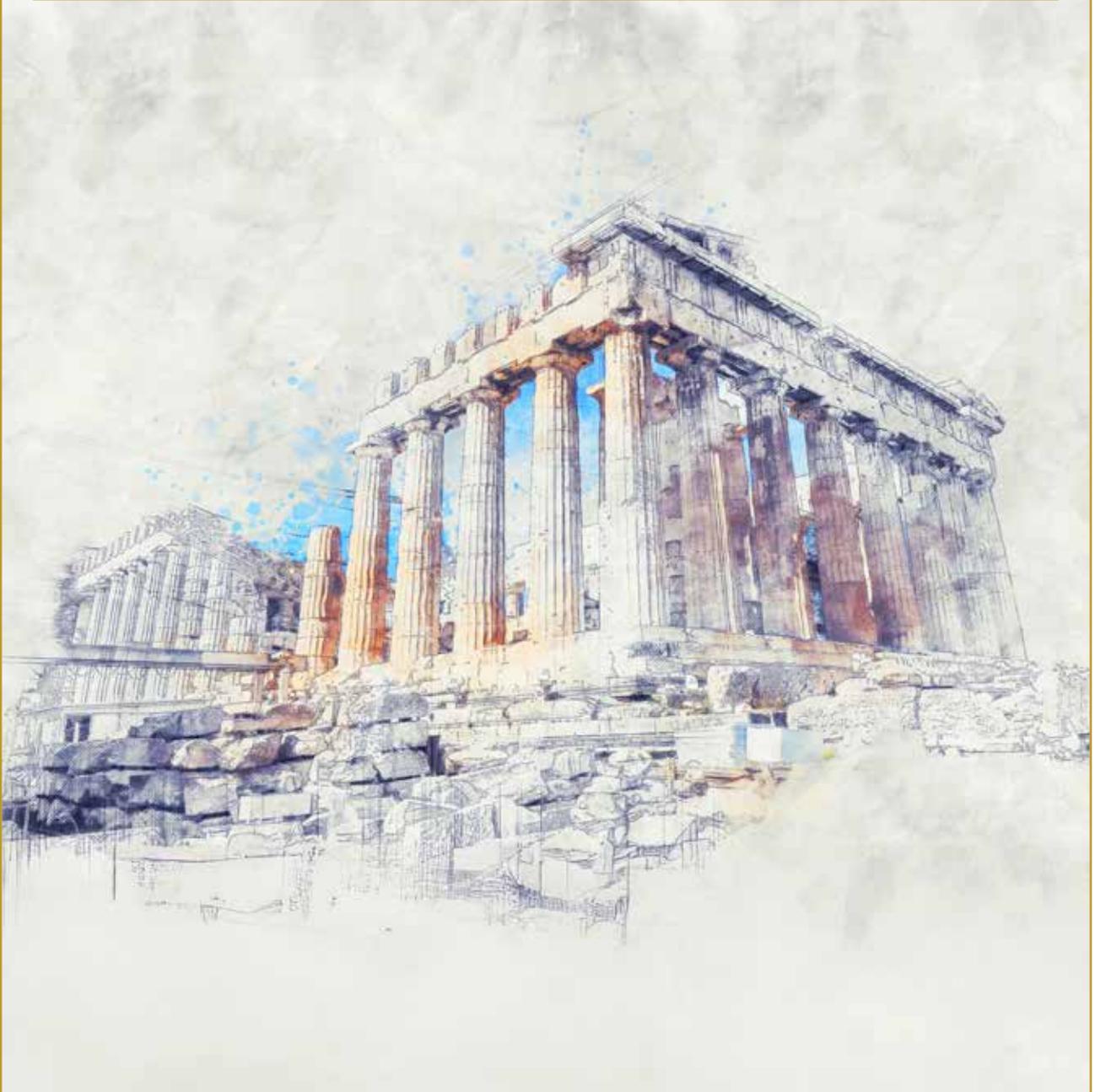


| Civilisations Collection |
THE GREEKS



A COLLECTION OF TOURS
EXPLORING ANCIENT GREECE



| Civilisations Collection | THE GREEKS

“ Really good tour with excellent guides
and like minded fellow travellers. ”

Athens - Jane Cable - December 2025



| EXPLORING THE LEGACY OF GREECE |

Ancient Greece continues to exert an extraordinary hold upon the contemporary imagination, and with good reason. Here was forged the vocabulary of Western political thought: democracy, tyranny, oligarchy. Here emerged the foundational questions of philosophy, from Socratic ethics to Aristotelian logic. The architectural principles established at the Parthenon still inform our urban environment, whilst Greek sculptural ideals shaped artistic sensibility for two millennia.

This year's Andante Travels' Greek programmes invite you to explore that inheritance through a series of expertly curated journeys, covering a chronological sweep of nearly four millennia. Those interested in the origins of European civilisation will find two dedicated explorations of Minoan Crete, examining the palatial complexes at Knossos and Phaistos alongside the catastrophic volcanic eruption at Thera (Santorini). For those wishing to embark on a modern-day odyssey, we travel from Athens to Delphi and as far south as Sparta on our Classical Greece tour as we follow the flowering of Greek culture in the first millennium BCE. Within our Aegean Odyssey Cruise and Discover the Dodecanese programmes we celebrate the maritime spirit of Greek history - from Delos and Rhodes to Kos and Crete, these itineraries illuminate the networks that bound the Aegean into a coherent, if contested, cultural sphere.

And of course, the Greek story is not confined to the familiar ruins of the islands and southern mainland. We take pride in venturing into the "wild" peripheries. In Macedonia, we witness the transition from tribal kingdom to global empire under Philip II and Alexander the Great. We traverse Wild Thrace and venture into territory contested by Greeks, Persians, Thracians and Macedonians, exploring the Sanctuary of the Great Gods on Samothrace and the battlefield of Philippi. And from our beautiful lakeside base in Ioannina, we visit extraordinary sites including Dodona, Greece's oldest oracle site, predating even Delphi in its religious authority.

Across every tour, Andante Travels' expert Guide Lecturers bring sites and stories vividly to life, drawing on archaeological discovery and historical scholarship to illuminate monuments and landscapes within their wider contexts. Together, the journeys in this brochure offer not simply travel, but thoughtful exploration — an invitation to experience the Greek past as something both profoundly distant and quietly, compellingly present.

Mary Reynolds

Head of Product

GET IN TOUCH WITH AN EXPERT

If you are interested in joining one of our tours and want to know more, please do give our Specialist Travel Executives a call today. They are ready to help with all of your questions.

844 279 9113 | andantetravels.com quoting THEGREEKS

BOOK NOW AND SAVE ON OUR GREEK TOURS IN 2026

2026 SPECIAL OFFER - SAVE up to \$350pp*

Enjoy savings of up to \$350 per person when you book and pay a deposit on selected Greek tours departing in 2026 featured in this brochure.

Please visit our website to see our full range of tours and all our latest offers.

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If you pay in full when you call to book a tour you can take advantage of a 10% discount.

The 10% discount is applicable on selected tours departing in 2026.

\$0 SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PLACES in 2026*

Our \$0 single supplement has been popular for 2026, but we still have some places left on selected tours.

In this brochure we have \$0 single supplement places on our Athens tour, page 19.

| BEYOND ORDINARY INSIGHT |



What sets an Andante Travels tour apart from the rest? A key reason is our exceptional team of Guide Lecturers. Unlike guest speakers who rely on local guides for direction, our accomplished presenters personally lead you through the sites, ensuring they are always present to share in the laughter, engage in conversations and serve as your on-hand expert to answer your most pressing questions.

Our guests often share that it is not only the high-quality guidance they receive but also the relaxed and friendly atmosphere created by our Andante guide lecturers that keeps them returning. Many of our Guide Lecturers are authorities on Greek Civilisation, including Oliver Gilkes, Dr Christina Hatzimichael-Whitley and Dr Rita Roussos, who offer fascinating insights into this remarkable era. Dr Whitley, a tutor in Greek Archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning (LEARN), specialises in Minoan Crete and co-directs the Praisos survey and excavation project. Dr Roussos focuses her research on Greek sculpture from the fourth century BCE and has participated in archaeological projects at Isthmia, Kato Lossous, and Mantinea and has led numerous Andante tours to Greece.

As you journey through this land of sun-soaked ruins, breathtaking landscapes, symbols of ancient civilisations and legendary myths, let our specialists guide you. They will delve into the intricate details of the past, revealing the ingenuity and marvels of human achievement behind these wonders and explaining their significance in a way that brings history vividly to life.

EVERY TOUR TELLS A STORY | HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT |

Unearth history's treasures with Andante, the pioneering British specialist on in-depth archaeological travels. Venturing beyond mere cultural excursions, we craft extraordinary journeys, granting you access to the world's most significant historical sites. With 24-hour support from our dedicated team and meticulously planned itineraries, rely on Andante for an unparalleled odyssey into antiquity.

- ✓ **Small groups with big insight** - travel in a group of no more than 18, giving you deeper access to sites, stories and experts
- ✓ **Experience matters** - with over 40 years of curating and innovating truly exceptional tours, you can be certain your experience will be something extraordinary
- ✓ **We uncover history, layer by layer** - we make sure you're not rushed and have plenty of time at each site
- ✓ **Led by experts** - guided by archaeologists, Egyptologists and historians, all specialists in their field
- ✓ **Tour Managers accompany most tours** - allowing our Guide Lecturers to concentrate on what matters most... delivering extraordinary, expert-led discovery
- ✓ **Every itinerary tells a story** - our tours are carefully curated to follow an archaeological theme, designed by experts to bring deeper meaning and context to every site you visit
- ✓ **Expert travel with exceptional value** - all local transport, meals and gratuities are taken care of - even wine with dinner on most tours
- ✓ **Because you matter** - we never treat you like a number. No name badges, no umbrellas in the air - just genuine connection and intelligent conversation
- ✓ **Expert service** - our team are on hand to support, before, during and after your tour
- ✓ **Trusted by guests, recognised for excellence** - we have been rated 'Exceptional' with over 2,100 reviews and are winners of Feefo's 2026 Platinum Trusted Service Award

THE RISE AND LEGACY OF ANCIENT GREECE From Bronze age palaces to Hellenistic Kingdoms

C. 3000 - 1450 BCE | MINOAN CIVILISATION (CRETE)

Europe's earliest complex society, defined by palatial centres, maritime trade and Bronze Age innovation.

