



FROM MICHAEL'S DESK

So 2021 was Discover Europe's 20th anniversary! You'll forgive us if we don't go completely wild with the celebrations.

Not that there was absolutely nothing to celebrate, no - we operated more trips than in 2020. It's not saying a lot, but it was a step in the right direction. From September to November we were able to take people to France, Italy, Iceland, Ireland, the UK, Germany and Greece. It was a bit like "old times."

And how does 2022 look?, I hear you ask. And I'm afraid I have to say, that the jury is still out on this one. We do have plenty of folks signed up and raring to go, hotels are booked, tour guides are ready and waiting; it all just depends on this pesky oh-mi-god variant. The smart money is saying that it will have run its course by the end of the winter and, come spring, most travel restrictions will have been lifted. I really hope that turns out to be the case!

On the domestic front, we too are ready for those "flood-gates" to open. The latest addition to our team, Taylor, has been learning the ropes at incredible speed and Kelsey will be returning from maternity leave by the time spring comes. All we need is you!

Michael Induni

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AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART

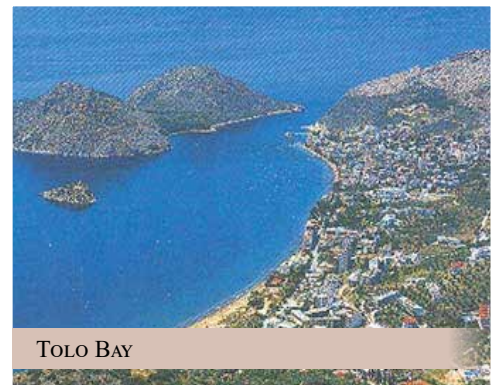
It was my mother, Anne, who introduced me to Dilys Powell's memoir, *An Affair of the Heart*, chronicling her own love affair with Greece. It was also my mother who first took me to Greece, when I was 20, but even before that I remember her reading me stories of gods and heroes, mythical beasts and epic battles.

She first visited the village of Tolo with my father the year before he got so ill that he had to go into care. After that, she just kept going back. Partly it was her "happy place" to escape to and partly, I think, because it was one of the last places that she associated with good times spent with my father.

By the time she took me there, she was spending at a least a month there every year and was an established fixture in the village - not quite a resident, but close. She did this for 40 years and when she passed away a few years ago, we took some of her ashes and spread them in the wine-dark sea, just behind the Romvi Island in the Bay of Tolo, at the head of the Gulf of Argos. Now I keep going back almost every year, until covid got in the way. We made it back there last October though and was delighted to find that not much had changed!

When the Greeks finally won their independence from the Ottoman Empire, beginning in 1821, the Peloponnese was the first area to be liberated. The town of Nafplion became the first capital (Athens was still under Turkish rule) and just along the coast was a deserted, beautiful bay, with a wonderful sandy beach and a couple of islands offshore. The only building was a villa belonging to a local Pasha (Turkish government official).

The island of Crete, at that time, was still under the control of the Turks and the call went out that there was land available for Greek families who wanted to join the cause and free themselves from Ottoman rule. Four families came and settled the



TOLO BAY

bay, establishing the original fishing village of Tolo. Their descendants are still there, although fishing has been replaced by tourism as the main industry and the original village has now expanded along the coast.

In Greece, if your name ends in "-akis" then it is 99% certain that your family was originally from Crete. My mother always stayed at the Hotel Romvi, owned and run by Vaggelis Bikakis, from one of the original four Cretan families. Vaggelis is almost exactly my age, but his mother died when he was just a young boy. He became almost like another son for my mother, which sort of makes him my brother - except, as he points out, we don't argue as much.

This, then, is the background to my own love affair with Greece and I am eternally grateful to my mother for introducing me and giving me such a solid foundation from which to explore the culture and people of the place where our modern western civilisation has its roots. The people are amazing. No where else in the world have I met anyone more generous and hospitable than the Greeks.

