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Join Antiques Experts Lars Tharp and Will Farmer on a Fred. Olsen Classical Cruise

The Danish-born historian, lecturer and broadcaster, Lars Tharp – who is also one of the longest running experts on the BBC's 'Antiques Roadshow' – will be one of the special guest speakers aboard Fred. Olsen's 23-night Black Watch cruise, W1105, to the Eastern Mediterranean, in May 2011.

A regular with Fred. Olsen, Lars speaks on antiques-collecting, as part of the cruise line's onboard programme of special interests, The ArtsClub. Originally trained as an archaeologist, Lars was a Director of Sotheby's, where he specialised in European ceramics and oriental works of art. In 2008, he was appointed the Director of the Foundling Museum in London, and Visiting Professor at De Montfort University, Leicester. On this cruise, Lars will give some highly entertaining and informative talks, and will also offer to value small items brought on board by guests, in true 'Antiques Roadshow' style.

Lars will be on board the cruise as far as Istanbul, where he will disembark, and the ship will be joined by his 'Antiques Roadshow' colleague, Will Farmer. Will specialises in 20th Century decorative arts, covering ceramics, glass and furniture. He studied at the Birmingham School of Jewellery, undertaking a combined BA Hons in Silversmithing and Fine Art History. Will has featured as an expert on the BBC's '20th Century Roadshow', and is now in his fourth season as an expert with the 'Antiques Roadshow'.

This cruise offers a wealth of opportunities to explore the Ancient World, as it visits some of the great classical cities of Greece, Turkey and Tunisia. Black Watch departs from Dover on 18th May 2011, and ports of call include Cagliari in Sicily, Kalamata (anchor port) and Piraeus (the port for Athens) in Greece, Canakkale in Turkey, with tours to the fabled city of Troy, as well as Istanbul, Valletta – capital of Malta – and La Goulette for Tunisia's capital, Tunis.

Highlights of this cruise include the chance to explore the remains of ancient Troy, a full day to take in the sights of historic Athens, and another day in Tunis, where French colonial architecture sits cheek-by-jowl with ancient Moorish buildings.

This classical cruise is a history-lover's dream, and the additional ArtsClub 'Antiques' theme, hosted by Lars Tharp and Will Farmer, is especially well-suited to this itinerary.

Prices for this cruise start from £2,279 per person, based on two adults sharing an inside twin cabin. The price includes all meals and entertainment on board, and port taxes.

Fred. Olsen Cruise Line operates in the UK with four intimately sized ships for a more personal cruising experience.

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