



Between Sea and Sky: Homer's Greek Islands 2020 (deferred until 7 May 2021)

8 MAY – 28 MAY 2020

Code: 22011

Tour Leaders **Dr Heather Sebo**

Physical Ratings 

Travel to the fabled palace kingdoms of Minoan Crete, the fortress citadel of Mycenaean Greece, Olympia, the ancient oracle at Dodona and finally to the Ionian islands of Kefalonia, Ithaca & Corfu.

Overview

Where it all began: A Journey through Homeric landscapes

Travel to the fabled palace kingdoms of Minoan Crete, the fortress citadel of Mycenaean Greece, Olympia, the ancient oracle at Dodona and finally to the Ionian islands of Kefalonia, Ithaca & Corfu.

- **Dr Heather Sebo**, tour lecturer, will share her lifelong love of the ancient world and trace each phase of our journey through the Homeric poems with talks, readings, and storytelling.
- Visit some of the world's most fascinating museums including the archaeological museums of Heraklion, Ancient Thira, Olympia, Patras, the newly opened Museum of Ancient Eleutherna, and Hania's Nautical Museum featuring the reconstructed Minoan ship *Minoa*.
- Explore the old city of Hania, visiting the Venetian fortification and Ottoman quarters.
- Admire recently discovered gold treasure from the Tomb of the Priestesses at the Necropolis of Orthi Petra in Crete.
- Visit Phaistos and Knossos: built at the dawn of Western civilisation; part palace, part bull leaping arena, part dancing space, part labyrinth, warehouse, part sacred *temenos*.
- Visit Akrotiri on Santorini: walk the streets of a prosperous Bronze Age city excavated from under 60 metres of volcanic debris, 'the Pompeii of ancient Thira'.
- Dine in the matchless golden sunset of Oia on Santorini with panoramic views over the volcanic Caldera.
- Explore the fabled fortress citadel of Mycenae 'rich in gold', the military stronghold of Homer's King Agamemnon.
- Visit Olympia: the archaeological site of the prestigious Games established in honour of Zeus, king of the gods, in 776 BC.
- Venture off the beaten track to the ancient oracle of Dodona in Northern Greece. Older even than Delphi, here barefoot priests lie on the ground to interpret the rustling leaves of Zeus' holy oak tree.
- Sail the crystal clear waters and picnic on the banks of the Acheron River, believed in ancient times to be one of the five great rivers of the Underworld, the Land of the Dead.
- Visit the rich Mycenaean sites of Kefalonia including the Cyclopean Walls of ancient Krani and the Tholos Tomb at Tzannata.
- Take a boat trip across Melissani, a stunning underground lake, regarded by some as Homer's famed 'cave of the Nymphs'.
- Experience the remote villages and byways of the luminous island of Ithaca and ponder the age-old question of whether this place is really 'rocky Ithaca', the kingdom of Homer's Odysseus.
- Corfu: on this beautiful island of flowers, take a farewell opportunity to understand the ancient rhythms of agricultural work that have shaped human life since time immemorial.

21-day Cultural Tour of Homer's Greek Islands

Overnight Hania (2 nights) • Heraklion (3 nights) • Santorini (2 nights) • Nauplion (2 nights) • Olympia (1 night) • Kefalonia (2 nights) • Ithaca (3 nights) • Ioannina (2 nights) • Corfu (3 nights)

Overview

Our journey will take us to places that were luminous in the imagination of the poet we call Homer. We visit places named in the poems, see objects, landscapes, and buildings described in them, hear the stories, rituals, ideas, and beliefs preserved in them.

Our journey will take us to the citadels of the Bronze Age Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations, Eleutherna,

Knossos, Kefalonia, and Mycenae; also to the iconic 8th-century BC cities and sanctuaries of Corinth, Olympia, Nauplion, and Ambracia (now modern Arta in Northern Greece). It will take us far off the beaten track to Dodona, the oldest oracle in Hellas (older than Delphi), the Nekromanteion at Ephyre where inquirers called up the souls of the dead, and to the fabled Acheron, the Underworld River of Hades, fed at its source by countless miraculous springs. Finally, our journey will take us to the mythical islands of Ithaca, Kefalonia, and Corfu, deep in the blue Ionian Sea.

Homer stands at a crossroads; he was heir to, and greatest exponent of, a bardic tradition that preserved detailed knowledge of the deep Bronze Age past. But Homer is also of his own time of the 7th century BC, agog with cultural ferment, exploration, trade, and fabulous stories about new lands. In Homer we have it all, on the one hand privileged memory of the past, on the other, a new critical spirit of inquiry and individualism. Our tour allows us to encounter his world (and beyond) with enhanced understanding and love for his winged and wonderful words.

Leaders



Dr Heather Sebo

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Before committing to an academic career, Heather had a long history in secondary and community education as a teacher, examiner and in curriculum development. She also recalls with great pleasure her time as curator of a significant private collection of Greek and Roman art and has maintained a strong engagement with the visual arts. Heather has become well known as a guest lecturer in venues ranging from the Red Stitch Theatre to the National Gallery of Victoria.

Recent personal highlights have been script writing and presenting for the Stork Theatre *Iliad* and *Odyssey* Literary Digs, involvement in "The Body Beautiful in Ancient Greece" (visiting exhibition, British Museum), and publication in the distinguished journal *Arethusa* (47:2): "Strife and Starvation. Euripides *Helen*".

Heather first joined ASA as a tour lecturer in 2016, and has led the successful 'Homer Literary Tour: In the Footsteps of Odysseus through Turkey and Greece' (May 2016) and 'Between Sea and Sky: Homer's Greek Islands' (May 2018).

Combine this tour with

Natural Landscapes & Gardens of Morocco 2020 (deferred until 13 April 2021)

14 APR – 5 MAY 2020

Shetland & Orkney: Archaeology and Wildlife of the Northern Isles 2020

1 JUN – 18 JUN 2020



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 several days this will be a boxed lunch) and **D**=dinner.

Hania, Crete - 2 nights

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 when Odysseus could only manage 12 ships from Ithaca and all the surrounding islands including Kefalonia! 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 BC). 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.