We spent two weeks in Greece at the end of October last year - a week in Tolo and another week travelling around. My wife, Sarah, and I were accompanied by our two dear friends, Roger and Birute, and the general consensus was that, lovely though Tolo is, the real highlight of the trip was our time in Delphi. The ancient Greeks considered Delphi to be the centre of the world, and it does not take much imagination to understand why. It is a very special place - one of those locations where it almost seems as though the fabric of the universe is a little thinner and you can imagine reaching through it to some other world. When Dilys Powell visited Delphi she stayed at the Kastalia Hotel . . . so we did too!



Happy Travels, *Michael*

SITUATION VACANT

Piel Island (pictured) is situated just off the southern coast of England's Lake District, the county of Cumbria. It has a ruined castle (Piel Castle) an inn and a few fishermen's cottages. The castle is administered by English Heritage, the national organization that cares for many of the country's historic monuments, but the rest of the island comes under the jurisdiction of the local council on the mainland.

It is the local council who are advertising for someone to live on the island, be the landlord of the pub (the Ship Inn) and to "manage and maintain" the island itself, all on a 10-year lease. Sound attractive? You get your own island to live on, complete with castle, accommodation provided and you get to run a pub!

But it gets better. You get to be king. Nobody knows how long the tradition goes back (the first written mention comes from the visitor's book of 1856), but the landlord of the pub is crowned as "King of Piel." It is a short ceremony featuring a rusty sabre and ending with buckets of beer being poured over the new monarch's head.

Some say that the tradition commemorates the landing on the island of Lambert Simnel in 1487 with a force of 8,000 German mercenaries. After the death of Richard III at the battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, Simnel was one of a string of pretenders claiming to be the rightful heir to the throne. His supporters were defeated at the Battle of Stoke Field in the same year and he was taken to London as a prisoner. Because of his tender years (he was only 10 years old), he was not executed, but put to work in the royal kitchens.

There are, of course, downsides to the job. The only way to get to the mainland is by the ferry - which only runs from April to September. It's not as though you can just nip out to the local supermarket for a pint of milk! The weather can also be a deterrent - an island in the Irish Sea does not offer much protection from the elements - and you would also have to be able to enjoy your own company.



CECILIA - YOU'RE BREAKING MY HEART

Saint Cecilia was a Roman martyr, now venerated in the Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican and (some) Lutheran churches. Her martyrdom most probably occurred around 230 CE under the reign of the emperor Alexander Severus. It was said she was struck three times on the neck with a sword - and continued to live for three more days. She was buried in Rome in what is now the church of Santa Cecilia in Trastevere, where her corpse was examined in 1599 and found to be perfectly preserved, looking as though she was asleep! It was written that when she was forced to marry against her will, during the service she "sang in her heart to the Lord," and thus became the patron saint of music and musicians.

Of the many churches and cathedrals dedicated to her, I think my favourite is the one pictured below, just outside the village of Rivel in the Aude region of France. When it was built, however, it was in the village of Pendels. This is the area of southern France known as Cathar Country, because it was here, beginning in 1209, that the Albigensian Crusade was called to stamp out the so-called Cathar heresy that had taken root here. The chapel of Sainte Cécile was commissioned by Cécile Trencavel, the daughter of Raymond Trencavel, the viscount of Carcassonne, and the wife of Roger Bernard, the count of Foix. Both of these gentlemen will be familiar to anyone who knows the Cathar story as they were both prominent supporters of the "heretics." In all probability then, the chapel of Sainte Cécile in Pendels was used by the Cathars as a place of worship.

When the crusaders reached the area, they completely destroyed the village and its nearby castle (just a few of the ruined walls remain close by on the hill of Casteilhasses), but they spared the church, making it one of the very few (perhaps the only) cathar churches still in existence. It is certainly the only surviving remnant of the village of Pendels.

In keeping with the traditions of Saint Cecilia, the church now hosts concerts organised by L'association Rivel Patrimoine, the local heritage association. It is also, as with so many rural French churches, in desperate need of repair and there is currently a campaign to raise funds for the restoration, run by a good friend of mine, Philippe Vidal. If you come on one of our tours to the area, I am sure we can arrange for Philippe (if he is around) to unlock the church and show us the wonderful work in progress.



