




# Greek Islands of the Aegean: Minoans to Crusaders 2025

28 MAY – 15 JUN 2025

Code: 22517

Tour Leaders Dr Christopher A. Tuttle

Fitness Level 

**Level 3 - Challenging**

Among our most physically demanding

Explore Minoan Crete & the Cycladic islands of Santorini, Naxos, Ios, Tinos & Delos. Follow in the footsteps of Herakles to the Dodecanese islands of Kos & Rhodes.

## Overview

Archaeologist, [Christopher A. Tuttle](#), will share with you his extensive knowledge about the ancient and medieval periods in the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas as we journey through Crete; the diverse islands of the Cyclades archipelago visiting Santorini, Naxos, Ios, Tinos, Delos and Mykonos; and the Dodecanese islands of Kos and Rhodes.

- In Crete visit iconic sites of the ancient Minoan civilisation including the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Palace of Knossos and the Palace of Phaistos; and the world-famous Heraklion Archaeological Museum.
- In the old city of Hania explore the 14th-century Venetian harbour, the Ottoman quarters, and view the reconstructed Minoan ship *Minoa*, and the New Archaeological Museum.
- At the Necropolis of Orthi Petra at Eleutherna, Crete, view the recently discovered gold treasure from the Tomb of the Priestesses.
- On the volcanic island of Santorini visit the Minoan port town of Akrotiri and view vibrant Bronze Age frescoes on display at the Prehistoric Museum.
- Spend 3 nights on Naxos, the largest and most fertile of the Cycladic islands. We admire the colossal *kouroi* statues that likely date to the 7th-6th centuries BCE and the frescoes of the Byzantine Church of Panagia Drosiani. We also enjoy leisurely walking tours of the island's picturesque villages and Naxos Chora, dominated by its 16th-century Venetian castle.
- Enjoy a day trip to Ios to view the spectacular Early Bronze Age settlement of Skarkos and take a scenic drive to view the 'so-called' Homer's Tomb.
- Explore mountainous Tinos, home to Panagia Evangelistria and the 'Miraculous Icon of Virgin Mary'. The island is famous for its marble sculptors, village architecture, intricately designed dovecotes, and its traditional produce and organic wines - Tinos now ranks as a top gastronomic destination in Greece.
- Cruise, by private charter, to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed site of Delos which claimed to be the mythological birthplace of Apollo.
- Spend 3 nights on Kos, home of Hippocrates, the father of medicine. Explore the healing sanctuary dedicated to the god of Asclepius; the crusader architecture of Castle Antimachia; and the Graeco-Roman ruins of Kos Town including the Casa Romana decorated with exquisite floor mosaics.
- Within Bodrum's magnificent waterfront castle built by the Knights Hospitaller visit the excellent Museum of Underwater Archaeology displaying the remains of five ancient shipwrecks and other underwater finds. We also explore the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus - one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
- Enjoy 4 days on Rhodes, the largest of the Dodecanese islands, and a 'crucible' of Eastern Mediterranean history. Visit Lindos' beautifully preserved Acropolis enclosed by battlements constructed by the Knights of St John, and Rhodes' UNESCO World Heritage-listed fortified medieval Knights Hospitaller town.
- Throughout the tour dine at carefully selected restaurants that showcase the gastronomy of the Greek Islands.

Overnight Hania (2 nights) • Heraklion (3 nights) • Naxos (3 nights) • Tinos (3 nights) • Kos (3 nights) • Rhodes (4 nights)

Zoom Lecture: "Uncovering the ancient Cycladic Culture: Part I: Early Cycladic periods (3100-2000 BCE)", by Dr Christopher A. Tuttle

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gddH61tH5wc>

Zoom Lecture: "Uncovering the ancient Cycladic Culture: Part II: Middle to Late Cycladic periods (2000-1000 BCE)", by Dr Christopher A. Tuttle

<https://youtu.be/7aEPH9nBGCE>



## Leaders



### Dr Christopher A. Tuttle

Archaeologist on the Hellenistic and Roman periods of the Middle East and North Africa. Former Associate Director at ACOR in Jordan and former Executive Director of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers. Current cultural heritage consultant for projects in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Chile, and Mongolia. Has led ASA tours in Syria, Jordan, Sicily, Greece and Turkey.

Christopher A. Tuttle is an archaeologist whose research focuses on the Hellenistic and Roman periods in the Middle East. His specialisation is the ancient kingdom of the Nabataeans and their capital city of Petra, where his fieldwork has been centred for nearly 20 years. He holds a BA in Classical and Medieval Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, and a PhD from the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University.

Chris lived and worked full time in the Middle East for nearly 15 years, first in Jerusalem and then in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Initially interested in ancient mystery cults from the Classical, Hellenistic, and Roman periods and heretical movements in Medieval Europe, Christopher shifted his area of research to the Middle East to explore the period of transition between the end of the independent Hellenistic kingdoms and the rise of Roman hegemony in Syria and the Levantine region. His doctoral work focused on the Nabataeans at Petra, who were the last independent kingdom in the area to be absorbed by the Romans.

Christopher has travelled extensively in the Middle East to explore important archaeological sites from all periods of the region's long history and has worked on a number of excavations and surveys, including in Israel/Palestine, Qumran, Ramat Hanadiv, Khirbet Jiljil, Jerusalem, Tzuba, Sepphoris, Mizpe Ramon, Mampsis, and Sobeita. In Jordan, he worked briefly with the French at Khirbet es-Samra before focusing on Petra and its hinterlands; his excavation, survey, and conservation projects there include work on some of the major monuments, including the 'Great Temple', Petra Church, 'Upper Market', 'Garden and Pool Complex', the 'Monumental Platform', and the 'Temple of the Winged Lions', where he envisioned and launched the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management Initiative (TWLCRM), an award-winning and innovative grassroots project that pioneered a new model for the involvement and training of local people in the preservation and management of cultural heritage resources that affect their lives. He also codirected the Brown University Petra Archaeological Project, which conducted the most extensive landscape survey to date in the northern Petra hinterlands, including the area of Beida (also known as 'Little Petra'), with its important remains from earliest prehistory through to the modern day. He has also assisted and advised on many other archaeological and cultural resource management projects throughout the Hashemite kingdom of Jordan, as well as in Syria, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, as well as in Egypt and other North African countries.

He is the former field director for the groundwork team surveying around Hegra (Mada'in Saleh), an archaeological site located in the Al Madinah Region of Saudi Arabia, whose remains mainly date from the

Nabataean kingdom. He was the Associate Director of the American Center of Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman, Jordan from 2006–2014, during which time he directed field projects in Petra and assisted numerous other archaeological missions in the region. During his time based in Amman, he frequently guided archaeology tours of sites in Jordan including ASA's tour to Jordan in 2009 and 2010. He then served for three years as the Executive Director of the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC) based in Washington, D.C.

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### *Combine this tour with*

#### **Spring Garden Masterpieces of England and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026**

13 MAY – 22 MAY 2026

#### **Great Monuments, Art and Gardens of the Côte d'Azur, Provence and the Cévennes 2026**

6 MAY – 23 MAY 2026

#### **Türkiye: The Ages of Anatolia 2026**

24 APR – 14 MAY 2026

#### **Bulgaria & the Black Sea: Painted Towns, Byzantine Monasteries & Thracian Treasures 2026**

6 MAY – 20 MAY 2026



## Itinerary

The following itinerary describes daily activities which may change or be rotated and/or modified in order to accommodate alterations in opening hours, road conditions, flight and ferry schedules. Participants will receive a final itinerary together with their tour documents prior to departure. The tour includes breakfast daily, lunches & evening meals indicated in the detailed itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch (on a couple of days this will be a boxed/picnic lunch) and D=dinner.

### Hania, Crete - 2 nights

#### Day 1: Wednesday 28 May, Arrive Hania

- Tour commences at 7.15pm in the foyer of the Porto Veneziano Hotel
- Welcome Meeting
- Light Evening Meal

**Meeting Point:** The tour commences at 7.15pm in the foyer the [Porto Veneziano Hotel](#), located in the heart of the old city of Hania. There will be a short welcome meeting followed by a light dinner in the old town.

