CRETE & THE CYCLADES

a custom-designed tour featuring the culture, art, archaeology, and cuisine of Crete, Santorini, Mykonos, and Athens
May 18 - 31, 2016

Optional Athens Extension
May 31 – June 3, 2016

TRAVEL WITH JANE HICKMAN, PhD

Jane Hickman received her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania in 2008. During the 2004-2005 academic year, she was a Fulbright scholar at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Dr. Hickman was the recipient of a Louis J. Kolb fellowship at the Penn Museum, where she currently serves as Consulting Scholar in the Mediterranean Section and Editor of Expedition Magazine. Most recently, she served as Editor of Culinary Expeditions: A Celebration of Food and Culture Inspired by Penn Museum Treasures. Jane’s research focuses on gold and silver jewelry from the ancient Aegean, the Near East, and Central Asia. She has studied and published jewelry from Minoan Crete, the eastern Mediterranean, and Afghanistan. Jane has had a life-long interest in travel, food, and culture.
May 18: Departure for Heraklion, Crete
• Take independent flights to Heraklion International Airport (HER) arriving the following day.

May 19: Arrival in Heraklion
Aquila Atlantis Hotel  (D)
• Upon arrival at Heraklion International Airport, take a group transfer for the hotel.
• Arrive at the seafront, five-star Aquila Atlantis Hotel in Heraklion, your home for the next five nights.
• Gather for an early welcome dinner featuring local Cretan cuisine and wine.

May 20: Ancient Palace of Knossos
Aquila Atlantis Hotel  (B, L, D)
• This morning, enjoy a lecture by study leader, Dr. Jane Hickman, on the island of Crete, Minoan and Mycenaean culture, and the Knossos palace.
• Depart for the ancient Minoan Palace at Knossos (right) to walk the vast and impressive ancient palace complex consisting of remarkable reconstructions by Sir Arthur Evans including the Throne Room (right).
• Enjoy lunch in Heraklion.
• Next, depart for the newly-opened Archaeological Museum in Heraklion with important Cretan artifacts including the original frescoes from Knossos Palace and an impressive collection of ancient sculpture, jewelry, pottery, and sealstones.
• Return to the hotel for a light dinner back in Heraklion.

May 21: Craft and Tradition in Heraklion
Aquila Atlantis Hotel  (B, L)
• This morning, enjoy an in depth tour of Heraklion’s historic center including the port and ruins. Visit the Historical Museum of Crete before enjoying some free time to independently explore the Heraklion market (weather permitting). Enjoy lunch in Heraklion.
• Visit a local craft shop to meet an artisan who still forges metal according to ancient tradition.
• Return to the hotel for the remainder of the afternoon at leisure.

May 22: Elounda and Spinalonga Island
Aquila Atlantis Hotel  (B, L, D)
• Today, embark on a scenic trip to Elounda (below right) on the northern coast of Crete.
• Take a boat ride to the historic island of Spinalonga (right) with Venetian fortifications surrounding the fortress that played an integral role during the Ottoman invasion.
• Stop at a nearby village for a lunch featuring local specialties.
• Return to the hotel for dinner.

May 23: INSTAP + Mochlos
Aquila Atlantis Hotel  (B, L)
• Enjoy a special behind-the-scenes visit to INSTAP, the Institute for Aegean Prehistory Study Center, where American archaeologists work.
• Then, visit the quaint village of Mochlos and take a short boat ride to see ancient Minoan ruins that stretch along the coast of a nearby islet.
• Gather for a lovely seafood lunch along the water.
• Return to the hotel for an independent evening.

May 24: Heraklion - Santorini
Majestic Hotel  (B, L)
• Check-out of the Aquila Atlantis and take a ferry departing for the ancient island of Santorini.
• Check-in at the five-star Majestic Hotel in Fira boasting breathtaking views of the caldera and the Aegean Sea.
• Enjoy lunch at a favorite local taverna.
• Depart for an in-depth tour discussing the history and modern culture of the island.
• Enjoy time to independently explore the town, shop, or relax at your hotel.
May 25: Prehistory in Santorini
Majestic Hotel (B, L, D)
- Begin the day with a lecture by Dr. Jane Hickman. Then visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thira in Fira to see important artifacts, including many from the site of Akrotiri.
- Spend some time at leisure to relax and shop in the local village.
- Gather for lunch before boarding a private catamaran boat that will cruise around the caldera of Santorini’s volcano. Our guide will tell legends about the eruption while you take in the glorious views of the island.
- Enjoy a light dinner paired with local wines.