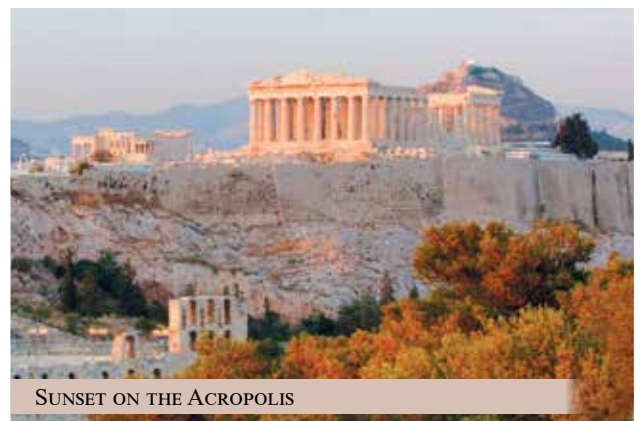
THE GLORY OF GREECE by Michael Induni

By now, you are probably getting the impression that I have a sort of "thing" for Greece! You are not wrong. It has become, over the years, rather a passion of mine and I worry about the way a lot of people visit the "cradle of western civilization."

First there are the sun-seeking, party-goers. Absolutely nothing wrong with that. Young people like (and maybe need) to get away and cut loose - especially if you spend most of your life in the cold, gray, northern latitudes. The islands of Greece are perfect if this is your idea of a vacation, but, quite honestly, you might as well go to Ibiza (also a lovely place, if that is what you're looking for). But this is Greece - you are missing so much if you just lie on a beach all day and go to the disco all night!

Then there are cruises. My two main problems with cruises are that they do not allow for any in-depth exploration of a particular site and that they do nothing for a local economy that depends on tourism. This was brought home to me a while ago when I was leading a group in Delphi. The mayor (now the ex-mayor - he retired) made me an honorary citizen of the town because I brought groups who stayed in the hotels in town for 2 nights. Most visitors either come on a day trip from Athens or arrive by cruise ship. On any day in the summer you can see bus-loads of tourists making their way up the mountain from the port of Itea on the Gulf of Corinth. They visit the archeological site and then leave. They do not spend money in the shops, eat in the restaurants or stay in the hotels (4 of which were, at the time, owned by the mayor!).

So how should you visit Greece? The simple answer is . . . with Discover Europe! We will not rush you from pillar to post, we stay in locally-owned hotels, eat in local restaurants and use local guides and bus companies that we have worked with for years. And in addition to the local guides that are required for all the major archeological sites, our tours are accompanied by Discover Europe guides with a love for the country and its history that hopefully becomes contagious. Adrian Metcalfe, who has a degree in classics from Cambridge University, will be leading the trip in April, whereas yours truly will be doing the October departure.



SUNSET ON THE ACROPOLIS

MEDITERRANEAN ISLANDS

The Mediterranean is dotted with islands, some just pieces of barren rock projecting from the wine-dark sea, and others that have been centers of civilization for thousands of years. Perhaps because of their relative isolation, islands generally have been able to preserve ancient traditions, languages and cultural customs that have long-since vanished from their mainland neighbors. This makes them fascinating places to visit - and we are exploring seven of the largest of them this year!

REAL MALLORCA

MARCH 11 - 19, 2022

Full marks to anyone who recognized the (admittedly groan-inducing) play on words in the title. Of course we are offering to show you the real Mallorca (our guide Gavin Miller lives there year round), exploring beyond the tourist areas that have made the island a favourite destination for sun-seeking holiday makers from more northerly latitudes. But it is also Real (as in Royal) Mallorca. The royal family of Spain has one of their main residences on the island, thus allowing the local top-flight Spanish football team (i.e. soccer) to call itself "Real Mallorca" (like the possibly more familiar, and more succesful, team, Real Madrid). March is full blown springtime on the island - the almond trees will be in full bloom and the tourists will not yet have arrived in force - the ideal time to visit.



ANCIENT ISLANDS: CORFU & CRETE

JUNE 11 - 20, 2022

If you enjoyed the PBS series *The Durrells in Corfu* as much as we did, then this is a must visit for you, and be sure to read Gerald Durrell's trilogy, upon which the series was based, before you come. We'll visit the sites from the show and also the birthplace of Prince Phillip (The Queen's late husband). We then fly, via Athens, to Crete. Legend has it that Zeus, disguised as a white bull, seduced Europa, the daughter of King Agenor of Phoenicia, and carried her away across the sea to Crete where she founded the ancient Minoan civilization.

