Changing Tides of History
Cruising the
Baltic Sea
Sweden • Finland • St. Petersburg • Estonia • Poland • Denmark

Featuring Guest Speakers

Lech Wałęsa
Former President of Poland
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Pavel Palazhchenko
Interpreter and Advisor for
Mikhail Gorbachev

July 7 to 16, 2020
Dear Alumni, Friends and Parents,

Join us for the opportunity to explore the lands and legacies forged by centuries of Baltic history. Hear and learn firsthand from historic world leader, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and former President of Poland Lech Wałęsa and from Interpreter and Advisor for former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, Pavel Palazhchenko.

This unique Baltic Sea voyage features six countries and seven UNESCO World Heritage sites. Our program is scheduled during the best time of year to experience the natural phenomenon of the luminous "White Nights."

Experience the cultural rebirth of the Baltic States and the imperial past of St. Petersburg, Russia, while cruising aboard the exclusively chartered, Five-Star Le Dumont-d'Urville, launched in 2019 and featuring only 92 ocean-view Suites and Staterooms. In the tradition of ancient Viking mariners and medieval merchants, set forth from the cosmopolitan Swedish capital of Stockholm to Denmark's sophisticated capital city of Copenhagen. Spend two days docked in the heart of regal St. Petersburg, featuring visits to the world-acclaimed State Hermitage Museum, the Peter and Paul Fortress and the spectacular tsarist palaces in Pushkin and Peterhof. See the storied architecture of Helsinki, Finland; tour the well-preserved medieval Old Town of Tallinn, Estonia; explore the former Hanseatic League town of Visby on Sweden's Gotland Island; and immerse yourself in the legacy of the Solidarity movement in Gdańsk, Poland.

Experience the Splendors of Stockholm during the Pre-Program Option. On the Wonders of Norway Post-Program Option, visit the vibrant city of Bergen, cruise through stunning fjordlands and enjoy one of the world's most scenic train rides.

This exclusive travel program features a comprehensive itinerary, Five-Star accommodations, a specially arranged shore excursion in each port and world-class lectures. Book now, as capacity is limited and this popular program sells out quickly!

Sincerely,

Allison Johnson

Please call the Traveling Owls at 713-34-TRIPS (87477) or email travelingowls@rice.edu if you have questions.
U.S.
Tuesday, July 7
Depart the U.S.

Stockholm, Sweden
Wednesday, July 8
From Sweden's “Venice of the North,” embark the Five-Star Le DUMONT-D’URVILLE and cruise through the scenic Stockholm archipelago.

Helsinki, Finland
Thursday, July 9
On board the ship this morning, meet Pavel Palazhchenko, world-renowned interpreter who serves as advisor and interpreter for former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, and enjoy his first of two educational lectures today.

Helsinki merges the influence of Classicism and the Finnish National Romantic Movement with Functionalism, establishing design as a permanent and significant component of the city. Cruise past the 18th-century maritime Fortress of Suomenlinna, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Enjoy a panoramic tour of the city’s boulevards, overflowing with magnificent architecture, including Europe’s greatest concentration of Art Nouveau buildings. See stately Senate Square, University of Helsinki, Helsinki Cathedral and the Parliament Building—paradigms of neoclassical style—along with the Modernist Finlandia Hall. Discover idyllic Sibelius Park, an artistic homage to Finland’s most famed composer. Visit the subterranean Temppeliaukio Church, or “Church of the Rock,” impressively hewn into solid natural bedrock in 1969.

Explore the lively Market Square with some time at leisure before reboarding the ship.

This evening, enjoy the second insightful lecture from Mr. Palazhchenko on board.

Cover photo: Spanning 14 small islands, where shimmering Lake Mälaren meets one of the largest archipelagos in the Baltic Sea, Stockholm preserves its splendid medieval and Renaissance architecture.

St. Petersburg, Russia
Friday, July 10
Founded in 1703 as his “Window on the West,” St. Petersburg is the fruition of Peter the Great’s extraordinary vision. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage-designated palaces and gardens of Peterhof, commissioned by Peter the Great to rival the Palace of Versailles, and its elaborately landscaped grounds, encompassing two centuries of imperial style, executed to perfection. Return to the ship by hydrofoil.

See exquisite examples of Russian Baroque and neoclassical architecture along the main thoroughfare, Nevsky Prospekt, and view the iconic Church of the Savior on Spilled Blood (Church of the Resurrection of Christ), built on Emperor Alexander II’s assassination site.

Enjoy specially arranged entry and a guided tour of the spectacular State Hermitage Museum. One of the world’s greatest art repositories, this UNESCO World Heritage-designated museum was founded by Catherine the Great in 1764. Its prestigious collections are rivaled only by the museum’s lavish interior.

