

The American Association for the Advancement of Science  
& Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society

AAAS Travels & Sigma Xi Expeditions

Betchart Expeditions Inc.  
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435



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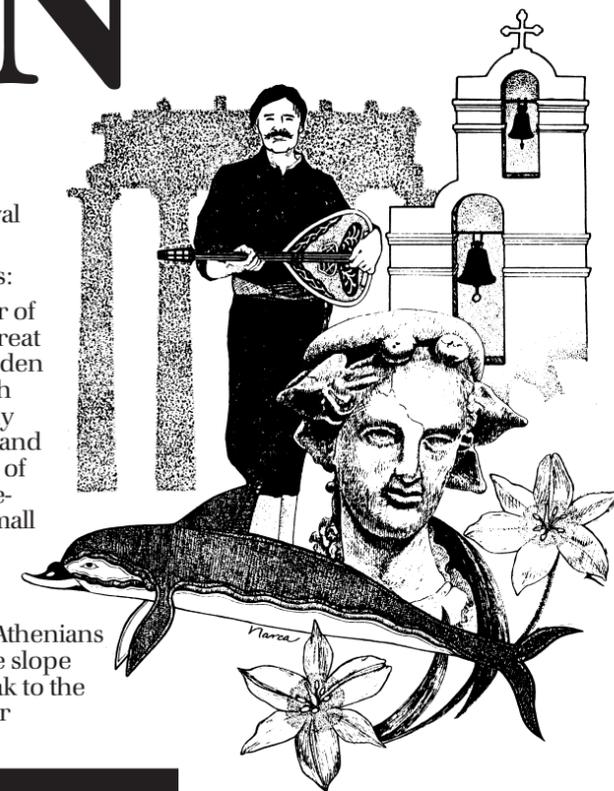
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TIME VALUE

Join the AEGEAN ODYSSEY!  
May 14-28, 2008

# AEGEAN ODYSSEY

May 14-28, 2008



An excellent introduction to the cultural heritage and archaeological wonders of Greece and the Aegean, this 15-day expedition includes visits to superb archaeological sites, cities and villages of historic renown, and excellent museums featuring wonders of the Classical World.

Discover the land where ancient people, ideas, events, and geography helped shape man's thinking and the subsequent development of Western Civilization.

Our visit will also coincide with spring wildflowers. Red poppies will add a dash of color at the archaeological sites. While island-hopping in the Aegean, we will follow trade routes used by the Greeks and the Minoans and find out what made

them become great naval powers.

The itinerary includes:

• **Athens** – The center of commerce, shipping, great museums, and the "Golden Age" of Greece in the 5th Century BC. We will stay near the historic Agora and enjoy the vibrant pulse of street-side cafes, cobblestone walkways, and small specialty shops at the foot of the Acropolis.

• **Delphi & Mount Parnassos** – Ancient Athenians made pilgrimages to the slope of Mt. Parnassos to speak to the Delphic oracle to ask for

## Costs & Conditions

(CONTINUED)

**Accommodations:** Are in first class hotels which reflect the charm and heritage of Greece. Many are within walking distance of tavernas, shops, and historic sites.

**What to Expect:** This expedition is planned for the travel enthusiast who would enjoy exploring and learning about the archaeological and cultural heritage of the Aegean. Travel is by motorcoach and scheduled flights, with daily outings on foot of 1 to 2 miles at a leisurely pace suitable for exploring archaeological sites, museums, and Greek villages. Exploring archaeological sites requires some walking uphill and sites are extensive. Please be prepared to actively explore the sites on foot. Binoculars are recommended. Temperatures will be in the 70's to 80's with a sea breeze.

This expedition is a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure and discovery who would like to explore the Greek Isles led by a Mediterranean classical archaeologist. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

**Expedition Fee Includes:** Land transport; airport transfers; accommodations in first class hotels that reflect the cultural heritage of Greece; breakfasts, 4 lunches, 6 dinners; tips to guides and drivers; group entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

**Expedition Fee Does Not Include:** International air fare (quoted separately); some meals; gratuities to leader; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, bottled water, snacks, passport, personal insurance.

**Reservations, Deposits & Payments:** Please mail a deposit of \$500 per person to **Aegean Odyssey, Betchart Expeditions Inc., 17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435.** All reservations will be acknowledged in the order received until the maximum enrollment of 32 is reached. Final payment is due on March 14, 2008.