CORSICA & SARDINIA

SEPTEMBER 21 - 30, 2022

Sardinia and Corsica are the second and fourth largest islands in the Mediterranean respectively (Sicily is the largest and Cyprus is third). Sardinia is Italian and Corsica is French - these days, but their history of human occupation can be traced back 9,000 years! For the most part, both islands have managed to escape the influx of tourism that the Mediterranean shores have seen over the last few decades - in fact, both islands seem to have been relatively overlooked by the whole of the twentieth century! There is a timelessness here that enables the traveler to look back through the centuries to catch a glimpse of a simpler past.



THE FOOD & WINES OF SICILY

OCTOBER 21 - 29, 2022

Half way between Europe and Africa and commanding the passage between the east and west parts of the Mediterranean Sea, the island of Sicily has always been at the crossroads of history. Settled by Greeks, Phoenicians, Carthaginians, Romans, Vikings and Normans, the island has an unparalleled mixture of cultural heritage. As a special bonus you can extend this trip to yet another Mediterranean island - Malta. The history of Malta is so ancient that it makes the rest of Sicily look positively modern!



FAVOURITE HOTELS

THE KASTALIA BOUTIQUE HOTEL, DELPHI

The hotel has changed considerably since Dilys Powell (author of *An Affair of the Heart*) stayed here - but that's probably a good thing! The Kastalia is the only 4 star hotel in the center of Delphi and is small, comfortable and has a great restaurant. However the most important thing is the view - from the back of the hotel you look down the valley to the port of Itea on the Gulf of Corinth across a sea of olive trees.

A NEW PUZZLE

Q: A GREEK PUZZLE. The Elgin Marbles (more properly known as the Parthenon Marbles), are carvings from the Parthenon in Athens and were "acquired" by Lord Elgin in 1801. They are now housed in the British Museum in London. Not surprisingly, the Greeks would like them back! Who is it that once said "The Elgin marbles should leave this northern whisky-drinking guilt-culture, and be displayed where they belong: in a country of bright sunshine and the landscape of Achilles," and who also said, more recently, that "the carvings were legally acquired and must remain in London." Yes, it was the same person who made both statements.



To answer, go to Discover Europe's Facebook page, like the page and leave an answer. The winner, drawn at random, will receive a voucher for \$200 off any trip listed in this newsletter!

... AND A SOLUTION FROM THE LAST NEWSLETTER

Q: Who was the only sitting US president that the Queen has not met personally during her reign?

A: LBJ. No-one is exactly sure why the two never met! They never invited each other, but would have met at JFK's funeral, except that the Queen did not attend as she was pregnant with Edward at the time. Congratulations to Shirley V. of Bridgeton, NJ. Happy travels!

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

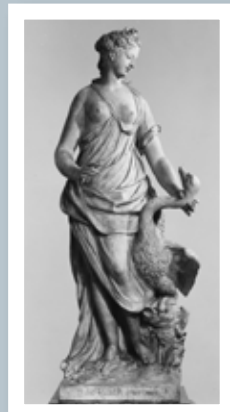
An occasional series in which we consider the derivation of a well known phrase or saying - to wit: A Wild Goose Chase.

Most sources seem to trace the phrase back to the 15th century to describe a particular kind of horse race, where riders had to follow a lead horse in formation similar to the flight of geese. The earliest written use comes from Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*.

I suspect, however, a much older origin. When Zeus fell in love with the goddess Nemesis, she transformed herself into many different shapes to escape his unwanted attentions (he was her father, after all!), the final one being a wild goose. In this form he finally caught up with her.

One version of this legend has it that Zeus then transformed himself into a swan in order to mate with her and that, from this union, was produced the egg from which hatched Helen of Sparta (later of Troy). The egg was then given to Leda, wife of Tyndareus, king of Sparta, so that she could suckle the infant Helen after she hatched.