Day 1: Friday 8 May, Arrive Hania

- Airport transfer for participants arriving on the ASA 'designated' flight
- Evening Orientation Talk & pre-dinner drinks
- Light Evening Meal

Our tour commences in Hania. Those arriving on the ASA 'designated' flight will be transferred by private coach to the [Porto Veneziano Hotel](#), located in the heart of the old city. If you are travelling independently to Crete, ASA can arrange a private transfer for you, or you should take an officially marked taxi to the hotel. There will be a short welcome meeting before a light evening meal in the old town. (Overnight Hania, Crete) D

Day 2: Saturday 9 May, Hania – Aptera – Hania

- Monastery of Agia Triada of Jagarolon
- Ancient Aptera
- Shipyard Moro, Nautical Museum: featuring the reconstructed Minoan ship *Minoa*
- Welcome Lunch at Tamam Tavern
- Orientation walk of the old city of Hania, visiting the Venetian fortification and old Venetian and Ottoman quarters
- Time at leisure

We begin this morning with a brief visit to the Agia Triada Monastery located on the Akrotiri Peninsula. Two Venetian brothers who had adopted the Orthodox faith built this large church in the 17th century. During the 19th century the Ottoman occupation of this monastery, as in many across Crete, played an important role in maintaining Greek identity by educating the local student population in the Greek language and way of life.

Nearby we visit ancient Aptera, which overlooks Souda Bay and offers panoramic views of 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 and substantial remains from the Roman period. The city walls are reminiscent of the Cyclopean walls of Tiryns and Mycenae. One can also see the remains of a small 1st-century BC temple of Demeter, a Roman theatre and the enormous vaulted cisterns of the Roman period – according to one source they were used for grain storage.

On returning to Hania we visit the Shipyard Moro, a division of the Nautical Museum of Crete. The exhibition features ancient naval architecture including the *Minoa*, a full size replica of a 16th-century Minoan vessel. With ships like these, the Minoans built a powerful and wealthy international trading empire.

Lunch will be served at the Tamam Tavern, a delightful Turkish restaurant housed in a former hammam. 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. The remainder of the afternoon and evening will be at leisure. (Overnight Hania, Crete) BL

[Heraklion, Crete - 3 nights](#)

Day 3: Sunday 10 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 (legendarily the birthplace of 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 over 100 monks that lived in the monastery and over 200 farmers that worked the monastery's extensive lands. The monastery played an active role in the Cretan resistance of Ottoman rule providing refuge to nearly 300 guerrilla fighters and some 700 women and children in the rebellion of 1866.

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 BC, the crucial period for the final crystallising and preserving in writing of the Homeric poems. 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 at *Iliad* 22.163-77. Rich finds from the excavation are on display in the new museum including a perfectly preserved bronze shield from Warrior's Tomb (c.700 BC) and spectacular gold and jewelled adornments from the Tomb of the Four Priestesses (c. 675 BC), including a series of intricate gold brooches, one depicting a male god flanked by two lions and another showing animal combat very like that described at *Odyssey* 19.225-31.

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) BL

Day 4: Monday 11 May, Heraklion – Phaistos – Matala – Heraklion

- Minoan 'palace' complex at Phaistos
- Lunch at the Scala Fish Tavern, Matala

This morning we drive inland to the Minoan palace complex at Phaistos with its magnificent view over the Masara 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. The complex at Phaistos dates to about 1900 BC, the basic footprint remained the same throughout several cycles of destruction and rebuilding until it was abandoned in about 1400 BC.

In Minoan times, Matala was the port of Phaistos where Zeus is supposed to have come ashore in the form of a great white bull with the Phoenician princess Europa on his back. Minos and Rhadamanthys are their offspring. In the late afternoon we return to Heraklion for an evening at leisure. (Overnight Heraklion) BL

Day 5: Tuesday 12 May, Heraklion – Knossos – Heraklion

- Minoan 'palace' complex of Knossos
- Heraklion Archaeological Museum
- Traditional Cretan Dinner at the Brilliant Gourmet Restaurant

*There is a land called Crete in the middle of the wine-dark water,
a handsome country and fertile, sea girt,
there are innumerable peoples in it and ninety cities.
Language with language mix there together....
and there is Knossos, the great city, the place where Minos
was king for nine year periods, and conversed with great Zeus. (Odyssey 19.172)*

Knossos is the largest and most famous Minoan 'palace' complex on Crete. The site was excavated and reconstructed by Sir Arthur Evans in the early years of the twentieth century. Later Greeks 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. At *Iliad*, Homer mentions the dancing floor that the craftsman Daedalus built for Ariadne at Knossos. It is very possible that Homer's description of King Alkinoos' wonderful palace preserves a deep, collective memory of Knossos (*Odyssey* 7.84-107).

The Heraklion Archaeological Museum is one of the world's great museums with marvellous finds from all over Crete. The displays cover a span of 7,500 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* (10.261-65).

Tonight we shall enjoy a traditional Cretan banquet at the Brillant Gourmet Restaurant. (Overnight Heraklion) BD

Fira, Santorini - 2 nights

Day 6: Wednesday 13 May, Heraklion (Crete) – Fira (Santorini)

- Morning High-Speed Catamaran from Heraklion to Fira, Santorini
- Museum of Prehistoric Thira
- Time at leisure

This morning we take the Hellenic Seaways Flying Cat to the volcanic island of Santorini, known as *Stonghyli* (the Round One) and Thira in classical antiquity. The island was blown apart by a catastrophic event in the 17th-century BC, one of the largest in the history of the earth. The Thira eruption would have generated a huge tsunami and pyroclastic flows that travelled a hundred kilometres over the sea. Tephra from Thira has been found in the Nile Delta and the Black Sea. It is no accident that gods of subterranean fire (Hephaestus), thunder and lightning (Zeus), and tsunami and earthquake (Poseidon) figure so large in Homer! It was just such a storm that scattered the Greek fleet on the way home from Troy and left the Aegean 'blossoming with dead men'. There are numerous submerged towns and villages in Crete and around the Mediterranean. Indeed, Plato famously imagines an island called 'Atlantis' completely swallowed by the sea.

At the Museum of Prehistoric Thira we can see material excavated from the Late Bronze Age site of Akrotiri, a 'Bronze Age Pompeii' buried and preserved by the volcanic eruption. The frescoes from Akrotiri are wonderfully celebratory in their observation of plants and animals, and especially of marine life. Conspicuously absent, here and on Crete, are depictions of warfare, images glorifying kings and leaders, and obvious differentiation in status between men and women.