**Questions,** Please call: **Betchart Expeditions Inc.,** phone (800) 252-4910 or (408) 252-4910, Fax (408) 252-1444, Email: Carol@betchartexpeditions.com

**Cancellations & Refunds:** The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure, less a handling fee of \$100 per person. There is no refund for any cancellation after the 60 day period unless your space can be resold; then a \$100 per person handling fee applies. No refunds are made for unused services.

**Responsibility:** Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, terrorism, quarantine, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner's risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Illustrations by Narca Moore-Craig.

## AAAS Travels & SIGMA XI Expeditions

THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH SOCIETY

Dear Members and Friends:

In 2008, we invite you to join our popular *Aegean Odyssey*, **May 14-28, 2008.** If you are interested in the origins of Western Civilization, there is no better place to pursue those interests than Greece.

On the *Aegean Odyssey*, we will retrace the steps of the ancients as we learn about their cultural heritage. Like the Athenians in the 5th Century BC, we will pay homage to the great Parthenon temple on the Acropolis, and visit the Oracle at Delphi against the backdrop of Mt. Parnassos. Like Homer's heroes a few centuries earlier, we will cross the "wine-dark sea" to the islands of the Aegean. On Crete, we will attempt to unravel the mysteries surrounding the enigmatic Minoans. Where did they come from, what language did they speak, and what brought about their downfall over 2,000 years ago?

In May, the Greek fields and roadsides will be awash with colorful wildflowers. We will also discuss human impacts through the ages, and the major challenges facing Greece today.

Leading this expedition will be **Dr. Ken Sheedy**, Director of the Center for Ancient Numismatics at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Ken has been a popular leader of numerous *Aegean Odyssey Expeditions* for AAAS and Sigma Xi.

I hope you will join us for this singular adventure!

Sincerely,

Margaret

Margaret M. Betchart  
For AAAS Travels & Sigma Xi Expeditions



guidance in affairs of the heart and business. Explore the impressive remains of the temples overlooking the Gulf of Corinth.

• **Mykonos & Delos** – Explore enchanting Mykonos Island with isolated beaches, hillsides covered with wildflowers, and festive waterfront cafes. A short boat ride away are the magnificent ruins of the sacred island of Delos which played a key role in antiquity.

• **Santorini** – The most picturesque island in the Mediterranean and site of a catastrophic volcanic eruption around 1450 BC, Santorini may be the fabled Atlantis. Explore scenic overlooks and steaming sulfur vents of the volcano. See the archaeological site of Akrotiri buried by Santorini's eruption.

• **Knossos** – Discover the Minoan Palace of Knossos, partially restored to its 2000 BC splendor, with paved walkways, ceremonial baths, thrones, and beautiful frescoes, and the Minoan site of Phaestos. We will also see some of the most important ancient Greek artifacts at the Benaki Museum in Athens and Archaeology Museum in Heraklion.

• **Chania** – A city on the north coast of Crete, Chania is a macrocosm of the different cultures that have occupied Crete and Greece for the last 5,000 years, including Dorians, Romans, Byzantines, Venetians, Turks, and Germans.

## Itinerary

### Days 1/2 New York to Athens, Greece.

Depart New York's JFK Int'l. Airport for Athens, Greece. Transfer to the *Herodion Hotel (4 nights)* near the foot of the Acropolis. At leisure to begin to discover ancient Greece in the historic Plaka District. Welcome dinner. D

### Day 3 Acropolis & Parthenon

Today we will visit the Acropolis and the Parthenon. The height of the Golden Age of Athens is displayed on this hilltop. The Acropolis will give you a feel for the artistic beauty, richness, and importance of ancient Athens, the empire that ruled the Eastern Mediterranean. Here Pericles, ruler of 461 BC Athens, amassed great fortunes through taxation and then spent this wealth on Athena, the goddess of Athens. B

### Day 4 Mount Parnassos & Delphi.

This morning we will drive to Delphi, situated on the slopes of Mt. Parnassos. Mt. Parnassos is covered by Greek firs at the higher elevations. Lower slopes are covered with typical Mediterranean *maquis* vegetation including aromatic, spiny plants, with an understory of grasses, orchids, and spring wildflowers. Just to the west is Delphi, the center of the world according to Zeus, the ruler of all ancient gods. Delphi overlooks the

