-rigged yacht that combines the traditional aspects of ocean-going sailing ships of bygone eras with 21st-century state-of-the-art technologies and amenities. One of the most thrilling experiences aboard is to watch the skilled crew hoist by hand the ship's 28 sails, which cover a total sail area of 44,100 sq ft. When not riding the winds, the ship is powered by diesel-electric engines with low-sulfur marine diesel oil. The combination of traveling under sail and high-quality diesel oil for the engines provides one of the most sustainable cruising experiences available.

SEA CLOUD SPIRIT has 69 staterooms and suites that accommodate a maximum

of 136 guests. All are ocean viewing, spacious, and decorated in a refined and elegant style that is akin to that of classic private yachts. All feature a marble bathroom. Wood-paneled lounges and other common spaces invite relaxation, while the light-filled restaurant accommodates all guests in one open sitting and serves fine classic cuisine, accented by regional specialties and wines.

Other facilities include a spacious fitness room with panoramic ocean views, a wellness and spa center, library, boutique, Lido bar and bistro, and swim platform. An elevator serves all decks, and Wi-Fi is available in all cabins and common areas. There is ample deck space to relax, unwind and enjoy the sea views. The ship is operated by a seasoned and professional team of 85 crew members, while the ship's open bridge policy offers guests a rare opportunity to stand with the captain or officers, watching the artistry of traditional sailing in motion.

For Reservations and Information, Please Call **Thalassa Journeys** at **866-633-3611** or Email **reservations@thalassajourneys.com**

ITINERARY



Monday, January 25, 2027

DEPART THE US/ARRIVE PHILIPSBURG, ST. MAARTEN, Leeward Islands/EMBARK

Depart the US on flights for Philipsburg, the bustling main town of the southern Dutch half of St. Maarten. The sandy stretch of the Great Bay Beach & Boardwalk is a lovely way to stretch your legs if your flight arrives early. Transfer to the port in the afternoon to embark SEA CLOUD SPIRIT and settle into luxurious staterooms. Enjoy a welcome dinner onboard as the ship sets sail in the evening. (D)

Tuesday, January 26

DAY UNDER FULL SAIL

During this day at sea, watch the skilled crew climb the rigging, set sails, and hoist them by hand. Attend lectures, relax, and enjoy the many amenities of the ship as SEA CLOUD SPIRIT spends the full day under sail. (B, L, D)

Wednesday, January 27

SAINT-PIERRE, Martinique, French Overseas Territory, Windward Islands

The ship arrives this morning, allowing for a full day on dreamy Martinique, "Paris of the Islands." Founded in 1635 by the French at the foot of Mount Pelée, the main town of Saint-Pierre was a thriving center of the sugar and slave trades and the cultural heart of the island until it was destroyed by Pelée's 1902 eruption, which left only one survivor: a prisoner protected by the thick walls of his cell. The preserved ruins of its theater, old church, and other sites led to the town's classification as a "City of Art and History." Saint-Pierre today is a blend of evocative ruins and vibrant contemporary life. (B, L, D)

Thursday, January 28

SOUFRIÈRE, St. Lucia

Enjoy breakfast with iconic views of St. Lucia's two UNESCO-protected volcanic pinnacles just outside SEA CLOUD SPIRIT's windows. Venture ashore to explore the striking island, where stunning beaches, gorgeous waterfalls, and natural hot springs can all be attributed to the long-present geothermal activity that left behind the Gros and Petit Pitons. The Diamond Falls & Botanical Gardens is an exceptional way to appreciate the St. Lucia's lush greenery and tropical flowers, while bright wooden cottages and grand colonial architecture in the historic port town of Soufrière bestow a lovely, relaxed charm. Return to the ship for the afternoon at sea. (B, L, D)

Friday, January 29

Dominica

SEA CLOUD SPIRIT arrives this morning at the "Nature Isle of the Caribbean," with some of the most mountainous, heavily forested landscapes in the Lesser Antilles. Dominica's local people and government are steadfastly committed to preserving the habitats of endemic wildlife found in these dramatic environs. Partially, this dedication stems from the fact that the island is still home to the Indigenous Kalinago: the only remaining population of pre-Columbian Amerindian people in the Eastern Caribbean,