We spend two nights at the El Greco Resort Hotel. In addition to its own restaurant, the hotel is within walking distance of Fira's many restaurant's and cafés. (Overnight Fira) B

Day 7: Thursday 14 May, Santorini

- Minoan Bronze Age settlement of Akrotiri
- Private Cruise of the Santorini Caldera
- Group Dinner in Oia

Today we visit the site of Akrotiri itself. We will be able walk the streets and experience what was once a

beautiful and highly prosperous, sophisticated urban centre with multi-storied houses, shops, and an advanced sewage and drainage system.

Following some time at leisure for lunch in the village of Fira, we take the cable car to the foot of the cliffs where we embark on our excursion to the Santorini caldera, the sunken crater of the volcano. We shall have the opportunity to walk to the rim of the crater, sail around the islet, view its hot springs, and experience close up the majestic volcanic cliffs.

This evening there will be some time to explore the picturesque village of Oia with its white painted houses, vivid blue roofs and doors, narrow streets and stairways. There will even be time to drop into the iconic Atlantis Bookstore, ranked the best bookstore in the world by National Geographic. Our evening meal at a restaurant overlooking the caldera will be the perfect place to bask in the famous, golden Oia sunset. (Overnight Fira) BD

Nauplion - 2 nights

Day 8: Friday 15 May, Santorini – Athens – Piraeus – Corinth – Nauplion

- Morning flight from Santorini to Athens
- Lunch at Jimmy and the Fish Restaurant, Piraeus (by the sea)
- Ancient Corinth: Archaeological Site & Museum

This morning we fly from Santorini to Athens. Following a seafood lunch at the port of Piraeus, we journey by coach to Nauplion via Corinth. Homer tells us that Corinth is the birthplace of the Bellerophon, the hero who tamed the winged horse Pegasus and killed the Chimera (*Iliad* 6. 155-202). In Corinth we visit the site of the ancient city at the base of the rocky Acrocorinth, described in the *Iliad* as 'the luxurious'.

It was trade that made Corinth's fortune. Commanding the Isthmus connecting northern and southern Greece and access to the east and west (paved in the 7th century BC), it was ideally placed for trade and commerce. Corinth had established a colony at Syracuse by 733 BC, and at Kerkyra (modern Corfu) by 709 BC. Corinthian pottery from as early as 800 BC is found in Ithaca and Delphi. After 550 BC, nearly every structure at Delphi had Corinthian terracotta roof tiles and Corinthian silver coinage was circulating in Southern Italy. The *Odyssey* reflects the excitement and danger of this new world of trade and exploration. For instance, the goddess Athene masquerades as a merchant seeking bronze in exchange for his cargo of iron, while the olive trunk that Odysseus uses to blind the Cyclops is estimated to be the size of the mast of a 'cargo-carrying ship' (*Odyssey* 1.184, 9.322).

In the afternoon we drive to the pretty harbour town of Nauplion. It was named after Nauplios, son of the god Poseidon and grandfather of the more famous Nauplios who, in revenge for the execution of his son Palamedes, ignited false signal fires that caused the Greek fleet returning from Troy to shipwreck on the rocks of Euboea. (Overnight Nauplion) BL

Day 9: Saturday 16 May, Nauplion – Mycenae – Nauplion

- Fortress City of Mycenae: Treasury of Atreus & Acropolis
- Afternoon at leisure in Nauplion

This morning we travel to Mycenae 'rich in gold'. We enter the stern citadel through the monumental Lion Gate and visit Grave Circle A where Schliemann found the famous gold mask that he believed was the

death mask of King Agamemnon himself! It was from Mycenae that Agamemnon set out to join the Greek armada against Troy. It was also the scene of his murder at the hands of his wife Clytemnestra and his nephew (her lover) Aigisthus. From high up on the citadel, with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside, she certainly would have seen Agamemnon coming! When we meet Agamemnon in the Underworld, he condemns his Clytemnestra but praises Odysseus' faithful wife Penelope, saying that her story will be "a thing of grace for the people of earth" (*Odyssey* 24.191-203).

We shall return to Nauplion at midday for an afternoon at leisure. (Overnight Nauplion) B

Olympia - 1 night

Day 10: Sunday 17 May, Nauplion – Arcadia Plateau – Olympia

- Olympia: Archaeological Site
- Lunch at Barba Fostis Tavern
- Olympia Museum

Today we visit ancient Olympia and its excellent museum, where we will see the famous metopes and pediments from the Temple of Zeus and the *Hermes with the Infant Dionysus* by the late classical sculptor Praxiteles.

We can form a vivid idea of the nature and conduct of athletic events at ancient Olympia from Homer's description of the funeral games for Patroklos at *Iliad* 23. Held in honour of Zeus, king of the gods, the traditional foundation date for the games was 776 BC. The Greeks thought that the spectacle of intense physical competition involving beautiful human bodies would be as delightful and pleasing to the gods as it was to them.

Because it was truly a Panhellenic occasion in which all the Greek city-states participated, a sacred truce was announced before each of festival to allow visitors to travel safely. During the truce, wars were suspended, legal disputes and executions were forbidden.

Pheidias' gold-and-ivory cult statue, one of the wonders of the ancient world, was housed in Zeus' temple, but has not survived. Pausanias tells us that the seated god was so huge that if he had stood up, he would have taken the roof off. Sadly the statue has not survived. Outside the sanctuary were sports structures, thermal baths, and lodgings and accommodation for guests. (Overnight Olympia) BLD

Argostoli, Kefalonia - 2 nights

Day 11: Monday 18 May, Olympia – Patras – Kyllini – Poros – Argostoli, Kefalonia

- Archaeological Museum of Patras
- Ferry from Kyllini to Poros, Kefalonia
- Orientation walk of Argostoli, Kefalonia

We depart Olympia early this morning and continue north to the port of Patras. Modern Patras is Greece's third largest city, and the capital of Western Greece, in the northern Peloponnese.

On arrival we visit the Archaeological Museum of Patras. Opened in 2009, its shiny metallic domes and contemporary buildings make up the country's second largest museum. The museum's exhibits cover the period between 3000 BC and the 4th century AD and come from the city of Patras, as well as the surrounding areas of southern and western Achaia. The exhibition is divided into three themed halls

– Private Life, Public Life and the Cemeteries. The most prominent among the artefacts are the ones dating to the Mycenaean (including a significant collection of Mycenaean swords) as well as the Roman period.