We begin our journey on Crete, a mysterious land that gave birth to Europe's first civilisation. In the stories of Greek myth, this civilisation, called the 'Minoan' after the legendary King Minos, belongs to the Golden Age. Homer says that Crete had 100 cities and sent 80 ships to the Trojan War. Crete figures large in Homer's *Odyssey*; his hero Odysseus claims to have visited on the way out to and home from Troy. He even masquerades as the younger brother of the Cretan king!

Our first destination is the beautiful city of Hania in Western Crete. Hania is built on an earlier settlement that Homer calls Kydonia, and this name is also found in the Mycenaean Linear B tablets (1100 BCE). The powerful city of Kydonia was a leader in resisting successive invaders, Romans, Arabs, the Venetians, and the Turks. During their rule, (1205-1669), the Venetians changed the name to La Canae – the channel – from which comes the modern name Hania. But even today, the province around Hania retains the ancient name,

Kydonia. (Overnight Hania, Crete) D

Day 2: Thursday 29 May, Hania – Aptera – Hania

- Ancient Aptera
- New Archaeological Museum of Hania
- Shipyard Moro, Nautical Museum: featuring the reconstructed Minoan ship Minoa
- Orientation walk of the old city of Hania, visiting the Venetian fortification and old Venetian and Ottoman quarters
- Time at leisure
- Welcome Dinner

We begin this morning with a visit to ancient Aptera, which overlooks Souda Bay and offers panoramic views across the plain of Armeni to the White Mountains. 'Aptera' means wingless; the city got this name from a mythical story about a singing contest between the dangerous bird-women, the Sirens and Zeus' daughters, the Muses. When the Sirens lost the contest, they shed their feathers, turned white, and fell into the sea. Much of the area remains unexcavated but we will see the impressive, fortified city walls reminiscent of the Cyclopean walls of Tiryns and Mycenae. We also see the remains of a small 1st-century BCE temple of Demeter, a theatre and vaulted cisterns of the Roman period – according to one source they were used for grain storage.

On returning to Hania, we visit the New Archaeological Museum, opened in state-of-the-art premises in April 2022. Highlights are an unpublished, assemblage of clay bull votive figurines and the famous "Master Sealing" a seal impression showing a male figure towering over a Minoan town by the sea – possibly Kastelli Hill near our hotel. We also make a quick visit to Shipyard Moro, a division of the Nautical Museum of Crete to see the *Minoa*, a full-size replica of a 16th-century, BCE Minoan vessel.

The afternoon is dedicated to exploring the beautiful architecture and narrow streets of the Venetian harbour district and the maze of narrow streets in the Splantzia/Daliani District. At the entrance to the harbour lies the Firka Fortress, built by the Venetians (1206-1669) to serve as a local garrison and later used for the same purpose by the Ottomans (1669-1898).

This evening we enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (Overnight Hania, Crete) BD

### Heraklion, Crete - 3 nights

Day 3: Friday 30 May, Hania – Eleutherna – Heraklion

- Arcadia Monastery
- Ancient Eleutherna Archaeological Site including the Necropolis of Orthi Petra
- The Museum of Ancient Eleutherna

Today we drive 23 kilometres southeast of Rethymnon to the fortified Arcadia Monastery which sits on a high fertile plateau on the northwest side of Mount Ida (in myth, a birthplace of the sky god Zeus). As early as the 16th century the monastery was a place for science and art with a school and a rich library. It was also noted for its rich production of olive oil and wine produced by the monks that lived in the monastery and farmers that worked the monastery's extensive lands. The monastery played an active role in the Cretan resistance to Ottoman rule and in the revolt of 1866, providing refuge to nearly 300 guerrilla fighters and some 700 women and children.

Next, we visit Eleutherna, an ancient city-state that lies a few kilometres from the Arcadia Monastery. Eleutherna was a major city in 900-600 BCE. Burials at Orthi Petra confirm Homer's account of funeral rituals and in particular, the Warrior's Tomb confirms the practice of revenge killing of captives described in the *Iliad*. Rich finds from the excavation are on display in the new museum including a perfectly preserved bronze shield from the Warrior's Tomb (c.700 BCE) and spectacular gold and jewelled adornments from the Tomb of the Four Priestesses (c. 675 BCE), including a series of intricate gold brooches, one depicting a male god flanked by two lions and another showing animal combat.

Mid-afternoon we continue our journey to Heraklion, the capital of Crete. Our boutique hotel is located in the heart of the city. (Overnight Heraklion, Crete) BL

#### Day 4: Saturday 31 May, Heraklion – Phaistos – Gortyn – Heraklion

- Minoan 'palace' complex at Phaistos
- Graeco-Roman site of Gortyn
- Archaeological Museum of Messara

This morning we drive inland to the Minoan palace complex at Phaistos with its evocative view over the Messara Plain. According to myth, Phaistos was founded by Rhadamanthys, brother of King Minos, both of whom ultimately became judges of the dead in the Greek Underworld. Like Knossos, the complex at Phaistos also dates to about 1900 BCE, but here we see the original ground plan of a Minoan palatial complex without the overlay of Arthur Evans's reconstructions. Phaistos remained the same throughout several cycles of destruction and rebuilding until it was abandoned in about 1400 BCE.

After our picnic lunch, we transfer to the site of ancient Gortyn. Our first evidence for people living in the area around Gortyn dates to the Neolithic period (ca. 7000 BCE). The site was clearly in use during the Minoan period (2600-1100 BCE) — as a lot of their artefacts have been excavated in the area — but scholars still dispute whether Gortyn was developed into a city by the Minoans. However, it was clearly a centre of power by the time of the Trojan War (ca. early 12th century BCE), as Homer mentions "...Gortyna, famed for its walls..." in both his *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Gortyn rose to such prominence during the 1st millennium BCE that it rivalled the former Minoan capital at Phaistos. The city's influence was at its highest in the 2nd century BCE during the Hellenistic period when it dominated all of Crete. During the Roman Imperial period the city became the regional capital of the dual provinces of Crete and Cyrenaica, and many of the site's features we will visit date to this Roman period.

Today ancient Gortyn is perhaps most famous because of the 'Gortyn Code' inscription that was discovered in 1884. This is the 2nd longest Greek inscription known today. It is dated to the 5th century BCE, which makes the 'Gortyn Code' both the longest and oldest known example of an ancient Greek law inscription. This astounding find was preserved because the blocks on which it was inscribed were re-used in the walls of an Odeon built during the reign of Emperor Trajan.

We end our visit to Gortyn by visiting the new Archaeological Museum of Messara, which opened in 2023. The museum consists of three halls, each dedicated to one of the three major historical periods: prehistory, Graeco-Roman and Christian era.

Following our visit to the museum we will transfer back to Heraklion for an evening at leisure. (Overnight Heraklion, Crete) BL

#### Day 5: Sunday 1 June, Heraklion – Knossos – Heraklion



- Minoan 'palace' complex of Knossos
- Heraklion Archaeological Museum

This morning we set out for Knossos, the famous Minoan 'palace' complex on Crete. The site was excavated and reconstructed by Sir Arthur Evans in the early years of the twentieth century. Evans' reconstruction is controversial, but it does offer a vivid experience of how Minoan palatial complexes may have looked in the Bronze Age.

Evans thought that the Knossos complex, with its three-storied maze of corridors and rooms, was the labyrinth where the Athenian hero Theseus killed the Minotaur. In the *Iliad*, Homer mentions the dancing floor that the craftsman Daedalus built for Ariadne at Knossos. It is also very possible that Homer's description of King Alkinoos' shining palace preserves a collective memory of Knossos.

Following time at leisure for lunch we visit the Heraklion Archaeological Museum. This is one of the world's great museums with marvellous finds from all over Crete. The displays cover a span of 7500 years, but the museum is most celebrated for its collection of beautiful and sophisticated objects from the Minoan civilisation, including frescoes from Knossos, the distinctive faience figurines of the snake goddess and the mysterious Phaistos disk. Other exhibits include a Boar's Tusk Helmet that exactly matches Homer's description of the helmet worn by Odysseus in the *Iliad*.

For tonight's group dinner, we shall enjoy a traditional Cretan banquet at the Herb Garden Restaurant. (Overnight Heraklion, Crete) BD

### Naxos – 3 nights

Day 6: Monday 2 June, Heraklion – Santorini – Naxos

- Morning High-Speed Ferry from Heraklion to Fira, Santorini
- Minoan Bronze Age settlement of Akrotiri
- Museum of Prehistoric Thira
- Afternoon High-Speed Jet from Santorini to Naxos

Early this morning we take the high-speed ferry to the volcanic island of Santorini.