C. 1600 - 1100 BCE | MYCENAEAN GREECE

Fortified palaces dominate mainland Greece; prompts the creation of 'heroic' states. Early Greek language recorded in Linear B.

C. 800 - 500 BCE | ARCHAIC GREECE

Rise of the polis, city states embrace overseas colonisation across the Mediterranean, and the foundations of Greek political life with the emergence of democracy and oligarchy.

C. 1100 - 800 BCE | POST-MYCENAEAN 'DARK AGE'

Population decline and cultural transition and immigration; oral traditions reserve epic poetry and myth.

490 - 479 BCE | THE PERSIAN WARS

Rise of rival polities, Persia and Carthage. Collective Greek resistance to Persian expansion shapes political identity and autonomy across the whole Mediterranean.

C. 480 - 404 BCE | CLASSICAL ATHENS

Democracy, philosophy, architecture and drama flourish at the height of Athenian imperial power.

C. 359 - 323 BCE | MACEDONIAN ASCENDANCY

The rise of Macedonia in the north. Philip II and Alexander the Great strive to lead the Hellenic world and extend their culture across the eastern Mediterranean and Asia.

431 - 404 BCE | THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR

Athens and Sparta and their allies clash in a titanic struggle. Prolonged conflict destabilises the Greek world. Athens overreaches and suffers catastrophe.

323 - 30 BCE | THE HELLENISTIC WORLD

The successors of Alexander carve out dynastic empires as far as India fusing eastern and Greek culture as a distinct Hellenistic style. This new world clashes with the growing power of Rome.

146 - 30 BCE | GREECE UNDER ROMAN RULE

Rome overwhelms the old order and Hellenic political independence ends. Greek culture profoundly shapes Roman civilisation leaving rich physical traces.

WHERE MYTH, PHILOSOPHY AND POWER CONVERGED, ANCIENT GREECE FORGED IDEAS THAT ENDURE TO THIS DAY

From the earliest Bronze Age communities to the city-states of the Classical period, Greek civilisation laid many of the foundations upon which Western thought, politics and culture still rest. Philosophy, drama, architecture and historical enquiry all emerged from a world in which myth and reason co-existed, and where power was expressed as much through ideas as through arms.

Across the Greek mainland and beyond, archaeology reveals a civilisation that was never static. Cities rose and fell, identities were reshaped, and political ambition was constantly negotiated between tradition and innovation. The two sites featured here represent just a glimpse of the places explored on our Greek journeys – carefully chosen highlights that illuminate a wider, richly layered story revealed across many more landscapes and monuments.



AIGAI: ROYAL AUTHORITY AND THE MAKING OF MACEDON

Set among the foothills of northern Greece, Aigai was the first capital of the Macedonian kingdom and the ceremonial heart of a dynasty that would reshape the ancient world. As one of the key highlights of our journey through northern Greece, it offers an exceptional introduction to the political culture and royal ideology of ancient Macedon.

On Day 4 of our Macedonia tour (p10), we devote a full day to exploring the three principal monuments of Aigai, allowing time for careful study and discussion. Central to the visit is the Polycentric Museum of Aigai, opened to the public in 2022. Its innovative galleries unite sculpture, inscriptions, architectural fragments and grave goods to present Aigai as a functioning royal centre rather than a static archaeological site. Through this integrated narrative, the museum charts more than a millennium of political and ritual life.

Nearby stands the Palace of Aigai, opened in 2024 following decades of excavation and conservation. Monumental in scale and refined in design, the palace complex reveals the ambitions of Macedonian rulers who consciously aligned themselves with Greek cultural traditions while asserting a distinct political identity. Colonnaded courtyards, mosaics and carefully planned ceremonial spaces demonstrate how architecture was used as an instrument of authority and display.

Completing the picture is the surrounding royal necropolis, which includes the richly furnished tomb traditionally identified as that of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. Gold wreaths, weaponry and painted façades offer rare insight into elite burial practices and the symbolic language of kingship in the late Classical period.

THEBES: MYTH, MEMORY AND POWER IN BOEOTIA

Among the many cities encountered across mainland Greece, Thebes stands out for the depth and complexity of its legacy. Renowned in myth as the home of Cadmus, Oedipus and Dionysus, and feared in history as a formidable political power, Thebes played a decisive role in shaping the fortunes of the ancient Greek world.

Our exploration centres on the Archaeological Museum of Thebes, whose exceptional collections span from the Palaeolithic period to the Post-Byzantine era. This rare chronological breadth allows us to trace patterns of settlement, belief and identity across the Boeotian plain over several millennia.

The museum's Bronze Age material highlights Thebes' prominence during the Mycenaean period, while later galleries illuminate its Classical and Hellenistic phases. Of particular significance is the city's rise to power in the fourth century BCE, when Thebes challenged Spartan dominance and briefly reshaped the political balance of Greece.

Artefacts on display – many of them rare or unique – reveal daily life, religious practice and civic organisation across successive eras. Together, they challenge narratives that place Athens at the centre of all cultural development, instead presenting a landscape of competing city-states and regional identities.

Beyond the museum, the city itself bears the imprint of its layered past. Fragmentary fortifications, civic spaces and sacred precincts invite reflection on the interplay between mythic tradition and historical experience.

From royal centres to historic city-states, ancient Greece reveals a landscape shaped by power, belief and cultural exchange. The two sites presented here form part of a much wider exploration of places that continue to inform and enrich our understanding of the ancient world.

CRETE - INTRODUCING THE MINOANS

An expert-led tour that traverses Crete from East to West

8 days from \$4,845pp



Crete became a dominant power in the Mediterranean in the 3rd millennium BCE when the people we refer to as Minoans constructed palaces on a scale not known in Europe at the time. This tour which traverses Crete from East to West has it all: stunning archaeology, beautiful coastal villages and towns and dramatic landscapes accompanied by the island's wonderful cuisine.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the lesser-known remains of Ayia Triada and Mochlos and the famous Minoan Palaces

Explore Aptera, the mythological setting for the battle between the Sirens and the Muses

Delight in the lovely harbour town of Chania with its charming Venetian architecture

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE LECTURER

Dr Christina

Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey.



Day One | Chania

Meet the group at our hotel in Chania.

Day Two | Chania

Today is devoted to **Chania**, starting with the **Archaeological Museum**, where we see a plethora of remains dating from the Neolithic to the Roman periods. Highlights include Minoan ceramics and terracotta figures of bird-faced women, as well as a mosaic dating from the Roman period. In the afternoon, we take a walking tour of its pretty Venetian quarter, including the narrow alleys of the Kastelli region and the wider streets of the Jewish district.

Day Three | Chania

This morning, we visit the fascinating **Maritime Museum** on the western end of the Old Venetian Harbour. It contains exhibits from Greek naval history from Bronze Age to the Venetian and Ottoman period to the Battle of Crete. Its star exhibit is a life size replica of a Minoan ship, the 'Minoa'. Later, we explore more of Chania including the **Kastelli Hill** where recent excavations have uncovered more of the city's 5,000 year past. We end our day with a visit to the **Ayia Triada Monastery** with its Venetian and Cretan Renaissance style.

Day Four | Chania - Aptera - Heraklion

Leaving Chania, we visit **Aptera**, powerful from the Minoan to the Hellenistic periods due to its strategic position. We continue to **Heraklion**, stopping en route to explore the excellent new **Museum of Eleutherna** in Rethymnon, which displays finds from Eleutherna.

Day Five | Knossos & Archanes

This morning, we visit the world-famous site of **Knossos**, which boasted a population of 100,000 at its height in the 18th century BCE and was settled as early as the 7th millennium. Later today we visit two important museums, the **Archaeological Museum of Archanes** and the exceptional **Heraklion Museum**, with its exquisite jewellery and brightly coloured wall paintings.

Day Six | Ayia Triadha & Gortyn

We start our day at the site of **Ayia Triadha**, a grand but ruinous Bronze Age villa. Next, we proceed to **Phaistos**, inhabited from the 5th millennium BCE, it is the site of two palaces from different periods which were abandoned by the Mycenaean period. Afterwards, we visit **Gortyn** in the verdant Messara Valley and the **Archaeological Museum of Messara**.

Day Seven | Gournia & Mochlos

Today we visit the **Palace of Malia**, a huge Minoan complex just north of the Lasithi Mountains, significant not only for its size, but also its strategic port and grand facades. We then proceed to the well-preserved late Minoan town of **Gournia**, one of the few sites in the region to have been fully excavated. After lunch, we go by boat to the tiny island of **Mochlos**, which may have been connected to the island in the Minoan period.

Day Eight | Heraklion

We transfer to Heraklion airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field notes and all taxes & gratuities to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 3 nights' in the Porto Veneziano Hotel, Chania and 4 nights' in the Lato Boutique Hotel, Heraklion

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
14th - 21st Apr	\$5,125 \$4,845	\$790

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/acmi

ATHENS - IN-DEPTH

Athens, Aegina and the Historic Port of Piraeus

8 days from \$4,620pp



This meticulously curated tour takes us on an immersive journey through the heart of ancient Greece, offering an unparalleled opportunity to explore Athens's rich historical and cultural heritage and surrounding areas. From the iconic Acropolis and the bustling Agora to the serene island of Aegina and the ancient sanctuary of Eleusis, each day is filled with fascinating discoveries and unforgettable experiences.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy collections of artefacts from Greek antiquity ever assembled at three world-class museums

Explore the wonderful island of Aegina, situated in the Saronic Gulf

Discover two rarely visited sites - the Amphiaræion of Oropos and the Sanctuary of Brauron

Day One | Athens

Meet the group at our hotel in Athens.

Day Two | Hill of Ares - Propylaea & Acropolis Museum

Our day begins at the rock of Areopagus, the high court of appeal in classical Athens, located northwest of the Acropolis. We proceed to the Propylaea, the monumental gateway to the Acropolis, designed by Mnesicles under Pericles' direction between 437 and 432 BCE, celebrated for its architectural brilliance. The visit includes the **Parthenon**, a temple dedicated to Athena, and the Erechtheum, known for its complex design. We explore the **Theatre of Dionysus**, the birthplace of Greek tragedy, dedicated to Dionysus, and the **Odeion of Herodes Atticus**, renowned for its acoustics, built in 161 AD. After lunch, we explore the **Acropolis Museum**, designed by Bernard Tschumi and Michael Photiadis, housing artefacts from the Acropolis, including the Parthenon frieze. The museum's top floor aligns with the Parthenon's orientation, offering a historical walk along the frieze. We conclude with a leisurely walk back to the hotel.