Gulf of Corinth and has a well preserved 4th century theater, stadium, gymnasium, and reconstructed Athenian treasury. In ancient times, the main walkway was lined with treasures from around the Mediterranean and marble statues given by grateful patrons and governors of the original Greek city-states. The common people would make pilgrimages with their votive gifts to ask for guidance from the Delphic oracle. B,L

### Day 5 Ancient Agora.

This morning, enjoy a walking tour of the historic Agora at the foot of the Acropolis. The Agora is the original city center where Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle spoke to devoted students. Walk the narrow cobblestone streets and imagine this exciting period in the birth of Western Civilization. Afternoon at leisure. B

### Day 6 Benaki Museum & Mykonos.

This morning we will see the many artifacts from ancient Greece preserved in the sparkling new Benaki Museum. We will then fly to Mykonos, a picturesque village with winding streets, recessed doorways, and a charm all its own. This ancient fishing village has been transformed into a tranquil seaside town that affords us the opportunity to visit the sacred island of Delos. On the ridge crest you can visit the beautiful row of white windmills and view the turquoise Aegean and offshore islands. Transfer to the *Leto Hotel (2 nights)*. B



### Day 7 Delos.

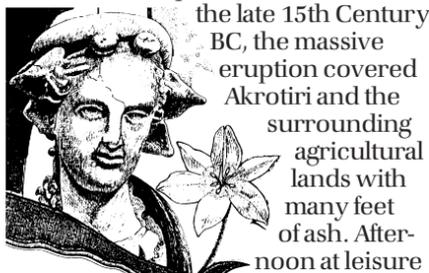
The pinnacle of Delos was during Hellenistic times. It was a religious and commercial center, trading with Egypt and Syria. Athens placed a tax on all it controlled and stored the wealth at Delos. The wealthy merchants and bankers lavished Delos with the most expensive gifts in the form of frescoed temples, a Terrace of the Lions, House of Cleopatra, the mosaic House of the Dolphins, and the Theater of Delos. All during this time, they worshiped Apollo, the god of the sun and poetry. We will ferry to Delos and explore the archaeological site and museum today. We should see Jerusalem sage, pink rockroses, scarlet anemones, or poppies amidst the ruins. Afternoon return to Mykonos and the colorful waterfront area. Dinner in a Greek taverna. B,D

### Day 8 Mykonos to Santorini.

Today we will ferry to the volcanic island of Santorini, which some say is the site of the fabled Atlantis. Around 1450 BC, Santorini experienced one of the greatest volcanic explosions of historic times, creating the spectacular island landscape and sheer cliffs we see today. Two small towns are perched on the cliffs, Thira and Oia. Transfer to *Santorini Palace Hotel (3 nights)* in Thira. B,D

### Day 9 Akrotiri.

Ancient Akrotiri was a major trading outpost for the Minoan Civilization centered at Knossos, Crete. Akrotiri is one of the best preserved archaeological sites in the Aegean because of the violent eruption of Santorini. In the late 15th Century BC, the massive eruption covered Akrotiri and the surrounding agricultural lands with many feet of ash. Afternoon at leisure



to visit Museums and for personal interests. Take a boat trip around the caldera as we learn more about the volcanic past of Santorini. B

### Day 10 Village of Oia.

Oia is the most picturesque of Santorini's villages perched on the northern tip of the island overlooking the massive caldera. One can wander through the narrow streets and at every step another picture of beauty awaits you. The architecture is both secular and ecclesiastical, infused with finesse and charm from the imagination of the local artisans. Special lecture this afternoon at the Petros Nomikos exhibit of fresco replicas. B

### Day 11 Minoan Palace of Phaestos.

This morning we will fly from Santorini to Crete. Arrive in Heraklion and transfer to the *Galaxy Iraklio Hotel (2 nights)*. Afternoon visit to the Minoan Palace of Phaestos to learn about the Minoan heritage on Crete. B,L,D

### Day 12 Knossos.

Today we will visit the fantastic archaeological site of Knossos. Knossos was the center of the Minoan culture and palace of King Minos, who ruled the eastern Mediterranean, and made Crete the hub of trade and center of ancient arts. The Palace has been partially restored, with repainted frescoes, mosaic walls and floors, large storage vessels, fresh water system, ceremonial baths, stone walkways, and central plaza. Much of this was destroyed around the time of the eruption of Santorini. We will also explore medieval Heraklion. B,L,D