Also pre-dating Shakespeare is the early Celtic Christian name for the Holy Spirit - *An Geadh-Glas*, or 'the Wild Goose.'



ALL CREATURES GREAT & SMALL

Finally! They have made a second season of the wonderful TV series, *All Creatures Great and Small*. James Alfred Wight, writing under the pen name of James Herriott, actually only wrote 2 novels (*If Only They Could Talk*, published in 1970, and *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet*, in 1972) based on his experiences as a vet in the Yorkshire Dales in the 1930s. The format of the novels, with each chapter almost being a separate story, lent itself perfectly to the structure of a television series. The title, of course, comes from the hymn by Mrs Cecil Alexander, which begins "All things bright and beautiful, . . ."

The new series has become a tremendous success on both sides of the Atlantic, being a co-production between Channel 5 in the UK and America's PBS.

You can visit some of the locations at which the series was filmed on our tours *Yorkshire & the Lake District* (May 13-25) and *Treasure Houses of Northern England* (September 9 - 18)



THE YORKSHIRE DALES

2022 TOURS

ENGLAND

IN SEARCH OF THE CORN WALL

Tour leader Gavin Miller takes guests on an excursion through his childhood experience of vacationing in Cornwall.
APRIL 15TH - 25TH 2022

YORKSHIRE & THE LAKES

A collaboration with our partners at *The Culture Concierge* for an in-depth look at regional culture and the countryside.
MAY 13TH - 25TH 2022

THE BEST OF ENGLISH GARDENS

Our annual homage to the Chelsea Flower Show and a selection of the most notable gardens of southern England.
MAY 17TH - 26TH 2022

Back to back with The Gardens of Ireland



THE CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

Another chance to visit the premier gardening event of the year - this time in the company of Sandi Tinyk, of *Travels with Sandi*.
MAY 24TH - JUNE 1ST 2022

THE PLATINUM JUBILEE

A special celebration of 75 years on the throne. In conjunction with *The Culture Concierge*, we have designed a fitting tribute to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.
MAY 31ST - JUNE 11TH 2022

GARDENS OF THE NORTH

Explore the most wonderful gardens of Yorkshire and the Lake District on this horticultural adventure in the north of England.
JUNE 5TH - 15TH 2022



COTSWOLDS



THE COTSWOLD HILLS

Experience the quintessential English countryside of the Cotswolds with day trips to Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, Bath, and many more.
JUNE 9TH - 18TH 2022



DISCOVERING EAST ANGLIA

Experience life in a country house hotel with popular guide Gavin Miller and explore the region in which he grew up.
JULY 15TH - 23RD 2022

VICTORIA & THE CROWN

Celebrate the life and legacy of Queen Victoria on this tour tracing her life from London to the Isle of Wight and Windsor.
AUGUST 24TH - SEPTEMBER 2ND 2022

THE PASSIONATE GARDENER

Join celebrated garden blogger Michael Gordon on a journey through some of his favourite English gardens.
SEPTEMBER 1ST - 10TH 2022

KENT: THE GARDEN OF ENGLAND

Visits to Dover, Canterbury, and Battle bring together the rich history of England's Southeast peninsula.
SEPTEMBER 4TH - 13TH 2022

TREASURE HOUSES OF NORTHERN ENGLAND

From Yorkshire to the Lake District, journey behind the usual tourist facade and explore the remarkable natural beauty of the north and its stately homes.
SEPTEMBER 9TH - 18TH 2022

Back to back with Treasure Houses of S. England

TREASURE HOUSES OF SOUTHERN ENGLAND

See the full glory of Britain's stately homes and the myriad works of art they contain in the south of the country.
SEPTEMBER 17TH - 26TH 2022

A DICKENSIAN FEAST

Dickens' London & the rolling countryside of Kent. Visit the world-famous Rochester Dickens Festival and meet his great-great-granddaughter.
DECEMBER 1ST - 9TH 2022

FRANCE



THE FESTIVAL OF ROSES

A short getaway to a French Château for a visit to the Camon Festival of Roses! Want to stay longer? Join us for *Along the Pyrenees!*
MAY 12TH - 17TH 2022