Following lunch at a local restaurant we continue to Kyllini, situated in the westernmost part of Elis and the Peloponnese. From the port of Kyllini we make the crossing by ferry to Poros, a picturesque small town located in the southeast of Kefalonia.

On arrival we transfer by coach to Argostoli, the capital of Kefalonia. Overlooking the island's main port, the town is located on the east coast of a peninsula surrounded by wooded mountains. An orientation walk along the cobbled promenade, which skirts the harbour, leads us past small tavernas, and cafes to the Argostoli Square. The beautiful architecture of Argostoli was severely damaged in the 1953 earthquake; most of its Venetian architecture was lost. The town was rebuilt soon after, following the original street layout, and it is still in a constant stage of expansion. Nearby, we also view the Drapano Bridge, also known as the De Bosset Causeway. This 900-metre long stone bridge connecting Argostoli with Drapano was constructed in 1813 during the period of British rule (1809-1864).

Kefalonia, the largest of the Ionian Islands, is believed by some scholars to be Odysseus' homeland of Ithaca rather than the neighbouring island that is known as 'Ithaca' today. Homer does mention Kefalonian warriors fighting with Odysseus at Troy and many of Penelope's suitors are from Kefalonia, but scholars have tended to explain this by saying that Kefalonia was a general name for the whole group of Ionian Islands, including Ithaca. Our visit will give us an opportunity to discuss this fascinating question. (Overnight Argostoli, Kefalonia) BL

Day 12: Tuesday 19 May, Kefalonia: Argostoli – Mazarakata – Poros – Skala – Razata – Argostoli

- Mazarakata Mycenaean Cemetery (from above)
- The Tholos Tomb at Tzannata
- Roman Villa at Skala (subject to reopening in 2020)
- Optional walk to the Cyclopean Walls of Ancient Krani, Razata

We begin our tour of Kefalonia with a visit to Mazarakata village, where we may view (from above) the Mazarakata Mycenaean Cemetery. Consisting of 17 chamber tombs, this is the largest Mycenaean graveyard on the island. They are of great significance as the tombs were found unlooted.

The Mycenaean tomb at Tzannata, located near the village of Poros, is the largest known beehive-shaped or tholos tomb in the Ionian Islands. The tomb, which is considered to be a royal grave, contained golden jewellery, royal seals and precious stones. There have been claims that this was the burial place of Odysseus himself!

Following some free time for lunch in the village of Skala, we visit the remains of a 3rd-century Roman villa. The villa features some remarkably well-preserved mosaics depicting the sacrifice of a bull, a motif we will have seen many times in the course of our journey.

Three kilometres east of Argostoli lies the ancient citadel of Krani. Part of the mighty Cyclopean fortifications, dating from the 7th or 6th century BC, survive to this day and are considered among the best extant specimens of Greek military architecture. One level down are traces of a temple dedicated to the goddess Demeter and her daughter Persephone, according to an inscription found in the area. Access to the walls is on foot only (approx. 1.5kms). (Overnight Argostoli, Kefalonia) B

Vathy, Ithaca (Ionian Islands) - 3 nights

Day 13: Wednesday 20 May, Kefalonia – Vathy, Ithaca

- Short boat trip on Melissani Cavern-Lake
- Drogarati's Cave
- Ferry from Kefalonia to Ithaca
- Time at leisure
- Optional evening readings and discussions of the *Odyssey*

Caves are important in ancient religion and in Homeric poetry. They are often considered to give access to a divine realm and to the land of the dead. This morning we depart Argostoli and travel by coach to Melissani, a stunning underground lake located northwest of Sami. The caves are part of an extensive network of largely uncharted underground channels through which water flows across the island to the sea. The Melissani Cave roof collapsed in ancient times, allowing sunlight into its clear waters and creating an ever-changing range of blue and green hues in the 32-metre deep lake under the roof opening. It is said that the cave and lake take their name from the nymph Melisanthi, who loved the God Pan – half man and half goat – and who drowned herself in the lake when Pan rejected her love.

An excursion by small boat offers breathtaking views of this natural phenomenon. Those claiming the actual home of Odysseus was Kefalonia rather than Ithaca even point to the cave as being Homer's famed 'cave of the Nymphs', one of the distinctive landmarks that Athena conjures up to convince Odysseus that he is back in his homeland after twenty years away from Ithaca. (*Odyssey* 13.344-351).

Nearby we also visit the Drogarati Cave, discovered 300 years ago after a strong earthquake created an entrance. The cave is 150 million years old and features a large room with magnificent white and red stalactites and stalagmites, formed and coloured by chalk, limestone and the rock's iron content.

Following lunch at a local restaurant we take the ferry from Kefalonia to Ithaca. After checking in to our boutique hotel, the remainder of the afternoon is free for you to explore the charming port of Vathy. In the early evening we shall gather for some readings and discussions of the *Odyssey*. (Overnight Vathy, Ithaca)
BL

Day 14: Thursday 21 May, Ithaca: Villages of Anogi, Stavros and Exogi

- Archaeological Museum of Vathy
- Navy and Folklore Museum of Ithaca, Vathy
- Monastery of Panagia Kathariotissa, Anogi
- Prehistoric Menhirs, Anogi
- The Church of the Dormition of the Virgin, Anogi
- Stavros Archaeological Museum
- Optional County walk to the archaeological site of the Palace of Odysseus, Exogi

*I am Odysseus son of Laertes, known before all men for clever and crafty designs,
my fame goes up to the heavens. My home is sunny Ithaca.
There is a mountain that stands tall, leaf-trembling Neritos,
and there are other islands settled around it, lying very close to one another.
There is Doulichion and Same, wooded Zakynthos, but my island lies low and away,
last of all on the water toward the dark, with the rest facing east and sunshine,
a rugged place, but a good nurse of men;
for my part I cannot think of any place sweeter on earth to look at. (*Odyssey* 9.19-28)*

We begin the day with a visit to the small archaeological and folklore museums in Vathy. The archaeological collection includes everyday objects from all over the island dating from prehistoric to Roman times. Of special interest are some locally made vases from about 800 BC. The Folklore Museum has a fascinating collection of furniture, clothes, and tools, including a fully assembled bedroom that illustrate life on Ithaca from the 19th century to the present.