Day Three | National Archaeological Museum, Agora and Agora Museum

We visit the **National Museum of Athens**, with its major antiquities from the Neolithic to late Antiquity, including the bronze Poseidon and the so-called mask of Agamemnon. Our exploration continues in the **Agora**, Athens' ancient commercial and civic centre, where democracy members convened, with the museum in the reconstructed Stoa of Attalos. We see the well-preserved temple of Hephaestus, built in honour of craftsmen. The

Agora Museum in the Stoa of Attalos displays artefacts from the 2nd century BCE. We then ascend **Philopappos Hill** for spectacular views before returning to the hotel.

Day Four | Aegina Island

We journey to **Aegina Island**, visiting the **Temple of Aphaia**, a well-preserved Doric architecture example. After lunch in Aegina town, we explore the **Aegina Archaeological Museum**, featuring sculptures from the Aphaia Temple and items from the Minoan and Mycenaean periods, illustrating the island's historical connections.

Day Five | Kerameikos, Piraeus & Eleusis

We start at **Kerameikos**, an ancient cemetery and major crossroads, with remains of the Dipylon Gate and Sacred Gate. Pericles' famous speech honouring fallen warriors was delivered here. The **Kerameikos Museum** exhibits funerary stelae and a bull-shaped rhyton. In **Piraeus**, Greece's largest port, we explore the **Piraeus Museum's** bronze statues and ship models. After lunch, we head to **Eleusis**, known for its sanctuary and Eleusinian Mysteries. The **Eleusis Museum** houses artefacts from the Mycenaean to Roman eras.

Day Six | Amphiaræion of Oropos & Cycladic Museum

We visit the **Amphiaræion of Oropos**, an ancient sanctuary for healing and oracular consultations. The site includes a temple, sacred spring, theatre, and stoa. Pilgrims sought cures and divine revelations here. In the afternoon, we explore the **Cycladic Museum**, showcasing the Gotlanders shipping family's collection of Aegean cultures, particularly Cycladic art from the 3rd millennium BCE.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE LECTURER

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



Day Seven | Sanctuary of Brauron - Thorikos & Sounion

At the **Sanctuary of Brauron**, associated with Artemis Brauronia, we find remains of a temple, stoa, and altars. **Thorikos**, an ancient mining city, offers a well-preserved theatre dating back to the 6th century BCE. After lunch in Lavrion, we visit **Sounion**, known for its stunning views and the Temple of Poseidon, dedicated to the sea god, offering a breathtaking panorama of the Aegean Sea.

Day Eight | Athens

Our tour ends today and we transfer to Athens Airport from where make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field notes and all taxes & gratuities to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 7 nights' in the Acropolian Spirit Boutique Hotel, Athens

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
20th - 27th Apr	\$4,900 \$4,620	\$1,040

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/aaap



IOANNINA

Highlights of Epirus

6 days from \$3,900pp



Positioned on the western shore of Lake Pamvotis and encircled by the impressive Pindus Mountains, we find Ioannina, capital of Epirus, and one of Greece's most scenic towns. From this most excellent of bases, we explore a selection of extraordinary archaeological sites, each representing a different era of Greek history: Dodona, Greece's oldest oracle site (predating Delphi), the 4th-century city of Kassope with its impressive theatre, as well as Nikopolis, founded by Octavian in 31 BCE, and Arta, known for its outstanding Byzantine monuments.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Delight in a beautiful area of Greece that is still largely untroubled by masses of visitors

Explore the ruins of Nikopolis, a city founded by Augustus to establish Roman dominion over Greece

Enjoy the quiet beauty of Kassope, where there are spectacular views of the Ambracian Gulf

Day One | Preveza - Ioannina

Meet the group at Preveza Airport or at our hotel in Ioannina.

Day Two | Ioannina & Dodona

We begin our exploration of **Ioannina**, a picturesque Greek town that once thrived as the medieval heart of Ali of Tepelena's realm, famously depicted in **Byron's Childe Harold's Pilgrimage**. Our walking tour includes the **Castro** and the **Archaeological Museum**, showcasing finds from **Dodona**, including pilgrim's questions and answers. In the afternoon, we visit **Dodona**, Greece's oldest oracle, where Zeus communicated through rustling oak leaves. The site hosts massive festivals and one of Greece's largest ancient theatres.

Day Three | Nikopolis

Our day is dedicated to **Nikopolis**, or 'Victory City', built by Augustus after the Battle of Actium in 31 BCE to secure Roman control over Western Greece. Nikopolis housed veteran Roman soldiers and forcibly relocated locals from towns like Kassope. We visit the **Actian sanctuary**, featuring an altar, theatre, stadium, museum, and ancient city centre remnants. On our return to Ioannina, we pause at the **Haigos Giorgios aqueduct**, which once supplied water to Nikopolis's Nymphaeum complex.

Day Four | Arta & Orraon

We journey south to **Arta** on the Ambracian Gulf, a significant Byzantine centre and capital of Pyrrhus of Epirus. Our visit includes the **Archaeological Museum**, the uniquely Byzantine **Church of Panagia Parigoritissia**, and the impressive **Arachthos River bridge**, an engineering marvel. Returning to Ioannina, we explore the fortified Hellenistic city of **Orraon**, featuring well-preserved houses, fortified walls with towers, and a strategic cistern, crucial for guarding the passage from the Amvrakikos Gulf to the Ioannina basin.



Day Five | Kassope & Nekromateion

We start at the Hellenistic city of **Kassope**, perched high in the hills with stunning views of the Ambracian Gulf, where the battle of Atrium occurred. **Kassope** is a model city, boasting an agora, theatre, and regular street grid, though abandoned for Nicopolis's population. In the afternoon, we visit the **Nekromateion of the Acheron** on the Ionian coast, a site shrouded in controversy, possibly linked to the oracle of the dead known from classical texts.

Day Six | Ioannina - Preveza

We return to Preveza Airport to make our independent onward journeys.



Image: Nikopolis & Church of Panagia Parigoritissia

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE LECTURER

Dr Christina

Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey. Join Christina on our 21st April departure.



Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK. Join Oliver on our 1st September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field notes and all taxes & gratuities to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 5 nights' in the SAZ City Life Hotel

Culinary inclusions

- 5 breakfasts, 4 lunches & 5 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
21st - 26th Apr	\$4,110 \$3,900	\$550
1st - 6th Sep	\$4,180 \$3,970	\$550

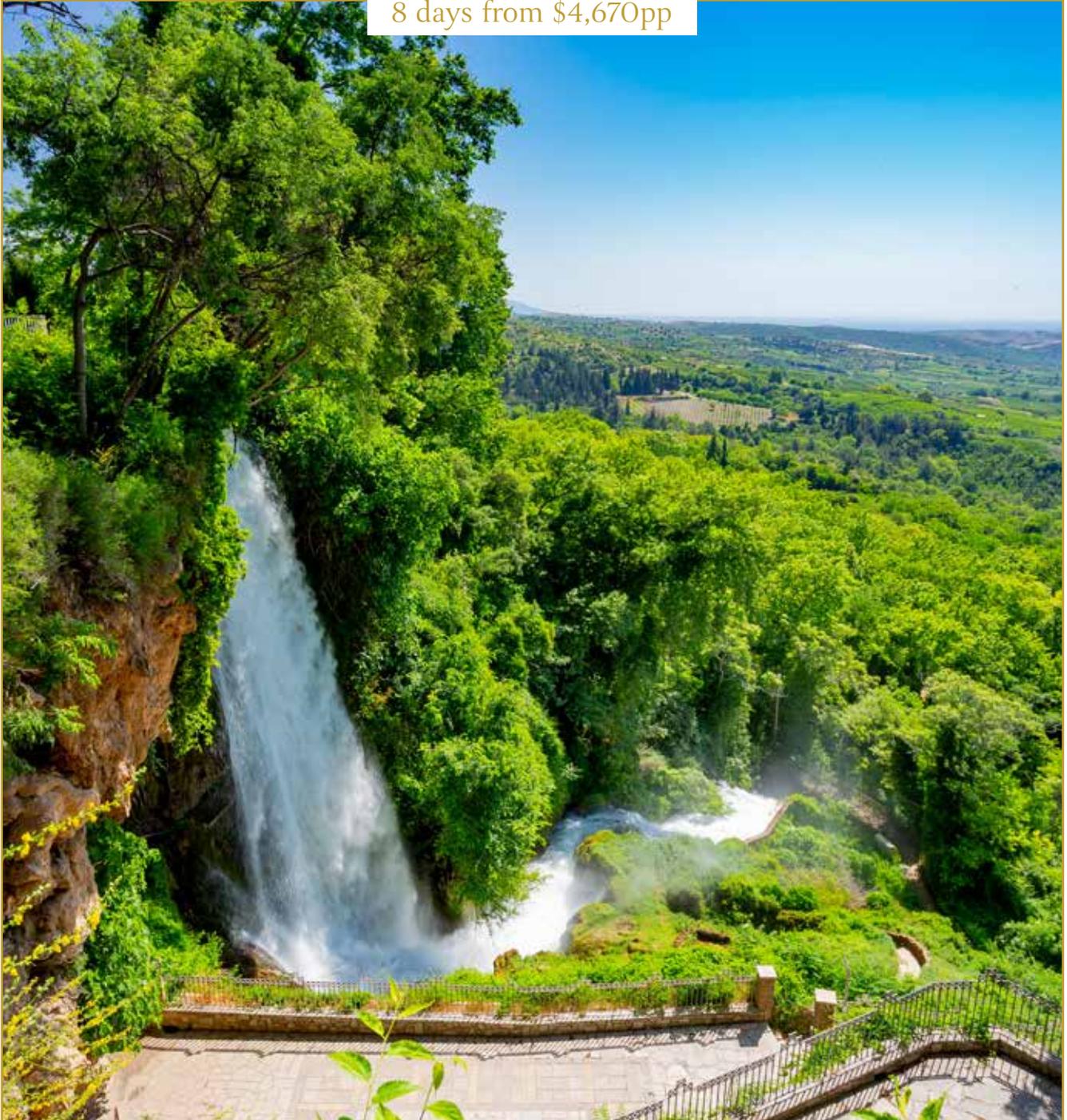
For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/aion



MACEDONIA

The glories of northern Greece

8 days from \$4,670pp



This tour of Northern Greece explores outstanding archaeological sites shaped by Macedonians, Thracians, Romans, Byzantines, Slavs and Ottomans. We journey through landscapes of canyons, lakes, waterfalls and rivers in a region dense with history. Discover sanctuaries, victory monuments, palaces, painted tombs and pebble mosaics at Verghina and Pella, and visit Kastoria's beautiful lakeside setting and Thessaloniki, whose historical importance rivals Constantinople.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Admire the remarkable frescos which decorate the Byzantine churches of Kastoria

Discover the waterfalls at Edessa, a city defined by water

Enjoy the richest ancient burial ever found in Europe - the tomb of Philip II - and its museum

Explore ancient Pella, the capital of Macedonia and famous birthplace of Alexander the Great



Day One | Thessaloniki - Kastoria

Meet the group at either Thessaloniki Airport or in Kastoria, a beautiful lakeside town situated on a rocky isthmus on the shores of Lake Orestiada.

