Stepping Stones of Western Europe

Bordeaux • Brittany • London
D-Day Beaches of Normandy • Guernsey Island

Guest Speaker

Dwight David Eisenhower II
accompanies you to the Normandy Beaches

Exclusively Chartered Small Ship
Five-Star M.S. L’Austral

April 23 to May 1, 2016
Dear Alumni, Friends, and Parents,

Join us for this exclusively chartered, Five-Star small ship cruise featuring the stepping stones along the coasts of France and Great Britain—often overlooked yet hugely important, as each historic port on this powerful itinerary has contributed to the progress of shaping the great continent of Europe we know today—and a grand finale sail up the River Thames into the heart of London, where your ship will overnight beneath the illustrious Tower Bridge.

This one-of-a-kind itinerary features two great empires that have been bound together for centuries by trade, culture, proximity, military positioning and a long, storied lineage of kings and queens. Begin in Bordeaux, where Eleanor of Aquitaine married King Louis VII of France. Then call at St. Malo, the maritime port where explorer Jacques Cartier was born in 1491 and set off for the New World. A highlight is sure to be your experiencing the hallowed beaches of Normandy with special guest speaker Dwight David Eisenhower II, grandson of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces during World War II, where the course of world history was altered in 1944 with the historic D-Day landings. Call on Belle-Île-en-Mer, held by British troops during the Seven Years War and famously painted by Claude Monet, and Guernsey Island, loyal to the British crown but strong in French culture, where the old Norman language is still spoken today.

En route, aboard the exclusively chartered, Five Star M.S. L’AUSTRAL, visit three UNESCO World Heritage sites—the magnificent, fortified Mont-St-Michel and its impressive abbey appearing to rise out of the sea; the outstanding 18th-century architecture in Bordeaux, a result of the great success of the region’s world-famous wine industry; and the impressive 17th-century citadel on Belle-Île-en-Mer, built by military architect Vauban to defend the borders of France during the reign of King Louis XIV.

There is a unique and exclusive opportunity to combine this voyage with a preceding seven-night cruise from Lisbon to Bordeaux, calling at Oporto, Santiago de Compostela, Bilbao, Biarritz and La Rochelle. More information is available on request.

I encourage you to make your plans early and reserve now while space and Early Booking Savings are available for this unique offering and excellent value.

Sincerely,

Dan Stypa
Associate Director of Alumni Engagement

Please call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu if you have questions.

“We had a wonderful experience with Gohagan. Everyone was very helpful and very nice.”
The Reigning Emblem of Western Europe

The fleur-de-lis, a stylized emblem of a lily flower said to signify perfection, light and life, has been recognized as a symbol of the French monarchy as far back as 1060. Its appearance in England began with the beguiling story of Eleanor of Aquitaine—one of the most powerful women in the history of Western Europe—who served almost consecutively as Queen of France then Queen of England for 50 years, married first to King Louis VII of France then to King Henry II of England. With her second marriage in 1154, the city of Bordeaux came under English rule, remaining a flourishing English port, rich from the wine trade, for 300 years. Many years later, the distant grandson of Queen Eleanor, King Edward III of England and rightful heir to the French throne, adopted the fleur-de-lis onto the English coat of arms when he declared himself King of France in 1340.

Today, traces of this interlaced history are found throughout the captivating ports we will visit. The fleur-de-lis appears on Bordeaux’s coat of arms, and the city motto “Seule la fleur-de-lys règne sur la lune, les vagues, le château et le lion” (the fleur-de-lis alone rules over the moon, the waves, the castle and the lion) suggests the power shift between France and England for hundreds of years. Found on the flags both of St. Malo and Belle-Ile-en-Mer, and crowning the British monarchy’s gilded gates surrounding Buckingham Palace in London, the fleur-de-lis remains an eternal symbol of royalty associated with Western Europe that is recognized the world over.

U.S.
Saturday, April 23
Depart the U.S.

Bordeaux, France
Sunday, April 24
Arrive in Bordeaux, voted the top European Best Destination 2015, and embark the Five-Star M.S. L‘AUSTRAL.

