



## ANCIENT ISLANDS: CORFU & CRETE

**JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup> - 20<sup>TH</sup> 2022**

Aside from Keeley Hawes, who plays a British widow who moved her family to Corfu in 1935, one of the biggest stars of the television drama *The Durrells* is the island itself. In fact, it's almost impossible to watch the hit show or read Gerald Durrell's wonderful books, on which the series is based, without thinking, "I wish my parents had moved our family to Corfu!"

We'll spend several days exploring the island's often turbulent history and marvelling at the natural beauty that made the TV series so attractive, before we fly to Heraklion, capital city of the ancient island of Crete.

Crete has an ancient and fascinating history stretching back into the mists of time. It is said that the mighty Zeus was once enchanted by the beauty of Europa, the daughter of Agenor, king of Tyre. He took the form of a white bull and carried her on his back across the sea to Crete. Here she settled and founded the dynasty that was later named for her son, King Minos – the mysterious and enigmatic Minoan civilization that flourished here between about 1700 and 1400 BCE.

Whatever the truth of its founding, we will come face to face with the evidence of Minoan wealth, power and sophistication as we visit the remains of their fabulous palaces and cities at Knossos, and Festos from our base in the modern capital of Heraklion.

This June, before the crowds of summer have arrived - and before the weather becomes paralyzingly hot - why not join us on this trip for family and friends to see these *Ancient Islands*.



PANAGHIA KERA MONASTERY



CORFU TOWN

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

LAND ONLY (INTERNAL FLIGHTS INCLUDED)	<b>\$3720</b>
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	<b>\$ 840</b>

*Transatlantic airfares are available from many U.S. departure cities.  
Please call for details.*

### THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- FLIGHTS:** One way airfares from London Heathrow to Corfu, Corfu to Heraklion via Athens, and Heraklion to Athens. Checked bag fees and all airport taxes and customs charges are included.
- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation at first-class hotels including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local guides where necessary
- BAGGAGE:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites featured in the itinerary

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





**SATURDAY, JUNE 11<sup>TH</sup>** - Departure today from your chosen international gateway city to London. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE OR HEATHROW AIRPORT**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>** - Morning departure from London Heathrow Airport aboard British Airways' direct service to Corfu, departing at 1.20 pm. Upon arrival in Corfu, we will be met for the transfer to our luxurious home for the next four nights. Welcome drinks and dinner await us at the hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: CORFU**

**MONDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>** - We'll begin the day with a guided walking tour through picturesque Corfu Town, beginning at the Old Fortress and its small museum, and then taking in the famous Spianada Square and the 16<sup>th</sup>-century St. Spyridon Church, one of the island's iconic sights. The afternoon is free for you to discover more of Corfu Town at your leisure - perhaps a visit to the Museum of Asian Art, housed in the palace built for the British High Commissioner, or the Villa Mon Repos, the birthplace of HRH Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh. This evening is free to sample a local taverna. **(B) OVERNIGHT: CORFU**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>** - Inspired by the Durrells, we'll visit some of the unforgettable locations that millions of viewers have fallen in love with while watching the show. Our first stop is to see the exterior of two of the villas the family lived in, the Daffodil-Yellow Villa and the Snow-White Villa. The venue for lunch today is the house where Lawrence Durrell actually lived with his wife: the taverna in the famous White House in Kalami. This afternoon your adventure continues with the opportunity to see some of the picture-perfect villages in the north of the island. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: CORFU**



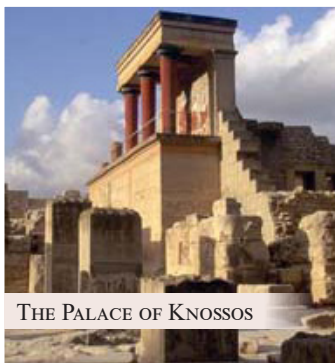
PONTIKONISI

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>** - We'll start today with a visit to Pontikonisi, or Mouse Island, a place that Gerald and his sister, Margo, both loved to visit. Continuing south, we head for one of Corfu's must-see destinations: the Achilleion Palace and Museum. We'll enjoy a guided tour of the 100-year-old villa, which is filled with statues and other mementoes of its former royal owners: Empress Elisabeth of Austria and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. On our return to Corfu Town, the afternoon is free. While searching for the right place to have lunch, you might pass down Mantzarou Street. Number 22 is the house where Gerald Durrell's friend and mentor Dr. Theodore Stephanides once had his offices. This evening we'll gather to bid farewell to Corfu over dinner at a traditional taverna. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CORFU**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>** - Returning to the airport this morning we board the short flight to Athens, where we connect with the onward service to Crete. On arrival, our bus will meet us and take us to our hotel in the city center. There will be time to unpack, relax and begin exploring the neighborhood before we gather for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>** - This morning 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 BCE. After an extensive visit of this large site we will return to our hotel, and then visit the National Archaeological Museum, just around the corner, where many of the treasures discovered at Knossos are on display. Enjoy a free evening to sample a wonderful local restaurant. **(B) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18<sup>TH</sup>** - 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 13<sup>th</sup>-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. Lunch is included in the village of Psychro and from here it is a short (15 minutes) but steep climb up to the Diktaion Andron. Otherwise known as the Dictaeon Cave, this is (according to legend) where the infant Zeus was kept hidden from his father Cronos to avoid being eaten! We return to Heraklion for a free evening. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**



THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup>** - 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, and return to Heraklion for a free afternoon. This evening we will end our stay in Crete with traditional Cretan food and, perhaps, some dancing. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: CRETE**

**MONDAY, JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>** - Transfer to Heraklion airport this morning for the short flight to Athens. On arrival in Athens, there are various options available. You could return directly to the U.S., spend a few days enjoying the Greek capital, or head to one of the islands (Santorini perhaps). **(B)**