GREECE THROUGH THE AGES
A Springtime Voyage to Greece & the Greek Islands

May 18 – 30, 2024
Dear BC Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to invite you on a journey that will explore the long legacy of Greece. Perhaps more than any other land, Greece has exerted a profound and lasting influence on the development of the Western world. Democracy, philosophy, historiography, scientific inquiry, and theater, among others, were born in Greece. And there is no more delightful time to visit this ancient land than in the spring when wildflowers carpet the countryside.

We are also delighted to have Professor Gail Hoffman leading this trip, whose expertise in various aspects of ancient Greek civilization will surely enrich your travel-learning experience.

We will begin in Athens, the city where democracy and so many other ideas and concepts of the Western tradition had their origins, and where we will tour its celebrated monuments and witness its vibrant contemporary culture.

From Athens, we will continue to Naxos, the largest of the Cycladic islands, known for its impressive main town, ancient monuments that include early Byzantine churches with exquisite frescoes, varied landscapes, picturesque old villages, and sandy beaches. From Naxos we will travel by boat to uninhabited Delos, the sacred small island where the divine twins Apollo and Artemis (Diana) were born, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and to Paros, one of the prettiest Cycladic islands, known for its white-washed architecture and the magnificent church of Ekatontapyliani (Our Lady of One Hundred Doors), a center of Christian worship for 1,700 years.

From Naxos, we will sail across the blue Aegean Sea to crescent-shaped Santorini, perhaps the most spectacular island in the entire Mediterranean. Inhabited by a sophisticated society in deep antiquity, half of the island subsided after a cataclysmic volcanic eruption in the late 17th-century BC. Some archaeologists and others have seen this event as the origin of the legend of the lost continent of Atlantis.

We will then continue sailing in the Greek archipelago to Crete, home of the Minoans, who, during the Bronze Age, created the first civilization of Europe. Our three days will provide time to discover its famed Minoan palaces, see the treasures housed in museums, explore the magnificent countryside and taste the food considered to be the source of the widely celebrated Mediterranean diet.

To explore fabled Greece and its islands in spring is a rare and memorable travel experience. Please call today to join fellow Boston College travelers in discovering Greece Through the Ages.

Explore the world through BC,

Patricia Tyler, Director
BC Beyond Educational Travel
Boston College
Oia, Santorini
Saturday, May 18
DEPART THE USA

Sunday, May 19
ATHENS, Greece
Arrive in Athens and transfer to the elegant Hotel Athens Capital, located on Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the heart of the city and within walking distance to many of Athens's attractions. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner. (D)

Monday, May 20
ATHENS
One of the most venerable cities, Athens is Europe's oldest city. Its ancient monuments are testimonials to its glorious past that gave birth to democracy and many other ideas and concepts that form an integral part of the Western tradition. Tour in the morning the ancient Agora, the civic and commercial center of Athens and the living heart of its democracy. After lunch, visit the National Archaeological Museum, which houses treasures from Greece's ancient past. Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

Tuesday, May 21
ATHENS/MYCENAE/NAFPLION/EPIDAURUS/ATHENS
Leave Athens in the morning, drive over the steep banks of the Corinth Canal to reach Argolis, the northeast corner of the Peloponnesse, one of the most significant historic and archaeological regions of Greece. Stop in Mycenae, the powerful center of the Mycenaean civilization, which flourished in the late second millennium BC, and the home of Agamemnon, who led the Greeks to Troy. After lunch in Nafplion, one of the country's most historic and prettiest towns, which is sited at the head of a spacious bay, explore Epidaurus, the sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius, the god of healing. A religious shrine and health center in antiquity, Epidaurus is famous for its incredible 4th-century BC theater, known for its perfect acoustics and harmonious proportions. (B, L)