On our island tour we begin with a visit to the Monastery of Panagia Kathariotissa with its wonderful views over the whole island, the almost entirely deserted village of Anogi with its remarkable menhirs and, after collecting the key from a remaining resident, the 12th-century church of The Dormition of the Virgin with its beautiful frescoes.

At the Stavros Archaeological Museum we will see a collection of objects, including a set of fragmentary bronze tripods found in a cave at Polis Bay, that are often cited as evidence that Ithaca is in fact the true homeland of Homer's Odysseus.

Finally after lunch at Stavros, we will embark on an optional cross-country walk from the village of Exogi to the archaeological site known as the Palace of Odysseus. The walk is a wonderful experience, but travellers need to be aware that it involves a steep downhill route of about 2.6 kilometres along ancient cobbled goat tracks. Some of the landmarks on our walk can be identified with locations in the *Odyssey*, such as Hill of Hermes, Polis Bay, Rheithron Harbour and Melyandrios Spring. (Overnight Vathy, Ithaca) BD

Day 15: Friday 22 May, Ithaca: Villages of Lefki, Frikes and Kioni

- Church of Saint Nicolaos of Xenon (the Foreigners) with its celebrated icon attributed to El Greco, Vathy
- Island tour of Lefki, Frikes and Kioni villages

Today we begin with a visit to the picturesque Church of Saint Nicolaos of Xenon, located in the old town of Vathy. Within, a rare Byzantine icon of Jesus Elkomenos (Jesus in Pain) is attributed to El Greco.

Our island tour takes us to the beautiful northeastern coast of Ithaca, with stops at the seaside villages of Lefki and Frikes. On the way, we visit secluded beaches and take the opportunity for an optional swim in the Ionian Sea. At the picturesque fishing village of Kioni, there will be time at leisure to lunch at one of the harbour side restaurants, to shop and to explore. (Overnight Vathy, Ithaca) B

Ioannina - 2 nights

Day 16: Saturday 23 May, Ithaca – Astakos – Arta – Ioannina

- Morning Ferry from Ithaca to Astakos
- Orientation tour of Arta, including the Byzantine Museum Church of the Parigoritissa (Consolation) and the medieval bridge over the Arachthos River

We depart Ithaca early this morning, and take the ferry across to Astakos in the province of Epirus in Northern Greece with its awe-inspiring Pindus mountain range and prominent Byzantine and Ottoman influences. In Homer, Epirus is the home of the Thesprotians, good friends to Odysseus (*Odyssey* 16. 316-320).

Following some time at leisure for lunch, we continue north to the pretty town of Arta, built on the site of the 7th-century BC colony of Ambracia. In 338 BC Ambracia was occupied by troops of the Macedonian

king Philip II. In 294 BC the city passed into the hands of King Pyrrhus of Epirus, who made it his capital. As a member of the Aeolian League, Ambracia was besieged and captured by the Romans in 189 BC. It later became a free city of the Roman Empire. We take a short orientation tour of Arta viewing the Byzantine Museum/Church of Panagia Parigoritissa (Consolation) with its breathtaking architecture and marvellous frescoes and icons. We also have refreshments at tearooms overlooking the famous medieval bridge on the Arachthos River.

Departing Arta, we begin our pilgrimage to the Greek oracles of northern Greece and spend the night in the capital and largest city of Epirus, Ioannina. (Overnight Ioannina) B

Day 17: Sunday 24 May, Ioannina – Dodona – Ioannina

- The Sanctuary of Zeus at Dodona
- Archaeological Museum of Ioannina
- Lunch at Myrovolos Restaurant
- Walking tour of Ioannina Old Town

Unrecognised, in beggar's disguise, Odysseus prepares Eumaios and later, Penelope for his homecoming by saying that he has news from the King of the Thesprotians:

*Odysseus has gone to Dodona, to listen
to the will of Zeus, out of the holy deep-leaved oak tree
for how he may return to the rich countryside of Ithaka,
whether in secret or openly, having been by now long absent.
So he is safe, as you see and is now coming back. He is very close at hand.... (Odyssey 19.287)*

This morning we travel inland to the sanctuary of Zeus at Dodona, the oldest oracle in Greece. In prehistoric times it was a shrine of the Great Earth Mother. Homer says that the focus of the oracle was Zeus' holy oak tree and that barefoot priests called Selloi lay on the ground to receive the god's communication from the rustling of the leaves and branches. Achilles prays to Zeus of Dodona to protect his dear friend Patroklos in battle (*Iliad* 16.233-35). The territory of Dodona sent twenty-two ships to fight at Troy.

The first, small temple to Zeus of Dodona was built at the beginning of the 4th century BC. In the next two hundred years the site was embellished with other monumental buildings and finally, a stone theatre larger than the one at Epidaurus.

Late morning we return to Ioannina to visit the Archaeological Museum. The collection covers a wide time span from the first appearance of humans in Epirus during the Lower Paleolithic, 250,000 years ago, to late antiquity in late Roman times (3rd century AD). Great emphasis is placed on the artefacts from the sanctuary of Dodona which are exhibited in a hall devoted to one of the greatest sanctuaries of the Greek world.

With a history going back to Hellenistic times, Ioannina is now a thriving university town with a local artisan industry in exquisite silversmithing and jewellery making. Following time at leisure and lunch at a lakeside restaurant, we take a guided tour of the old town set within the impressive fortifications of Ioannina Castle. (Overnight Ioannina) BL

Corfu - 3 nights

Day 18: Monday 25 May, Ioannina – Nekromanteion Acheron – Igoumenitsa – Corfu

- Nekromanteion Acheron
- Tour of the River Acheron by *varkakia* (small boats)
- Picnic lunch at the springs of the Acheron
- Ferry from Igoumenitsa to Corfu (late afternoon)

Today we visit the famous Nekromanteion (Oracle of the Dead). In antiquity, Theseus and Herakles were said to have descended to the Underworld from here. It was also believed that the shades of dead could be brought into communication with the living if the prescribed rituals were correctly performed. The ritual was based on the description of Odysseus's sacrifice to raise the shades of the dead at *Odyssey* 11.25-28. The dead, 'the thirsty ones', have forgotten who they are, but memory and speech are temporarily restored to them when they drink offerings of blood, wine and honey. Odysseus makes his sacrifice at the place where the Underworld rivers of Pyriphlegethon (Fiery) and Kokytos (Lamentation) meet the Acheron (River of Woe).

