

# DALMATIA & ANCIENT GREECE

September 18 - October 1, 2019 (14 days)

with Nancy Wilkie  
(from September 18 – 29, 2019)

## ITINERARY

(B)=Breakfast, (L)=Lunch, (D)=Dinner

### Wednesday, September 18, 2019: Depart home

Depart home on independent flights to Venice.

### Thursday, September 19: Arrive Venice, ITALY

Arrive at Venice International Airport Marco Polo (VCE) and transfer to the *Aegean Odyssey*. Overnight aboard the *Aegean Odyssey* for ten nights. (L,D)

### Friday, September 20: AM Venice walking tour or Lagoon excursion | PM at leisure

AM guided walking tour of the city, a UNESCO World Heritage site. First, travel by boat down the beautiful Giudecca Canal to St. Mark's Square (Piazza San Marco). Walk to St. Mark's Basilica, and view (from the outside) the Doge's Palace, a 14<sup>th</sup>-century Gothic masterpiece. Alternatively, you may choose a morning boat excursion to two islands of the Venetian Lagoon: Murano, of glass-making fame; and Burano, with its gaily-painted fishermen's houses. After lunch aboard ship, the PM is at leisure in Venice. Dinner is aboard ship this evening. (B,L,D)

### Saturday, September 21: Urbino: AM walking tour | PM at leisure

Urbino is a small town with a big history, and is today a UNESCO World Heritage site. AM tour of the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>-century artist Raphael's childhood home and then visit the Palazzo Ducale, Italy's most beautiful Renaissance palace. Continue on to the neoclassical Duomo (Cathedral), which was rebuilt in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and houses several important artworks. The basilica's Museo Diocesano Albani has a collection of glass, ceramics, and religious items. Lunch and PM at leisure in Urbino. Return to the ship for dinner. (B,D)

### Sunday, September 22: AM Split, CROATIA: Diocletian's Palace | PM at leisure or optional Salona & Trogir excursion

AM tour of Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace in Split. Today a UNESCO World Heritage site, the palace complex is a vibrant warren of museums, shops, and restaurants alongside medieval fortifications, pre-Romanesque churches, and Gothic chapels. PM at leisure in Split OR you may take an optional excursion (*at an additional cost*) to two gems of the Dalmatian coast: ancient Salona, where archaeologists have excavated temples, a necropolis, an amphitheater, and baths dating from the 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D.; and the delightful nearby island of Trogir, a UNESCO World Heritage site lined with architectural jewels. Return to the ship for dinner. (B,L,D)

### Monday, September 23: AM Korcula walking tour | Cruise past Hvar & Brac | Dubrovnik

AM walk from our ship to Old Town to visit the impressive Cathedral of St. Mark, 14<sup>th</sup>-century Bishop's Palace, and 16<sup>th</sup>-century Gabrielli Palace whose City Museum displays Greek and Roman artifacts. Korcula lays claim to being the birthplace of Marco Polo in 1254, and our walk takes us by his family home. PM cruising past the scenic islands of Hvar and Brac en route to Dubrovnik. Evening at leisure in Dubrovnik. (B,L,D)

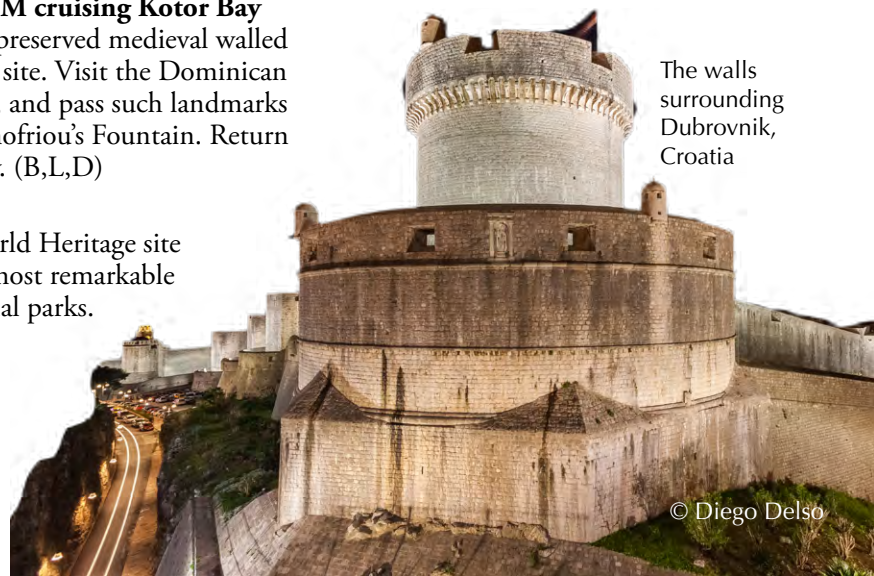
### Tuesday, September 24: AM Dubrovnik walking tour | PM cruising Kotor Bay