Day Two | Kastoria

Aside from its picturesque charms, Kastoria boasts more than 70 Byzantine and post-Byzantine churches dating from the 9th to the 16th centuries scattered around the town. Many are sadly in a poor state of repair but distinguished by the frescoes which decorate them. The quality of the artwork is astonishing and we visit a small selection at **Agios Stephanos, Taxiarchis Oikonomou** and **Archangel Michael**, each concealing something unique behind their intricate brickwork. Later, we explore Dispilio, the site of a large Neolithic settlement that once stood on stilts in the lake

Day Three | Kastoria - Edessa

Before we leave the region, we visit the **Aigos Orestiko Archaeological Museum**, which displays important finds from excavations in the region. Afterwards, we continue to **Edessa**, a city defined by the water which flows into it from the Pindus Mountains to the west. The waterfalls of Edessa are a striking natural wonder noted from the Roman Empire to the travel writing of Edward Lear. We admire their thundering beauty before we follow the road over the Ottoman bridge that carried the Via Egnatia across the river and explore the remnants of the ancient city. Later, we continue to **Mezia** and visit the Nymphaeum where Aristotle instructed the pupils of the Macedonian elite, Alexander the Great among them, in political discourse and philosophy.

Day Four | Edessa - Aigai - Thessaloniki

Today is dedicated to **Verghina** (ancient Aigai), the capital of the Macedonian kingdom before its move to Pella in the 4th century BCE. We see the remarkable painted tombs, displayed in the excellent site Museum of the Royal Tombs of Aigai, under the recreated mound which originally covered the burials. We also visit the newly opened **Palace of Aigai**, once one of the largest buildings in Classical Greece, as well as the new **Polycentric Museum of Aigai**. After our site visit, we continue to Thessaloniki for our first night in this fascinating city.

Day Five | Pella - Thessaloniki

Our first visit today is to **Pella**, where we explore Macedonia's administrative capital and the birthplace of both Philip II and Alexander the Great. We see the monumental agora, houses and the exceptional mosaics made from carefully selected natural pebbles, now on display in the museum. These extraordinary mosaics were made mostly of carefully selected natural pebbles with occasional use of artificial tesserae, terracotta and strips of lead; the eyes were inlaid with precious stones that have not survived. In the afternoon, we return to Thessaloniki to visit the **Archaeological Museum** with extraordinary finds from the city and its region, including the stunning Derveni bronze crater.

Day Six | Dion

We travel south following the curve of the coastline to Dion at the foot of Mount Olympus, the religious capital of Macedonia. An evocative site with a magical setting, surrounded by trees in which nightingales sing and crisscrossed with a labyrinth of springs and streams. It is here that both Philip II and Alexander used to celebrate their victories by holding Olympic Games and magnificent receptions and where Alexander conducted sacrifices before his campaign into Asia in 334 BCE. We also visit the nearby small **Archaeological Museum**.

Day Seven | Thessaloniki

Today is devoted to **Thessaloniki**, founded by King Cassander as a new capital city. We explore the city on foot, taking in the Agora and Roman forum before heading to the Late Roman palace complex of **Galerius** to view the Rotunda and the Triumphal Arch of the emperor. We take a short walk along the promenade to see the **White Tower**, before stopping for lunch nearby. In the afternoon, we pay a visit to two of the city's oldest churches, **Aghios Dimitrios** and **Aghia Sophia**, before we head to the Byzantine, UNESCO World Heritage-listed, **Walls of Thessaloniki**, or **Kastra** as they are known to those that live in the city. Over half of these fortifications, which once protected the city, are still standing today. Afterwards, a visit to the adjacent and equally superb **Byzantine Museum** completes our survey of the region's archaeology.

Day Eight | Thessaloniki

We transfer to the airport for our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE LECTURER

Dr Christina

Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey. Join Christina on our 28th April departure.



Oliver Gilkes

One of our longest-standing Guide Lecturers, Oliver has worked as a field and museum archaeologist in the UK, Albania and Italy. Oliver is considered one of just a handful of experts on Albanian archaeology in the UK. Join Oliver on our 8th September departure.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field notes and all taxes & gratuities to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 2 nights' in Kastoria, 1 night in Edessa and 4 nights' in Thessaloniki

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
28th Apr - 5th May	\$4,950 \$4,670	\$840
8th - 15th Sep	\$5,060 \$4,780	\$970

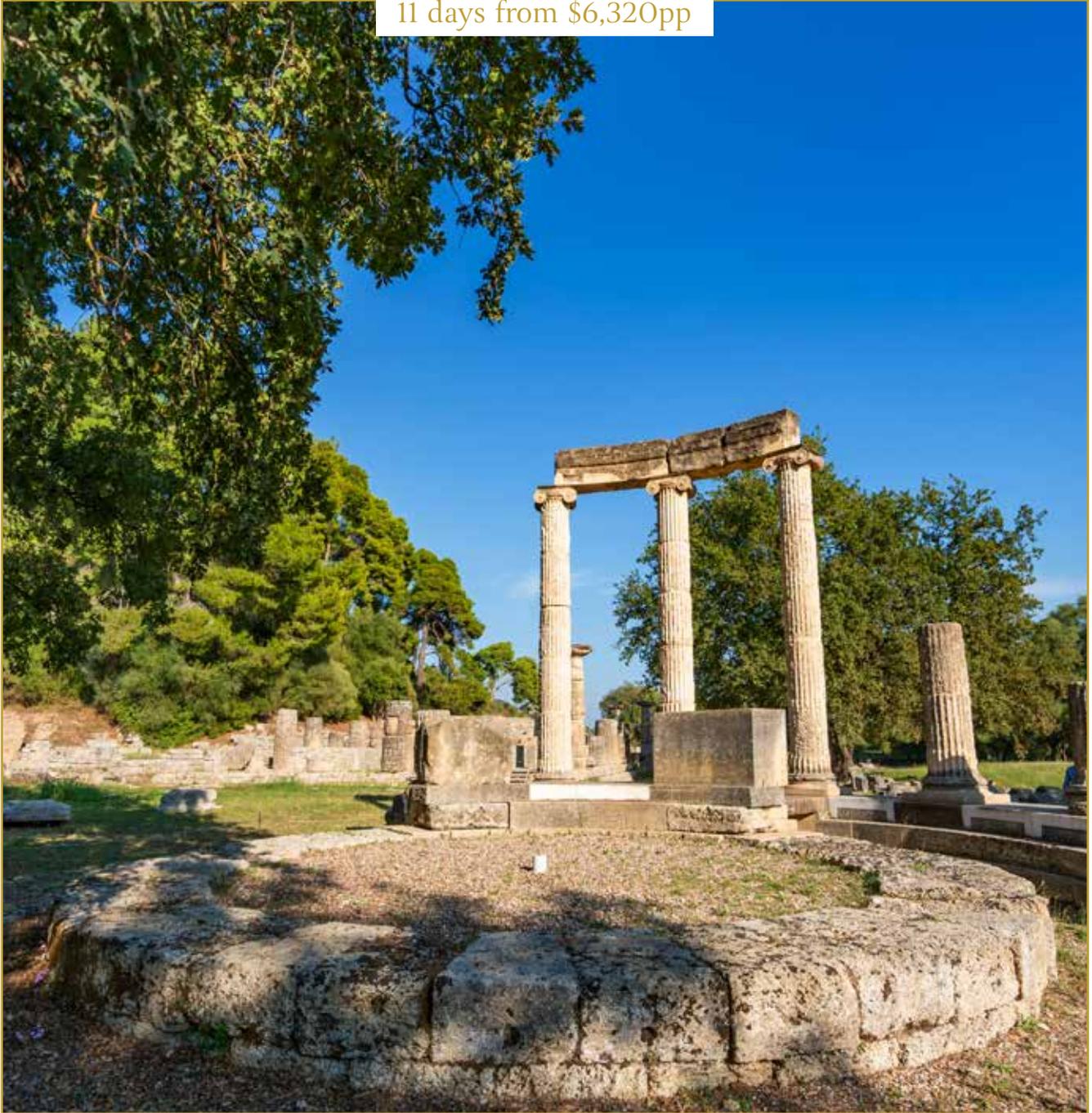
For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/amcd



CLASSICAL GREECE

From Bronze Age to Byzantine

11 days from \$6,320pp



Embark on a modern-day odyssey to pivotal archaeological sites as we trace the story of Ancient Greece from the Bronze Age to Classical glory. This is a tour for anyone who has ever dreamed of standing at the starting line of the ancient Olympics, debating with Socrates or following in the footsteps of Hercules. It is also the perfect opportunity to revisit the stories of The Iliad and Odyssey and marry them with the impressive material remains of the people who inspired, composed and believed in them.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the site of ancient Thebes, the mythical home of Oedipus

Consult the oracle at the Panhellenic Sanctuary at Delphi in its wonderfully dramatic mountain setting

Explore the famous citadel of Mycenae and see the Lion Gate, the grave circles and the Treasure of Atreus

Admire the Byzantine architecture of Mystras,
some of the finest examples of 14th and 15th century AD architecture in Greece

Day One | Athens

Meet the group at our hotel in the Plaka.