We will take a boat trip down the Acheron River; however there will be no fire or lamentation for us. Our modern trip will be a scenic cruise past flocks of longhaired sheep and nesting nightingales. Later, we will picnic on the banks of the Acheron at its source, a place where the countless clear, crystal subterranean springs give rise to the beautiful river. No wonder the Ancients thought the Acheron came from the Underworld!

In the afternoon our journey continues north along the coastline to the port town of Igoumenitsa where we take the ferry across to the Island of Corfu. (Overnight Corfu) BL

Day 19: Tuesday 26 May, Corfu – Kynopiastes – Paleokastritsa – Corfu

- Archaeological Museum of Corfu (subject to reopening in 2020)
- Walking tour of Corfu's Old Town
- Kynopiastes village & the Olive Museum
- Paleokastritsa Monastery

Corfu's unique location close to Italy and its privileged access to the Adriatic give it a somewhat different character to the rest of Hellas. The ancient Greeks identified Corfu (ancient Kerkyra) with the idyllic kingdom of the Phaiakians where the naked, shipwrecked Odysseus was given food, clothing, and finally, transport home to Ithaca. It was in the Phaiakian palace that Odysseus told the story of his adventures.

Naturally, Corfu has inspired a rich mythic tradition. One of several foundation stories is that Corfu gave refuge to the nymph Makris when she was being persecuted by Hera for rearing Zeus' bastard child, the infant Dionysos. In gratitude, Makris bestowed prosperity and fertility on their island. Makris' cave became a place of blessing where Herakles is said to have sought purification. It was also said that Jason and Medea consummated their marriage in Makris' cave, lying on the Golden Fleece and bedecked with the flowers for which Corfu is famous.

This morning we will visit the Corfu Archaeological Museum to see the famous Gorgon Pediment from the Temple of Artemis, the oldest stone pediment in Greece (590-80 BC). It depicts the monstrous Gorgon Medusa flanked by panthers in the manner of the Lion Gate at Mycenae. Medusa is an apotropaic figure intended to protect the temple. Also depicted are Medusa's offspring, the hero Chrysaor and the flying horse Pegasus.

Next we will take a guided walk through the Old Town of Corfu beginning on the Esplanade, the centre of modern Corfu planted with palms and eucalyptus by the French and sporting an English cricket pitch. From here we visit the Old Fort and the 16th-century church of Agios Spyridon, which houses a relic of the

island's patron saint. Heading west to the Venetian town, we come to a maze of tiny streets with markets, coffee shops, and houses where real Corfiotes live. The hillside area known as Campiello, with its little squares, washing lines strung across narrow alleys, steps and curved streets is especially reminiscent of Venice. The New Fortress still bears the insignia of the Venetian Republic.

In the afternoon we visit the picturesque village of Kynopiastes for an out-of-season guided visit to the Olive Museum housed in the old oil mill of Paipetis. The oil mill was in operation from the end of the 19th century until the 70s. Indeed, more than one thousand such mills existed on Corfu until the 1950s. The owner has agreed to open the museum especially for our group. It will be a unique insight into a traditional way of life.

The olive tree was the goddess Athene's gift to Athens; it figures constantly in the *Odyssey*. Olive trees flourish in Alkinoos' orchards and the women in his palace sieve the golden oozing oil. Olive trees grow in the Underworld; Odysseus's axe has an olive wood handle, he clung to an olive tree to avoid being sucked into the whirlpool of Charybdis, and he blinded the Cyclops with a sharpened olive tree trunk. The Phaiakians leave Odysseus' marvellous treasure by the trunk of an olive tree. Best of all, Odysseus and Penelope's marriage bed is fashioned from the trunk of a giant olive tree with its roots deep in the island soil.

We end the day with a drive through forests of olive trees and cypresses to the large Byzantine monastery complex dedicated to the Virgin Mary of Paleokastritsa (Old Castle). Dating from 1228, the monastery, which was built on top of a remote hill, provides gorgeous views of the island and the sea. The complex features a church decorated with fine frescoes and the famous icon of the Virgin, a museum with rare Byzantine icons, and a traditional olive oil press. (Overnight Corfu) B

Day 20: Wednesday 27 May, Corfu

- Achilleion Palace
- Paleópolis site of the famous Temple of Artemis (time permitting)
- Kanoni, Monastery of Vlacherna
- Farewell Dinner

This morning we visit the neo-classical Achilleion Palace (1890-91) built as a summer retreat for Empress Elisabeth of Austria. Situated amidst orange and lemon groves the villa, with magnificent views over the countryside, was intended to be a recreation of the Phaiakian palace on Scheria. It was also a memorial to Elisabeth's beloved son Rudolf, whom Elisabeth identified with the great warrior Achilles, hence the many statues and motifs associated with Achilles. The *Dying Achilles* forms the centerpiece of the formal Italian garden.

Time permitting, we make a brief visit to the ancient city of Corfu, known as Paleópolis, and site of the famous early 6th-century Temple of Artemis. The famous Gorgon Pediment, today displayed in Corfu's archaeological museum, once adorned the western side of this ancient temple.

Our final port of call is to Kanoni and the beautiful Vlacherna Monastery of Panagia (Holy Virgin), which is linked to the land by a narrow causeway. From a distance we may also view the islet chapel of Pondikonisi. Only accessible by small boat, this monastery is said to be the petrified Phaiakian ship, turned to stone with all its crew as Poseidon's punishment for conveying Odysseus back to Ithaca (*Odyssey* 13.153-164).