AM walking tour of the Old Town of Dubrovnik, the best-preserved medieval walled city in the Mediterranean and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the Dominican and Franciscan monasteries and the Cathedral of Our Lady, and pass such landmarks as the Sponza Palace, Baroque Church of St. Blaise, and Onofriou's Fountain. Return to the ship in time for lunch. PM cruising scenic Kotor Bay. (B,L,D)

### Wednesday, September 25: Sarande, ALBANIA | Butrint

Take a 45-minute drive from Sarande to the UNESCO World Heritage site of Butrint (ancient Buthrotum), not only one of Albania's most remarkable archaeological sites but also one of its most beautiful national parks.

The approximately 50-square-mile site was occupied successively by a 6<sup>th</sup>-century Greek colony, a Roman city, and a bishopric. The city prospered under Byzantine administration, was occupied in the 14<sup>th</sup> century by the Venetians, then by the French, and then by the Ottomans, and was abandoned in the late Middle



The walls surrounding Dubrovnik, Croatia

© Diego Delso



© Ratomir Wilkowski

Ages. Walk along the winding paths to discover its monuments, get a great view from the acropolis, and visit the site museum. (B,L,D)

**Thursday, September 26: AM Olympia tour | PM cruising | Pylos**

AM drive from Katakolon to ancient Olympia, a UNESCO World Heritage site. See the ruins of the enormous Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Hera, the Prytaneion, and the famous stadium, and visit the site museum. PM cruising to Pylos, where the evening is at leisure. (B,L,D)

**Friday, September 27: AM Ancient Messene & Mavromati OR Neo Kastro & Methoni | PM at leisure**

AM choice of two excursions (included), either to ancient Messene or the castles of Neo Kastro and Methoni. Those who choose well-preserved Messene, which dates back to 146 B.C., will see its theater,

3<sup>rd</sup>-century temple, sanctuary, and Byzantine monastery. Then drive a short distance to Mavromati village for a coffee break and panoramic view of Messene. Those who choose instead to visit nearby castles will drive to the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Neo Kastro ("New Castle"), which houses an archaeological museum and is one of the best-preserved castles in Greece; and to the vast, 13<sup>th</sup>-century Venetian castle of Methoni. PM at leisure. Dinner is aboard ship this evening. (B,L,D)

**Saturday, September 28: AM Monemvasia walking tour | PM cruising | Hydra**

AM walking tour of the lower town of medieval Monemvasia, along narrow, cobbled streets, and visit the 13<sup>th</sup>-century Church of Christos Elkomenos (Christ Chained to the Cross). Those who are up to the challenge can climb to see another 13<sup>th</sup>-century treasure, the ethereal Agia Sofia, with views over the sea and lower town. PM cruising to the charming island of Hydra, where the evening is at leisure. (B,L,D)

**Sunday, September 29: Disembarkation\* | AM Athens: Acropolis & Acropolis Museum | PM at leisure**

Disembark in Piraeus and drive into Athens for an AM visit to the Acropolis (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and nearby Acropolis Museum. Ascend the Acropolis's rocky hill dominated by the majestic Parthenon, surrounded by other architectural masterpieces such as the Erechtheion, with its beautiful Karyatid Porch; and the Temple of Athena Nike (Winged Victory). A short walk down the street brings you to the excellent Acropolis Museum for a guided tour. Lunch and the balance of the day are at leisure in Athens. *Overnight at the 4-star King George Hotel for two nights.* (B)

*\*Nancy Wilkie and travelers booked on the Grand Voyage program do not disembark today – they have an AM excursion exploring Byzantine Athens and, this afternoon, new fellow travelers join them aboard Aegean Odyssey to begin the Classical Greece & Islands of the Aegean program.*

