



TOGETHER TO EXPLORE
SPACE AT SEA







Sail to the stars with the SETI Institute

Swan Hellenic is a proud partner of the SETI Institute – a space and earth science research organisation that supports NASA, NSF (National Science Foundation), private industry and academia in answering some of humanity’s most profound questions.

In our partnership with the SETI Institute, we aim to provide our guests with expert insights into the history and latest discoveries in astronomy, astrophysics, astrobiology and planetary science. SETI stands for the ‘Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.’ SETI is a scientific endeavor to look for evidence of technology beyond our solar system as a proxy for life and intelligence. But the Institute’s research also includes the search for basic life forms within our Solar system and the study of life and habitability on our own planet.

We are thrilled to have several SETI Institute scientists join us as guest speakers on a selection of our voyages. Through their research, SETI scientists gather data from some of the most extreme and remote environments on our planet to better understand the prospect of life elsewhere and how to look for it. Swan Hellenic sails to many of these faraway destinations, offering our SETI speakers a chance to conduct research and speak to our guests about their findings in situ.

These scientists will engage our guests with never-before-seen presentations on explorations around Earth and beyond.





The SETI Institute

Founded in 1984, the SETI Institute is a non-profit, multi-disciplinary research and education organisation whose mission is to lead humanity's quest to understand the origins and prevalence of life and intelligence in the Universe and to share that knowledge with the world. Its research encompasses the physical and biological sciences and leverages expertise in data analytics, machine learning and advanced signal detection technologies. The SETI Institute is a distinguished research partner for industry, academia and government agencies, including NASA and NSF.

The SETI Institute began small, with just one project – NASA's SETI program – and two employees, founder Tom Pierson (a former grants administrator at San Francisco State University), and astronomer Jill Tarter. Over the years, other research disciplines have been added to the Institute's portfolio, all unified by their relevance to the search for, and understanding of, life beyond Earth. Today, the SETI Institute has approximately 100 scientists as well as specialists in administration, education, and outreach.



SWAN HELLENIC

See what others don't

Some people see things as they are, others look further. Let us take you on a journey that will change the way you see the world. Sail to some of the most incredible, remote destinations on the planet. When you travel with us, the wonders of the world take on a richer hue.

Over 70 years of cruise expertise

That's how long we've been navigating the world's waters. Swan Hellenic is built on a passion for exploration, a reputation for safety and professionalism of the highest standard.

Boutique ships

Just you and nature, that's how you'll feel on our 5 star contemporary 'Scandinavian inspired' ships. With open-plan design, panoramic views and a focus on wellness, they're the perfect place to relax, recharge and explore.

Intuitive service

When it comes to anticipating your needs, no request is too big or too small. To us, personal and unobtrusive service means everything from making sure you're fully equipped for an Arctic excursion to remembering your favourite gin serve when it comes to pre-dinner drinks.

Enriching cultural expeditions

Once, we travelled to educate – professors, scientists, researchers. Over the years, we've developed a deep knowledge of the world. Today, we use this knowledge to create immersive cultural experiences that take you to the heart of a place.







DANA BACKMAN

*DIRECTOR OF THE NASA ASTRONOMY
ACTIVATION AMBASSADORS PROGRAM*



Lecture Topics

Astrophysics & Planetary Science in Antarctica

How does Antarctica relate to space? From collecting Moon and Mars meteorites on the ice surface to making sensitive measurements of cosmological background radiation, hear some of the incredible astronomical discoveries made on the seventh continent.

Snowball Earth

There is evidence that at least three times in the distant past, Earth went through “snowball” episodes in which miles-thick ice extended from the poles to the equator, aka “Ice Ages on steroids”. We’ll look at the evidence for, and possible causes of, those episodes.

Good planets gone bad

Available evidence indicates that surface conditions on Venus, Earth, and Mars were once quite similar, including the presence of liquid water on all three planets. What happened? Explore the effects of global climate changes extending over billions of years on these sibling worlds.

Biography

Dr. Dana Backman, a native of Hartford, Connecticut, was trained as an astrophysicist, receiving a Ph.D. degree from the University of Hawai‘i. For 12 years he worked as a full-time professor of physics and astronomy at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania before teaching at Santa Clara University and in Stanford University’s Continuing Studies Program.

Dana was then the director of education and public

outreach for NASA’s Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) mission from 2003 through 2016. He is currently employed by the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, as Principal Investigator of the NASA Astronomy Activation Ambassadors science teacher professional development program. Dana is the coauthor of five introductory-level college textbooks published by Cengage Learning, Inc.