Visby’s medieval wall, constructed in the 13th century, stretches two miles in length around the town.

Cover photo: Peter the Great himself partially engineered the resplendent plexus of waterfalls, fountains and statues that adorn the foreground of the opulent Peterhof Palace.
St. Petersburg
Saturday, July 11
Visit the elaborate Baroque Catherine Palace in the imperial town of Pushkin. This UNESCO World Heritage site, highlighted by the jewel-encrusted Amber Room, is said to be the “Eighth Wonder of the World.”
Savor a lunch of local Russian specialties and vodka while enjoying a traditional Cossack music performance.
Enjoy a panoramic tour of St. Petersburg’s UNESCO World Heritage-inscribed historic center, where landmarks are scattered across over 40 islands and linked by more than 300 bridges. See the 19th-century St. Isaac’s Cathedral, whose striking golden dome crowns the city’s skyline.
Visit the Peter and Paul Fortress, constructed to secure the country’s access to the sea, and the Baroque Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, where 32 tsars—from Peter the Great to Nicholas II, the last of the Romanovs—are interred.

Tallinn, Estonia
Sunday, July 12
Tallinn’s UNESCO World Heritage-designated Old Town has remained virtually unchanged for 600 years. See the landmark Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the 13th-century Church of St. Nicholas and Toompea Castle, the seat of Estonia’s Parliament. Visit the intricate chambers of the medieval Town Hall, the only intact Gothic-style hall in Northern Europe, which dominates the Town Hall Square and its ring of pastel-hued buildings.

Visby, Gotland Island, Sweden
Monday, July 13
Call at the Baltic island of Gotland, rich with Swedish history and abundant Viking and medieval sites. The UNESCO World Heritage-designated Old Town of Visby, the former Baltic center of the Hanseatic League, is one of the best preserved medieval cities in Scandinavia. On the walking tour through the cobbled streets of this “city of roses and ruins,” see 13th-century walls and original medieval architecture, tour the Gotlands Historical Museum and view the striking interior of St. Mary’s Cathedral.

Gdańsk, Poland
Tuesday, July 14
A former flourishing Hanseatic League port, today Gdańsk proudly displays restored late Renaissance and Baroque patrician mansions in its Stare Miasto (Old Town). Stroll along the pedestrian-only Droga Królewska (Royal Route) and the Long Wharf to see the magnificent Neptune’s Fountain and the 14th-century The traditional fishing boats and colorful edifices along Copenhagen’s quay of Nyhavn retain the waterfront’s authentic 18th-century maritime character.
Artus Court, a Gothic guildhall inspired by Britain’s legendary King Arthur.

Visit the historic Gdańsk Shipyard, where Eastern Europe’s first independent trade union—the Solidarity movement—began in 1980, and see its Monument to the Fallen Shipyard Workers. Meet the leader of the Solidarity movement, former President of Poland and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Lech Wałęsa, on board the ship this evening, where he will present his perspective on Solidarity, globalization and progress in the region.

**Cruising the Baltic Sea**

*Wednesday, July 15*

Spend the day at leisure cruising the Baltic Sea while enjoying a series of enriching lectures and the Captain’s Farewell Reception this evening.

**Copenhagen, Denmark/U.S.**

*Thursday, July 16*

Arrive in colorful Copenhagen, Denmark’s world-class capital. Disembark and continue on the Wonders of Norway Post-Program Option or transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

*On the Post-Program Option, enjoy an incredible journey through the verdant, mountainous fjordlands of Norway aboard the Flåm Railway.*

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St. Petersburg’s Church of the Resurrection of Christ is a showcase of neo-medieval Russian architecture.

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**Splendors of Stockholm**

*A Royal Seaport and Capital City*

Extend your Baltic experience with the Pre-Program Option in handsome Stockholm, a harmonious blend of medieval, Renaissance and modern architecture showcased across 14 small islands connected by more than 23 bridges. Visit the magnificent City Hall, the site of the annual Nobel Prize banquet. Walk through the Gamla Stan (Old Town) and visit the maritime museum built to house the Vasa, the world’s only preserved 17th-century warship. Spend two nights in the ideally located Sheraton Stockholm Hotel.