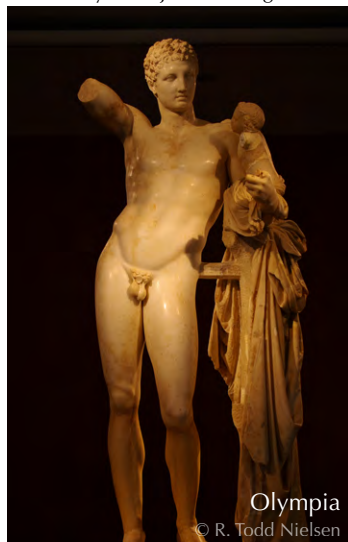
**Monday, September 30: Athens: Day at leisure OR optional AM National Archaeological Museum visit**

Full day at leisure in Athens. Those who prefer may choose to join an optional AM excursion (*at an additional cost*) to the National Archaeological Museum, and then have the PM at leisure in Athens. (B)

**Tuesday, October 1: Fly home**

Transfer this morning to Athens International Airport (ATH) for independent flights homeward. (B)

Itinerary is subject to change.



Olympia

© R. Todd Nielsen



Dubrovnik

Beyond Silence



Monemvasia

© R. Todd Nielsen



Athens

© R. Todd Nielsen

# CLASSICAL GREECE & ISLANDS OF THE AEGEAN

September 24 - October 7, 2019 (14 days)

with Nancy Wilkie

(from September 29 – October 7, 2019)

## ITINERARY

(B)=Breakfast, (L)=Lunch, (D)=Dinner

### Tuesday, September 24, 2019: Depart home

Depart home on independent flights to Athens.

### Wednesday, September 25: Arrive Athens, GREECE

Arrive at Athens International Airport (ATH) and transfer to our hotel in the heart of Athens. The balance of the day is at leisure.

*Overnight at the 4-star King George Hotel for two nights.*

### Thursday, September 26: Athens: AM Acropolis & Acropolis Museum | PM at leisure

AM visit to the Acropolis (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and nearby Acropolis Museum. Ascend the Acropolis's rocky hill dominated by the majestic Parthenon, which is surrounded by other architectural masterpieces such as the Erechtheion, with its beautiful Karyatid Porch; and the Temple of Athena Nike (Winged Victory). A short walk down the street brings us to the excellent Acropolis Museum for a guided tour. Lunch and the balance of the day are at leisure in Athens. (B)

### Friday, September 27: Hosios Loukas | Delphi

AM drive to Delphi, stopping along the way for lunch and to visit the Byzantine Hosios Loukas Monastery, a UNESCO World Heritage site. At ancient Delphi, a UNESCO World Heritage site spectacularly located on the slopes of Mt. Parnassus, we walk up the "Sacred Way," past the treasuries, Temple of Apollo, and theater to the stadium. Also visit the site museum. Gather for dinner this evening. *Overnight at the 4-star Amalia Hotel Delphi.* (B,L,D)

### Saturday, September 28: Mycenae | Nauplio

AM drive to the Peloponnese peninsula, via the Rio-Antirrio Bridge. Visit Bronze Age Mycenae, one of the greatest citadels of the Mycenaean civilization and today a UNESCO World Heritage site. After lunch we drive to the picturesque port town of Nauplio and check-in to our hotel. Gather for dinner this evening. *Overnight at the 4-star Amalia Hotel Nauplio.* (B,L,D)

### Sunday, September 29: Epidaurus | Piraeus | Embark Aegean Odyssey

AM drive to Epidaurus, a UNESCO World Heritage site with a 14,000-seat theater whose acoustics are so perfect that it is said you can hear a pin drop from the highest tier. After lunch we drive to the port of Piraeus and embark the *Aegean Odyssey*, where we are joined by *Grand Voyage* travelers and AIA lecturer Nancy Wilkie, who will accompany us for the balance of the program. *Overnight aboard the Aegean Odyssey for eight nights.* (B,L,D)