Cruise from Chile to Peru

📅 27 Mar - 5 Apr 2025

📍 Valparaiso - Callao (Lima)

📅 9 nights 🚢 SH Vega

Day

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

Visiting

- Valparaiso
- Coquimbo
- At Sea
- Antofagasta
- Iquique
- Arica
- Matarani
- At Sea
- General San Martin
- Callao (Lima)



Ports, port order and itinerary duration may vary, for the most up-to-date details see swanhellenic.com



PAMELA HARMAN

SETI INSTITUTE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



Lecture Topics

Introduction to the SETI Institute and Astrobiology

What is life? What conditions are necessary to support ongoing life on a planet or moon? Astrobiology is an interdisciplinary field of research that has capitalized upon the discovery of extremophiles on Earth and correlating environments in our solar system.

Visible and Invisible Light: Multiwavelength Astronomy

Why do glaciers appear blue? How can astronomers know about the chemical composition of different stars? Learn about the amazing technology that allows astronomers to investigate the universe's biggest mysteries.

Moon and Mars Trivia Contest

The red planet and the Moon have long captured our imaginations – from ancient spiritual and religious significance to inspiring modern film, TV, literature and music. Explore how these celestial bodies are interwoven into our culture, and take part in an interactive trivia contest with prizes.

Biography

Originally trained in civil engineering, Ms Harman began her career as a construction project manager before time working as a high school science and math teacher. It was a keen interest in astrobiology and the opportunity to manage SETI education programs led her to the SETI Institute.

Ms Harman currently serves as the SETI Institute's Director of Education, a Principal Investigator and a co-investigator

with hundreds of presentations and workshops on her CV. She has facilitated the placement of undergraduates with mentors at the institute and serves on the institute's panels for both the annual SETI Forward and the REU Award of Excellence awards for undergraduates. Her current focus is on building better STEM learning and STEM career opportunities for the next generation of investigators and explorers.

Cruise from Canada to Iceland

🕒 22 May – 2 Jun 2025

📍 Halifax – Reykjavik

📅 11 nights 🚢 SH Vega

Day	Visiting
1	Halifax, NS
2	At Sea
3	Saint-Pierre
4	St. John's, NL
5	St. Anthony, NL
6	At Sea
7	At Sea
8	Narsarsuaq
8	Qassiarsuk, Brattahlid
9	Qaqortoq
10	At Sea
11	At Sea
12	Reykjavik



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MADHULIKA GUHATHAKURTA

HELIOPHYSICIST



Lecture Topics

Solar eclipses: celestial marvels and cultural legends

Embark on a celestial journey to witness the awe-inspiring beauty of solar eclipses. Discover how ancient cultures interpreted these rare events and how modern science unveils their mysteries, creating unforgettable moments under the darkened skies.

Auroras: nature's spectacular light symphony

Immerse yourself in the enchanting world of auroras, where Earth's magnetic fields create vibrant curtains of light. Explore the folklore and science behind these breathtaking displays, capturing the imagination with stories of the Northern Lights dancing across Arctic skies.

NASA's mission to touch the Sun

The Parker Solar Probe Embark is on a groundbreaking mission with NASA's Parker Solar Probe, as it ventures closer to the Sun than any spacecraft before. Discover the revolutionary technology behind this daring quest to unlock the Sun's deepest secrets.

Solar folklore: myths and legends of the Sun

Uncover the rich tapestry of cultural stories and myths woven around the Sun throughout history. From ancient civilizations to modern folklore, delve into tales of sun gods, solar eclipses as omens, and the enduring fascination with our life-giving star.

Solar flares: fireworks of the Sun

Embark on a mesmerizing journey to witness the spectacular beauty of solar flares, and explosive bursts of energy from the Sun's surface. Explore how these cosmic fireworks illuminate the solar atmosphere, showcasing the Sun's dynamic and breathtaking nature.

Biography

With a lifelong passion for the sun and its effects on us, Lika Guhathakurta has dedicated her career to unraveling the mysteries of our nearest star. Her journey has spanned across continents – chasing solar eclipses and studying mesmerizing auroras, blending science with adventure. All of this has led to her becoming “The Sheliophysicist” – a

woman in her quest to understand the sun. Lika says that her life's journey and career have matched up with three solar cycles, thus binding her ever closer to our star. As a leading scientist at NASA, Lika explores how the Sun's dynamic behavior impacts Earth, guiding humanity's understanding of space weather and solar phenomena.