Bordeaux
Monday, April 25
Port de la Lune, built on a bend of the Garonne River shaped like a crescent moon, is the lovely port city and UNESCO World Heritage site of Bordeaux, a veritable delight of enlightenment-age architecture and one of the oldest trading ports in France. Known the world over for its extraordinary wines, Bordeaux’s wine trade began during Roman times and expanded rapidly after the discovery of the New World. The resulting vast accumulation of wealth built the magnificent city that stands today. See the 18th-century Place de la Bourse and the beautiful 14th-century Porte Cailhau, the original gate to the city. See the 13th-century Cathedral of Saint Andre, where Eleanor of Aquitaine married Louis VII, King of France, then see the charming 18th-century riverfront where the wine trade began.

Join the Captain on board the ship for the Welcome Reception this evening.
Belle-Île-en-Mer
Tuesday, April 26
This afternoon, anchor at Belle-Île-en-Mer, France’s “Beautiful Island in the Sea,” off the coast of Brittany in the Bay of Biscay. Much of the island’s current population is descended from repatriated Acadian colonists who returned to France from Nova Scotia in the mid-18th century. See the charming island community of Le Palais and visit the 18th-century Citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage site built by the preeminent military architect, Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban. Admire the unique beauty of the island’s stunning Côte Sauvage, which has inspired artists from the time of Romans and medieval monks to French Impressionist painter Claude Monet and author Alexandre Dumas in his adventures of The Three Musketeers.

Guernsey, Channel Islands, Great Britain
Wednesday, April 27
A British outpost located off the coast of France, Guernsey is a fascinating mosaic of fishing villages, greenhouses and fields dotted with its well-known chestnut-brown-and-white dairy cows. The island’s unique culture is a delightful amalgam of English tradition and French lifestyle.

Its capital, St. Peter Port, is an old Regency town distinguished by granite buildings and wrought-iron garden railings.

The Mirroir d’Eau (Water Mirror) fountain reflects the grandeur of Bordeaux’s Place de la Bourse.

French writer Victor Hugo lived here from 1855 until 1870 while he penned his epic novel, Les Misérables.

See the remnants of Germany’s 1940 to 1945 occupation of the Channel Islands, a launching point for invading Great Britain during World War II. Visit a historical vestige of the German Occupation and see Fort Hommet, the permanent fortifications constructed to keep a German foothold on Europe, during a scenic drive along the spectacular coastal road.

This evening, enjoy an exclusive onboard lecture by special guest lecturer and historian Dwight David Eisenhower II.

St. Malo, France, for Mont-St-Michel
Thursday, April 28
The UNESCO World Heritage site of Mont-St-Michel is one of the most awe-inspiring sights in all of France—its spectacular, soaring spires rise majestically from a tidal plain seemingly suspended above the sea. A pilgrimage site since the early eighth century, this fortified village began as a humble oratory and grew into an influential Benedictine monastery between the 12th and 13th centuries, becoming a renowned medieval center of learning.

Experience the extraordinary beauty of its cloisters, refectory, stained-glass windows and
the Abbaye du Mont-St-Michel, a three story Gothic masterpiece known as La Merveille (The Miracle) since the 12th century.

Caen for Normandy Beaches
Friday, April 29
Dock in Caen and travel through the bucolic countryside to the historic Normandy Beaches. In the company of Dwight David Eisenhower II, walk where Allied forces landed over 70 years ago under the direction of his world-renowned grandfather, Supreme Allied Commander, Dwight D. Eisenhower on June 6, 1944. Contemplate the solemn commemorative crosses and Stars of David in the American Military Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer overlooking Omaha Beach. And, envision the brave American rangers who scaled the 100-foot sheer cliffs to capture German gun emplacements at Pointe du Hoc.

Enjoy lunch with panoramic views of the Atlantic and continue to Arromanches to see the remnants of Mulberry Harbor, constructed by the British to support Allied landings on the beaches. Here, view exhibits chronicling the campaign at the D-Day Museum overlooking Gold Beach; alternatively, you may choose to see the famous 230-foot-long Bayeux Tapestry, a stunning visual chronicle of the Norman conquest of 1066.

