



A GREEK EASTER

EXPLORING THE CRADLE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION

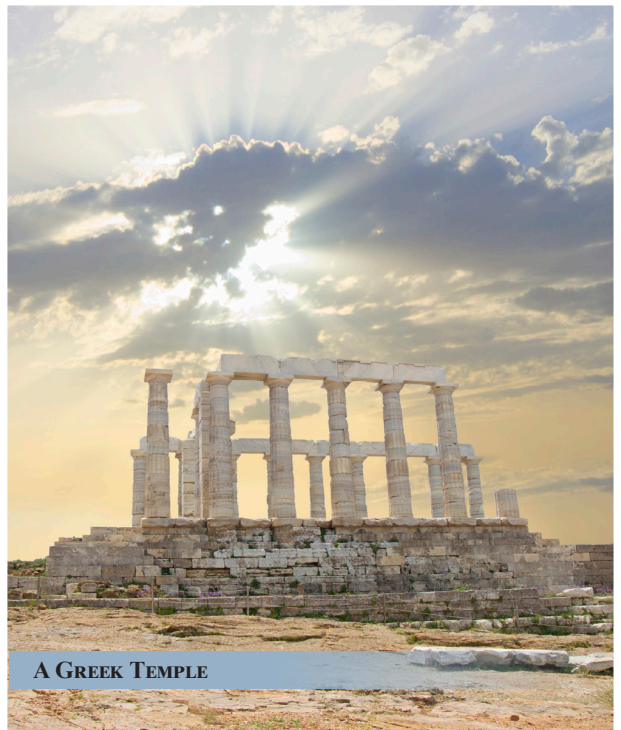
APRIL 17TH - 26TH 2020

Long ago the ancient poets wrote the first epics of war and love, families and feuds, trickery and revenge, Gods and Heroes. Here, in glorious Greece, you'll see where theater was born, consult the oracle at Delphi, stand where Paul preached to the Corinthians, and walk under the Lion Gate at Mycenae, just as the blind poet Homer recorded it nearly 3,000 years ago.

The "wine-dark sea," written about by the poets of many ages, is still here, and so are remnants of the legendary past that have given birth to so much of our language and literature. Our first stop is the small fishing village of Tolo, an ideal base from which to explore much of "Classical Greece," and the setting for our Orthodox Easter celebrations. Visits will include the theater at Epidavros and ancient Mycenae, famous from *The Iliad*. We'll cross the Gulf of Corinth, stopping in the ancient city for a visit, and travel back in time to Delphi where the most famous oracle in ancient Greece was consulted; perched on a mountainside, it is a dramatic and evocative site. In Athens, we'll visit the Acropolis, explore the National Museum, soak up the city's history, and sample food and nightlife in the Plaka, the old section of the city.

We'll end our adventure with an optional extension for three nights on the island of Crete, home to the ancient Minoan civilization. We'll visit the Palace of Knossos, home of the Minotaur, and explore the island from Zeus' birthplace to the charming resort town of Agios Nikolaos.

Greece offers an unparalleled experience. The sun shines, the sea is warm, the food is delicious and varied, the people are friendly, and it has thousands of years of fascinating history, but don't take our word for it, come and discover it for yourself!



A GREEK TEMPLE



THE ACROPOLIS AT DUSK

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED)	\$3680
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT:	\$ 790

Airfares are available from many U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- GUIDES:** Fully qualified Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local English-speaking guide at all major sites
- BAGGAGE:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour. Insurance information will be mailed to each registrant on receipt of deposit.

CRETE EXTENSION: The cost of the 3-day extension to Crete is **\$1280** per person, double occupancy (single supplement \$390). This includes round trip airfare from Athens to Heraklion, 3 nights at a first-class hotel, a local guide throughout, and all meals and sightseeing as described in the day-by-day itinerary overleaf.





FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH - Departure from your gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

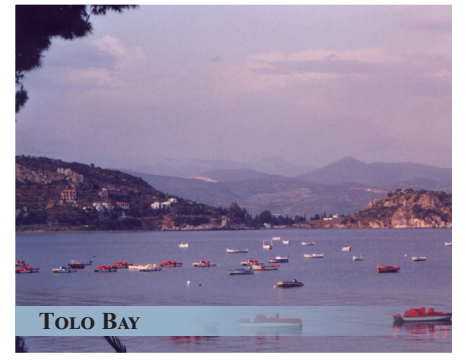
SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH - On arrival at Athens Airport, we will be met for the transfer to our hotel in the village of Tolo – approximately one and a half hours drive from Athens. On arrival in Tolo there will be time to unpack, relax and begin exploring before we gather for a welcome dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: TOLO**

SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH - Today is the Greek Orthodox Easter Sunday. If you would like to attend the traditional Easter church service, that can be arranged. Easter Sunday is when the village roasts lamb and you have been invited to take part in the traditional Easter Sunday lunch today with the local villagers - be warned “lunch” will go on late into the evening!