Cruise from Iceland to Svalbard

📅 2 - 13 Jun 2025

📍 Reykjavik - Longyearbyen

📅 11 nights 🚢 SH Vega

Day	Visiting
1	Reykjavik
2	Dynjandi Waterfall
3	Isafjordur
4	Grimsey Island
4	Hrisey Island
5	Husavik
6	At Sea
7	Jan Mayen
8	At Sea
9	Signehamnna, Svalbard
9	Ny-Alesund, Svalbard
10	Texas Bar, Liefdefjorden, Svalbard
10	Monacobreen, Svalbard
11	Magdalenafjord, Gullybukta, Svalbard
11	Magdalenafjord, Graveneset, Svalbard
12	Longyearbyen, Svalbard



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DEREK KOZEL

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, GNU RADIO



Lecture Topics

Eyes on Earth: NASA's view from above

Explore how NASA and global partners utilize cutting-edge satellites to unravel the secrets of our planet. From awe-inspiring images to mind-blowing data, discover how space technology helps us understand Earth's oceans, climate, and the icy wonders of Antarctica.

Waves across waters: the evolution of shipboard radios

Discover the captivating story of radio and wireless technology aboard ocean ships. From the pioneering days of Marconi to the modern era of satellite communication, explore how these waves have connected mariners across vast oceans.

Biography

Derek is the principal investigator for the GNU Radio project at the SETI Institute. GNU Radio is the world's most widely used free and open-source software toolkit for designing and developing software-defined radio and digital signal processing applications. He has been a volunteer with GNU Radio since 2017 and active in the administration of the project since 2018. Derek's work is focused on

supporting the continuing development of the GNU Radio toolkit, promoting its use in education and outreach, and collaborating with radio astronomers within the SETI Institute and around the world. His research at Carnegie Mellon and Cardiff University involves machine learning and improving the accessibility of cutting-edge engineering to individuals and organizations alike.

British Isles and Iceland Cruise

🕒 1 - 13 Jun 2025

📍 Dublin - Reykjavik

📅 12 nights 🏠 SH Diana

Day

Visiting

- 1 Dublin
- 2 Portrush and cruising Rathlin Island
- 3 Portree, Isle of Skye
- 4 Stromness, Orkney Islands
- 5 Lerwick, Shetland Islands
- 6 Torshavn, Faroe Islands
- 7 Seydisfjordur
- 8 Bakkagerdi (Borgafjordur)
- 9 Grímsey Island and Hrisey Island
- 10 Húsavík
- 11 Isafjordur
- 12 Dynjandi Waterfall
- 13 Reykjavik



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JOE SPITALE

SENIOR SCIENTIST



Lecture Topics

Evolution and the Tree of Life

How far has our understanding come along since Darwin's theory of evolution was conceived? We'll look at the incredibly diverse flora and fauna that have populated Earth since life began, and the scientific methods used to discover their origins.

Abiogenesis

How did life start on Earth? Or did it start on Earth at all? We'll look at the building blocks of life, the earliest evidence of life on Earth and take a deep dive into the theory of abiogenesis – the origin of life from non-living matter.

Ocean worlds

Earth is one of the nearly ten known ocean worlds in our solar system. We'll travel these worlds looking for clues that might hint at their potential to host life. Next, we'll tour further, beyond our solar system in search of other ocean worlds across the galaxy.

Biography

Dr. Spitalé obtained his B.S. in physics from the California Institute of Technology before completing a PhD in Planetary Science and Applied Mathematics at the University of Arizona. He has carried out original research in the areas of orbital dynamics and icy satellites and was involved in the Galileo and Cassini spacecraft missions. He is currently a team member

with the Ring-Moon Systems node of the Planetary Data System located at the SETI Institute, and he is performing research into Saturn's rings and Saturn's satellite, Enceladus, which harbors a subsurface global ocean. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Arizona where he has taught classes in Astrobiology, Climate Change, and Field Geology.

Iceland to Greenland Roundtrip Cruise

📅 31 Jul – 10 Aug 2025

📍 Reykjavik – Reykjavik

📅 10 nights 🚢 SH Vega

Day	Visiting
1	Reykjavik
2	At Sea
3-5	Scoresbysund
5	Ittoqqortoormiit
6-7	Kong Oscar Fjord
8	At Sea
9	Ísafjörður
9	Vigur Island
10	Dynjandi Waterfall
11	Reykjavik



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BILL DIAMOND

SETI INSTITUTE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Lecture Topics

The search for life beyond Earth – how it works, how it’s going, and why it matters

The SETI Institute is the only organization in the world devoted solely to discovering life and intelligence beyond Earth. Find out what tools and technologies SETI scientists use to investigate one of life’s most profound questions – are we alone in the universe?

