

Alumni Travel Reading List

The Black Sea

July 16th – 30th, 2014

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“Discover the astounding wealth of culture and history on the shores of the Black Sea during an exciting journey that takes you from the birth of civilization to the dramatic end of the Cold War. Begin with two nights in Istanbul, the fabled capital of two powerful empires. Explore the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia and more. Then embark MV Aegean Odyssey, a premium-class ship, for an eleven night cruise to see more of Turkey plus Georgia, Russia, Ukraine, and Bulgaria. This boutique ship offers unique access to remote harbors. Visit beautiful Trabzon and its mountainside monastery, see the botanical gardens of Batumi and Sochi, and explore Feodosiya's Genoese fortress. Discover Yalta's palaces and literary heritage, and the powerful military and ancient histories of Sevastopol. Enjoy the arts and culture of vibrant Odessa and the popular resort Nessebur. This spectacular adventure includes deluxe hotel accommodations, an excursion in every port, a lecture series by noted scholars, an extensive meal plan, and gratuities for guides and drivers on included excursions and for cabin and restaurant staff on the ship.” (From the Penn Alumni Travel website)

Suggested Resources

Black Sea: Histories

King, Charles. *The Black Sea: A History*. Oxford University Press, 2004.

A political and cultural history of the Black Sea and the lands that border it, from 700 B.C. to 1990. As noted on the dust jacket, "King investigates the myriad connections that have made the Black Sea more of a bridge than a boundary, linking religious communities, linguistic groups, empires, and later, nations and states." Includes an extensive bibliography of works on related topics.

Crampton, Richard. *A Concise History of Bulgaria (Cambridge Concise Histories)*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.

From the leading English language expert on the history of Bulgaria, this compact volume covers Bulgarian history from prehistoric times through its admission to NATO and the EU. Includes maps and photographs.

Iline, Nicolas, ed. *Odessa Memories*. University of Washington Press, 2004.

Covers the rich cultural history of Odessa from the mid-19th century through the Russian Revolution of 1917. Includes essays from historians Patricia Herlihy, Oleg Gubar, and Alexander Rozenboim and from Bel Kaufman, writer and granddaughter of Sholem Aleichem, whose childhood was spent in Odessa. Illustrated with a wealth of vintage postcards, photographs, posters, advertisements, and illustrations.

Black Sea Literature

Pamuk, Orhan. *Istanbul: Memories and the City*. Knopf, 2005.

Translated from the Turkish by Maureen Freely.

A memoir by the Nobel Prize winner about growing up in Istanbul in the 1950's and '60's, combining history, philosophy, geography, and family stories.

Chekhov, Anton; translated with notes by Ronald Wilks; with an introduction by Paul Debreczeny. *The Lady with the Little Dog and Other Stories, 1896- 1904*. Penguin, 2002.

Short stories written while the famous playwright and short story writer lived in in the Crimea at the end of his life. "The Lady with the Little Dog" is set partially in Yalta.

Shevchenko214.org

Website from the Cambridge University Ukrainian Studies department dedicated to Taras Shevchenko, national poet of Ukraine, whose bicentennial is being marked throughout Ukraine in 2014.

Additional Resources

National Geographic Traveler Best Trips 2013: Crimea. *National Geographic Traveler*.

<http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/best-trips-2013/>

A quick overview of the history and geography of Crimea. It also includes a few travel tips. Click on the "See more photos of Best Trips 2013: Crimea, Ukraine" link to see some great photographs of the region. Access requires the creation of a free account.

Whose is this song? Documentary Educational Resources (DER), 2003.

Award-winning documentary on the search for the origins of a melody that appears in the folk music of Turkey, Greece, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia, Serbia, and Bulgaria. Includes interviews and performances recorded across the region. As the film's producers describe it, "[t]he trip is filled with humor, suspense, tragedy and surprise as each country's citizens passionately claim the song to be their own and can even furnish elaborate histories for its origins. The tune emerges again and again in different forms: as a love song, a religious hymn, a revolutionary anthem, and even a military march. The powerful emotions and stubborn nationalism raised by one song seem at times comical and other times, eerily telling. In a region besieged by ethnic hatred and war, what begins as a light-hearted investigation ends as a sociological and historical exploration of the deep misunderstandings between the people of the Balkans." It doesn't seem to be available on Amazon, but is available for purchase through DER: <http://www.der.org/films/whose-is-this-song.html>