Day Two | Athens

We spend an entire day exploring ancient Athens on foot. We walk past the **Theatre of Dionysus**, the very place where the masterpieces of Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes were originally performed, and continue up to the **Acropolis** which still dominates the city. Here stands the **Parthenon**, 'Chamber of the Maidens', built in the 5th century BCE to house a colossal gold and ivory statue of Athena, patron goddess of the city. The views out over the city from here are simply stunning! After lunch in the Plaka, we visit the fabulous **Acropolis Museum**, consistently rated as one of the best museums in the world. Now 10 years old, the museum was designed by Bernard Tschumi, with local Greek architect Michael Photiadis, and houses the ancient artefacts found in and around the Acropolis, including the superb Parthenon frieze - some parts original, some copies.

Day Three | Athens

This morning we explore the **National Archaeological Museum**. Now somewhat overlooked by visitors flocking to the Acropolis Museum, it is worth remembering that this older museum is still home to one of the greatest collections of antiquities in the world. Established in 1829 to protect antiquities from all over Greece, there are over 11,000 exhibits dating as far back as the Neolithic period through to late antiquity. From the huge bronze statue of Poseidon (or is it Zeus?) to the golden mask of Agamemnon, the antiquities on display here provide the staple images of ancient Greece. In the afternoon, we continue our exploration of Athens with a walk through the **Agora**, the political and commercial heart of ancient Athens where Socrates stood trial and where free-born male Athenian citizens could come to cast their vote.

Day Four | Athens - Thebes - Delphi

This morning we drive north to the site of ancient **Thebes**. The ancient city holds a central place in ancient Greek mythology as the setting for many prominent myths and legends, including the stories of Oedipus and Antigone. Here we visit the newly rebuilt **Archaeological Museum**, one of the most important in Greece. The finds from Boeotia, covering the Palaeolithic up to post Byzantine periods, comprise some rare and unique collections. We then continue our journey to Delphi where we stay overnight.

Day Five | Delphi - Olympia

Our morning is devoted to the **Panhellenic Sanctuary at Delphi** in its wonderfully dramatic mountain setting. The temple, perched on a high terrace, is approached by the sacred way, which passes numerous 'treasuries' and other monuments of the city-states of Greece, vying for the attention of visitors both past and present. The oracle was given by a priestess called the Pythia who sat on a tripod over a chasm in the inner sanctum and, inhaling the vapours which issued from it, uttered prophecies in a trance. We also visit the on-site **museum**, home to some extraordinary artefacts, including the famous Charioteer, a masterpiece of classical art sculpted in bronze. We depart in the early afternoon, crossing the Rion-Antirion bridge, and travel to the Peloponnese peninsula at Olympia.

Day Six | Olympia - Nafplion

This morning, we explore **Olympia**, home of the first and greatest Panhellenic Games and the most important religious centre in the 8th century BCE. Here we find the ruins of the ancient stadium and temples such as the Pelopion, once the alleged tomb of Pelops, the mythical chariot-racing king who gave this region its name. The major festivals here once provided opportunities for the meeting of representatives from the Greek states. Facilities discovered at the sanctuary include a gymnasium, with covered practice running track and palaistra (training compound), baths and a hotel. Archaeologists have also found evidence of the camps and traders' stalls set up by ordinary visitors to the games. We also visit the small on-site museum before we continue to Nafplion, where we spend the next four nights.

Day Seven | Nafplion & Epidaurus

Our first visit today is to the excellent **Archaeological Museum** located in the main square of Nafplion. Here we see artefacts from excavations in the general Argolid region, including extraordinary Mesolithic finds and objects from several Bronze Age settlements and tombs, as well as later Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic items. After lunch we drive east to the ancient site of **Epidaurus**, a celebrated centre of healing in the ancient world. It is famous for its magnificently preserved theatre superbly set against a background of rolling hills. Its acoustics are extraordinary - the tearing of a piece of paper at the centre of the orchestra can be heard in the uppermost tier!

Day Eight | Corinth

Today we drive west to Corinth, situated at the isthmus which joins the Peloponnese to the northern Greek mainland. In antiquity, to avoid the long and hazardous sailing route around the Peloponnese, ships were winched across the isthmus on a paved way - the diolkos. We visit the **Sanctuary of Poseidon at Isthmia**, once one of four sites that hosted a quadrennial cycle of athletic competitions, known to us as the Panhellenic Crown Games. From the time the games were founded in 584 BCE until the end of the 4th century AD, Greeks (and later Romans) competed here in contests of speed, strength and even singing ability, each seeking to win the crown of pine that was the traditional award. After lunch we visit **Corinth** itself, one of the great cities of Classical Greece, which according to Hellenic myth was founded by Corinthos, a descendant of the god Helios.

Day Nine | Mycenae

We explore the great Bronze Age hilltop site of **Mycenae**, another major hub of Greek civilisation and, according to Greek tradition, capital of legendary King Agamemnon. We walk into the city, with its remarkable Cyclopean walls, through the famous **Lion Gate** and view the archaeological remains of the acropolis, including the palace and the grave circles where the so-called mask of Agamemnon was found. Now in the National Museum at Athens, the discovery of this stunning mask prompted Henrich Schliemann to say, 'I have gazed upon the face of Agamemnon'. In the afternoon we explore **Tiryns**, a Mycenaean hillfort whose cyclopean walls made it one of the most notable fortresses of Mycenaean Greece, and also reputedly the birthplace of Heracles. The city suffered the same collapse that destroyed Mycenaean civilisation at the end of the Bronze Age but remained a small but dwindling township into classical antiquity.

Day Ten | Mystras - Sparta - Kalamata

We leave Nafplion this morning and head south to **Mystras** on the slopes of the hill of Mezythra. The ruins of this Byzantine town have some of the finest examples of 14th and 15th century AD architecture in Greece. Churches, monasteries and houses line the winding streets, and the summit is topped by an impregnable fortress. We spend most of our morning here and after lunch continue south to nearby **Sparta**, situated within the expansive, fertile Eurotas valley. Its decentralised layout stands in stark contrast to other Greek poleis of the time and city's austere culture, which differed markedly from Athens' grand architectural ambitions, resulted in relatively modest construction projects. Most of the archaeological ruins visible today date back to the Roman era and include the ancient theatre, the partially preserved sanctuary of Artemis Orthia and the site alleged to be the tomb of Spartan King Leonidas.

Day Eleven | Kalamata

Our classical odyssey comes to an end. We bid farewell to Greece and make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE LECTURER

Dr Christina

Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey.



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- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field notes and all taxes & gratuities to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 3 nights' in the Herodion Hotel, Athens, 1 night in the V Hotel Delphi, 1 night in the Hotel Europa Olympia, 4 nights' in the Nafsimedon Hotel, Nafplion and 1 night in the Grand Hotel Kalamata

Culinary inclusions

- 10 breakfasts, 9 lunches & 10 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

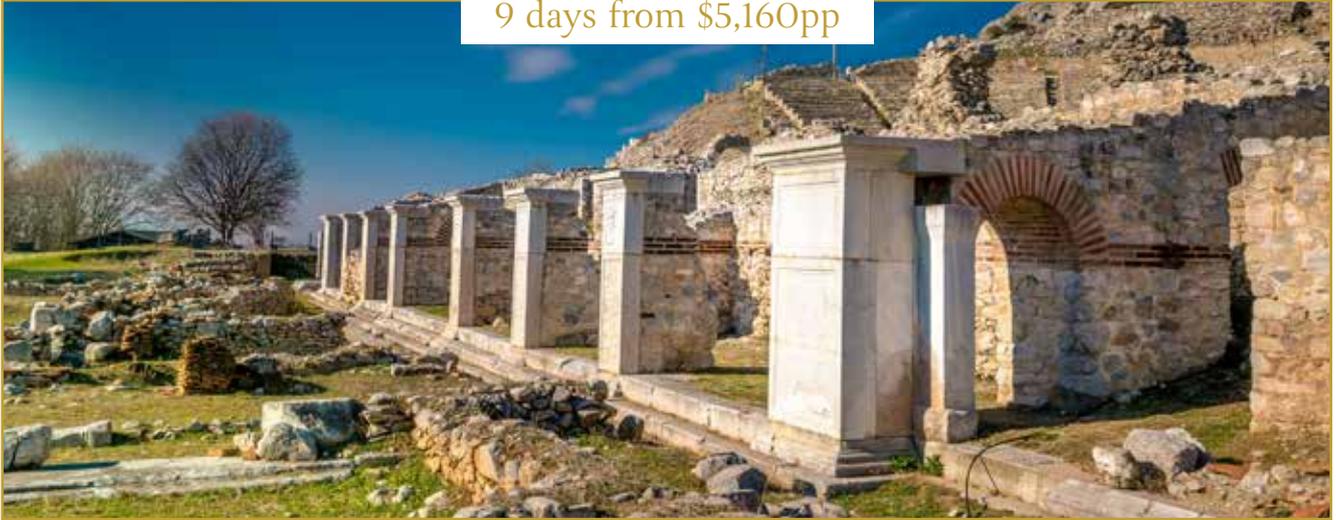
Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
21st Sep - 1st Oct	\$6,670 \$6,320	\$1,370

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/aclg

WILD THRACE

Discover ancient kingdoms across this region

9 days from \$5,160pp



East of Thessaloniki lie the mountains and plains of Thrace, where ancient kingdoms once fought and allied with Persians, Greeks, and Macedonians. Discover Philippi, Mesembria with Romano-Thracian burials, and Amphipolis - cities shaped by conquerors. Thrace's archaeological sites and monuments reveal its rich heritage and coexistence of Christian and Muslim traditions.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Discover the traces of Roman, Medieval and Ottoman history which remain across the region

Take a short trip across the Thracian sea to the lovely unspoilt islands of Thasos and Samothrace

Explore the Sanctuary of the Great Gods, built to honour fertility deities around 1000 BCE

Day One | Thessaloniki - Kavala

Meet the group at Thessaloniki Airport to transfer to Kavala visiting, en route, the great Athenian colony of **Amphipolis**, site of a battle between Athens and Sparta during the Peloponnesian war where we explore remains of a necropolis, a gymnasium as well as houses dating from the Roman period.

Day Two | Kavala - Philippi

Today we explore the **Archaeological Museum in Kavala**, which houses remains from Amphipolis and other ancient sites found nearby. We visit the UNESCO-listed Macedonian and Roman colony of **Philippi** and explore the forum and well-preserved theatre. Later, we return to Kavala, where we see the **Byzantine Castle**.