The serene small island of Anguilla

who traditionally revere the natural world. Cabrits National Park comprises two extinct volcanos, jungle, wetlands, and coral reefs, along with restored Fort Shirley, once a strategic military outpost, now surrounded by easy walking trails that offer lovely views. After exploring, enjoy this afternoon under sail. (B, L, D)

Saturday, January 30
CHARLESTOWN, Nevis

The smaller of the two leeward islands that comprise this independent sovereign nation, Nevis is one of the smallest recognized states in the world with an area of just 36 square miles. Shimmering, calm waters border long golden beaches, creating ideal swimming conditions and a unique vantage point from which to view the rainforest that stretches up the slopes of the island's extinct volcano. Historic Nevis is also the birthplace of US Founding Father Alexander Hamilton. Tucked amongst the pretty Georgian architecture of Charlestown, capital of the island, the Alexander Hamilton House contains the Museum of Nevis History, a cultural counterpoint to Nevis' natural

treasures. Return to the ship for an afternoon sailing. (B, L, D)

Sunday, January 31
ROAD BAY, Anguilla

Step ashore today in serene Anguilla, host to more than 30 superb beaches. The turquoise blue sea that surrounds the island supports significant ecosystems including sea grass meadows and coral reefs, which Anguilla is actively working to conserve and restore. Snorkeling in the vibrant waters offers opportunities to view a rich variety of marine life including stingrays, sea turtles, and tropical fish. The island is also known for boat racing, lively local arts scene, and blend of Afro-Caribbean and British influences. After the day's excursion, return to the SEA CLOUD SPIRIT for the final evening and a farewell dinner onboard. (B, L, D)

Monday, February 1
PHILIPSBURG, ST. MAARTEN/DISEMBARK/USA

After breakfast, disembark in Philipsburg. Transfer to the international airport for flights homeward. (B)