FOOD & WINE OF BORDEAUX

From our base near St. Emilion, this one-stop tour focuses on the delicious food & exquisite wines of this region.
JUNE 24TH - JULY 2ND 2022



A PORTRAIT OF PROVENCE

The city of Arles provides our base for exploring the region. Food, wine, and Provence during the lavender season.
JULY 8TH - 16TH 2022

NORMANDY, BRITANNY & THE LOIRE

Explore the art, food, and of course, wine of château country including a tour of Versailles and a plethora of impressionist art.
SEPTEMBER 1ST - 10TH 2022



THE CHÂTEAU DE CAMON

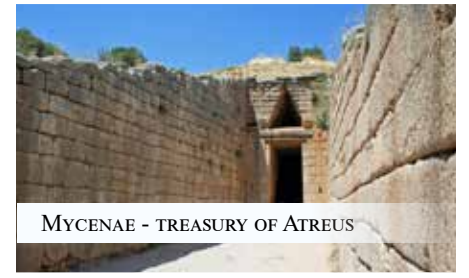
Join *Travels with Sandi* for a getaway to a French Château. Designed to fit back-to-back with *Across the Channel*, this part of the tour will be led by Discover Europe President, Michael Induni.
SEPTEMBER 3RD - 10TH 2022

GERMANY



THE NEW BERLIN

Explore the city that our tour guides, Matthias Kort and Sara Cereda-Kort, call home. After the fall of the wall, a modern, vibrant city is revealed!
OCTOBER 7TH - 15TH 2022



MYCENAE - TREASURY OF ATREUS

GREECE

THE GLORY OF GREECE

Visit world-famous treasures and learn how ancient Greece has shaped modern times. Optional 4-day Greek island cruise extension.
APR 23RD - MAY 2ND & OCT 15TH - 24TH, 2022

ANCIENT ISLANDS: CORFU & CRETE

Follow in the footsteps of *The Durrells in Corfu* and visit the birthplace of Zeus.
JUNE 11TH - 20TH 2022

ICELAND

THE LAND OF FIRE & ICE

Experience Reykjavik and the Icelandic countryside and explore the geological forces that created this unique island.
APRIL 7TH - 12TH 2022

ICELAND PANORAMA

Enjoy summertime in Iceland on this journey of stunning natural beauty in the north, south, and west of the island.
AUGUST 13TH - 20TH 2022

IRELAND

GARDENS OF IRELAND

See a thousand shades of green that make up Ireland's rich garden landscape, including an optional Northern Ireland extension.
MAY 25TH - JUNE 3RD 2022

Back to back with Best of English Gardens

THE ISLAND OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS

From literary haunts to dramatic seascapes, explore the country that inspired Yeats, Joyce, Beckett, Heaney and so many others.
SEPTEMBER 8TH - 17TH 2022
Back to back with Killarney



KILLARNEY

Enjoy a short getaway to the southern town of Killarney on this one-stop adventure in the southwest of Ireland.
SEPTEMBER 16TH - 21ST 2022

ITALY



UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

Stay in the hilltop spa town of Montecatini Terme and explore Tuscany in the Spring.
APRIL 15TH - 23RD 2022

THE ITALIAN LAKE DISTRICT

This region is dotted semi-tropical gardens, and palatial villas set against a backdrop of Alpine lakes and mountains.
MAY 4TH - 12TH 2022
Back to back with Across the Alps

THE ITALIAN KITCHEN

Journey from farm to table in the Piedmont and Emilia Romagna regions. A gastronomic tour with samplings of the regions specialties.

SEPTEMBER 29TH - OCTOBER 8TH 2022
Back to back with Corsica & Sardinia



SORRENTO & THE AMALFI COAST

From Mount Vesuvius to the azure grotto of Capri, we explore the beautiful region of Naples and the Amalfi Coast from our base in Sorrento.

OCTOBER 14TH - 22ND 2022

THE FOOD & WINES OF SICILY

From Mount Vesuvius to the azure grotto of Capri, join Sandi Tinky on an exploration of the food and wines of this fascinating island. Optional Malta extension.