Astrobiology, field expeditions and the search for life beyond Earth

How does the fieldwork conducted by astrobiologists all over the world – from the extreme cold of the polar regions to the extreme heat of the Atacama Desert – relate to SETI’s search for life beyond Earth?

Your extra-terrestrial questions answered – fireside chats with Bill Diamond

This is your chance to ask one of the world’s leading experts anything you’ve ever wanted to know about the SETI Institute, astrobiology, life on other planets, UFOs, aliens and beyond.

Biography

Bill is a Silicon Valley technology veteran with over 30 years of experience in laser photonics and optical communications networks, X-ray imaging, and semiconductor processing technologies. Before joining the institute in 2015, Bill held various executive management positions and his corporate background ranges from

venture-backed start-ups to Fortune 100 multinationals. Bill is a current member of the Optical Society of America, the International Astronomical Congress and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Science and Innovation Council (BASIC) in San Francisco.

Iceland to Greenland Roundtrip Cruise

📅 10 - 20 Aug 2025

📍 Reykjavik - Reykjavik

📅 10 nights 🚢 SH Vega

Day	Visiting
1	Reykjavik
2	At Sea
3-5	Scoresbysund
5	Ittoqqortoormiit
6-7	Kong Oscar Fjord
8	At Sea
9	Isafjordur
9	Vigur Island
10	Dynjandi Waterfall
11	Reykjavik



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STEVE CROFT

ASTROPHYSICIST



Lecture Topics

Is there anybody out there?

As early explorers journeyed into the polar unknown they were struck by the immense emptiness. Modern astronomy has revealed a vast Universe, in which we, as humans, feel small and utterly alone. However, upon closer observation – life is everywhere in the Arctic. Can the same be said for the universe at large?

What time is it? Where am I?

Our journey on the SH Vega is a voyage in both space and time – we'll change our clocks several times, and cross the Arctic Circle. Learn about the history of timekeeping, time zones, and their connections to the challenges of determining one's precise position in the vastness of the ocean.

Expecting the unexpected

We're hoping for some spectacular wildlife encounters on this journey. But being "lucky" often involves both serendipity and preparedness. Find out how cutting-edge telescopes like the Allen Telescope Array, enable us to probe the weird and wonderful in the Universe.

Sailing on cosmic winds

The Sun brings light and life, even to remote polar regions. But our nearest star is not always as benign as it seems. Learn how stellar activity on other stars can determine whether planets orbiting them are suitable places for life, and how our own Sun could even threaten our way of life here on Earth.

Biography

Dr. Steve Croft is an astrophysicist and educator involved in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence. A Project Scientist for an observational program on the world's largest steerable telescope (the 8000-ton Green Bank Telescope). Steve's primary focus is searching for signs of technology beyond Earth.

Steve has spent time on the Spitzer and Hubble Space Telescopes, has authored over 100 articles in scientific

journals and has served on review panels for NASA and the National Science Foundation. He grew up in England, where he obtained his undergraduate degree in Astrophysics from University College, London, and a PhD in Astrophysics from Oxford University in 2002. After postdoctoral research at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, he moved to UC Berkeley in 2007 to help commission the Allen Telescope Array in collaboration with the SETI Institute.

Northern Lights Cruise from Iceland to Greenland

🕒 20 – 30 Aug 2025

📍 Reykjavik – Kangerlussuaq

📅 9 nights 🚢 SH Vega

Day	Visiting
1	Reykjavik
2	At Sea
3	Skjoldungen
4	Cruising Prins Christian Sund
4	Aappilattoq
5	Ivittut
6	Nuuk
7	Sisimiut
8	Ilulissat, Disko Bay
9	Disko Bay
10	Kangerlussuaq
11	Kangerlussuaq



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ROSALBA BONACCORSI

RESEARCH SCIENTIST



Lecture Topics

The Drake Equation and the search for life in the Universe: from stars to whales

The Drake Equation explores the probabilistic number of alien civilizations we could detect within our galaxy. We can relate this to the habitable environments, extreme life, and intelligent behavior on our planet, and how observing life on Earth can help us find it elsewhere.

Making the Arctic (& Antarctica) work for ocean worlds.