Wednesday, May 22
ATHENS/NAXOS
Tour in the morning the Acropolis and its fabled monuments. Occupied since prehistoric times, the rocky plateau of the Acropolis rises dramatically out of the plain and dominates the modern city as it did in ancient times. The incomparable Parthenon and other structures built in the 5th-century BC, represent the highest achievement of architecture and art of the Classical period. Visit also the Acropolis Museum, which houses a remarkable collection of sculptures. Then drive along the Athenian Riviera for lunch at a restaurant by the lake of Vouliagmeni, and continue to the airport for the flight to Naxos, one of the most attractive of the islands known as the Cyclades. Upon arrival, transfer to the Naxos Resort Beach Hotel, our home for the next three nights. (B, L, D)

Thursday, May 23
NAXOS
Naxos is notable for its long history, varied landscape, old village, early Byzantine chapels decorated with frescoes, and vibrant contemporary culture. Spend the day exploring the island's interior, starting at the Temple of Demeter, which was constructed in 530 BC, and then travel to the village of Chalki, with its distinctive architecture and the church of Protothronos, dating to the 6th-century BC. Nearby are the villages of Moni, home to another early church of Panaghia Drosiani, containing frescoes. Visit also the village of Apeiranthos, perched on a high cliff; and Flerio, site of an ancient marble quarry, where we see two unfinished monumental statues from around 570 BC. Lunch will be served at a village taverna. (B, L)

Friday, May 24
NAXOS/DELOS/PAROS/NAXOS
Cruise by local boat to uninhabited Delos, the small island that was sacred to the ancient Greeks, as the birthplace of the divine
twins Apollo and Artemis. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Delos is a vast archaeological site and a veritable open air museum. Walk the Sacred Way to see the remains of sanctuaries, temples, the celebrated Terrace of the Lions, and houses, some of which contain exquisite mosaics. After exploring Delos, sail to Paros, world-renowned for its fine marble and home to Archilochus, who was considered by the ancients to be as great as Homer. Visit Parikia, the island’s beautiful main town, known for the typical Cycladic architecture of white-wash houses that line the narrow streets and alleyways. One of the most important Byzantine churches in Greece, Ekatontapyliani, is located here. Dating originally to the 4th-century, Ekatontapyliani has been a place of Christian worship for 1,700 years. Return to Naxos late in the afternoon. (B, L)

Saturday, May 25
NAXOS/SANTORINI
Tour in the morning Chora, Naxos’s capital town, its narrow streets spread below a citadel built by the Venetians, who held Naxos from 1207 to 1537. Visit the archaeological area of Metropolis; the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Presentation of the Virgin; and the Archaeological Museum. Facing the town is a small islet, connected to the town by a causeway, on which are the remains of a temple built in the 6th-century BC. Surviving is the monumental monolithic doorway. After lunch, sail to Santorini. As the boat approaches the island, view the spectacle of the white-washed town perched on the 1,000-foot-high caldera. Accommodations for the next two nights at the Hotel Volcano View. (B, L, D)

Sunday, May 26
SANTORINI
Known in classical antiquity as Thera, Santorini was a flourishing trading center inhabited by a sophisticated society during the Bronze Age. In the late 17th-century BC, a massive volcanic eruption collapsed half of the island and buried its main town, now called Akrotiri, in a thick layer of ash and pumice, preserving its houses, streets and squares as they existed 3,700 years ago. Some have connected the disappearance of half of the island with the legend of Atlantis. Starting in the 1960s, excavations by Greek archaeologists revealed Akrotiri, the Bronze Age town that was buried by the eruption of the volcano. Visit Akrotiri in the morning, one of the world’s most important archaeological sites. Only about one quarter of the extensive site has been excavated, but what has been unearthed conveys a powerful lifelike picture of a well organized and prosperous prehistoric city. Spend the afternoon at leisure to enjoy this iconic island. (B)

Monday, May 27
SANTORINI/HERAKLION, Crete
Visit in the morning the superb Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which
provides a fine introduction to Santorini's Bronze Age civilization, and whose exhibits include items found during the Akrotiri excavations, including murals that decorated houses. Then drive to picturesque and photogenic Oia, which commands the northern entry into the caldera. Nearby is the Domain Sigalas, where we will enjoy lunch, accompanied by the estate's excellent wines. In the afternoon, sail across the blue Aegean to Rethymno, one of the island's most attractive towns, known for its well-preserved architecture dating from the Venetian and Ottoman periods. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. (B, L)