Our visit to Santorini marks the beginning of our tour of some of the Cycladic islands. Santorini (ancient Thira) is the southernmost of the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea. Santorini refers to a group of five small islands, with Thira being the largest. These islands are the parts of a volcanic cone that remained above water following its numerous explosive eruptions which occur about every 20,000 years. The last of these giant eruptions is dated to circa 1500 BCE, and the resulting impact on the climate is thought to have adversely affected Bronze Age societies around the Mediterranean, including the Minoans who dominated the region at the time. The volcano today is only dormant, not extinct.

On arrival transfer to the famous archaeological site of Akrotiri, which takes its name from the nearby modern village. This site was a thriving settlement during the Cycladic Bronze age, largely due to its location directly on the sailing route from copper-rich Cyprus to Minoan Crete. The inhabitants of Akrotiri became adept at processing copper, as evidenced by the discovery of many related tools and implements during the excavation of the site. Copper-processing brought in great wealth for about 500 years, which financed the creation of finely paved streets and complex urban drainage systems. Such wealth also allowed for developing refinement in other crafts such as ceramics and delicate jewellery. This all ended, however, in the mid-16th century BCE when the island exploded. Sites not destroyed completely, were buried in

deep layers of ash, which helped preserve the buildings and artefacts.

Next we continue with a visit to the Museum of Prehistoric Thira where we will learn about the region's history from the Late Neolithic to Late Cycladic periods (ca. 7000-1,000 BCE). The museum showcases many extraordinary artefacts excavated in the area from the different cultures and periods that inhabited the islands. The museum also features an exhibition inaugurated in 2021 entitled "Thera Murals – The Treasure of the Prehistoric Aegean" which showcases a large number of previously unseen frescoes from the prehistoric town. The frescoes are wonderfully celebratory in their observation of plants and animals, and especially of marine life.

Mid-afternoon we board our ferry to Naxos. The journey takes approximately 2 hours. On arrival we transfer to the hotel which is conveniently located in the town centre. (Overnight Naxos) BL

#### Day 7: Tuesday 3 June, Naxos

- Chalkio village: Naxos Agios Georgios Diasoritis & Panagia Protothroni
- Apeiranthos village
- Lunch in Koronos village
- Holy Paleochristian Church of Panagia Drosiani, Moni village
- Kouros statue: The sleeping giants of Naxos, Flerio Melanes

Today we explore Naxos, the largest and most fertile of the Cyclades. It is believed that the island has been inhabited for at least 160,000 years since the latter Middle Paleolithic period, as Neanderthal tools were found southwest of modern Chora. Naxos is also famous for a species of dwarf elephant that lived here prior to going extinct upon the arrival of hominids. During late prehistory (Neolithic to Bronze Ages), Naxos was the centre of the Cycladic culture in the region. It also featured prominently during the Archaic and Classical Greek periods, as it is linked to major myths such as the birth of the Olympian Zeus, the tale of Theseus and the Minotaur, and as the birthplace of Poseidon's nereid wife. The importance of the island continued throughout western history: becoming a religious centre during the Byzantine period, a Venetian Duchy after the Fourth Crusade, and a refuge for Anatolians fleeing the Seljuk Turk invasions of the 13th century.

Our first destination today is the village of Chalki located near the centre of the island. A short walk through olive groves takes us to the Church of Saint George Diasoritis. This 11th-century church is one of the best preserved of the 'cross-in-square' design, an atypical design for churches built on Naxos. Along with learning about the history and architecture of the church, we will view its well-preserved frescoes. These include the Christ Pantocrator in the dome, an admirable Virgin and Child, and an image of its eponymous St. George that is unusual for being painted within a frame like an icon.

We continue our walk through the picturesque village of Chalki to visit the Panagia Protothroni, which still serves the Christian Orthodox community. This small church dedicated to the Virgin Mary is unique in the region, being the only ecclesiastical structure to be covered in white wash. We will see exquisite paintings inside from five eras, including some early Christian images, as well as those from several Byzantine periods. Time permitting, we will also visit a small, adjoining museum that contains relics, icons, and rare books from the church's history.

Following our visit to the Panagia, there will be time at leisure to visit the local Villindras Distillery or Fish & Olive Gallery. These two establishments highlight the richness of the products from the fertility of the island.

We journey on to another regional village, Apeiranthos, considered the 'crown jewel' of Naxos. It is built,

like an amphitheatre, onto the slopes of Mount Fanari. After time to stroll through the village we proceed to the northeast part of the island to the mountain village of Koronos, where we dine in a local restaurant.

After lunch we visit the Holy Paleochristian Church of Panagia Drosiani – our third unique church for the day, and is also dedicated to the Virgin Mother. Its construction is quite unusual, consisting of a three-part attic with a round dome, and three adjoining chapels on the north wall, each with squared-dome bases for their roofs. The oldest part of the church dates to the 6th century CE, and some of the original frescoes from this period are still preserved. We will see additional frescoes from the 11th-14th centuries as well.

Our final stop for the day will be Flerio Melanes, where we visit one of the unfinished colossal *kouroi* statues that likely date to the 7th-6th centuries BCE. *Kouroi* (singular: *kouros*) are naked youths shown standing with their arms at their sides; *korai* is the term used when the statues are of females. The *kouros* is unfinished and is carved from the local Naxian marble.

From Flerio Melanes we transfer back to Naxos Chora for an evening at leisure. (Overnight Naxos) BL

#### Day 8: Wednesday 4 June, Naxos – Ios – Paros – Naxos

- Morning High-Speed Ferry from Naxos to Ios
- Prehistoric – Early Bronze Age Settlement of Skarkos
- Free time in Ios Chora
- Afternoon High-Speed Ferry from Ios to Paros
- Holy Monastery of Panagia Ekatontapiliani, Paros
- Dinner at taverna in fishing village of Naousa
- Late Evening High-Speed Ferry from Paros to Naxos

This morning we take the ferry to the rugged, hilly island of Ios, another of the Cycladic islands. On arrival we transfer to the Skarkos archaeological site. Skarkos is one of the most important prehistoric sites, not only for the Cycladic cultures, but also for the Bronze Age throughout the entire Aegean Sea. The historic settlement is located on a hill encompassed by ancient terracing. It is situated superbly to benefit from the surrounding fertile plains and still have immediate access to a natural harbour which is the most sheltered of all natural harbours in the Cyclades. Skarkos was systematically and thoroughly excavated between 1984-1997, revealing some of the best-preserved remains from the Bronze Age to be found in the region, including four-metre walls found still standing, as well as two-storey buildings. After visiting Skarkos we return by coach to Ios Chora for some time at leisure for lunch.

In the afternoon we take the high-speed ferry to Parikia, the bayside capital of Paros. Here, we visit the Panagia Ekatontapiliani, also referred to as the “Church of 100 doors”. Built in 326 CE, it is considered one of the most important Byzantine monuments in Greece. It is a renowned Marian pilgrimage church of the Aegean, second only to the famed Holy Church of the Virgin Mary Evangelistri which we visit on Tinos. According to legend, the original church was constructed by the Roman Emperor, Constantine the Great (ruled 306–337), for his mother, Saint Helen. During her pilgrimage to the Holy Land in search for the Holy Cross, a storm brought Saint Helen to Paros, where she promised to Panagia (Virgin Mary) to build a large church if her quest was successful. Constantine built the church after her death and dedicated it to the Assumption of the Virgin. The original church built in the 4th century, was a three-aisled basilica. Later, Roman Emperor Justinian (ruled 527-565) transformed the church and added a dome. Further changes have occurred through the centuries and today the church is a complex of Paleochristian, Byzantine and post-Byzantine elements.