Discover how Earth's polar environments serve as models for exploring icy moons like Enceladus and Europa. Explore various polar environments and their marine life, and consider the possibility of similar life in the ice-covered oceans of our solar system.

Protecting environments on Earth and the solar system

Explore how future missions will search for life on other planets by drilling for underground samples while avoiding the problem of contamination. Learn about planetary protection protocols, sterilization technique and their applications.

Astrobiology science expeditions to planetary analogs

Discover how life detection technologies for Mars and beyond are tested in Earth's extreme environments, from the Atacama Desert to the Tibetan Plateau. Learn about field expeditions that deepen our understanding of life, test innovative technologies, and inspire future scientists and the public.

Biography

Dr. Rosalba Bonaccorsi is a scientist at the SETI Institute and NASA Ames – her research focuses on exploring life's extremes on Earth and beyond. She has investigated deep subsurface biospheres in Spain and participated in NASA's Spaceward Bound expeditions, teaching and inspiring future scientists.

Joining SETI in 2009, Rosalba focuses on where and how life exists and is preserved in geological environments.

Her work has supported the Mars Science Laboratory and life detection missions. Rosalba also collaborates with Death Valley's National Park Service and leads experiments simulating icy environments on moons like Enceladus and Europa. These innovative studies aid in interpreting data from the Cassini Mission – a probe that studied Saturn and its moons, paving the way for future missions searching for life in our Solar System's ocean worlds.

Canadian Arctic and Northern Lights Cruise

📅 15 - 30 Sep 2025

📍 Kangerlussuaq - Halifax

📅 15 nights 🚢 SH Vega

Day	Visiting
1	Kangerlussuaq
2	At Sea
3	Qeqertarsuaq, Disko Bay
4	Ilulissat, Disko Bay
5	Sisimiut
6	Nuuk
7	At Sea
8	Iqaluit, NU
9	Lady Franklin Island, NU
10	Torngat Mountains NP, Eclipse Channel
11	Hebron, NL
12	At Sea
13	L'Anse-aux-Meadows, NL
14	Bonne Bay, Woody Point, NL
15	At Sea
16	Halifax, NS



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PASCAL LEE

PLANETARY SCIENTIST



Lecture Topics

Alone in the Milky Way

Are we alone in the universe? Dive into humanity's search for extraterrestrial intelligence, exploring our progress, the factors shaping our odds and Dr Lee's compelling "best guess" on the chances of discovering another advanced civilization in the cosmos.

Planet Earth and Antarctica Through Time

Earth's story is one of incredible transformation, from its fiery beginnings and the formation of the Earth-Moon relationship to the emergence of life and the evolution of its diverse continents. This lecture journeys through Earth's history, focussing on the remarkable story of Antarctica.

Biography

Dr. Pascal Lee is a planetary scientist with the SETI Institute, the Mars Institute, and NASA Ames Research Center. He holds physics, engineering geology, and astronomy degrees, including a PhD from Cornell, where he was Carl Sagan's final Teaching Assistant. Pascal's work focuses on the Moon and Mars, exploring their water, ice, caves and volcanoes. He recently co-discovered Noctis Volcano near Mars' equator.

With over 30 polar expeditions, Pascal has wintered in Antarctica and led the Northwest Passage Drive Expedition, now featured in the documentary Passage to Mars. A recipient of numerous awards, including the Sagan Prize, Pascal also serves on the National Academies Human Exploration of Mars committee. In his free time, he paints, flies helicopters, and enjoys adventures with his dog, Apollo.

The Long Way cruise: from Buenos Aires to Ushuaia

🕒 14 Nov - 1 Dec 2025

📍 Buenos Aires - Ushuaia

📅 17 nights 🚢 SH Vega

Day	Visiting
1	Buenos Aires
2-4	At Sea
5	Saunders Island
6	Port Stanley
7-8	At Sea
9-10	South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands
11-12	At Sea
13-15	Antarctic Peninsula
16-17	At Sea
18	Ushuaia