### Monday, September 30: Santorini: Oia, Akrotiri & Pyrgos OR Oia & Argyros Winery

Full day on the breathtaking island of Santorini, with a choice of two excursions (included). First, take a local boat to shore and drive to the picturesque village of Oia. Those who choose the Akrotiri excursion will visit the vast, recently-reopened Bronze Age site of Akrotiri and have lunch at a local taverna in the tiny town of Pyrgos. Those who choose the Argyros Winery excursion drive from Oia to the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Monastery of Profitis Ilias, and then to the wine estate. After some wine-tasting, have lunch at a taverna in the village of Monolithos. Everyone ends the day in the scenic capital of Fira for time at leisure before returning to our ship via cable car and local boat. (B,L,D)

### Tuesday, October 1: October 2: Heraklion, Crete: AM Palace of Knossos & Heraklion Archaeological Museum | PM at leisure OR optional excursion to Archanes

AM drive to the partially-reconstructed Bronze Age Palace of Knossos. Our guided tour will take us through this legend-rich Minoan site, and then we return to Heraklion for a tour of its



\*Those traveling on the *Grand Voyage* will not visit these sites.



Archaeological Museum, housing an extraordinary collection of Minoan artifacts. PM at leisure in Heraklion  
OR you may choose to join an optional excursion (*at an additional cost*) to the traditional village of Archanes to visit its Archaeological Museum, take a guided walk through the village, and enjoy some time to explore independently. Return to Heraklion with a stop along the way at the lovely village of Vathypetro. (B,L,D)

**Wednesday, October 2: Agios Nikolaos, Crete**

Explore sites around the town of Agios Nikolaos. Itinerary details are pending at press time. (B,L,D)

**Thursday, October 3: Karpathos: AM island villages tour & PM at leisure OR optional full-day island excursion**

AM tour of Karpathos's old capital of Aperi, still one of the largest villages on the island. Drive to Othos and visit the wonderful folklore museum, which carefully replicates a traditional island dwelling with artifacts of daily life on display; the village of Pyles, to visit an open-air agricultural museum; and the lovely fishing village of Finiki. Also visit the village of Arkassa's Church of Agia Sophia, one of the oldest on the island; and make a final stop at The Church of the Assumption of the Virgin, dramatically poised on the edge of a steep rock.

PM at leisure OR those who prefer a full-day program may instead join an optional excursion (*at an additional cost*) to recapture the traditional journey (by boat) from the coastal, ancient Doric city of Vrykounda to an inland, fortified settlement that was established in the 6<sup>th</sup> century to evade pirates. On our guided tour of the village of Olympos we visit a traditional house and museum, watch a shoemaker at work, and visit a Byzantine church. After some time at leisure we return to Pigadia by boat and re-join our ship. (B,L,D)

**Friday, October 4: Rhodes: AM Rhodes Town OR Acropolis at Lindos | PM at leisure**

AM choice of two excursions (included) on the island of Rhodes. Those who choose to explore medieval Rhodes Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, visit the restored Grand Master's Palace, the first building of the 14<sup>th</sup>-century Crusaders; stroll the cobblestoned Street of the Knights; and explore the 15<sup>th</sup>-century Knights Hospital, now an archaeological museum. Alternatively, you may choose to drive to the Acropolis at Lindos, surrounded by 12<sup>th</sup>-century Crusader fortifications, where at the summit is the Doric (Greek) Temple of Lindian Athena dating from the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C. PM at leisure. (B,L,D)



© Greece Tourist Board

Rhodes Harbor



Bernard Gagnon

Delos



Athens

© R. Todd Nielsen

**Saturday, October 5: Nisyros: AM island tour | PM at leisure**

AM visit to the largest of Nisyros's volcanic craters. Descend into this otherworldly landscape, as steam rises from bubbling fumaroles and the smell of sulphur fills the air. The tiny village of Nikia is perched right on the lip of the caldera and is among Greece's most traditional villages. After exploring Nikia and enjoying wonderful views in all directions, stop at an abandoned natural spa en route to our ship. PM at leisure. (B,L,D)

**Sunday, October 6: Delos walking tour | Mykonos**

AM tender transfer from our ship to the tiny, deserted isle of Delos. Our guided tour takes us from the Sacred Harbor to the Agora, the Sanctuary of Apollo, and along the spectacular Avenue of the Lions. Return to the ship and enjoy lunch as we cruise to the nearby island of Mykonos. PM at leisure. (B,L,D)

**Monday, October 7: Piraeus | Disembarkation | Fly home**

AM disembarkation at the port of Piraeus. Transfer to Athens International Airport (ATH) for independent flights homeward. (B)

Itinerary is subject to change.