In the early evening we transfer to the picturesque fishing village of Naousa where we enjoy dinner at a

local taverna. We return to Naxos by high-speed ferry in the late evening. (Overnight Naxos) BD

### Tinos – 3 nights

Day 9: Thursday 5 June, Naxos – Tinos

- Venetian Castle including temporary exhibition of Archaeology, Naxos Chora OR a section of the new 'Museum of Cycladic Culture' if open by 2025
- Site Museum of Naxos Mitropolis
- Temple of Apollo
- Fast Ferry from Naxos to Tinos

This morning we walk along the coastal promenade to visit the Venetian Castle, or 'Kastro'. The castle was built in the 13th century as the seat of the 'Duchy of Naxos' which was created by Venetian Marco Sanudo upon occupying the Cyclades. It is in the shape of a pentagon, surrounded with 12 towers. The 'Duchy' only survived for 54 years before it fell to the Turkish pirates led by the Ottoman corsair Heyreddin Barbarossa. Today, the castle houses the Naxos Archaeological Museum, two cathedrals (Catholic & Orthodox), and a school run by Ursuline nuns. **Note:** A wonderful new museum entitled the 'Museum of Cycladic Culture' is currently being constructed within the castle and is expected to be completed by 2026. However, different sections of this museum are scheduled to open progressively prior to this date; a visit to this museum will be included IF any of the sections are opened by 2025.

Following our visit to the castle, we continue a walking tour of Naxos Chora to reach the Site Museum of Naxos Mitropolis. Opened in 1999, this is the first museum of its type in Greece. Here visitors can walk amongst artefacts still seated where they were excavated. The museum includes a Mycenaean ceramic workshop (1750-1050 BCE), a Geometric period tomb (900-700 BCE), and several residences from the 2nd century CE.

We next walk along the causeway that connects Naxos to the small islet of Palatia to view the 'Portara' ('Great Door'), which is an enormous marble doorway that once gave ingress into a huge Temple of Apollo. The Ionian style temple was begun in 530 BCE, but was never finished. Today, the 'Portara' is the only element that remains intact.

After viewing the 'Portara' we return across the causeway for some free time in the 'Old Town' of Naxos Chora before we reconvene at the ferry port to depart for Tinos. (Overnight Tinos) B

Day 10: Friday 6 June, Tinos – Delos – Tinos

- Archaeological site of Delos by privately chartered boat (UNESCO World Heritage Listed)
- Dinner at Kalopsia Restaurant

We depart early this morning by privately chartered boat for a full day excursion to the island of Delos, located near the centre of the Cycladic archipelago. This island is one of the most storied in all of Greek history. It is linked through Greek culture in its mythology and its history. Much of this is due to the island being considered sacred. For more than a millennium before the rise of the Olympian gods, Delos was a religious centre. Eventually the earlier religious significance became subsumed into the Olympian cosmology as the birthplace of the Greek Apollo and his sister Artemis. The importance that Delos played in Aegean history is astounding, given that the island itself is poorly-suited to producing its own food or natural resources — all of which had to be imported. We will explore some of the remnants from Delos' history during our morning visit. Which features we visit will be determined based on what is open at the



time. These may include the sacred lake, the Temple of the Delians, Terrace of the Lions, the Oikos of the Naxians, the Doric-style Temple of Isis, Temple of Hera, House of Dionysos with its famous mosaic of the god riding on a panther, or many other options.

This evening we dine at Kalopsía Restaurant run by well-known chef Giorgos Stilianoudakis. Overlooking the Aegean, the menu will introduce you to the traditional products and flavours of Crete and the Cyclades. (Overnight Tinos) BLD

#### Day 11: Saturday 7 June, Tinos: Villages of Pyrgos, Ormos Panormou and Volax

- Pyrgos village & the Museum of Marble Crafts
- Ormos Panormou fishing village: lunch at local seafood restaurant
- Volax village & bolder stone landscape
- Holy Church of the Virgin Mary Evangelistria, Tinos Chora

This morning we drive to the largest village on Tinos, known as Pyrgos (old Panormos). This town, located on the northwestern end of the island, is considered by many as one of the most scenic places in the Cyclades. Until the 18th century it was little more than a fishing village. But the development of a marble mining, working, and shipping industry arose during the 18th-19th centuries which helped establish Pyrgos as a major artistic centre in the Aegean. Its town square is considered a jewel, being covered with marble paving and hosting an exquisite marble fountain. Here we will visit the Museum of Marble Crafts to learn more about the role this stone played in shaping the town and its history.

From Pyrgos we journey 3kms down to the north coast where we enjoy a seafood lunch overlooking the small fishing harbour of Ormos Panormou.

In the afternoon we travel to Volax passing by the villages of Tarampados and Krokos. This region is most famous for its many, elaborate 'dovecotes' (pigeon houses). It is estimated that there are more than 1000 of these pigeon houses on Tinos. These amazing small buildings are generally two floors and usually built of stone. The ground floor is used for storage and the top floor is where the pigeons live. The pigeon houses of Tinos are considered superb exemplars that showcase Greek folk architectural traditions. The first written documentation of their existence only dates to 1726, but it is generally held that the tradition is much, much older.

Volax, is located on a small triangular plateau at an altitude of 300m above sea level. It is surrounded by an unusual monolithic moonscape characterised by giant, spherical boulders up to 10 metres high. These are spread over a 22.6km area – making it arguably the largest boulder field in Europe. Volax is one of the oldest settlements on Tinos. The original medieval settlement made use of the boulders by carving out the surrounding rocks with small windows, blending into the landscape to become invisible from the threat of pirate attacks. The custom of building on and around these boulders continues, as does the tradition of basket-weaving. Tinos, is one of the emerging wine growing areas of Greece, and the majority of the island's nationally acclaimed wineries are grown in the area.

We then return to Tinos Chora for our final stop of the day, to visit the Holy Church of the Virgin Mary Evangelistria. This religious complex is centred around a holy, miraculous icon. The icon was 'discovered' within days after the modern Greek state was established, which led to Our Lady of Tinos being named as the patron saint of Greece. (Overnight Tinos) BL

#### Kos – 3 nights

### Day 12: Sunday 8 June, Tinos – Mykonos – Kos

- Morning Ferry from Tinos to Mykonos
- Free time to explore Mykonos Chora
- Fly Mykonos to Kos

This morning we take the ferry to Mykonos the last Cycladic island of our tour. There will be time at leisure to explore the picturesque capital, Chora (also known as “Mykonos town” or “Hora”), a mostly pedestrian maze of narrow streets with cubic whitewashed houses decorated with colourful windows, doors and balconies.

In the afternoon we reconvene for our transfer to the airport. We will then take a flight to the island of Kos, where we will check-in and have the evening at leisure. (Overnight Kos) B

### Day 13: Monday 9 June, Kos

- Casa Romana
- Sanctuary of Asclepius
- Lunch at Flavors Restaurant, Kólpos Kefálou Bay
- Ruins of the Basilicas of Agios Stephanos, Kólpos Kefálou Bay
- Castle of Antimachia

We begin our full day on Kos with a visit to the Casa Romana which was built during the late 2nd century and early 3rd century CE on the ruins of an earlier Hellenistic house. Following extensive renovations, the house now provides a wonderful insight into how a wealthy Koan official and his family lived. It includes 36 rooms and 3 atria which are decorated with exquisite mosaic floors, most of which date back to the 3rd century CE.

At the top of a verdant hill, three kilometres to the southeast of Kos Town lies the sanctuary of Asclepius, an ancient medical centre. It dates from the first half of the 3rd century BCE and was built to honour the god of health and medicine, Asclepius, after the death of the famous ancient Greek physician, Hippocrates (460–380 BCE). The site is laid out in three terraces. On the lowest terrace there is a stoa and a complex of Roman baths dating from the 3rd century CE. On the second terrace we see the remains of a large altar which was built around the middle of the 4th century BCE and is one of the earliest structures in the Asklepieion. To the west of the altar there is a Temple of Asclepius dating from the 3rd century BCE and to the east of the altar there is a Roman temple in the Corinthian order from the 2nd century CE. On the third and final terrace there lie the remains of the Doric Temple of Asclepius from the 2nd century BCE.

Following our visit to the Asklepieion we transfer by coach to the Flavors Restaurant for a buffet lunch. Overlooking Kólpos Kefálou Bay, the restaurant’s buffet menu serves a generous selection of Mediterranean-style dishes.

After lunch we walk to the Agios Stefanos ruins, which are situated in a spectacular setting of a small peninsula that extends into Kamari Bay. Here we tour the ruins of two early Christian basilica churches which are dated to late 5th century and mid-6th century. Both churches originally had three levels, although today we can only walk through the preserved foundations and first few courses of wall stones. Both churches, however, are nonetheless remarkably preserved, allowing us to see all the components typical of churches of the time.