Day Three | Thasos

We make our way to Keramoti port and continue by ferry to the Island of **Thasos**, the most northerly of all Greek islands surrounded by the crystal-clear waters of the Aegean Sea. We spend the day exploring the excavated remains of the classical city which once lay under modern-day Limenas and visit the **Limenas Museum**.

Day Four | Abdera, Xanthi & Komotini

Take the day to explore the site of ancient **Abdera**, with links to Phoenicians and important scholars, including the Sophist Protagoras and historian Hecataeus. We continue to **Xanthi**, known for its distinctive period architecture and then end the day with a visit to **Komotini**.

Day Five | Kavala-Samothrace

On the island of Samothrace, we drive up to the **Chora** set high up on Mount Saos and visit its citadel built by the Galluzi family in the 14th century when Venice controlled large parts of the Aegean. After lunch, we check into our hotel with some free time to relax after our early start or you may wish to join an optional walk in Fonias Gorge.

Day Six | Samothrace-Alexandroupoli

We explore the famous classical 'Sanctuary of the Gods,' one of the most important religious complexes in Greece, set up in honour of the 'Great Gods'. We visit the small site museum which presents exhibits from the Sanctuary.

Day Seven | Mesembria & Maroneia

Uncover the ruins at Mesembria, situated on the coast near the mouth of the stream Shabla Dere, now identified as the ancient Greek polis of **Zoni**. Later, visit the **Archaeological Museum** containing more than 1,000 ancient objects excavated from the archaeological sites around Alexandroupoli, Evros and the wider region of Thrace.

Day Eight | Didymoteicho & Evros Delta

We travel north to **Didymoteicho** and explore some of the fortifications and remains of Byzantine houses as well as the small church of St Catherine. In the afternoon we take a boat trip on the **Evros**, a river associated with a number of Greek myths

Day Nine | Alexandroupoli - Thessaloniki

Our tour comes to an end, and we return to Thessaloniki Airport to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE LECTURER

Dr Christina

Hatzimichael-Whitley

A tutor in Greek archaeology at the Cardiff Centre for Lifelong Learning, Christina specialises in Minoan Crete and is Co-Director of the Praisos Survey.



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- Andante Field notes and all taxes & gratuities to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 3 night's in the Egnatia City Hotel & Spa, Kavala, 4 nights' in the Ramada Plaza by Wyndham Thraki, Alexandroupoli and 1 night in the Aiolos Hotel, Samothrace

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 7 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

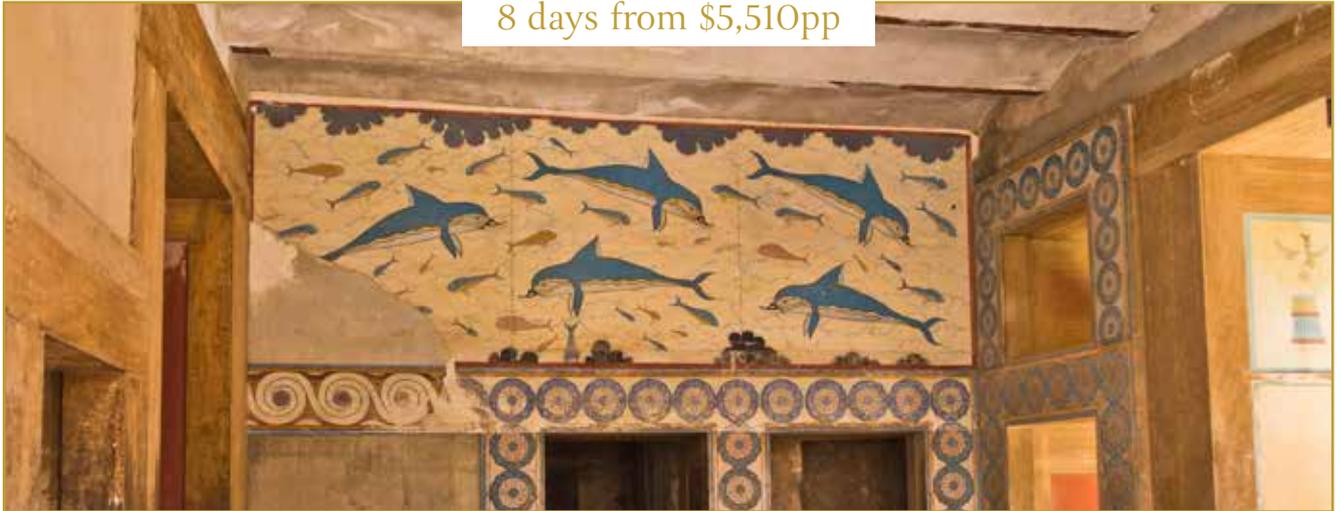
Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
2nd - 10th Sep	\$5,440 \$5,160	\$740

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/athr

CRETE & SANTORINI

Rise and fall of the Minoan civilisation

8 days from \$5,510pp



The Minoans are known for their incredible labyrinthine palaces - the greatest of which is at Knossos, where Theseus defeated the Minotaur. Our journey across these two beautiful islands showcases the architectural and artistic skills of this Bronze Age civilisation, whose writing, ambition and organisation profoundly influenced ancient Greece's development.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Tick the mighty Palace of Knossos off your archaeological wish-list

Explore the city of Akrotiri - the "Pompeii of the Aegean" - and admire the fascinating frescoes

Visit the vast Archaeological Museum in Heraklion and view its fascinating collections

Day One | Santorini

Meet the group at our hotel in Santorini, where we stay for the next two nights.

Day Two | Fira & Akrotiri

Our day begins at the **Prehistoric Museum in Fira**, home to dazzling wall paintings from the Minoan buildings at Akrotiri and a large number of artefacts found in various island excavations. This afternoon, we continue to **Akrotiri** itself. Destroyed by a catastrophic volcanic eruption in around 1500 BCE and buried in ash, the city is reminiscent of Pompeii and has retained some impressively well-preserved houses.

Day Three | Thera - Heraklion

After breakfast, we journey up winding roads to the ancient city of **Thera**, located on a ridge of Messavouno Mountain, some 360 metres above sea level. The site has been under excavation since 1904, and findings from the city have contributed immensely to our understanding of Minoan culture and history. We then visit **Panagia Episkopi**, a Byzantine cathedral containing many beautiful frescoes, before a catamaran ride takes us to our next destination: historic **Heraklion**

Day Four | Palace of Knossos & Vathypetro

We begin with a trip to the world-renowned **Palace of Knossos**, a majestic complex erected in Greece's Bronze Age, and the largest Bronze Age site in the country. Later, we visit two important Museums, the **Archaeological Museum of Archanes** which displays collections of Minoan pottery and stone vessels found during excavations at Fourni Necropolis, Anemospilia, and Archanes and the exceptional **Heraklion Museum**, with its exquisite

jewellery and brightly-coloured wall paintings.

Day Five | Palace of Phaistos - Gortyn

We visit **Ayia Triada**, a grand but ruinous Bronze Age villa before we travel to the magnificent **Palace of Phaistos**. We explore the Greco-Roman site of **Gortyn** in the verdant Messara Valley, a gem of the archaeological world since its discovery in 1884. Our time here includes a visit to the new Archaeological Museum of Messara.

Day Six | Palace of Malia - Gournia

Our day starts with a trip to the **Palace of Malia**, a huge Minoan complex just north of the Lasithi Mountains. We then proceed to the well-preserved late Minoan town of **Gournia**, one of the few sites in the region to have been fully excavated. This afternoon we have the option of a boat trip to the haunting and evocative island of **Spinalonga**, the location of a former leper colony, which was still in use until 1962.

Day Seven | Mochlos

This morning, we have the option to journey by fishing boat across the turquoise Gulf of Mirabello to the tiny island of **Mochlos**, on which an important Minoan town once stood - a hub of trade and industry.

Day Eight | Sissi - Heraklion

Before we make our journey to the airport, we drive to stunning Sissi to visit the excavations on Kephali Hill, where evidence for Early Minoan mortuary activity has been found near Crete's latest Minoan palace to be discovered. Alas, it is now time to say goodbye to the Minoan world and to our fabulous group as we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE LECTURER

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field notes and all taxes & gratuities to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 2 nights' at The Majestic Hotel, Santorini, 3 nights' at the Olive Green Hotel, Heraklion and 2 nights' at the Royal Marmin Bay Boutique & Art Hotel, Elounda

Culinary inclusions

- 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 6 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

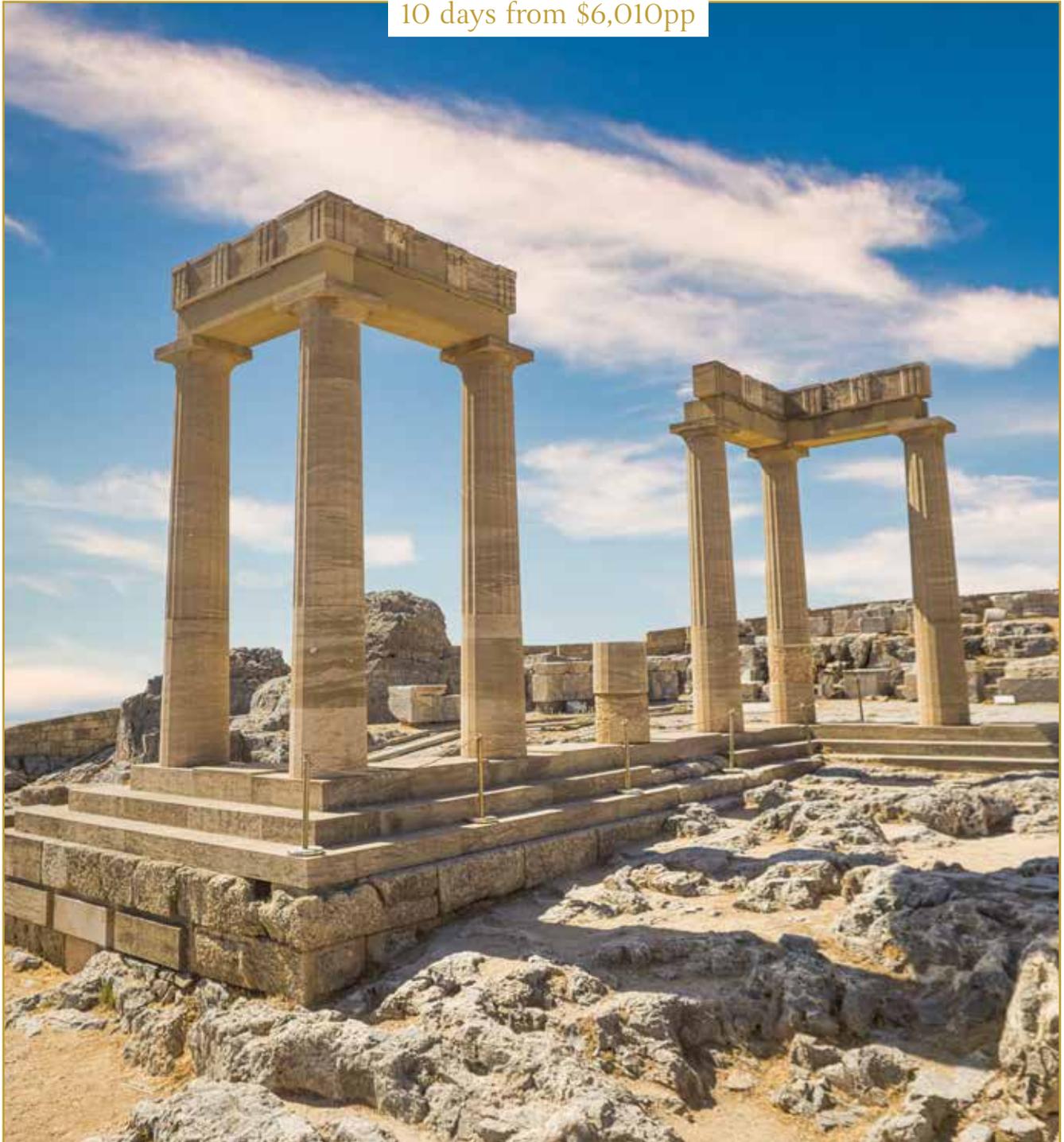
Date	Twin/Dbl Share	SS
22nd -29th Sep	\$5,860 \$5,510	\$1,110