Cruising the English Channel/White Cliffs of Dover/The River Thames/London, Great Britain
Saturday, April 30
Be on deck this morning as the ship cruises past the famous, spectacular White Cliffs of Dover, just 21 miles north of the shores of France. These limestone bluffs served as vital strategic defense sites for Allied Forces during both World Wars.

Experience a once-in-a-lifetime cruise up the River Thames into the heart of London, a memorable passage possible only by small ship. Enjoy a cup of afternoon tea while passing the Thames Barrier; historic maritime Greenwich, where the Cutty Sark ship is moored and the prime meridian lies; and the soaring skyline of Canary Wharf. Culminate your voyage in a dramatic approach to the iconic Tower Bridge.

Dock overnight on the River Thames across from the Tower of London and alongside the historic naval vessel H.M.S. Belfast. Attend the Captain’s Farewell Reception this evening.

London/U.S.
Sunday, May 1
Following breakfast this morning, disembark and continue on the London Post-Cruise Option or transfer to the airport for your flight home.

London’s Royal History
Post-Cruise Option • May 1 to 3
Experience stately London, where living history makes each successive visit more enjoyable than the last. Visit the Tower of London and see the magnificent Westminster Abbey, both UNESCO World Heritage sites; then stroll through legendary Hyde Park and see Buckingham Palace, where history, tradition and modernity meet. Accommodations for two nights are in the elegant InterContinental Park Lane Hotel, just steps from Hyde Park.

Pre- and Post-Cruise Options are available at additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.
**Five-Star, Small Ship**

**M.S. L’Austral**

Small Ship, State-of-the-Art Design
The highly acclaimed, exclusively chartered M.S. L’Austral, launched in 2011, represents the newest generation of Five-Star small ships, featuring only 110 Suites and Staterooms and distinctive French sophistication.

Spacious 100% Ocean-View Suites and Staterooms, 95% with Private Balconies
Each air-conditioned deluxe Stateroom and Suite (200 to 484 square feet) features a private bathroom with shower and luxurious Five-Star hotel amenities. Most accommodations have two twin beds that convert to one queen bed, individual climate control, satellite flat-screen television, wireless Internet access, safe, minibar, full-length closet, writing desk/dressing table, plush robes and slippers.

Chic and Casual Dining
International and regional cuisine is served in the stylish, spacious Le Coromandel dining room in single, unassigned seatings; alfresco in the casual Le Rodrigues Restaurant; or from 24-hour room service. Continental and buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and a four-course dinner are served daily. Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.

Spacious Public Areas/World-Class Service and Facilities
In keeping with the low passenger density relative to the ship’s size, the public areas are spacious and inviting and can accommodate all passengers comfortably. Enjoy views from the Panoramic Lounge, nightly entertainment in the Main Lounge and lectures, cultural performances and film screenings in the state-of-the-art theater. There is a library, Internet salon, Sun Deck, swimming pool, beauty salon, spa, Turkish bath-style steam room, full range of fitness equipment and two elevators. The infirmary is staffed with a doctor and nurse. The highly trained international crew provides personable and attentive service.

Respect for the Environment
The state-of-the-art propulsion system and custom-built stabilizers provide an exceptionally smooth, quiet and comfortable voyage. By design, the ship is energy efficient and environmentally protective of marine ecosystems and has been awarded the prestigious “Clean Ship” rating, an extreme rarity among ocean cruising vessels. The ship has two tenders.

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**Splendors of Bordeaux featuring St-Émilion and Médoc**

Pre-Cruise Option • April 21 to 24

Long distinguished as the wine capital of the world, the verdant Bordeaux region has been producing, fermenting and bottling the grape since the eighth century. Tucked away in the heart of the rolling French countryside and endless green vineyards, visit the charming and legendary village of St-Émilion, a UNESCO World Heritage site, famous for the Merlot grape grown here that produces rich, full-bodied red wines. Visit the impressive medieval monuments of St-Émilion, including the Église Monolithe, one of the largest underground churches in Europe. Just north of Bordeaux in the Médoc region, experience the grand cru classé, Bordeaux’s distinguished wine classification, at a famous local château and enjoy a tasting of their exquisite wines. Accommodations are for two nights in the deluxe Grand Hôtel de Bordeaux and Spa, located in the heart of Bordeaux’s historic center.
Included Features

Acclaimed Guest Speaker
Historian Dwight David Eisenhower II, grandson of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, will provide a lecture and accompany you to the Normandy Beaches.