Before returning to Kos town we visit the Castle of Antimachia for our first glimpse of Crusader architecture.

This imposing fortification was begun in the early 14th century by the Catholic military Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, or the 'Knights Hospitaller.' The Antimachia stronghold was formidable, having only one entrance on its inland face. It took decades to build, coming to completion around 1494 as evidenced by an inscription that can still be read above the entrance gate, next to a carved emblem of the Order. Inside the fortress there are two Venetian churches, as well as a few poorly preserved remains of houses, cisterns, and other utilitarian features. (Overnight Kos) BL

#### Day 14: Tuesday 10 June, Kos – Bodrum – Kos

- Morning Ferry from Kos to Bodrum
- Bodrum Museum of Underwater Archaeology, Bodrum Castle. By special arrangement – guided tour led by the Director of the Bodrum Research Center of The Institute of Nautical Archaeology.
- Mausoleum of Halicarnassus
- Afternoon Ferry from Bodrum to Kos

Today we make a special excursion to the Turkish mainland to visit Bodrum, the ancient city of Halicarnassus – which was home to one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

Dominating Bodrum's harbour is the Castle of St. Peter, begun in 1402 by the Knights Hospitaller as a hospital for pilgrims to Jerusalem, and today houses the Museum of Underwater Archaeology. Bodrum is the centre of Turkish marine archaeology and the Museum has a wide range of fascinating underwater finds displayed throughout the Castle in many atmospheric halls and galleries. Displays include finds from a wreck dating from 1350 BCE that was carrying, possibly on royal consignment, copper and tin ingots, *amphorae* packed with *terebinth* resin used in making perfume, as well as fragments of scrap gold and silver jewellery that were intended for reuse. From another wreck, an early medieval merchant ship discovered in the 1970s and known as the 'Glass Wreck', comes a display of intact glass cups and bottles. The greater part of this vessel's cargo appears, however, to have been over a million shards of broken glass, which were also being transported for recycling. By special arrangement, we will have a guided tour of the museum led by Mrs Tuba Ekmekçi Littlefield who is the director of the Bodrum Research Center of The Institute of Nautical Archaeology.

Next, we make a brief visit to the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. Once this edifice stood over 50 metres high, but today only the foundations remain. The Knights Hospitaller used the Mausoleum as a quarry to build their castle. When the site was excavated in the middle of the 19th century moreover, the surviving frescos and statuary discovered by C. T. Newton were sent to the British Museum. In the 1950s, the Turkish writer Cevat Sakir Kabaagaçlı – known as 'The Fisherman of Halicarnassus' wrote to Queen Elizabeth requesting that the Mausoleum's artifacts be returned to Bodrum. He argued that such exquisite works of art were not given their true place under the foggy, grey sky of London. The response he allegedly received stated: 'Thank you for reminding us of the matter, we have painted the ceiling where the Mausoleum is located in blue'.

There will be some time at leisure to explore Bodrum's marina, bazaar and white-plastered backstreets before returning to Kos by ferry. (Overnight Kos) B

#### Rhodes – 4 nights

#### Day 15: Wednesday 11 June, Kos – Rhodes

- Kos agora
- Kos Archaeological Museum

- Plane Tree of Hippocrates & exterior of Neratzia Castle
- Afternoon ferry from Kos to Rhodes

We begin our final day on Kos with a walk to visit the agora, which was the market and meeting place, the commercial and social centre of the ancient city. Kos' agora is huge and located near the harbour, which can be seen as an indication of how important sea-trading was to the city's economy. Excavations have shown that the oldest section of the agora was constructed in the mid-4th century BCE. During our walking tour we will see parts of the city fortifications and ancient port, remains of temples to Hercules and Aphrodite, and of course, ruins of numerous shops.

Next, we visit the Kos Archaeological Museum. Although small in size, this museum has an excellent series of displays that tells the history of Kos from prehistory through to the Ottoman era.

Following time at leisure for lunch, we walk to the port, stopping to see the Plane Tree of Hippocrates, under which legend says Hippocrates himself taught medicine to his students. It is an impressive tree, with crown spanning more than 12 metres, which may make it the largest Plane tree in Europe. We will also walk past the exterior of the Neratzia Castle, another fortress that was largely built by the Knights Hospitaller during the 15th century. We then depart Kos by ferry for the island of Rhodes. (Overnight Rhodes) BD

#### Day 16: Thursday 12 June, Medieval City of Rhodes (UNESCO World Heritage Listed)

- Orientation walk: Harbour of Mandraki
- Palace of the Grand Masters
- Archaeological Museum, Hospital of the Order of the Knights of St John

Rhodes, known as the 'island of roses', can be considered a 'crucible' of Eastern Mediterranean history. The third largest of the Greek islands, Rhodes is graced with two concentrations of monuments: the city of Rhodes and the citadel of Lindos. According to ancient tradition, Early Iron Age Doric colonists settled Rhodes, dividing the island into three states. These shared the port-city and harbour of Rhodes, later famous for the *colossus* that supposedly straddled its entrance. When the other Hellenic republics were absorbed into the empire of Alexander the Great, and then into Hellenistic successor states of the Seleucids and Ptolemies, Rhodes retained its independent status. It grew rich as a major participant in maritime trade linking the Aegean, Egypt and Syria. Seleucid hostility to the concept of the autonomous city-state, however, made Rhodes uneasy and in the 1st century BCE the island appealed to Rome for protection. During the Roman period the development of more southerly maritime trade routes from Italy to the Levant decreased Rhodes' importance and the island had become somewhat of a backwater when St Paul visited it.

Rhodes remained outside the main currents of Mediterranean life until the Crusades, when it became one link in a chain of fortresses and ports that connected the Crusader kingdoms of the Levant with the western Mediterranean. In the 14th century the Knights Hospitaller, expelled from the Holy Land by the Egyptian Mamluks, sought refuge in Rhodes. Rhodes became the Order's stronghold and the Knights built a number of beautiful palaces there for their different *Langues* ('tongues': the national groups into which the Order was divided). Then, in 1503, the Ottoman sultan Suleyman the Magnificent forced the Knights to leave after a six-month siege.

This morning we transfer by coach to Rhodes' Venetian harbour, Mandraki, where we will examine the medieval harbour and fortifications, and discuss the controversy over the original location and size of the famous Colossus of Rhodes, the 3rd century BCE statue of Helios, the Sun God.



From there we continue with a walking tour of the old city which was originally laid out in the 5th century BCE by the architect Hippodamus of Miletus. His fame rests on his reputed invention of the urban grid plan, seen at Miletus, Priene and other West Anatolian cities. Modern Rhodes has some buildings greatly influenced by the Italian fascist architecture of the late 1930s but is dominated by the old fortified medieval town. Of particular interest is the so-called 'Street of the Knights', where the Gothic palaces of the *Langues* form marvellous late medieval streetscapes. Each palace has an impressive arched doorway surmounted by the emblem of its particular *Langue*.

The tour highlight is the impressive medieval Palace of the Grand Masters. The building was begun in 1440 by Grand Master de Lastic with money bequeathed by his predecessor, Fluvian, and completed in 1489 by Grand Master d'Aubusson.

Following some time at leisure for lunch, we continue our tour of the old town with a visit to Rhodes' Archaeological Museum, housed in the Hospital of the Knights, which was built in 1440 and completed by the Grand Master d'Aubusson (1476– 1503). The museum displays pottery, jewellery and figurines from the Iron Age tombs of the island's three cities, a good collection of Classical, Hellenistic and Roman sculpture, and a series of Hellenistic to Early Christian mosaics. Particularly impressive are the funerary slabs from the period of the Knights with relief representations of the dead or of their coats of arms. (Overnight Rhodes) BD

#### Day 17: Friday 13 June, Rhodes – Lindos – Kamiros – Rhodes

- Medieval village of Lindos and ancient Acropolis
- Ancient Kamiros

We depart early this morning to visit the medieval village of Lindos and the ancient acropolis above it. We shall climb to the *acropolis* via the monumental staircase and *propylaea* (entrance building) dating to the Hellenistic period, passing an unusual carved rock relief showing an ancient Rhodian ship. Within the acropolis, which was fortified during the Middle Ages with impressive walls, is the fine Doric temple to Athena, where the offerings table and base of the cult statue can still be seen. The temple also affords stunning panoramas of the island, including a view of Agios Pavlos, the place where St Paul is said to have landed.