May 26: Ancient Akrotiri
Majestic Hotel (B, L)
- Visit the Minoan Bronze Age site of Akrotiri, called the “Pompeii of the Aegean,” with streets and buildings preserved by the volcanic ash of the Theran eruption.
- After an in-depth exploration of the site of Akrotiri, enjoy lunch nearby.
- Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure to shop or relax at a nearby café.

May 27: Santorini - Mykonos
Royal Myconian Hotel (B, L, WT)
- Check out of the hotel and depart on the ferry for the island of Mykonos.
- Arrive and check-in at the five-star Royal Myconian Hotel and enjoy some time at leisure.
- Enjoy lunch at a local taverna in the heart of Mykonos and then visit the fascinating Folklore Museum full of artifacts and art attesting to the rich cultural history of the island.
- Enjoy a wine tasting at a local winery, then return to the hotel.

May 28: The Island of Delos
Royal Myconian Hotel (B, L)
- Take a boat to the island of Delos, the mythological birthplace of the god Apollo, to see the unique stratification of multiple ancient civilizations. See the Terrace of the Lions and the many houses once decorated with splendid mosaics (right).
- Return to Mykonos (right) for a late lunch and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure on the island.

May 29: Free Day in Mykonos
Royal Myconian Hotel (B)
- Enjoy a day at leisure on the island of Mykonos. Your tour director will be available to provide directions and suggestions for sight-seeing.

May 30: Mykonos - Athens
Royal Olympian Hotel (B, D)
- This morning, check-out of the hotel and take a morning group flight (included) to Athens.
- Upon arrival in Athens, visit the Acropolis Museum to see remarkable works from ancient Athens including the original caryatids from the Erechtheion (right).
- Take a short walk to visit the Acropolis to explore the complex constructed to honor Athens’ patron goddess, Athena.
- Enjoy some free time to independently explore Monastaraki, Plaka and other neighborhoods of the ancient city, or pack for departures.
- This evening, join fellow travelers in the historic district of Plaka for a lovely farewell dinner with views of the Acropolis.

May 31: Departures from Athens, Greece (B)
- Depart on a group transfer for the Athens International Airport for independent flights returning to the U.S.A.
- Optional: Extension begins for those extending their stay in Athens.
ATHENS EXTENSION
May 31 - June 3, 2016

May 31: Athens’s National Archaeological Museum & the ancient Agora
Royal Olympian Hotel (B, L)
• This morning Dr. Jane Hickman will orient you to the sites of Athens that we will be visiting.
• Then, depart on a city tour of Athens to see important historic and political monuments including the Temple of Zeus, the Panathenaic Stadium, and Parliament to see the traditionally-dressed guards.
• Arrive at the esteemed National Archaeological Museum of Athens boasting extensive collections of antiquities.
• Enjoy lunch in a traditional taverna.
• Take a leisurely guided walking tour of the Agora, exploring the old market place of Athens including the Hephaestion and the Stoa of Attalus.
• Enjoy the remainder of the evening and dinner at leisure.

June 1: Central Market & Benaki
Royal Olympian Hotel (B, D)
• Depart the hotel to visit the Athens Central Market, the city’s historic public marketplace full of fresh vegetables, flowers, international spices, meats, and seafood.
• Enjoy a visit to the Benaki museum, once a private collection, with Athens’ richest collection of cultural treasures from antiquity, Byzantium, and the Modern Greek world.
• Enjoy an independent lunch in one of Athens’ historic districts.
• Enjoy the remainder of the afternoon and evening at leisure to independently explore Athens.
• Gather for an exceptional dinner featuring contemporary cuisine at Athens’ most elegant restaurant with spectacular vistas of the Acropolis.

