

In 1974 Lawrence began her first of many cruises to the Middle East. On her way to the Middle East, Lawrence did not take the normal route by transversing the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal. The 1973 Arab/Israeli war closed the Suez Canal to US warships because the Pentagon was afraid a ship would be attacked transversing the narrow waterway and be a sitting duck. Arab sentiment was infamously against the US because we were siding with Israel during the war. Lawrence sailed around the horn of Africa and into the Middle East.