Following some time at leisure for lunch we turn inland and cross the island to the ancient city of Kamiros, located on the north coast, approximately 50 kilometres south-west of Rhodes Town. Kamiros, along with Lindos and Ialissos, was, according to Homer, one of the three City-States founded by the Dorians who settled on Rhodes. The western and central parts of the island belonged to Kamiros; it was more conservative than the other two City-States of the island. Its agricultural production, made possible by its fertile, loamy soils, formed the basis of its prosperity. The oldest evidence of settlement in the wider area of Kamiros known to this day, namely Kamirida, date back to the Mycenaean times and come from the cemetery of chamber-like tombs in the village of Kalavarda, a few kilometres north-east of Kamiros. Twice destroyed by earthquakes (in 226 and 142 BCE), the main remains at Kamiros date to the Hellenistic period, although some Classical elements are also visible. The Hellenistic city was built on three levels with various buildings and monuments including an *agora*, a Doric fountain house, a reservoir and a *stoa*. The *acropolis* commands fabulous views across the sea to the coast of Turkey. Below it are the reasonably well-preserved remains of a town with all its ancient conveniences.

In the late afternoon we return to Rhodes Town where the evening is at leisure. (Overnight Rhodes) BD

#### Day 18: Saturday 14 June, Rhodes – Ialysos – Rhodes

- Monte Smith (Temple of Apollo, Old Stadium)
- Monastery of Philerimos, Ialyssos
- Time at leisure in Rhodes Town
- Farewell Dinner at Paneri Restaurant

We begin this morning by exploring St. Stephen's Hill, known locally as Monte Smith, site of the *acropolis* of ancient Rhodes. It has a 3rd century BCE Hellenistic stadium that hosted the athletic events of the Alioi Games held in honour of the sun-god Helios. At its summit you will encounter the Temple of Apollo, patron deity of the city. The bizarre name of Monte Smith derives from the name of a British Admiral, Sir Sydney Smith, who used the location in 1802 as a lookout from which to observe the manoeuvres of Napoleon's Egyptian fleet.

Nearby we also visit Philerimos (Filerimos), a hilltop monastery built by the Byzantines in the 5th century CE on the ruins of ancient Ialyssos.

We return to Rhodes Town for an afternoon at leisure before re-meeting in the evening to share a farewell meal together at the celebrated Paneri Restaurant. (Overnight Rhodes) BD

#### Day 19: Sunday 15 June, Depart Rhodes

- Tour concludes in the morning
- At leisure/Check out

Our tour ends in Rhodes after breakfast. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Please contact ASA if you require assistance with a transfer to Rhodes Airport. B

## Accommodation

All hotels are rated 3- to 4-star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. All rooms have shower or bath and w.c. Several hotels have swimming pools. Double rooms (for single use) may be requested – and are subject to availability and payment of the applicable supplement.

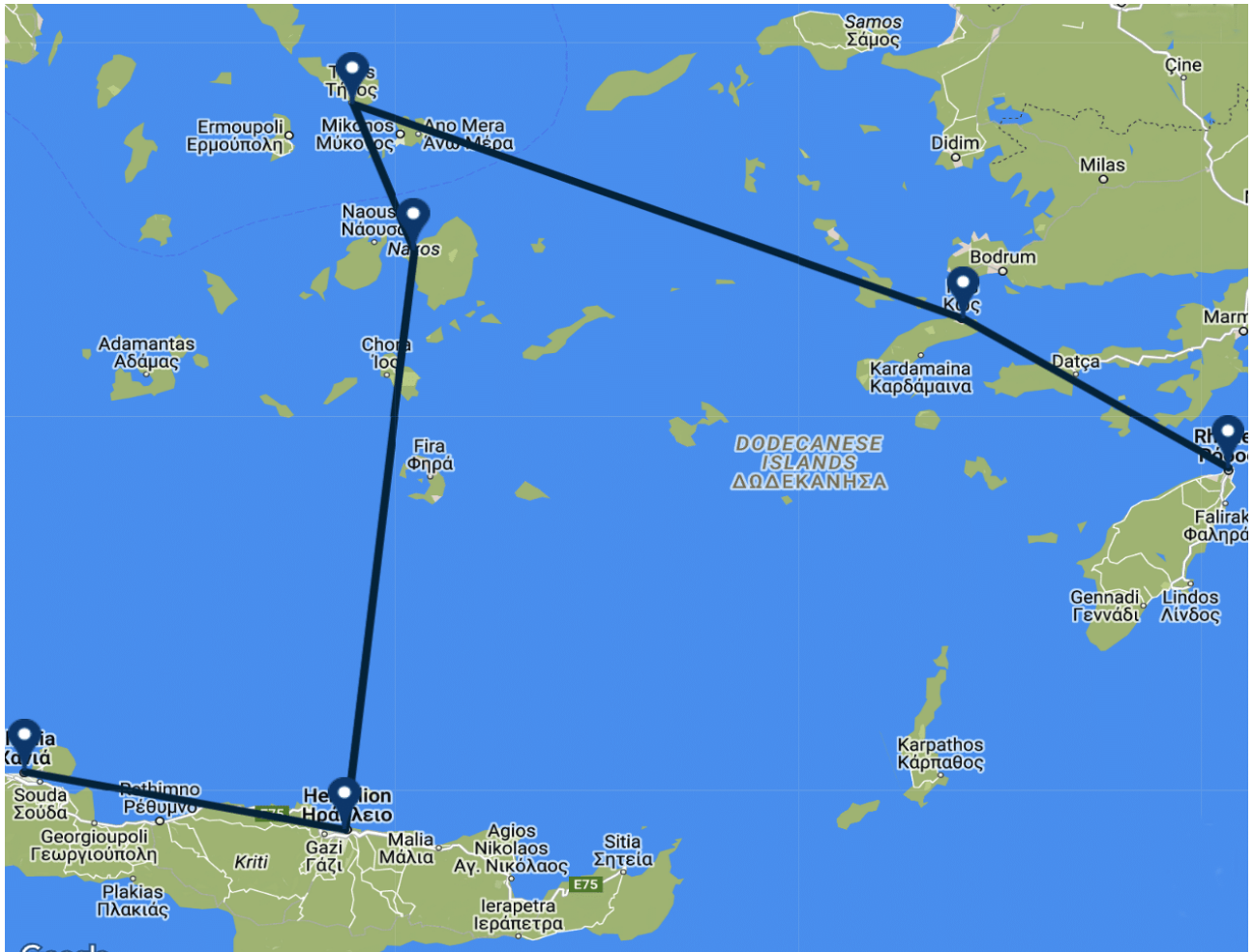
- Hania (2 nights): 3-star [Porto Veneziano Hotel](#) – located on the waterfront of the Old Venetian Harbour, 300m from the centre of the old town and excellent fish tavernas.
- Heraklion (3 nights): 3-star [Lato Boutique Hotel](#) – located inside the city walls, opposite the old city harbour, providing panoramic views of the Venetian Fortress and the Mediterranean Sea.  
[www.lato.gr](http://www.lato.gr)
- Naxos (3 nights): 4-star [Naxos Village Hotel](#) – located in Naxos Chora, close to Agios Georgios Beach and a 7-minute walk to Naxos Castle. The hotel extends over 20 acres of gardens and includes an outdoor swimming pool and restaurant.
- Tinos (3 night): 3-star [Nama Boutique Hotel](#) – a modern hotel located in the heart of Tinos town, overlooking the old harbour.
- Kos (3 nights): 4-star [Kos Aktis Art Hotel](#) – hotel located on the breach front in the centre of Kos Town.
- Rhodes (4 nights): 4-star [Best Western Plus Hotel Plaza](#) – located 400m from the famous medieval walled town of Rhodes and Mandraki Marina.

*Note: Hotels are subject to change. In this instance a hotel of similar standard will be provided.*

### Single Supplement

Payment of this supplement will ensure accommodation in a double room for single occupancy throughout the tour. The number of rooms available for single use is extremely limited. People wishing to take this supplement are therefore advised to book well in advance.