Tonight we enjoy a special evening meal at a local restaurant where we talk far into the night, say our

farewells, and 'put our hands to the good things that lie before us'. (Overnight Corfu) BD

Day 21: Thursday 28 May, Tour ends in Corfu

- Airport transfer for participants departing on the ASA 'designated' flight

Our tour ends in Corfu. In the morning you will be required to check out of the hotel. Participants travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights will be transferred to the Corfu Airport for their flight back to Australia (via Athens). Alternatively, you may wish to extend your stay in Corfu. Please contact ASA if you require further assistance. B

Accommodation

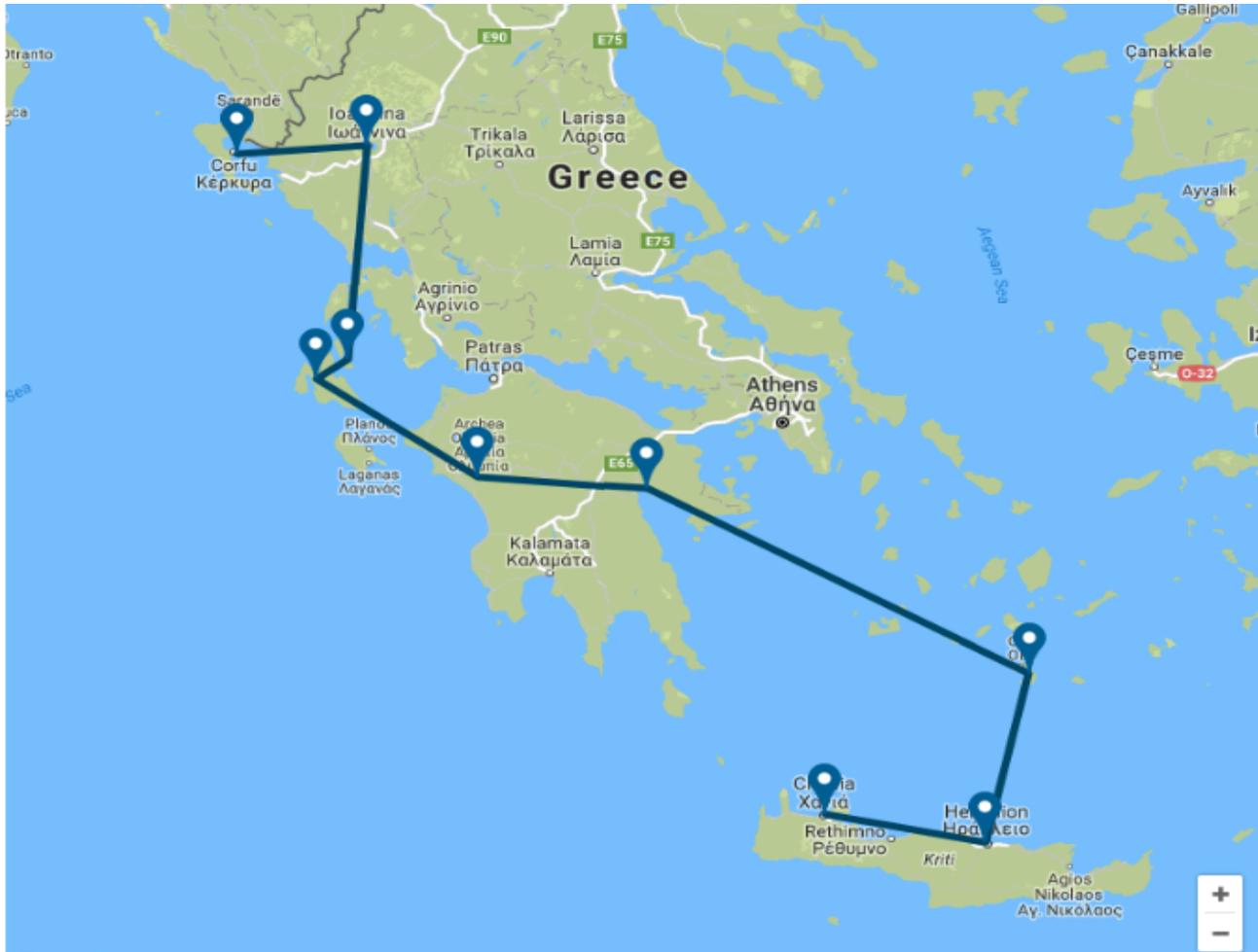
21-day Cultural Tour of Homer's Greek Islands

Hotels are rated 3- to 4-star locally and are comfortable and conveniently situated. In Ithaca and Corfu you will stay in small, intimate establishments specially chosen for their location and setting. Because of their size, the group may be divided between two nearby hotels. All rooms have en suite bathroom. Several hotels have swimming pools. Double/twin rooms for single occupancy may be requested – and are subject to availability and payment of the Double (as Single) Supplement. Further information on hotels will be provided in the 'Tour Hotel List' given to tour members prior to their departure.

- Hania (2 nights): 3-star Porto Veneziano Hotel – completely renovated in 2013, the hotel is located on the waterfront of the Old Venetian Harbour, 300m from the centre of the old town and excellent fish tavernas. www.portoveneziano.gr
- Heraklion (4 nights): 3-star Lato Boutique Hotel – a family-run hotel renovated in 2007. Ideally located inside the city walls, opposite the old city harbour, providing panoramic views of the Venetian Fortress and the Mediterranean Sea. www.lato.gr
- Santorini (2 nights): 4-star Andromeda Villas – situated in scenic Imerovigli, 300m above the dramatic Caldera. www.andromeda-santorini.com
- Nauplion (2 nights): 4-star Grand Bretagne Nauplion – a Neo-classical hotel located on the main promenade overlooking the port; within easy walking distance of numerous cafés and sea taverns. www.grandbretagne.com.gr
- Olympia (1 night): 4-star Hotel Europa – overlooking Ancient Olympia with a scenic view of the Arcadian Mountains and the Valley of Alpheios to the South. www.hoteleuropa.gr
- Argostoli, Kefalonia (2 nights): 4-star Kefalonia Grand Hotel – a boutique hotel overlooking the Bay of Argostoli, within easy walking distance of the city's museums and restaurants. kefaloniagrand.gr
- Vathy, Ithaca (3 nights): 3-star Hotel Mentor – located in the heart of the picturesque port of Vathy, with rooms overlooking the bay. www.hotelmentor.gr
- Ioannina (2 nights): 3-star Hotel Olympic – a modern hotel situated a short walk from the historic centre, shops and restaurants. hotelolymp.gr
- Corfu (3 nights): 4-star Cavallieri Hotel – housed in a former 17th century nobleman's mansion, located in the centre of Corfu. The hotel features a rooftop terrace with uninterrupted views of Corfu Town and the fortress. www.cavallieri-hotel-corfu-town.com

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

Tour Map



Tour Price & Inclusions

AUD \$10,760.00 Land Content Only – Early-Bird Special: Book before 31 July 2019

AUD \$10,960.00 Land Content Only

AUD \$1520.00 Single Supplement

For competitive Economy, Business or First Class airfares and/or group airfares please contact ASA for further information.