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/acre

AEGEAN ODYSSEY CRUISE

Discover Minoan and Hellenic Gems

10 days from \$6,010pp



The Aegean has been the setting for so much in mythology and history from the Bronze Age, through the Minoan and Mycenaean civilisations, to Classical Greece and Ancient Rome and onward to the Byzantine age. This wonderfully encompassing cruise arcs across the Aegean just as it spans through the rich history of the Greek Mediterranean.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Explore the Athenian Acropolis, the sanctuary in the heart of Athens, with the iconic Erechtheum and Parthenon

Enjoy a full day at Ephesus, one of Western Turkey's highlights, famed for its rich architecture

Visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, the centre of Europe's oldest civilisation

Day One | Athens

Meet the group at our hotel in Athens, the iconic Greek capital and this evening we have our first dinner as a group.

Day Two | Athens

This morning we take a guided walking tour of Athens, exploring its remains from the Mycenaean through Classical periods. We visit the **Theatre of Dionysus** and the **Odeon of Herodes Atticus** before ascending to the **Acropolis via the Propylaea**, following the ancient Panathenaic route. Here we explore the **Parthenon** and its surrounding monuments. After lunch, we visit the **Acropolis Museum**.

Day Three | Athens

We begin at the **Agora**, where we see the **Temple of Hephaistos** and the **Stoa of Attalus**, now the **Agora Museum**. We continue to the **Kerameikos cemetery**, passing the **Dipylon** and **Sacred Gates**. After lunch, we travel to Piraeus to embark on the **Celestyal Journey**. After settling into our cabins, we enjoy dinner on board and sail towards Kusadasi.

Day Four | Kusadasi (Ephesus)

We arrive in Kusadasi and travel inland to **Ephesus**, one of antiquity's great cities. **Exclusive Andante Excursion:** We explore the Roman city, including the **Temple of Hadrian**, the **agora** and **bath complex**, the terraced houses with their **hypocaust systems**, and the great theatre where **St. Paul** preached. The highlight is the magnificent **façade of the Library of Celsus**. In the evening, we return to the ship and sail towards Rhodes.

Day Five | Rhodes

Today we explore Rhodes, whose history spans **Bronze Age settlement**, **Classical prosperity** and **medieval crusader rule**. **Exclusive Andante Excursion:** We visit **Lindos**, founded in the 10th century BCE and climb to its **acropolis** for sweeping views and the **Temple of Athena** set within a medieval fortress. After lunch in the **Old Town**, we walk the **Avenue of the Knights** and visit the **Archaeological Museum** in the former **Knights' Hospital**, with highlights including **Hellenistic mosaics** and a **marble Aphrodite**.

Day Six | Agios Nikolaos, Crete

From **Agios Nikolaos** we travel to **Knossos** to explore the great **Minoan palace** excavated by **Arthur Evans**. We visit the **royal apartments**, **Throne Room** and **ceremonial spaces** associated with the myths of the **Minotaur** and the **Labyrinth**.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: This afternoon we visit the **Archaeological Museum** to see remarkable **Minoan artefacts**, including **frescoes**, **jewellery** and the celebrated **bull's head rhyton** carved from **black steatite**. We then return to the ship and sail onward to Santorini.



Day Seven | Santorini

We spend the day on Santorini, shaped by its dramatic volcanic eruption in the 17th century BCE.

Exclusive Andante Excursion: We begin at the **Prehistoric Museum in Fira**, viewing **Cycladic sculpture** and **frescoes from Akrotiri**, including the **Blue Monkeys**. After lunch, we visit **Akrotiri**, preserved beneath volcanic ash, where we see its **multi-storeyed houses**, **drainage systems** and more. Late evening, we sail towards Mykonos.

Day Eight | Mykonos (Delos)

We arrive in Mykonos and travel by boat to the sacred island of **Delos**. We explore this **UNESCO World Heritage Site** with its sanctuaries of **Apollo** and **Artemis**, remains of the **Hellenistic town** and the on-site museum. After returning to Mykonos, there is free time before we sail to **Milos** in the evening.

Day Nine | Milos

We arrive at **Milos**, formed by volcanic forces and famous for **obsidian**, **sulphur** and **early Christianity**. We join a shared excursion to **Sarakiniko's** white volcanic formations, then continue to **Plaka**, the ancient theatre, and **Trypiti**, where we visit the early **Christian catacombs** (accessed by steps).

Exclusive Andante Excursion: In the afternoon, we visit the **Archaeological Museum** to see material from the **Neolithic** to **Bronze Age** periods, including the **Lady of Phylakopi**. In the evening, we sail back to Athens.

Day Ten | Athens

We arrive back at **Piraeus** in Athens. After disembarking our ship we transfer to **Athens Airport** to make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE LECTURER

Ioanna Tasouli

Ioanna was born and raised in Athens, where she studied **History & Archaeology** at the **University of Athens**. Her studies continued in France at the **University of Corsica** where she achieved her status as an official tourist guide.



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- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Excursions to **Knossos (Crete)**, **Delos** and **Milos** with other **Celestyal** passengers
- **Andante** Field notes and all **taxes & gratuities** to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 2 nights' in the **Herodion Hotel**, Athens and 7 nights' aboard the **Celestyal Journey**

Culinary inclusions

- 9 breakfasts, 8 lunches & 9 dinners, plus extra snacks from the **Greek Deli** and **Pizza Oven** throughout the day
- At hotel: water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner
- **Celestyal Journey**: unlimited filtered coffee, tea, water, and juice during restaurant hours, unlimited free-pour sodas with all meals and wine with dinner in the **Thalassa a la carte** restaurant

Dates & prices per person

22nd - 31st Oct Twin/Dbl Share SS

Exterior Cosmos Cabin with window on Decks 5 or 9

~~\$6,360~~ \$6,010 \$2,045

Junior Dream Suite ~~\$7,760~~ \$7,410 N/A (on request, call to book)

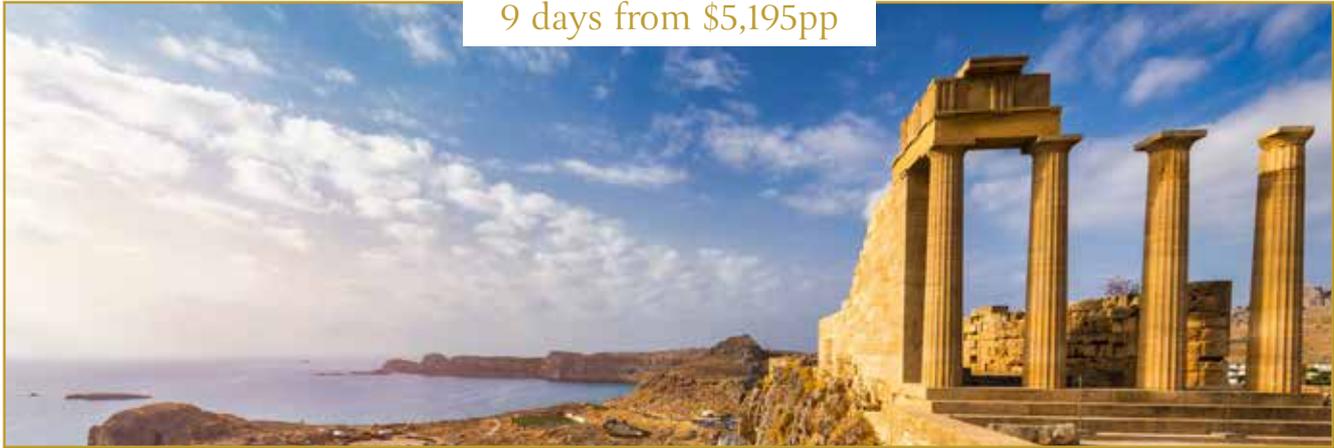
For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/aaoc



DISCOVER THE DODECANESE

Following in the footsteps of Herakles

9 days from \$5,195pp



See another side of the lovely islands of Rhodes and Kos and rediscover their ancient origins. Long beloved by British travellers, there is more to appreciate here than beaches and sheltered bays. Hugging the coastline in the south-eastern Aegean, these islands lay on a crucial ancient sea lane, a bridge between east and west throughout their eventful history. From Hellenistic sanctuaries, Roman villas and Crusader fortresses to Byzantine churches and stylish Italian architecture, both worlds leave their mark here. Inland, the landscape shifts from towns to juniper and thyme-clad hills where broom, myrtle and laurel grow in profusion.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Enjoy a day spent on the lovely island of Kalymnos, where we discover the Castle of Chrysocheria

Admire the fabulous collection of statuary at Rhodes Archaeological Museum

Soak up the stunning views at Lindos and Kalavarda

Day One | Rhodes

We meet at our hotel in Rhodes.