OCTOBER 21ST - 29TH 2022



SICILIAN FOOD

NETHERLANDS

FLORAL FLANDERS

Spend a week in Amsterdam and enjoy the beauty of Holland when the tulips are in full bloom, including a special visit to the decennial Floriade event.

APRIL 18TH - 26TH 2022

PORTUGAL

A PORTUGUESE PANORAMA

Take a panoramic tour of Portugal from Lisbon to Porto, and see the best that this small country has to offer.

SEPTEMBER 16TH - 25TH 2022

SCOTLAND

CASTLES OF THE HIGHLANDS

Starting in Inverness, we take an in-depth look at the castles and historic homes that dot the dramatic landscape of the Scottish Highlands.

MAY 26TH - JUNE 4TH 2022

Back to back with Backroads of N. Britain

LORDS OF THE SEA KINGDOM

Island hop and explore the ancient domains of the Lords of the Isles. We visit the Inner Hebrides and travel up Scotland's west coast.

JULY 22ND - AUGUST 1ST 2022

JOURNEY TO THE NORTHERN ISLES

An exploration of the Orkneys & Shetlands. Starting and ending in Edinburgh we fly from there to the islands, staying in Lerwick and Kirkwall and taking day trips out and around the ancient sites and dramatic seascapes.

SEPTEMBER 1ST - 10TH 2022

SPAIN



REAL MALLORCA

Gavin Miller shares the wonders of his adopted home - the jewel of the Mediterranean, both real and royal.

MARCH 11TH - 19TH 2022

THE PILGRIM'S WAY

Trace the Way of St. James on the ancient pilgrimage route along the north coast of Spain from Bilbao to Santiago.

MAY 24TH - JUNE 2ND 2022

Back to back with Along the Pyrenees



THANKSGIVING IN MALLORCA

An extended stay in Sóller, with day trips to Deia, Palma, and Valldemossa. Enjoy Thanksgiving dinner Mallorcan style - and you don't have to do the dishes!

NOVEMBER 19TH - 27TH 2022

WALES

WALES & THE WELSH BORDERS

Ancient market towns, mountain peaks, coastal villages, and romantic ruins characterize this journey into the heart of ancient Wales, led by native Welsh tour guide Adrian Metcalfe.

SEPTEMBER 9TH - 18TH 2022

MULTI-COUNTRY TOURS

ACROSS THE ALPS

(ITALY, SWITZERLAND, AUSTRIA & GERMANY)

Beginning with a stay by the Italian Lakes, this tour then heads up into Switzerland and crosses the Alps through Austria, and into Bavaria, ending in Munich.

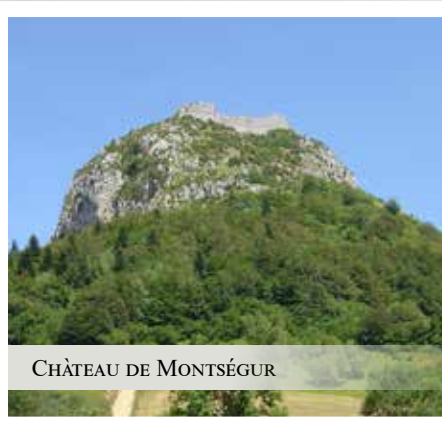
MAY 11TH - 20TH 2022

ALONG THE PYRENEES

(FRANCE & SPAIN)

Hear some of the most fascinating legends that Europe can muster all while enjoying the incredible mountain scenery of the Pyrenees.

MAY 16TH - 25TH 2022



CHÂTEAU DE MONTSÉGUR

BACKROADS OF NORTHERN BRITAIN

(SCOTLAND & ENGLAND)

From the Scottish lowlands to Northern England, explore the landscape, history, and castles that make up the Borders between Scotland and England.

JUNE 3RD - 12TH 2022

Back to back with Castles of the Highlands

JEWELS OF EASTERN EUROPE

(HUNGARY, AUSTRIA & THE CZECH REPUBLIC)

Budapest, Vienna & Prague. Enjoy time in these historic cities with excursions to sites of rural charm and beauty.