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**Wonders of Norway**

*Copenhagen* → *Oslo* → *Fjords* → *Bergen*

via *Coastal Ferry and Flåm Mountain Railway*

The Post-Program Option immerses you in majestic Norwegian landscapes and Scandinavian culture on this unique five-night journey from Copenhagen to Bergen. Enjoy an exclusively chartered cruise along Copenhagen’s idyllic canals, the highlights of vibrant Oslo and a private cruise into UNESCO World Heritage-designated Nærøyfjord. Travel through pristine fjordlands on the Flåm Railway, one of the world’s most scenic train rides. Tour the historic city of Bergen, including Bryggen (the old wharf), a UNESCO World Heritage site, and visit Trolldhagen, the historic home of composer Edvard Grieg. Spend four nights in comfortable hotels, including the historic Stalheim Hotel, and one night aboard an award-winning Seaways ferry.

*Pre- and Post-Program Options are available at additional cost. Details will be included with your reservation confirmation.*
EXCLUSIVELY CHARTERED, FIVE-STAR MV LE DUMONT-D’URVILLE

Luxury Small Ship, Innovative Design

Le Dumont-d’Urville, launched in 2019, ushers in a new generation of Five-Star small ships, combining revolutionary design and a new standard of luxury for unparalleled cruising. Dock in smaller ports inaccessible to larger ships, where authentic cultural experiences and majestic scenery await you.

Blue Eye—World’s First Multisensory, Underwater Observation Lounge

View the beauty of marine life through the large, subaquatic windows and integrated digital screens providing live images from underwater cameras, and enjoy the sensory experience of listening to the ocean’s unique underwater universe in the comfort of the exclusive Blue Eye lounge.*

Life on Board

Enjoy sweeping views from the lounges—which open to the outdoors—and lectures, cultural performances or film screenings in the state-of-the-art theater. Relax in the spa and sauna or the Sun Deck’s infinity-style swimming pool. The ship has a beauty salon, fitness room and three elevators. Complimentary Wi-Fi access is available (conditions permitting).

*Marine life viewing varies by location.

Elegant Suites and Staterooms, 100% with Private Balconies

Each of the 92 Five-Star Staterooms and Suites (up to 484 square feet) features a private balcony. Grand Deluxe Suites have a bay window and spacious private terrace. Accommodations offer two twin beds or one queen bed, individual climate control and private bathroom with a shower and luxury hotel-style amenities.

Respect for the Environment

A new addition to the Ponant “Clean Ship” fleet, an important distinction among ocean-cruising vessels, Le Dumont-d’Urville is energy efficient and eco-friendly, protecting fragile marine ecosystems.

Chic and Casual Dining

Dine indoors or alfresco on international and regional cuisine served in the stylish, spacious indoor-outdoor restaurant, at the casual pool deck grill or from 24-hour room service. Daily meals include continental and buffet breakfasts, buffet lunch, afternoon tea and four-course dinner.

World-Class Service

The highly trained, English-speaking crew is personable and attentive, and the ship has a medical center staffed with a doctor and nurse.
Included Features

Acclaimed Guest Speakers
- **Lech Walesa**, former President of Poland and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.
- **Pavel Palazhchenko**, Interpreter and Advisor for former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev.

On Board the Exclusively Chartered, Five-Star Small Ship **Le Dumont-d’Urville**
- Eight-night cruise from Stockholm, Sweden, to Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Elegantly appointed, Five-Star Suite or Stateroom.
- Captain’s Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages available throughout the cruise.
- All meals aboard ship.
- Complimentary Wi-Fi access (conditions permitting).
- City tour of Helsinki, featuring a visit to the subterranean Temppeliaukio Church.
- Tour of the storied port city of Gdansk, the cradle of the Solidarity movement, including its historic Gdansk Shipyard and Old Town.

UNESCO World Heritage Site Highlights
- View of the 18th-century **Fortress of Suomenlinna** in Helsinki.
- Specially arranged entry to St. Petersburg’s world-renowned **State Hermitage Museum**.
- City tour of St. Petersburg, featuring a visit to the impressive **Peter and Paul Fortress**.
- Excursions to **Peterhof** and to **Catherine Palace** in Pushkin, featuring the acclaimed **Amber Room**, including a lunch of traditional Russian specialties.
- Walking tour of **Tallinn’s Old Town** and 12th-century Town Hall Square.
- Walking tour of **Visby**, a historic former Hanseatic city on the island of Gotland.

Always Included
- Transfers and luggage handling abroad if 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.
- Group visa for excursions in Russia.
- Complimentary bottled water in your Suite or Stateroom and on excursions.
- Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- 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.
By exclusive arrangement, Lech Wałęsa—former President of Poland (1990 to 1995), Polish hero and international icon in the pursuit of freedom and democracy—will meet with our group on board Le Dumont-d'Urville. From his position as a marine electrician in Gdańsk Shipyard, Mr. Wałęsa emerged as a world-renowned figure in the struggle against communism during the 1980 shipyard workers’ strike and the establishment of the Polish Solidarity labor movement. Even after winning the right to form an independent union, Mr. Wałęsa and Solidarity continued to confront the Soviet-backed regime of General Wojciech Jaruzelski, which jailed Mr. Wałęsa and imposed martial law in Poland in December 1981. Mr. Wałęsa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983, a watershed moment widely considered to have been the first crack in the Soviet Union’s Iron Curtain, which crumbled with the Berlin Wall in 1989. That same year, Mr. Wałęsa became the first foreign non-head of government to address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress.