June 2: Byzantine Heritage
Royal Olympian Hotel (B)
• Depart the hotel for an in-depth exploration of Byzantine Athens. Begin with a guided tour of the marvelous collection of Byzantine culture at the Byzantine and Christian Museum. See artifacts including manuscripts, sculpture, and wonderfully-preserved mosaics.
• Step inside hidden Byzantine Churches - some still used today - to see historic remnants of Greece’s past religious culture that still defines many Greek Orthodox practices today. While many have been beautifully restored, some churches maintain their 11th- and 12th-century character.
• Enjoy independent time to further explore Athens or to pack for departures.
• Return to the hotel.

June 3: Departures for U.S.A.
(B)
• Depart on a group transfer this morning for Athens International Airport for independent departures on flights returning to the U.S.A.

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TOUR INFORMATION

Tour Dates:
US. Departure for Heraklion, Crete: May 18, 2016
Return to US from Athens, Greece: May 31, 2016
Extension return to US from Athens, Greece: June 3, 2016

CRETE & THE CYCLADES
Tour Price:
Land Only Package: $7,395
Single Supplement: $1,320

ATHENS EXTENSION
Tour Price:
Land Only Package: $2,295
Single Supplement: $495

Deposit & Final Payment:
A deposit of $1,000 per paying participant will be required upon registration to guarantee participation on the tour. This may be paid by check, Visa or MasterCard. Final payment will be invoiced and is due on February 3, 2016. Final payment must be made by check payable to International Seminar Design, Inc.

Air Arrangements:
International airfare departing and returning to the United States are not included in the package cost. Please wait until the trip is confirmed to book international airfare (approximately 5-6 months out). ISDI is able to book international air arrangements for a $100 per ticket fee.

Terms & Conditions
International Seminar Design, Inc. (“ISDI”) and Penn Alumni Travel reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason including insufficient numbers of participants, as well as the right to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour at any time. If bookings fall below the minimum required, passengers will be advised of additional costs or itinerary alterations before departure date. All cancellations must be received in writing by ISDI, and charges are calculated as of the day notification is received in writing by ISDI. If a tour member cancels, the following scale of charges is incurred: There is a non-refundable administrative fee of $500 per person. The costs associated with any tickets purchased for planned activities (as indicated in the itinerary) are non-refundable. Written cancellation received by ISDI on or before February 2, 2016: full refund minus $500 per person administrative fee. Written cancellation received by ISDI February 2 and March 30, 2016: 50% of total tour cost including extension costs (includes administrative fee). Cancellations received on or after March 30, 2016: no refund. After the tour has commenced, it is not possible to issue any refunds. No refunds for any unused portion of the tour including, but not limited to, occasional missed meals or any missed sightseeing tours. Costs for promotion, staff, and other group expenses are not refundable. In the case of cancellation, substitutions are not acceptable. The tour cost is non-transferable. A package of cancellation, baggage, and medical insurance is strongly recommended. Penn Alumni Travel will send an insurance application upon receipt of reservation.

REGISTRATION

I/we are signing up for:

[ ] CRETE & THE CYCLADES TOUR
   May 18 - 31, 2016

[ ] CRETE & THE CYCLADES + ATHENS EXTENSION
   May 18 - June 3, 2016

The undersigned has read the tour itinerary and recognizes and accepts any risks therein. The undersigned also understands and hereby agrees for and on behalf of his/her dependents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns to abide by the conditions set forth in the terms and conditions listed in this brochure and to release and hold harmless Penn Alumni Travel and International Seminar Design, Inc (ISDI) and any of their officers, trustees, agents, licenses, or representatives, from any and all liability for delays, injuries, or death or for the loss of and/or damage to his/her property however occurring during any portion of, or in relation to, this tour.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN:

SIGNATURE - PARTICIPANT 1 DATE

SIGNATURE - PARTICIPANT 2 DATE

Complete form and send to:
4115 Wisconsin Avenue, NW Suite 101
Washington, DC 20016
Fax: (202) 244 - 1808
Call: (202) 244 - 1448
Email: elizabeth.deans@isditravel.com