Tuesday, May 28
CRETE
The largest of the Greek islands, Crete is home to Europe's first civilization, the Minoan, which dominated the Aegean world and parts of the Mediterranean, starting around 2000 BC. With an incredibly beautiful and varied landscape that harbors 2,200 plant species, outstanding archaeological sites and museums, a population that is renowned for its hospitality, and a cuisine that has been studied by medical doctors and nutritionists for its health benefits, Crete is a magnificent place to visit and explore. Leave the hotel in the morning for Gortyn, which rose to power in the 1st-century BC when it became the capital of the Roman province of Crete and Cyrenaica (North Africa). Nearby is the Minoan palace of Phaestos. Constructed in the second millennium BC, the site is beautifully located in a plain overlooking Mount Ida. Continue to the village of Vori for lunch and a visit to the excellent Museum of Cretan Ethnology, and then drive through the scenic Amari Valley to Rethymno, one of the island's most attractive towns, known for its well-preserved architecture dating from the Venetian and Ottoman periods. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. (B, L)

Wednesday, May 29
CRETE
Spend the morning at leisure. Crete has been known for its curative herbs since antiquity. You may wish to visit the herb market, where shops sell a wide variety of the island's herbs. In the afternoon, tour the palace of Knossos, the largest and most magnificent Minoan palace in Crete. Clustered around a spacious courtyard, the palace contains a maze of rooms, passages and stairways that probably generated the concept of the labyrinth. More than any other palace, Knossos reveals the brilliance and refinement of the Minoan civilization. Continue to the superlative Archaeological Museum, home to the world's finest artifacts. Farewell dinner will be served at a local restaurant that specializes in Cretan cuisine. (B, D)

Thursday, May 30
CRETE
Transfer to the airport for the return flight home. (B)
PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The price includes the following arrangements and services:

- Accommodations at deluxe hotels: Three nights at the Hotel Athens Capital, Athens; three nights at the Naxos Resort Beach Hotel, Naxos; two nights at the Hotel Volcano View, Santorini; three nights at the Hotel Megaron, in Heraklion, Crete.
- Full buffet breakfast, with many Greek items available, each morning at the hotels.
- Eight lunches, including a special lunch at a Cretan organic farm, and five dinners, including special "welcome" and "farewell" dinners. Wine, beer and soft drinks with the meals.
- Wine tasting at Santorini’s Domain Sigalas.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary outline by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach and English speaking guide.
- Airfare from Athens to Naxos.
- Cruise by local boat from Naxos to Delos and Paros.
- Boat fare from Naxos to Santorini and from Santorini to Heraklion, Crete.
- Group transfers and handling of luggage overseas at designated times from the airport to the hotel and hotel to the airport, and if applicable, hotel/pier transfers.
- Entrance fees to museums and archaeological sites.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Gratuities to drivers, tour guides, porters and restaurant service staff.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any
inclusions.

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- Travel insurance;
- Expenses of a personal nature;
- Any

For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611
or make a check payable and mail with this registration form to:
Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for $_________($1,000 per person) as a deposit to
hold place(s) on GREECE THROUGH THE AGES, May 18 – 30, 2024, with Boston College. I
understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure (February 18, 2024) and is
payable by check or credit card.

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and
agree to its terms.

First Name _______________________________________
Middle Name _______________________________________
Last (as on your passport) ________________________________
Class of _____________________________________________
Telephone (Home) ___________________________ (Cell) ______________
Email ________________________________________________
City/State/Zip _________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________
Address _______________________________________________________
Signature _______ DATE ______
Signature _______ DATE ______

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

CST 2136603-50
ST 42048
Join Gail Hoffman, Professor of Classical Studies, on
GREECE THROUGH THE AGES
May 18 – 30, 2024

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL
THALASSA JOURNEYS
866-633-3611

The sacred island of Delos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.