Day Two | Rhodes

Our journey takes us to the medieval city of **Rhodes**, held by the Knights of the Order of St. John for over two centuries. As we stroll through its well-preserved centre, we traverse the Avenue of the Knights leading to the **Archaeological Museum**, housed in the Knights' former hospital. This Gothic edifice showcases remarkable island artefacts, including a marble Aphrodite statue and Hellenistic pebble mosaics. The afternoon unveils the Acropolis, perched on Agis Stefanos Hill's slopes.

Day Three | Lindos & Kalavarda

Our morning unfolds in Lindos, a village founded by Dorians in the 10th century BCE. The modern town's picturesque allure is enhanced by the Acropolis rising behind it, offering stunning vistas worth the 250-step ascent. Here, we find the Temple of Athena amidst medieval castle ruins. Afternoon travel leads us to **Kalavarda**, a well-preserved Hellenistic and Roman city boasting ocean views.

Day Four | Kamiros & Ialysos

We drive along Rhodes' north-west coast to ancient **Kamiros**, built overlooking the sea. Kamiros, Lindos, and Ialysos were Rhodes' most powerful cities, peaking in the 6th-7th centuries BCE. Kamiros, the smallest, thrived on agriculture, producing wine, olive oil, and figs. Our afternoon explores **Ialysos** atop Filerimos hill, offering views over Rhodes.

Day Five | Rhodes - Kos

An early ferry takes us to Kos, renowned for its Asclepius sanctuary. Mid-morning finds us at the **Archaeological Museum**, housed in an Italian-era building, displaying artefacts from the Sanctuary of Kos. We then explore Nerazia Castle's ruins, a 14th-century structure by the Order of St. John, positioned at Kos harbour's entrance. This fortress collaborated with Halikarnassos Castle across the Turkish coast to control a strategic maritime crossroad.

Day Six | Asklepieion & Antimachia

Our journey along the cypress-lined road leads to the **Asklepieion**, a 4th-century BCE sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius. Set on Mount Dikeos' slopes amidst springs and pines, it offers splendid views over the straits to Bodrum. We continue to **Castle of Antimachia**, a medieval fortress with a single fortified entrance, resilient against Turkish assaults. We conclude at the ruins of the Early Christian basilica of **Agios Stephanos**.

Day Seven | Kalymnos

We embark on a day trip to Kalymnos, described by Homer as 'rich in honey.' Our exploration includes the **Castle of Chrysocheria**, a 15th-century Knights Hospitaller creation, and the charming white Byzantine churches scattered across the hills. The afternoon brings us to **Kalymnos Archaeological Museum**, home to marble statues found off the coast in 2001 and the striking bronze 'Lady of Kalymnos' retrieved from the seabed by a fisherman in 1995.

YOUR EXPERT GUIDE LECTURER

Dr Rita Roussos

A native Athenian, Rita taught Archaeology and Art History at the American University of Athens. She is particularly interested in the place of women in ancient Greece and Rome.



Day Eight | Kos

Our final day in Kos unveils numerous Graeco-Roman ruins, including streets, houses, the agora, and the **Pandemos Aphrodite Sanctuary**. The afternoon reveals the Western Excavation area, featuring a Roman Odeon, Casa Romana, and the Baptistry of St. John Prodromos.

Day Nine | Kos

Our tour comes to an end and we make our independent onward journeys.

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE EXPERT GUIDED TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field notes and all taxes & gratuities to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 4 nights' in the Rhodos Horizon City, Rhodes and 4 nights' in the Kos Akti Beach Club, Kos

Culinary inclusions

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
6th - 14th Oct	\$5,475 \$5,195	\$690

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A short break to this ancient capital, unimpeded by the usual crowds

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Ascend the Acropolis to the Parthenon, the universal symbol of the classical world and the quintessential classical ruin

Explore two fabulous world-class museums, housing between them some of the greatest collections of antiquities in the world

Soak up the atmosphere of ancient Athens, exploring the quieter corners and monuments which have survived here for 2,500 years

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- Expert Guide Lecturer & Professional Tour Manager
- Entries to all sites as per the itinerary
- Andante Field notes
- All taxes & gratuities to local staff (drivers, waiters, site custodians)

Included travel

- All local transport aboard a private air-conditioned coach

Accommodation

- 3 nights' in the Herodion Hotel

Culinary inclusions

- 3 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 3 dinners
- Water with all meals, wine & tea or coffee with dinner

Dates & prices per person

Date	Twin/DbI Share	SS
20th - 23rd Nov	\$2,290 \$2,150	€300 \$0

For full details of this tour visit andantetravels.com/asat

Day One | Athens

Meet the group at our hotel in Athens..

Day Two | Athens

Our first full day is dedicated to the **Acropolis** and its museum. We walk through ancient Athens and then climb to the incomparable Acropolis, which still dominates the city with a complex of religious sanctuaries, most famous of which is the Parthenon - 'Chamber of the Maiden'. Built in the 5th century to house a colossal statue of Athena, patron goddess of the city, the views from here are simply stunning. After lunch in the Plaka, we visit the fabulous **Acropolis Museum**, which is consistently rated as one of the best museums in the world.

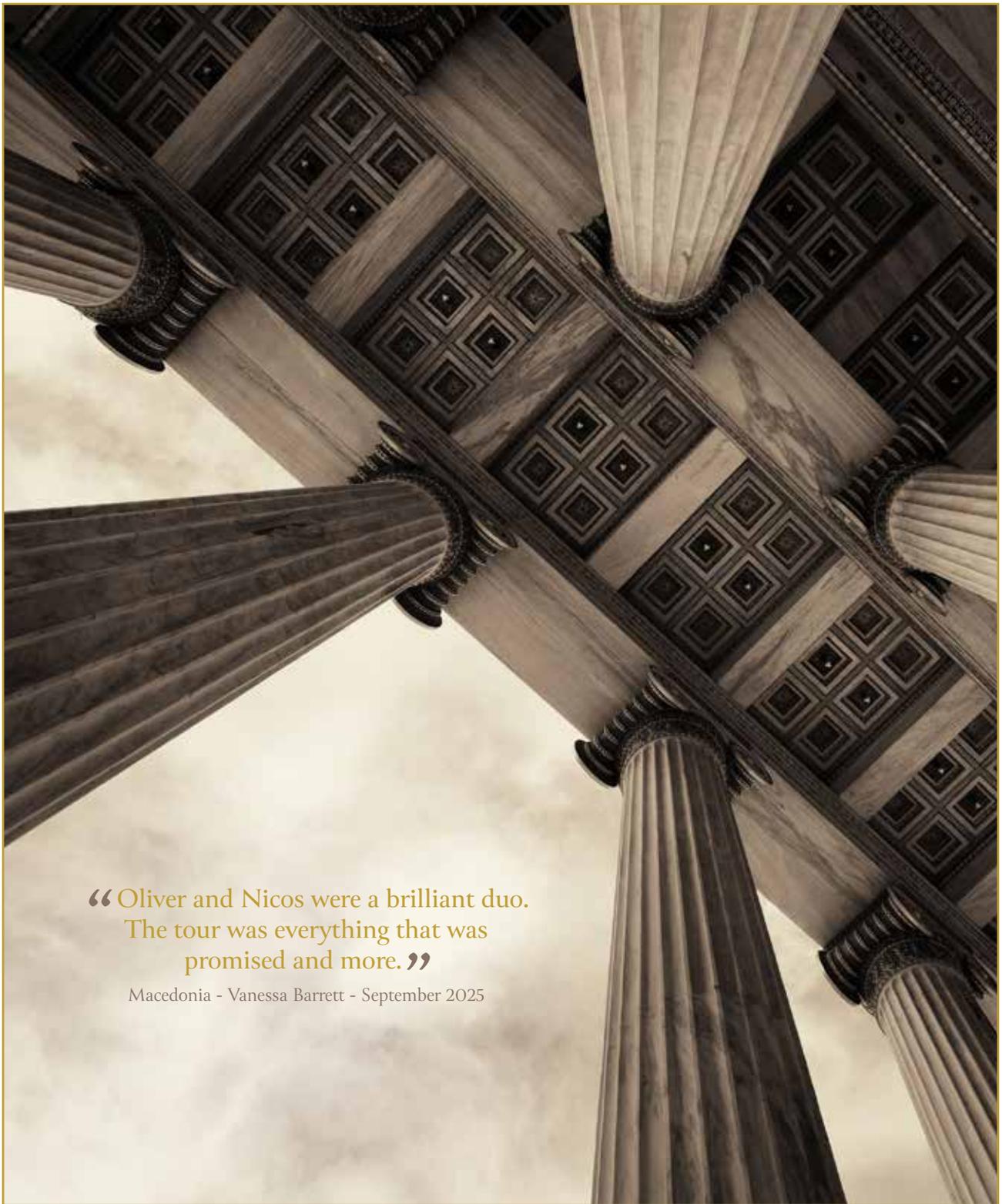
Day Three | Athens

We continue our exploration of Athens, visiting its ancient economic centre, the **Agora**, where a wide range of goods were shipped in from the nearby port of Piraeus and members of the elected democracy assembled to discuss affairs of state. Next, we visit **Kerameikos**, named in ancient times after the hero Keros, son of Dionysus and Ariadne, where an extensive cemetery was excavated during the 19th and

early 20th centuries. After lunch we visit the **National Museum of Athens**. Now somewhat overlooked by visitors flocking to the Acropolis Museum, it is worth remembering that this older museum is still home to a great collection of antiquities.

Day Four | Athens

In the morning, we travel to **Piraeus**, which once consisted of three separate harbours - Kantharos, Zea and Munichia. All three harbours are still used today but since the sea level has risen two metres since antiquity, many of the ancient installations of Piraeus are now underwater. Excavations still continue, however, and notable finds have included several bronze statues, perhaps the most famous being of Apollo now in the **Piraeus Archaeological Museum**. Afterwards, we make our way to the airport for our independent onward journeys.



“Oliver and Nicos were a brilliant duo.
The tour was everything that was
promised and more.”

Macedonia - Vanessa Barrett - September 2025

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