JULY 14TH - 23RD 2022

SCANDINAVIA

(DENMARK, NORWAY & SWEDEN)

Discover the best of Scandinavia with stays in the three capital cities of Copenhagen, Oslo, and Stockholm. Highlights include: Copenhagen's Tivoli Gardens, Hamlet's Castle and the Norwegian Fjords.

AUGUST 19TH - 29TH 2022

ACROSS THE CHANNEL

(ENGLAND & FRANCE)

From London, we cross the English Channel to the islands of Jersey and Guernsey, continue to the beaches of Normandy, and on to the elegance of Paris.

AUGUST 25TH - SEPTEMBER 4TH 2022

CORSICA & SARDINIA

(FRANCE & ITALY)

Natural island beauty and rich history flourish in the Mediterranean climate of these two stunning islands. Shining jewels set in the glittering Mediterranean.

SEPTEMBER 21ST - 30TH 2022

Back to back with The Italian Kitchen

CHRISTMAS MARKETS OF BAVARIA & AUSTRIA

(AUSTRIA, GERMANY)

Beginning in Vienna, we enjoy the cultural delights of the city dressed in its Christmas finery. We continue along the Danube to

Mozart's city of Salzburg and then pass through the Bavarian Alps to end in Munich. Music, castles, scenery and plenty of time for

Christmas shopping!

DECEMBER 9TH - 18TH 2022.



Indicates a "Regional Discovery" tour. These tours focus on one particular region, usually staying in just one hotel, and exploring the surrounding countryside through a series of day trips.

CUSTOM TOURS

In addition to those listed here, Discover Europe also runs tours that are custom-designed for a variety of organizations such as college alumni associations (Smith College, Tufts University, Vassar College, to name a few), garden clubs, church groups and many others. Although these "sponsored" tours are not listed here, they are often available to non-members upon request. Details can be found on our web site by clicking on the "Our Tours" menu.

Discover Europe can also organize private tours for groups of 2 to 20. Please contact us for details.



WINTER 2022
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INTO THE HEART OF EUROPE

THE NEWSLETTER OF DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.

IT'S ALL GREEK TO ME . . .

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TEMPLE OF POSEIDON

TURNING POINTS - PLATAEA

An occasional series, in which we pinpoint people or events that have changed the course of history. Bearing in mind that nothing happens in isolation - momentous events are always the product of things that came before and, as Sir Isaac Newton modestly pointed out, all great inventors, artists and thinkers owe a debt to those who paved the way for them - they are all "standing on the shoulders of giants."

In keeping with what seems to be developing into a Greek theme, this issue highlights the Battle of Plataea in 479 BCE.

Though not as famous as the stand of the 300 Spartans at Thermopylae the previous year, Plataea was the final battle fought by the Greeks against the armies of the Persian Empire in the same campaign. Ten years previously the Persian King Darius I, attempted the conquest of mainland Greece and was unexpectedly and soundly defeated at the Battle of Marathon (490 BCE). Ten years later, his son, Xerxes, tried again.

This time they came by land with a force of around 300,000 (although earlier sources maintained that there were more than 2.5 million!). The Greek States could only muster around 7,000 who went to meet them at the narrow pass of Thermopylae, known as the Hot Gates. It was here that the mighty Persian army was held at bay for a week by Leonidas and his 300 Spartans. This gave the Greeks time to organize and, having evacuated the city of Athens, they prepared a trap for the Persian navy around the Island of Salamis. The Persian navy was destroyed and thousands of their troops massacred - they say that the sea around Salamis ran red with Persian blood.

Buoyed by this success, other Greek States sent troops and their combined forces confronted the remains of the Persian army at Plataea and won a decisive victory, ending the Persian hopes of conquest and setting the stage for the "Golden Age" of Athens.

Known as the Classical Period, the next two hundred years saw the emergence of such towering figures as Socrates, Plato, Sophocles, Thucydides, Cleisthenes, Aristotle and a host of others bringing the development of the sciences, arts, philosophy and literature to a height never before witnessed. This was made possible by the triumph of the independent citizen-soldiers of the Greek city-states over the monolithic, authoritarian structure of the Persian Empire. It was a clash of cultures with a profound effect on the way our western civilisation has evolved and also the beginning of an East/West divide that has never really disappeared.