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: Santorini-Athens (Day 8)
- Excursions by ferry, boat and high-speed catamaran: high-speed catamaran from Heraklion to Santorini (Day 6), Caldera Cruise, Santorini (Day 7), ferry from Kyllini to Kefalonia (Day 11), short boat trip on Melissani Cavern-Lake (Day 13), ferry from Kefalonia to Ithaca (Day 13), ferry from Ithaca to Astakos (Day 16), boat tour of the River Acheron (Day 18), ferry from Igoumenitsa to Corfu (Day 18)
- Airport-hotel transfers if travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Porterage of one piece of luggage per person at hotels (not at airports; limited service at ferry terminals)
- Lecture and site-visit program; tour reference material/notes
- National Guide in mainland Greece, Crete, Santorini, Kefalonia, Ithaca & Corfu
- 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, Corfu-Athens-Australia
- Evening meals & lunches not indicated in the tour itinerary
- Personal spending money
- Airport-hotel transfers if not travelling on the ASA 'designated' flights
- Luggage in excess of 20kg (44lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if applicable)



Physical Endurance & Practical Information

Physical Ratings 

The number of flags is a guide to the degree of difficulty of ASA tours relative to each other (not to those of other tour companies). It is neither absolute nor literal. One flag is given to the least taxing tours, seven to the most. Flags are allocated, above all, according to the amount of walking and standing each tour involves. Nevertheless, all ASA tours require that participants have a good degree of fitness enabling 2-3 hours walking or 1-1.5 hours standing still on any given site visit or excursion. Many sites are accessed by climbing slopes or steps and have uneven terrain.

This 21-day Cultural Tour of Homer's Greek Islands involves:

- A moderate amount of walking where many of the sites are large and unsheltered.
- The program involves visiting sites where you will encounter steps, cobbled streets, rocky, rutted and uneven ground, loose stones, slopes and steep inclines. The longer walks of about a kilometre, on Ithaca, Kefalonia and to the volcano crater in the Santorini caldera, are optional.
- Extensive travel by air-conditioned coach.
- Excursions by ferry, boat and high-speed catamaran: high-speed catamaran from Heraklion to Santorini (Day 6), Caldera Cruise, Santorini (Day 7), ferry from Kyllini to Kefalonia (Day 11), short boat trip on Melissani Cavern-Lake (Day 13), ferry from Kefalonia to Ithaca (Day 13), ferry from Ithaca to Astakos (Day 16), boat tour of the River Acheron (Day 18), ferry from Igoumenitsa to Corfu (Day 18).
- Domestic flights with A3: Santorini-Athens (Day 8).
- 3- to 4-star hotels with six hotel changes.
- You must be able to carry your own hand luggage. Hotel portage includes 1 piece of luggage per person. You must also be able to wheel your luggage at airport (where portage is not included) and at ferry terminals (where limited portage services are available).
- The use of audio headsets which amplify the voice of your guide (despite noisy surroundings). This technology also allows you to move freely during site visits without missing any information.

It is important to remember that ASA programs are group tours, and slow walkers affect everyone in the group. As the group must move at the speed of the slowest member, the amount of time spent at a site may be reduced if group members cannot maintain a moderate walking pace. ASA tours should not present any problem for active people who can manage day-to-day walking and stair-climbing. However, if you have any doubts about your ability to manage on a program, please ask your ASA travel consultant whether this is a suitable tour for you.

Practical Information

Prior to departure, tour members will receive practical notes which include information on visa requirements, health, photography, weather, clothing and what to pack, custom regulations, bank hours, currency regulations, electrical appliances and food. The Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade website has advice for travellers: www.smartraveller.gov.au

Booking Conditions

Make a Reservation

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 \$500.00 per person payable to Australians Studying Abroad.

Passport Details

All participants must provide no later than 75 days prior to the commencement of the program a photocopy of the front page of their current passport.

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.



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

Travel Plans

I wish ASA to book my airfare, please contact me to discuss my options. Business Class Economy Class

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.

Frequent Flyer _____ Name of Airline _____ Airline Seat preference _____
Membership # _____ (please note request only)

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
- 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 tel: 1300 658 444; 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. 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. Do you 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? YES NO
 If yes, please specify

Do you carry an epipen? YES NO

3. Do you have any other allergies or reactions to anything, including medical drugs? YES NO
 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? YES NO

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? YES NO

Are you insulin dependent? YES NO

4. Do you suffer from travel sickness? YES NO
 Remember to use an appropriate medication while on tour.



Declaration, Liability and Booking Conditions

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 that there are inherent dangers and risks that may occur 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 for the purpose of making bookings with and engaging services provided for 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 travelling to, on and from any tour.

I understand and acknowledge that this Release and Indemnity applies with respect to:

1. Every general risk to which I or my personal belongings may be exposed in the course of 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 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.
3. All claims arising as a result of my or ASA's cancellation or termination of my continued participation on a tour for whatever reason (refund conditions in ASA's Booking Conditions excepted).

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 or services. If a service provider does not deliver the product or service for which you have contracted, your remedy lies with the service provider, not ASA.

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

ASA's liability in respect of any tour will be limited to the refund of amounts received from you less all non-refundable costs and charges and the costs of any substituted event or alternate services provided. The terms and conditions of the relevant service provider from time to time comprise the sole agreement between you and that service provider.

ASA reserves the sole discretion to cancel any tour or to modify itineraries in any way it considers appropriate. Tour costs may be revised, subject to unexpected price increases or exchange rate fluctuations.

Booking Conditions

DEPOSITS

A deposit of \$500.00 AUD per person is required to reserve a place on an ASA tour.

CANCELLATION FEES

If you decide to cancel your booking the following charges apply:

More than 75 days before departure: \$500*
75-46 days prior 25% of total amount due
45-31 days prior 50% of total amount due
30-15 days prior 75% of total amount due
14-0 days prior 100% of total amount due

This amount 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 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. If an ASA tour is forced to cancel you will get a full refund of all tour monies paid. Occasionally circumstances beyond the control of ASA make it necessary to change airline, hotel or to make amendments to daily 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 2%
 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 _____

AUSTRALIANS STUDYING ABROAD

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