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Where to find us

Australia

Suite 14b, Level 1, 123 Clarence St,
Sydney NSW, 2000

AU enquiries-au@swanhellenic.com

NZ enquiries-nz@swanhellenic.com

AU +61 1300 722 499

NZ +64 800 004 649

Europe

32, Spyrou Kyprianou, ISSA Court,
office 201, 6058, Larnaca, Cyprus

office@swanhellenic.com

+35722667727

Germany

Koenigsallee 14,
40212 Düsseldorf

enquiries-de@swanhellenic.com

+49 211 13 866 123

Hong Kong

Suite 1201A, 12/F, Tower 1,
Admiralty Centre, 18 Harcourt Road,
Hong Kong

enquiries@swanhellenic.asia

+852 2861 0300

UK

Office 1403, 20 Brock Street,
Regents Place, London, NW1 3DS

enquiries@swanhellenic.com

+44 (0) 207 846 0271

USA

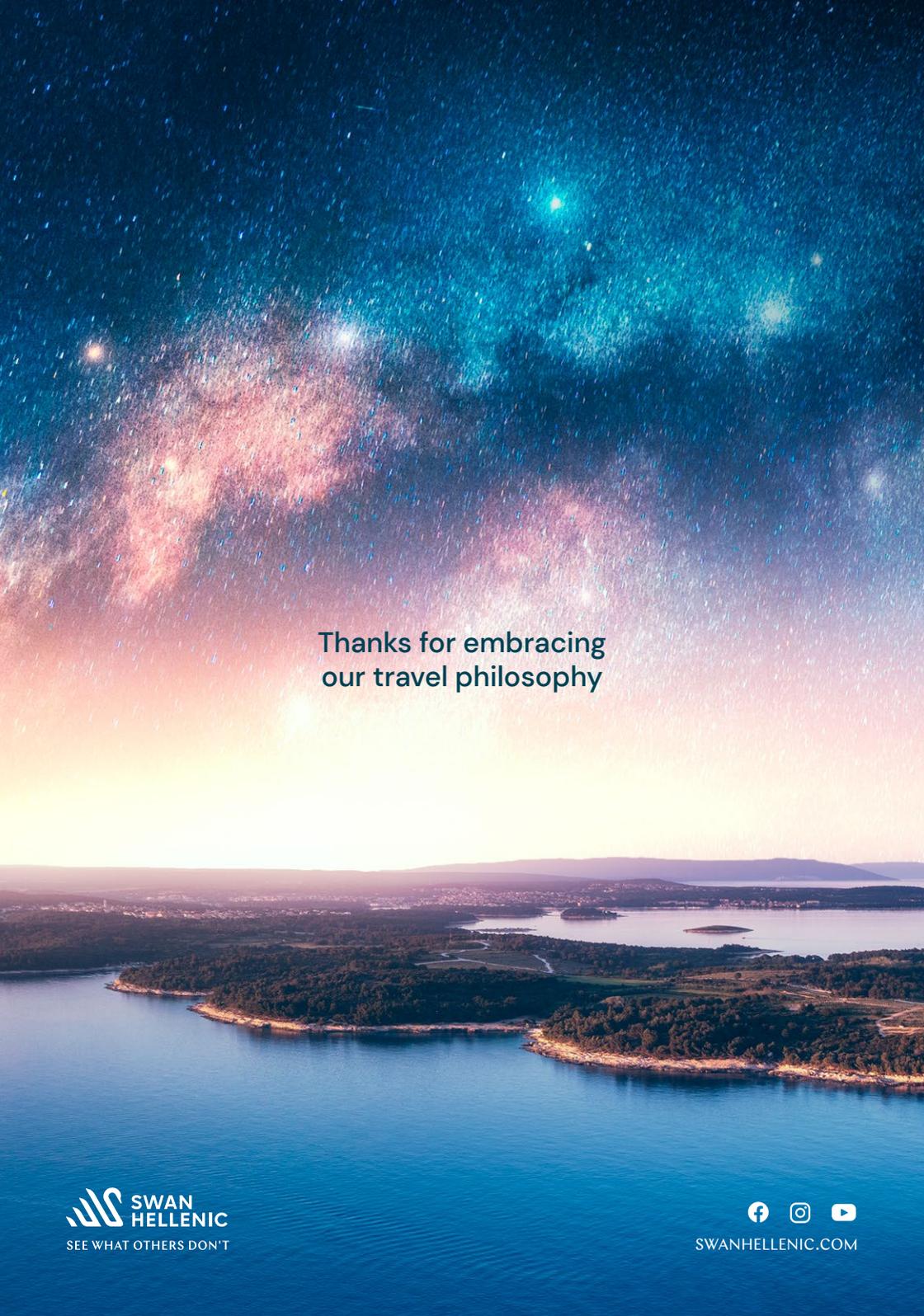
1800 SE 10th Ave, Suite 240,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316

inquiries@swanhellenic.com

+1 (800) 537 6777







Thanks for embracing
our travel philosophy