Principal English interpreter for former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev and former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Pavel Palazhchenko remains one of the world’s leading interpreters. Mr. Palazhchenko participated in all U.S.-Soviet summit talks leading to the end of the Cold War and eventually became the head of the press office of the International Foundation for Socio-Economic and Political Studies (or The Gorbachev Foundation), where he has also functioned as an analyst, spokesperson, interpreter and translator. He is the author of a personal and political memoir, My Years with Gorbachev and Shevardnadze: The Memoir of a Soviet Interpreter. Graduating from the Maurice Thorez Moscow Institute of Foreign Languages (Moscow State Linguistic University) in 1972, he has published three Russian-English dictionaries providing information, insight and cultural observation on the linguistic twists and turns of the English and Russian languages.
Land/Cruise Tariff excluding taxes*  
Early Booking Tariff* through Dec. 5, 2019  
Tariff* after Dec. 5, 2019
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<tr>
<th>Category†</th>
<th>Deck 6</th>
<th>Deck 5</th>
<th>Deck 4</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 Picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3. forward. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$6795</td>
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<td>7 Picture window, single door onto private, partial-wall balcony. Deck 3, midship.</td>
<td>$7795</td>
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<td>6 Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 4, forward.</td>
<td>$8595</td>
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<td>5 Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 4, midship.</td>
<td>$9295</td>
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<td>4 Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Decks 5 and 6, aft. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$9895</td>
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<td>3 Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 5, forward. (limited availability)</td>
<td>$10395</td>
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<td>2 Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 5, midship.</td>
<td>$10795</td>
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<td>1 Expansive sliding glass door, private balcony. Deck 6, midship.</td>
<td>$11295</td>
<td>$12295</td>
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Deluxe Suite  
Suites with expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, sitting area with sofa. Decks 3, 4, 5 and 6. (limited availability)  
$12695 $13695

Prestige Suite  
Two rooms, expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, two bathrooms, two closets, large sitting area with sofa. Deck 5. (limited availability)  
$13695 $14695

Privilege Suite  
Large Suite with expansive sliding glass door, large private balcony, sitting area with sofa. Decks 5 and 6. (limited availability)  
$13995 $14995

Grand Deluxe Suite  
Extra-large, two-room Suite, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath, sitting area with sofa. Deck 6. (limited availability)  
$15195 $16195

Owner’s Suite  
Extra-large, two-room Suite, expansive sliding glass door, spacious private terrace with outdoor Jacuzzi, full bathroom with tub and separate shower, additional half bath, sitting area with sofa. Deck 5. (limited availability)  
$15495 $16495

Singles are available in category 5 at $15295* and in category 2 at $17795* on or before December 5, 2019. Add $1000 for reservations made after December 5, 2019.

†Note: Airfare is subject to change and cannot be guaranteed.

‡ Additional cost to be advised,‡ from:

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Please make my/our reservation(s) in category:

1st choice 2nd choice
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one queen bed).
- Single accommodations.
- Additional cost to be advised,‡ from:

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Splendors of Stockholm Pre-Program Option
- Wonders of Norway Post-Program Option

Please make my/our reservation(s):

- Double at $945 per person.
- Single at $1345 per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations.

I/We want to book my/our air, at an additional cost to be advised,‡ from:

- Economy Class
- Upgraded Economy
- Business Class
- First Class

CRUISING THE BALTIC SEA RESERVATION FORM

Singles are available in category 5 at $15295* and in category 2 at $17795* on or before December 5, 2019. Add $1000 for reservations made after December 5, 2019.

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I/We want to book my/our air, at an additional cost to be advised,‡ from:

- Economy Class
- Upgraded Economy
- Business Class
- First Class

Signature as it appears on credit card

ALL PAYMENTS are required to be made by check or wire transfer by April 3, 2020.

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Signature  Date  Signature  Date  Signature  Date  Signature  Date

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 call the Traveling Owls at 713-348-TRIPS (87747) or email travelingowls@rice.edu to make reservations, or with questions regarding this program.
Finland’s capital city of Helsinki showcases elegant Jugendstil architecture along its picturesque harbor.

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**Travel Insurance:** 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 source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available for comprehensive coverage of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

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