On board the exclusively chartered, Five-Star M.S. L’Austral

◆ Exclusive seven-night cruise from Bordeaux, France, to Tower Bridge, London, Great Britain, with port calls at Belle-Île-en-Mer, St. Malo for Mont-St-Michel, and Caen for the Normandy Beaches, France; and Guernsey, Channel Islands, Great Britain.

◆ Spacious, Five-Star, ocean-view Suite or Stateroom accommodations, each with a private bathroom.

◆ Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.

◆ All meals—continental breakfast, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and dinner—throughout the cruise, featuring fine international and regional cuisine, served at single, unassigned seatings.

◆ Complimentary wine and beer are served with lunch and dinner.

◆ Excursion to the world-famous capital of the wine region, Bordeaux, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a treasure trove of 18th-century architecture.

◆ Panoramic tour of Belle-Île-en-Mer with its citadel, one of Vauban’s UNESCO World Heritage site fortifications.

◆ Panoramic tour of Guernsey, Channel Islands, to see the remnants of Germany’s World War II occupation, and leisure time in St. Peter Port.

◆ Walking tour of Mont-St-Michel and a visit to its 11th-century Abbey, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

◆ Full-day excursion to the historic Normandy Beaches where the D-Day landings took place, including a visit to the American military cemetery and a choice to visit the D-Day Museum or the legendary Bayeux Tapestry.

◆ Cruise the Strait of Dover past the famous, dramatic White Cliffs of Dover.

◆ Memorable, once-in-a-lifetime cruise up the River Thames into the heart of London, with overnight on board ship docked near the legendary Tower Bridge.

Enhanced Travel Services

◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad for participants whose arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).

◆ All excursions and visits, as outlined above, with experienced local guides.

◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.

◆ Hospitality desk aboard ship.

◆ The services of experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors throughout the program.

◆ Complimentary use of a state-of-the-art audio headset for each participant during guided excursions.

◆ Travel document wallet, name badge and pre-departure information.

◆ Automatic $250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Allied forces landed at the beaches of Normandy on June 6, 1944, launching the D-Day invasion. There can be no more fitting way to pay tribute to the Allied Forces, whose courageous D-Day invasion changed the course of World War II, than to walk on the historic beaches of Normandy liberated by American, Canadian and British forces. It is a privilege to have David Eisenhower, our expert historian who is personally familiar with one of the most powerful world leaders of the 20th century and World War II, present a dynamic lecture and accompany this profound visit to the beaches of Normandy.

**David Eisenhower**

Dwight D. Eisenhower II, grandson of General and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, is a noted historian of World War II and the Cold War. His 900-page best seller, *Eisenhower: At War 1943-1945*, published in 1986, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in history. David is Senior Fellow of the Foreign Policy Research Institute and a Public Policy Fellow at the Annenberg School of Communication and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches “Communication and the Presidency.”

**The Normandy Beaches**

In a pivotal moment in the history and culture of Europe’s Atlantic coastal regions, on June 6, 1944, Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower gave the order for 133,000 Allied troops to land along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline. The invasion, known as Operation Overlord, was supported by 7000 ships and 11,000 aircraft, and by day’s end, had gained the Allies a foothold on the continent to begin their march to free Europe. A portal to the region that altered the new world order, the beaches of Normandy bring history to life.

*Featured Guest Speaker*

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*Scheduled guest speaker may be altered due to circumstances beyond our control. See Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.*

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LAND/Cruise Tariff (per person, based on double occupancy)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stateroom Category*</th>
<th>Description: Staterooms range from 200 to 484 sq. ft. and most have two twin beds that convert to make one queen bed. All feature a private bathroom with shower and individual climate control.</th>
<th>Early Booking Price through October 8, 2015</th>
<th>Regular Price after October 8, 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe Suite</td>
<td>Ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto private balcony and sitting area with sofa, Deck 6, Mahé. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$9995</td>
<td>$10995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prestige Suite I</td>
<td>Two-room, ocean-view, expansive floor-to-ceiling sliding glass door onto large private balcony, two bathrooms, large sitting area with sofa, two closets, writing desk and dressing table, Deck 6, Bengale. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$11695</td>
<td>$12695</td>
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STEPPING STONES OF WESTERN EUROPE RESERVATION FORM