### Days 13/15 Chania & Home.

Morning drive via the harbor city of Rethymnon to the north coastal city of Chania. We will stay right on the old harbor at *Porto Veneziano Hotel (2 nights)*. Chania has a rich mix of narrow streets, wood-balconied Turkish houses, Venetian monuments, and minarets. The Venetian Fortress has preserved its rich history with massive stone walls. The next day will be at leisure for personal interests. Festive farewell dinner. On Day 15, transfer to the airport for flights to Athens and home. B,L/B,D/B

Meals Included in Trip Fee:

- B = Breakfast
- L = Lunch
- D = Dinner

## Reservations

#1031

**Yes!** I/We want to join the **Aegean Odyssey, May 14-28, 2008**, offered by **AAAS Travels & Sigma Xi Expeditions**. Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ space(s). As a deposit, I/we have enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ (\$500 per person), payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Work (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership (please circle): AAAS Sigma Xi ACS Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference:

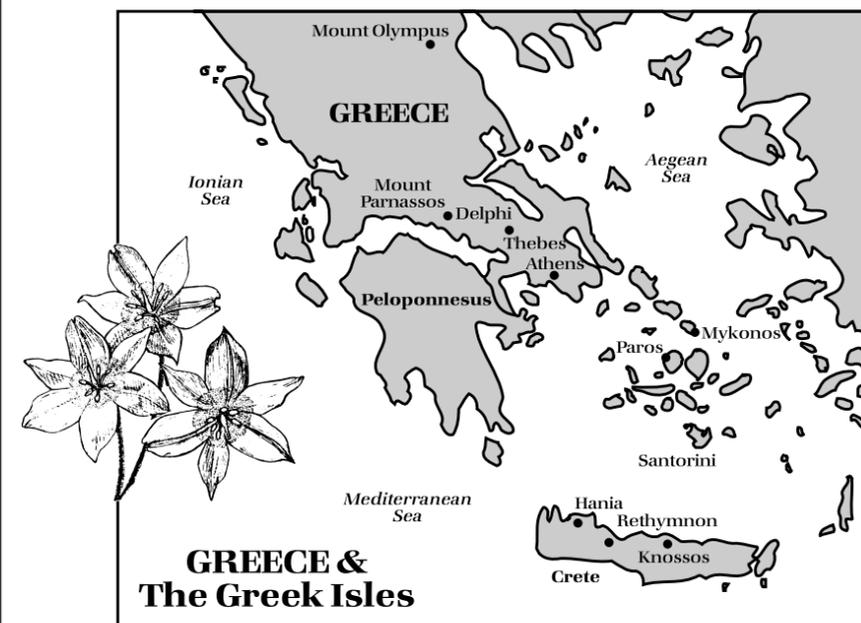
Twin  Single  Twin Share with a friend *or*  assign a roommate  
 Nonsmoker  Smoker

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Mail To:

**Aegean Odyssey 2008**  
**Betchart Expeditions Inc.**  
**17050 Montebello Road**  
**Cupertino, CA 95014-5435**



## Costs & Conditions

**Expedition Fee:** \$3,895 per person twin share for 15 days, plus air fare of approximately \$1,295 per person plus tax from New York to Athens, Greece, round trip, including in-tour flights.

**Singles:** We encourage singles to register on a "twin share" basis. Should you desire single accommodations, the additional cost is \$695 and is subject to availability.

**Air Fare:** Air fare quoted is based on a group fare with Olympic Airways from New York to Athens, round trip, including in-tour flights, as of July 2007. All bookings and ticketing will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. **Please Note:** All expedition members fly as a group; limited independent travel arrangements are available. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

## Leadership

Leading this expedition will be **Dr. Ken Sheedy**, Director of the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatics at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Formerly with the British Museum and the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens, Greece, Ken is an archaeologist whose special focus is the Greek world, including Asia Minor (now Turkey).

Ken is an authority on Greek coins and has a particular interest in the archaeology of the Cyclades Islands in the central Aegean, and has based many of his studies on the antiquities of the important Cycladic island of Paros. He has published papers on many Greek archaeology topics including archaic coinage of Paros and the Cycladic City-States, sculpture of archaic Paros, and the development of pottery styles of the Aegean islands. Ken has participated in excavations on Paros and the Greek mainland.

Ken is an experienced lecturer and expedition leader and has led trips to Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, and the Black Sea. He is a popular leader of several past Aegean Odyssey Expeditions for Sigma Xi and AAAS. He looks forward to sharing his love of Greek history and archaeology, and his enthusiasm for the culture and people of Greece with expedition members.