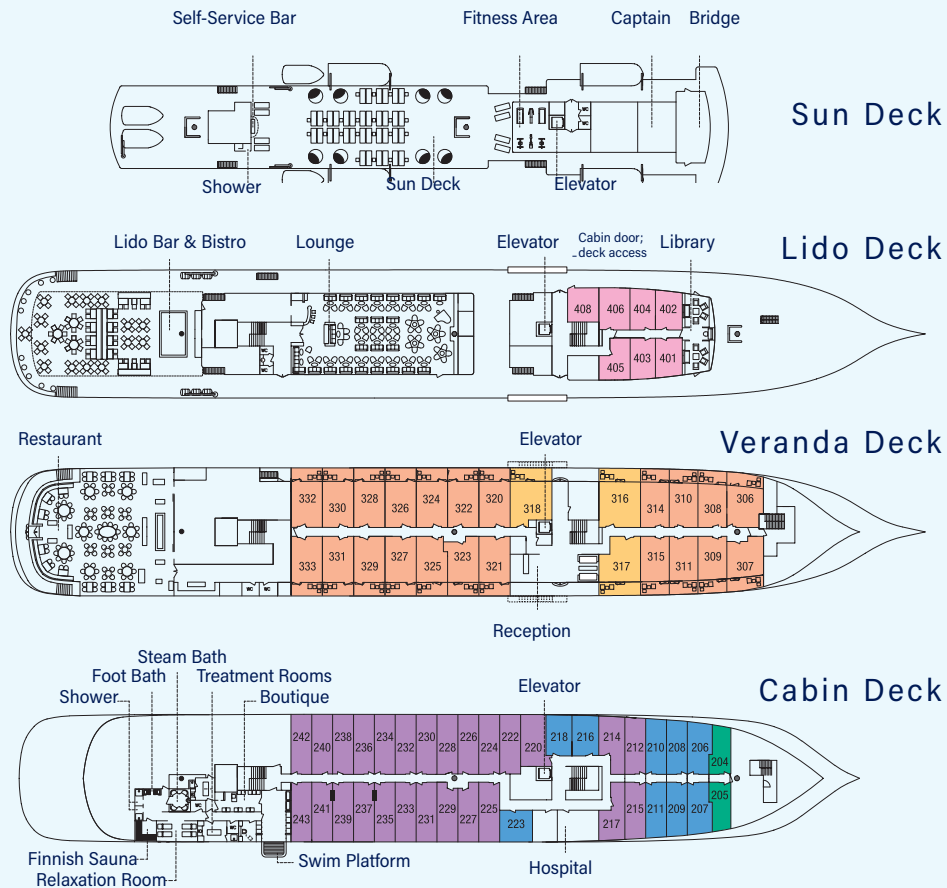


Tulip torch lily, rare tropical plant, Dominica

ABOUT THALASSA JOURNEYS

Thalassa Journeys is a tour company founded by the men and women who, working as Travel Dynamics International, pioneered educational and cultural travel in the 1970s in partnership with the leading educational, research, cultural and performing arts institutions in the United States. For more than 45 years our mission was to provide robust, intellectually stimulating experiences to lifelong learners who see travel as an opportunity to expand their understanding of the world and their place in it. This same mission guides us today. We believe that the most rewarding travel experiences happen when small groups of like-minded individuals share an enthusiasm for engaging with the richly varied environments of the world, and with the history, culture, ideas and ideals of the people who inhabit them.

SEA CLOUD SPIRIT DECK PLAN



RATES

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	PER PERSON / DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
E	Oceanview Superior Staterooms with large porthole windows, marble bathroom with shower. 172-205 sq. ft.	\$ 6,990
D	Oceanview Deluxe Staterooms with large porthole windows, marble bathroom with shower. 183-226 sq. ft.	\$ 7,790
C	Oceanview Grand Staterooms with panoramic windows, marble bathroom with shower. 161-194 sq. ft.	\$ 8,790
B	Oceanview Junior Veranda Suites with panoramic windows, marble bathroom with bathtub and shower, sofa, walk-in closet, and private balcony. 205-237 sq. ft.	\$ 9,990
A	Oceanview Veranda Suites with panoramic windows, marble bathroom with bathtub and shower, sofa, walk-in closet, and private balcony. 280-301 sq. ft.	\$ 10,890

Single occupancy supplement: Category E \$ 2,790; Category D \$ 3,390; Category C \$ 5,990; Category B \$ 7,390.

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:

- Cruise aboard the SEA CLOUD SPIRIT, as described in the itinerary.
- Group airport/hotel/pier transfers at designated times, and handling of luggage on arrival and departure dates.
- Lectures and discussions with Professor Bart Ehrman.
- Complete program of tours and excursions as mentioned in the itinerary with professional English speaking 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.
- 10 GB of data aboard the ship.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- 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.

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Travelers can expect to walk an estimated total of 2-4 hours per day. Excursions may involve navigating uneven, slippery, rocky, or inclined terrain, unpaved paths, or steps without handrails. Standing may be necessary if seating is not available during excursions, and embarking/disembarking the ship and motor coaches will be necessary. Guests should also be comfortable climbing into and out of motorized Zodiacs for shore excursions, which may involve wet landings, so sure footing and good balance are important. Opportunities to swim and snorkel are likely, time permitting. Conditions may be hot, so appropriate clothing, sun and bug protection, and a spirit of adventure will help you get the most from this incredible voyage.



Mountain landscape at the island of Dominica



Typical Caribbean sunset

GENERAL INFORMATION

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PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$2,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 120 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 \$500 per person administrative fee up to 180 days prior. Cancellations received 120-60 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 59-0 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. The deposit is non-refundable 179-121 days prior to departure.

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 effected 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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JEWELS OF THE LEEWARD & WINDWARD ISLANDS

With Professor Bart Ehrman



Martinique's Saint-Pierre

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL

THALASSA JOURNEYS AT

866-633-3611

or email

reservations@thalassajourneys.com