Send to: Office of Alumni Relations - MS 520
Attn: Rice Alumni Traveling Owls
PO Box 1892
Houston, TX 77251-1892
Fax: 713-348-5210

Please make all reservations: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

Stateroom Category:
- 1st Choice (Double occupancy) $7995
- 2nd Choice (Double occupancy) $8195
- Single at $1295 per person
- Double at $1075 per person

Please call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu to make reservations, or with questions regarding this tour.

Program reservations require a deposit of $800 per person plus $200 per person Bordeaux Pre-Cruise Option and/or $200 per person London Post-Cruise Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, you agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

**An Owner's Suite (Deck 6, Mahé) is available upon request at a cost to be advised. ‡ London's Royal History Post-Cruise Option: $1075 per person. Please send me/us more information about combining this voyage with the seven-night cruise from Lisbon to Bordeaux.**

Please make my/our reservation(s):
- Splendors of Bordeaux Pre-Cruise Option $7995
- All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by January 19, 2016.
- Deluxe Suite $9995
- Prestige Suite I $11695
- Prestige Suite II $11195
- Early Booking Price through October 8, 2015
- Regular Price after October 8, 2015

The Association of Rice Alumni and Rice University serve only in a capacity of assisting the undersigned travelers in making arrangements for travel, services, accommodations, and products provided by the tour operator, certain land transport carriers, and other providers of services and accommodations during the trip and in no way serve as agents for these businesses, or accept responsibility for their services and products. Such travel, services, accommodations, and products are subject to the terms and conditions under which they are offered or provided. Therefore, having read and understood the above, as well as the schedule of activities for this tour and the Responsibility statement appearing on this brochure, the undersigned hereby agrees for and on behalf of himself, her, his, hers, executor, administrators, and assigns, to release and hold harmless the Association of Rice Alumni and Rice University and any of its respective officers, agents, licensees, or representatives from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death, or for the loss of, or damage to, his property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to the tour.

Signature as it appears on credit card

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CANCELLATIONS: Cancellations for all or any part of the trip including Pre/Post Program(s) reservation(s) will not be effective until received in writing in the offices of Gohagan. Should you have to cancel, the following terms will apply: reservation cancellation(s) are subject to a $200 ($30 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person administrative fee from the time of booking through 120 days prior to departure; from 95 through 119 days prior to departure, $800 ($200 Pre/Post Program(s)) per person; from 60 through 94 days prior to departure, 70% of the published full regular tariffs; cancellations 59 days or less prior to departure, a no-show, or early return from the trip will result in forfeiture of 100% of the published full regular tariffs. In addition, any applicable airline cancellation fees, optional excursion cancellation fees and administrative fees may apply.

TRIP INSURANCE: Because our cancellation policies are strictly enforced, we strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only option available.

RATES: Prices quoted are based on fares in effect at the time of printing and are subject to change at any time. On land and/or cruise programs for full payment, Gohagan reserves the right to increase the tour price in the event of cost increases due to changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such increases are to be paid to Gohagan upon notice to the tour participant of such increases. On programs which include Gohagan purchased interstate or international air (which originates or returns to the United States), no increased costs will be passed on after final payment except for subsequently imposed governmental tax increases.

REGISTRATION: CST#: 2031686-40, WST#: 601 767 666, OST#: 2031686-40

BINDING ARBITRATION: Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating in any way to this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement, the brochure, or any other information relating in any way to the trip, or to the trip itself, shall be settled exclusively by binding arbitration in Chicago, Illinois, in accordance with the commercial rules of the American Arbitration Association then existent. In any such proceeding, the substantive, but not procedural law of Illinois will apply. The arbitrator and not any federal, state, or local court or agency shall have exclusive authority to resolve any dispute relating to the interpretation, applicability, enforceability, conscionability, or formation of this contract, including but not limited to any claim that all or any part of this contract is void or voidable.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other participants and accepts the terms contained in this Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement.

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