(B, L) OVERNIGHT: TOLO

MONDAY, APRIL 20TH - This morning we’ll take a short trip along the coast to the town of Nafplion, the first capital of modern Greece. After a short walking tour and time for lunch, we’ll return to Tolo by bus for a free afternoon or, alternatively, you could stay on and explore Nafplion’s Venetian fortress, the Palamidi. The evening is free as well and there is a regular bus service back to Tolo. **(B) OVERNIGHT: TOLO**

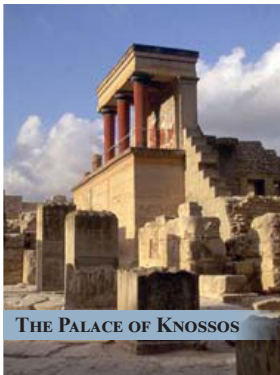
TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST - This morning we visit Mycenae, excavated first in 1876 by Schliemann, who found the fabulously rich royal graves. This was the home of Agamemnon, of Trojan War fame, and his Lion Gate is still here, just as Homer described it. In the afternoon we’ll continue to the beautiful site of Epidavros. The ancient theatre was excavated about 100 years ago and is still in regular use for Classical Drama. It has amazing acoustics. The rest of the large site forms the Aesclepium, the first Hospital, and the museum has a collection of some of the early medical instruments. The evening is free for individual exploration. **(B) OVERNIGHT: TOLO**



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22ND - Our first stop today will be at ancient Corinth, where we tour the excavations of what was once called “the wickedest city on earth,” and see the spot where St. Paul was arrested! After our visit, we’ll follow the coast around to the west along the south side of the Gulf of Corinth. We’ll cross the new suspension bridge and continue along the north side of the Gulf and on up into the mountains to Delphi, where dinner awaits us at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: DELPHI**

THURSDAY, APRIL 23RD - This morning we explore Delphi, home of the famous Oracle. This is a large site covering part of the hillside and down into the valley. Our local guide will introduce the main site and the museum, and the energetic can explore the lower sites at their leisure. This afternoon and evening are free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: DELPHI**

FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH - This morning we descend from the mountains, through Thebes of ancient legends, passing the place where Oedipus is supposed to have killed his father, and arrive at our hotel in Athens. After checking in to our hotel, we will have a guided tour of the National Museum, with its treasures from Mycenae and other important sites throughout the Hellenic world. The evening is free to find a taverna for dinner. **(B) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**



THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS

SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH - Our day will start with a visit to the Acropolis, the main site of Classical Athens with its Temples and Museum and wonderful views over the ancient center of the city. It is a short walk from our hotel. The afternoon is free to take a leisurely lunch and to wander through the Plaka, the old part of the city with narrow winding streets bursting with stores and cafes. This evening we have dinner at a taverna in the Plaka for our farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH - Transfer to Athens airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B)** Alternatively

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner

OPTIONAL CRETE EXTENSION:

SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH - This morning we transfer to Athens Airport for the short flight to Crete. After checking in to our hotel, we’ll visit the National Archaeological Museum. This afternoon we visit the Palace of Knossos. Forever associated with King Minos and the fabled Minotaur, Knossos is the largest and best-preserved palace of the Minoan civilization, dating from between 1700 and 1400 BC. After an extensive visit of this large site we will return to our hotel, where dinner is included. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**

MONDAY, APRIL 27TH - This morning we head inland, to the 3,000 foot high Lasithi Plateau, green, fertile, and irrigated by white-sailed windmills. Our first stop will be at Agios Nikolaos where we’ll have time to stop and explore this beautiful resort town, then we’ll visit the 13th-century church of Panaghia Kera, with its frescoes from the late Byzantine period. We’ll continue up into the mountains, stopping at little villages en route. We return to Heraklion for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**

TUESDAY, APRIL 28TH - This morning we drive south across the island to the lesser known, but equally impressive Minoan site at Festos. We’ll stop in Matala, famous for its cliff caves, on our return to Heraklion for a free afternoon. This evening we will end our stay in Crete with traditional Cretan food and, perhaps, dancing. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29TH - Transfer to Heraklion airport for the short flight to Athens and return flights to the U.S. **(B)**