## Tour Map





## Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$13,980.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 30 June 2024

AUD \$14,180.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$2100.00 Single Supplement

**Tour Price (Land Content Only) includes:**

- Accommodation in twin-share rooms with private facilities in 3-, and 4-star hotels
- Meals as indicated in the tour itinerary where: B=breakfast, L=lunch & D=dinner
- Drinks at welcome and farewell meals. Other meals may not have drinks included.
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach
- Internal flights with A3: Mykonos to Kos (via Athens)
- Excursions by ferry, boat and high-speed catamaran:
  - Heraklion-Santorini-Naxos (Day 6)
  - Naxos-Ios-Naxos (Day 8)
  - Naxos-Tinos (Day 9)
  - Tinos-Delos-Tinos (Day 11)
  - Tinos-Mykonos (Day 12)
  - Kos-Bodrum-Kos (Day 14)
  - Kos-Rhodes (Day 15)
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports or ferry terminals)
- Lecture and site-visit program; tour reference material/notes
- National Guide
- Entrance fees
- Use of audio headsets during site visits
- Tips for the coach driver, National Guide and restaurants for included meals

**Tour Price (Land Content Only) does not include:**

- Airfare: Australia-Hania, Rhodes-Athens-Australia
- Evening meals & lunches not indicated in the tour itinerary
- Personal spending money
- Porterage at airports and ferry terminals
- Arrival & departure airport transfers
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)



## Fitness Criteria & Practical Information

Fitness Level



### Level 3 - Challenging

Among our most physically demanding

You must be able to:

- manage at least five to seven hours of physical activity per day with ease.
- walk at a regular to moderate pace; some days for at least 5-7km, over terrain which may include rocky and uneven paths, sometimes with steep steps or inclines.
- negotiate challenging historic and archaeological sites many of which are large and unsheltered.
- climb several flights of stairs without duress and walk up short steep hills.
- stand for one to two hours during visits to galleries and museums without the need to sit.
- cope with a more demanding tour schedule which includes some longer days, several early morning starts, multiple ferry journeys & one internal flight.
- withstand varying climatic conditions such as humidity and heat.
- handle a shower over a bath; walk-in showers may not be available at all hotels.
- manage your own luggage at some hotels and for all inter-island ferry travel.

### Fitness Levels

Please also view the fitness criteria required for our tours, graded from Level 1 to Level 3, at [www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/](http://www.asatours.com.au/fitness-level/)

All ASA tours are active programs suitable for people with a good level of mental and physical fitness and good mobility. They are not suitable for people who lack stamina, have difficulty walking at the group's pace or who have mobility issues. An unavoidable aspect of every tour is the need to manage walking, stair-climbing and standing for long periods of time.

It is a condition of travel that all participants agree to accept ASA's directions in relation to their suitability to participate in activities undertaken on the tour, and that ASA retains the sole discretion to direct a tour participant to refrain from a particular activity on part of the tour. Before enrolling on an ASA tour please read the fitness requirements carefully.

### Managing your luggage during inter-island ferry travel

You must be able to wheel your own luggage from the coach through the ferry terminal and then onto the ferry where storage racks are available on the ground level. The turn-around time for ferries is extremely efficient and therefore you need to be able to board the ferry with your luggage without delays. This applies to the following ferry routes:

- Heraklion-Santorini-Naxos
- Naxos-Tinos
- Tinos-Mykonos
- Kos-Rhodes

## Booking Conditions

### ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION FORM

Please complete the ASA RESERVATION APPLICATION and send it to Australians Studying Abroad together with your non-refundable deposit of AUD \$1000.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.



# Reservation Application

TOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
TOUR DATES \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete **one application, per person in block letters and sign**. Parental signature is required for participants under 18 years of age. Please mail this form with the appropriate deposit to: **P.O. Box 8285, ARMADALE, VICTORIA, 3143**. On receipt of this Reservation Application and deposit, ASA will process your booking and if approved, send you a tour confirmation.

## Applicant Details (as in passport)

TITLE Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
MIDDLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTAL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of birth / / GENDER Male ☐ Female ☐

**Passport** Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date / / Nationality \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Colour copy of my current valid passport enclosed ☐ I'm renewing my passport ☐ ASA has a colour copy of my current passport

**Covid Certificate** ☐ A copy of my current international certificate enclosed

## Travel Plans

☐ I plan to leave Australia before the tour commences. Planned departure date / /  
☐ I will be arranging my airfare independently and taking the Land Content Only option.

## Tour Accommodation (rooming preferences)

I/we would like: ☐ a twin-bedded room ☐ a double-bedded room ☐ a room for sole occupancy  
I am travelling: ☐ on my own ☐ with a friend/family member Travel Companion \_\_\_\_\_

## Meals

☐ I do not have any specific dietary requests

Please **X** the box if you **CAN NOT** eat any of the following:

☐ fish ☐ poultry ☐ red meat ☐ dairy products  
☐ eggs ☐ pork ☐ nuts  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Allergies: Refer to the Medical Information**

## Correspondence

Your preferred method of correspondence ☐ Postal Mail ☐ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Emergency Contact Details

Note: this person **MUST** be available by telephone and be present in Australia for the duration of your tour with ASA

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Traveller \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL. (AH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ TEL. (BH) ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Tel: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL address \_\_\_\_\_



The purpose of seeking this information is to assist ASA to determine, where necessary, whether ASA is able to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate your specific needs and whether your health and safety (or that of your fellow travellers) is likely to be compromised given your choice of tour. It will also assist you and ASA if you fall ill or have an accident whilst travelling.

- ASA reserves the right to decline your Reservation Application if this Medical Information section is not completed properly and may reject or cancel your reservation, or terminate your participation on any tour, if ASA subsequently learns that you have failed to make full and proper disclosure.
- ASA is committed to protecting the privacy of your personal information. ASA's privacy policy is available for viewing at [www.asatours.com.au](http://www.asatours.com.au)
- If ASA has any concerns about the information you have provided, it will contact you to request clarification before considering your Application.
- ASA requires you to consider carefully your limitations in light of ASA's Physical Endurance Star Rating System in ASA's Brochure and Itinerary when choosing your tour.
- If you are not likely to satisfy ASA's Participation Criteria (see below), ASA, in its sole discretion, may reject your Reservation Application.
- It is a condition of your tour that you agree to accept the directions of ASA's Tour Leaders in relation to your suitability to participate in activities planned on tour.
- ASA reserves the right to cancel your participation on a tour if your behaviour is in ASA's opinion causing undue distress or damage to any person or their property.
- If your participation is discontinued during a tour, ASA will assist by arranging your onward travel (if required) at your own cost, but you will not be refunded for forfeited parts of the tour.
- ASA tour groups are not accompanied by a medical practitioner. ASA recommends that you see your doctor for advice about your specific needs while overseas. You may also wish to contact a travel and vaccination clinic for advice. [www.traveldoctor.com.au](http://www.traveldoctor.com.au) tel: 1300 658 444; [www.travelvax.com.au](http://www.travelvax.com.au) tel: 1300 360 164.
- Travel insurers require you to declare all existing medical conditions.
- Please carry a complete list of medications with you during the ASA tour. Include **generic names** of each medication (consult your local pharmacy for information).

Please mark **X** in the YES or NO box to every question below and provide details where necessary:

## Participation Criteria

To participate in an ASA tour, you must be reasonably fit, in good health and able to participate in all activities without assistance from Tour Leaders or other tour members. **You must also be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.** If you require assistance, a fit and able travel companion must undertake to accompany and assist you with all tasks for the duration of the whole tour. The responsibility of the Tour Leader is to ensure that the larger group enjoys a relaxing and informative journey, and he or she cannot be relied upon to provide ongoing individual assistance to any one guest.

- |   | YES                   | NO                    |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Can you walk and stand unassisted for at least 2-3 hours a day in hot, humid conditions?               | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2. Can you walk unassisted on and over uneven surfaces?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3. Can you climb at least 3 flights of stairs and/or walk up and down steep slopes unassisted?            | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4. Can you walk at a steady pace and no less than 1km every 15 - 20 minutes unassisted?                   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5. Can you organise, manage and carry your own luggage?   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6. Can you follow and remember tour instructions and meet punctually at designated times and places?      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7. Can you administer your own medication?  | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8. You do NOT have impaired vision or hearing which may impact your capacity to participate on this tour? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

## Mobility and Fitness

As many of ASA's international sites do not provide access to wheelchairs or similar mobility aids, we regret that ASA tours are not suitable for people who require the use of a walking frame, wheeled walker, wheelchair or motorised scooter.