# GRAND VOYAGE: ADRIATIC & AEGEAN SEAS

September 18 - October 7, 2019 (20 days)

with Nancy Wilkie

Combine both the Adriatic and Aegean cruises for this grand, 20-day voyage and enjoy **FREE AIRFARE**

Begin your journey with travelers on the *Dalmatia & Ancient Greece* voyage.

Wed., Sept. 18, 2019	Depart home: <b>Fly to Venice</b> International Airport Marco Polo (VCE)
Thurs., Sept. 19	<b>Arrive Venice, ITALY   Embark the <i>Aegean Odyssey</i> for eighteen nights (L,D)</b>
Fri., Sept. 20	AM <b>Venice walking tour</b> or <b>Lagoon excursion</b>   PM at leisure in Venice (B,L,D)
Sat., Sept. 21	<b>Urbino: AM walking tour</b>   PM at leisure (B,D)
Sun., Sept. 22	AM <b>Split, CROATIA: Diocletian's Palace</b>   PM at leisure or <b>optional Salona &amp; Trogir excursion</b> (B,L,D)
Mon., Sept. 23	AM <b>Korcula walking tour</b>   <b>Cruise past Hvar &amp; Brac</b>   PM at leisure in Dubrovnik (B,L,D)
Tues., Sept. 24	AM <b>Dubrovnik walking tour</b>   PM <b>cruising Kotor Bay</b> (B,L,D)
Wed., Sept. 25	<b>Sarande, ALBANIA   Butrint</b> (B,L,D)
Thurs., Sept. 26	<b>Katakolon, GREECE</b>   AM <b>ancient Olympia and site museum</b>   Cruise to <b>Pylos</b>   Evening at leisure in Pylos (B,L,D)
Fri., Sept. 27	AM <b>Ancient Messene &amp; Mavromati</b> OR <b>Neo Kastro &amp; Methoni</b>   PM at leisure in Pylos (B,L,D)
Sat., Sept. 28	AM <b>Monemvasia walking tour</b>   Cruise to <b>Hydra</b>   Evening at leisure on <b>Hydra</b> (B,L,D)

*Dalmatia & Ancient Greece* travelers disembark, *Grand Voyage* travelers continue on as a group.

Sun., Sept. 29	<b>Piraeus   Athens: Byzantine and Christian Museum &amp; Monastery of Kaisariani   Piraeus</b> (B,L,D)
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Continue your journey with travelers on the *Classical Greece & Islands of the Aegean* voyage.

Mon., Sept. 30	<b>Santorini: Oia, Minoan ruins at Akrotiri &amp; Pyrgos</b> OR <b>Oia &amp; Argyros Winery</b> (B,L,D)
Tues., Oct. 1	<b>Heraklion, Crete: AM Palace of Knossos &amp; Heraklion Archaeological Museum</b>   PM at leisure OR <b>optional excursion to Archanes</b> (B,L,D)
Wed., Oct. 2	<b>Crete: Explore sites around Agios Nikolaos</b> (B,L,D)
Thurs., Oct. 3	<b>Karpathos: AM island villages tour</b> & PM at leisure OR <b>optional full-day island excursion</b> (B,L,D)
Fri., Oct. 4	Rhodes: AM <b>Rhodes Old Town</b> OR <b>ancient Acropolis at Lindos</b>   PM at leisure (B,L,D)
Sat., Oct. 5	<b>Nisyros: AM island tour volcanic craters, village of Nikia, and natural spa</b>   PM at leisure (B,L,D)
Sun., Oct. 6	<b>Ancient Delos walking tour</b>   PM at leisure on <b>Mykonos</b> (B,L,D)
Mon., Oct. 7	<b>Disembarkation   Fly home</b> from Athens International Airport (ATH) (B)



From top, Solin (Salona), Croatia; Santorini, Greece; Lindos, Rhodes, Greece; Delos, Greece.

Itinerary is subject to change.

For questions and reservations: 800-748-6262 | aia@studytours.org | www.aiatours.org