1. Do you suffer from any medical conditions that may compromise your mobility and/or fitness to participate on this program? YES NO ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

## Allergies and/or Food Intolerances

ASA will make reasonable endeavours to organise meals to suit you, provided that you give ASA adequate notice of your specific dietary requirements or allergies. You may be required to research dietary alternatives, as not all destinations may be able to offer suitable food substitutes.

1. Do you have any food allergies or intolerances? YES NO ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

2. Have you ever had an anaphylactic reaction to anything? ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen? ☐ ☐

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

## Existing Medical Conditions

You alone are responsible for managing any existing medical conditions, your medication and any medical equipment that you may need when on your tour. Please plan for contingencies and take extra medication, dietary supplements and/or fully charged batteries for medical equipment if your health and safety depends on these. You should take into consideration that power sources at some destinations may be unavailable, inadequate, inconvenient or unreliable.

1. Have you any significant medical conditions that may impact your capacity to complete this tour? YES NO ☐ ☐
- If yes, please specify

If yes, how will you manage this on tour?

2. Do you require some form of powered medical aid, such as a CPAP machine? ☐ ☐

These machines may not be operable on certain international flights, modes of transport, in remote or other areas with inadequate or unreliable power sources without a fully charged independent long life battery or batteries.

**Diabetics:** You may be travelling and sightseeing for many hours at a time. Insulin dependent diabetics must carry extra supplies of insulin (as this medication cannot be obtained in some destinations), regulators, applicators, storage and refrigeration equipment, as well as any necessary supplements. Accommodation may not provide refrigerators in rooms.

3. Are you diabetic? ☐ ☐
- Are you insulin dependent? ☐ ☐
4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? ☐ ☐
- Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.

## Declaration

I declare that: I have read and understood the ASA Tour Itinerary, Reservation Application and Booking Conditions. I am aware of ASA's terms as relating to refunds, cancellations, responsibility and liability. I understand that ASA relies upon this declaration when considering this Application. I accept the inherent dangers, risks and uncertainties in travel and those beyond ASA's control and understand they may occur before or during any tour. I have made full and complete disclosure and have not knowingly withheld any medical information about myself from ASA. I have completed this Reservation Application honestly and accurately. I warrant that I am able to participate independently in all activities described by ASA in the itinerary without assistance from any person.

I will advise ASA in writing if any aspect of my fitness and or health conditions change materially at any time before my departure date. I understand and accept that the itinerary, accommodation and lecturers scheduled for this tour may change.

I agree and consent that ASA may give my personal information in this Reservation Application to tour service providers and relevant authorities as required by law, but only for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services associated with the tour. I understand that if I do not consent to the use of my personal information for this purpose, ASA will decline my Reservation Application.

In consideration of ASA's acceptance of my Reservation Application, I irrevocably release and indemnify ASA from all claims that I, or any other party, may have against ASA its employees, invitees, agents and contractors, however arising in respect of any loss, damage, injury, death or expense incurred in the course of booking, preparing for, travelling to, on and from or cancelling any tour.

I release and indemnify ASA with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour;
2. Every special risk, in particular medical risks, to which I may be exposed in the course of preparing for, travelling to, on or from any ASA tour arising from, including, but not limited to:
  - a. intermittent power cycles and/or the temporary or permanent loss of power (beware CPAP or any other medical machine users);
  - b. dietary, food or other allergies (ASA cannot guarantee that traces of items to which you are allergic are not present in food or drink you are served, medication you are administered or other substances with which you may come into contact);
  - c. any event or situation that may compromise the administration of necessary medication or my health, safety and wellbeing generally; and
  - d. any event or happening beyond ASA's control
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of any tour, part of a tour or of my continued participation on a tour for any reason (subject to ASA's refund conditions below).

## Limitation of Liability

ASA is not a carrier, event or tourist attraction host, accommodation or dining service provider. All bookings made and tickets or coupons issued by ASA for transport, event, accommodation, dining and the like are issued as an agent for various service providers and are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by each service provider. ASA is not responsible for their products, services, terms and conditions. If a service provider cancels or does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, and does not give a refund, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

ASA will not be liable for any claim (e.g. sickness, injury, death, damage or loss) arising from any change, delay, detention, breakdown, border closures, cancellation, failure, accident, act, omission or negligence of any tour service provider or authority however caused (contingencies). You must take out such travel insurance as is available against such contingencies.

ASA's liability in respect of any tour cancelled or changed will be limited to the partial refund of amounts you have paid, less an administration fee of \$500 and other costs and charges of third party service providers. No compensation will be payable to you by ASA where ASA cancels or changes a tour, or any part of a tour.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate and in the best interests of health, safety and wellbeing of tour participants. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

## Booking Conditions

### DEPOSITS

A non-refundable deposit of \$1000.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

### CANCELLATION FEES

If you cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: your initial deposit of \$1000.00 is non-refundable.\*\*

75-31 days prior 50% of total amount due

30-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

\*\*\$500.00 of this amount (ie 50% of your deposit) may be credited to another ASA tour departing within 12 months of the original tour you booked. We regret, in this case early-bird discounts will not apply.

***We take the day on which you cancel as being that on which we receive written confirmation of cancellation.***

### UNUSED PORTIONS OF THE TOUR

We regret that refunds will not be given for any unused portions or services of the tour, such as meals, entry fees, accommodation, flights or transfers.

### WILL THE TOUR PRICE OR ITINERARY CHANGE?

If the number of participants on a tour is significantly less than budgeted, or if there is a significant change in exchange rates ASA reserves the right to amend the advertised price. We shall, however, do all in our power to maintain the published price. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to itineraries. We will inform you of any changes in due course.

### TRAVEL INSURANCE

ASA requires all participants to obtain comprehensive travel insurance. A copy of your travel insurance certificate and the **reverse charge** emergency contact phone number must be received by ASA no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the tour.

### FINAL PAYMENT

The balance of the tour price will be due 75 days prior to the tour commencement date.

## PLEASE READ THE ABOVE CAREFULLY, PRINT AND SIGN BELOW

☐ I accept the conditions on this booking form ☐ I have read the information about the physical requirements of the tour in the detailed itinerary and confirm that I am able to meet these requirements

Applicant's Signature

Print Full Name

Dated

## Tour / Course Name

Name of Traveller 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Traveller 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a payment to the value of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (including CC or bank fee if applicable) for this tour

The above amount is payable for:

- ☐ Intention to Travel    ☐ Tour Deposit  
☐ Balance of Payment    ☐ Upgrade from Intention to Travel to a Deposit  
☐ Travel Insurance    ☐ Other (eg. Airfares, Accommodation) \_\_\_\_\_

## International Payments

Welcome to our international travellers! If you are making a payment and do not have an Australian bank account/credit card, we can only accept payment as follows:

- via credit card with the applicable fee - the credit card company/bank will set the exchange rate
- via bank transfer; please give your surname and tour code (eg. Smith 21705) as a reference and ask your bank to allow for all charges.

Bank cheques or personal cheques will not be accepted.

## By Cheque (accept Australian cheques only)

Please make cheques payable to *Australians Studying Abroad*

## Direct Deposit or Internet Banking

You will need to:

1. Provide your bank with ASA's bank details (see below) and the amount you wish to transfer OR make a direct deposit through any ANZ branch
2. Include any fees levied by the banks
3. Provide a reference number (Mobile or last name recommended).
4. Complete section below, including confirmation no. (given when transaction completed).

### Australians Studying Abroad bank details

**Bank** ANZ  
**Branch** 420 St Kilda Road, Melbourne Vic  
**Swift Code** ANZBAU3M  
**BSB** 013-423  
**Account No** 3472-32759

Bank confirmation No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reference used: Mobile or last name recommended

Date Money Transferred \_\_\_\_\_

## Credit Card Payment

Credit card fees apply: Mastercard, Visa & American Express 2%

Please debit my: ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

I authorise ASA to debit my credit card for the amount due plus the applicable fee as above

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code (CVC) \_\_\_\_\_

Bank the Card is linked to (eg. NAB or ANZ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Signature \_\_\_\_\_