Minoan Crete
& the Cycladic Islands

September 24 - October 8, 2023 (15 days | 16 guests)
with archaeologist Joanne Murphy

Archaeology-focused tours for the curious to the connoisseur.
Step back in time to explore the island of Crete, center of the Minoan civilization during the Bronze Age, as well as the nearby Cycladic Islands of Santorini, Mykonos, and Delos. Marvel at the physical evidence of this first advanced civilization in Europe, which created palace complexes, stunning works of art, a unique writing system called Linear A, and an extensive trade network. You will stay in comfortable, five-star hotels, perfect for exploring or just relaxing, with nine nights on Crete in the capital city of Heraklion and in the coastal town of Agios Nikolaos; plus two nights on whitewashed Santorini and two nights on chic Mykonos.

Highlights include:

- All four known major Minoan palaces in eastern Crete: Phaistos, Malia, Zakros and, of course, legendary Knossos.
- Santorini’s ancient Minoan town of Akrotiri, which was well-preserved for millennia under volcanic ash and today paints a picture of life before the island’s 2nd-millennium B.C. eruption.
- The island of Delos, most sacred of the islands in the ancient Aegean, which grew from a sanctuary of Apollo into a major hub of commerce.
- Crete’s nearby islands of Mochlos, with a long archaeological past including a Minoan town; and Spinalonga, a former leper colony with a 16th-century Venetian fortress.
- A variety of Minoan villas, houses, and towns, including the “royal villa” of Agia Triada, the houses at Tylissos, and the vast towns of Palaikastro and Gournia.
- Several excellent museums, including the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, housing the world’s finest collection of Minoan art and artifacts; the Museum of Cretan Ethnology in Voroi; and the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, with a stunning collection of artifacts and wall paintings from the ancient site of Akrotiri.
- The beauty of the cliffside, whitewashed town of Fira, Santorini; and the chic shops and narrow lanes of Chora, Mykonos.
- In addition to your knowledgeable and congenial AIA study leader, you will be accompanied by a professional tour manager and an expert local guide who will handle all of the logistics so you can relax, enjoy, and learn.

“This was my 5th AIA tour and I keep coming back because the experience is always excellent and the groups congenial... This intensive educational experience in the company of a fantastic team of the tour manager, expert guide, AIA lecturer, and interesting fellow tour members was a fantastic experience.”

- Susan, Virginia
Sunday, September 24, 2023: Depart home for Heraklion, Crete, Greece

Monday, September 25: Arrive Heraklion | Transfer to hotel | PM at leisure | Welcome reception
Upon arrival at Heraklion’s Nikos Kazantzakis International Airport (HER), you are met for a private transfer to our hotel. Enjoy some time to relax and settle in. Gather this evening for a welcome reception with your lecturer. Dinner is on your own. **Overnight at the 5-star Megaron Hotel (or similar) for four nights.** (R)

Tuesday, September 26: Heraklion: AM walking tour, PM Archaeological Museum | Welcome dinner
After an introductory lecture, we take a morning walking tour through Heraklion’s “old city,” surrounded by fortification walls initially built by the Arabs and later reinforced in the 15th century by the Venetians. Along the way, enjoy a tasting of *bougatsa* (a Greek breakfast pastry) and Greek coffee. After lunch, tour the celebrated Heraklion Archaeological Museum, which houses the world’s finest collection of Minoan art and artifacts. Return to our hotel and gather this evening for a short walk to a local restaurant for our welcome dinner. **(B,L,D)**

Wednesday, September 27: Phaistos | Agia Triada | Voroi: Museum of Cretan Ethnology | Heraklion
Begin the day with a visit to the ruins of the Minoan palace at Phaistos, a center of Minoan civilization that was destroyed in the 15th century B.C. and one of four recognized major Minoan palaces in eastern Crete. (We will also visit the others—Knossos, Malia, and Zakros—over the next few days.) Continue on to the nearby Minoan “royal villa” of Agia Triada. After lunch we tour the Museum of Cretan Ethnology in Voroi to learn more about the people who have called this island home. Return to Heraklion, where we gather this evening for dinner at a local restaurant. **(B,L,D)**

Thursday, September 28: Tylissos | Prinias Sanctuary | Gortyn | Heraklion
This morning we drive to the archaeological site at Tylissos, where we find the ruins of three luxurious Minoan houses decorated with frescoes and tablets, and outfitted with a water supply system that attests to the city’s importance at one time. We then continue on to the peak sanctuary of Prinias, whose 7th-century B.C. Temple A is the earliest known sculpture-decorated building in ancient Greece. After lunch in Zaros we visit the famous Greco-Roman site of Gortyn, which became the dominant city in the region after

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Phaistos fell, later became Roman and was the first city on Crete to accept Christianity, and persisted into the 9th century A.D. Return to our hotel in Heraklion, where the evening is at leisure. (B,L)

Friday, September 29: Knossos | Malia | Agios Nikolaos
Set out this morning for a visit to the legendary, partially-reconstructed Minoan palace at Knossos, rich in imagination thanks not only to its associated myth of the Minotaur and labyrinth but also to the excavation and reconstruction efforts of Sir Arthur Evans in the early 20th century. We drive east along Crete's northern coast, stopping to explore the ruins of the Minoan palace at Malia, before stopping for lunch in the village of Limnes. Continue on to Agios Nikolaos and check-in to our hotel before enjoying dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight at the 5-star Wyndham Grand Crete Mirabello Bay hotel for five nights. (B,L,D)

Saturday, September 30: Archaeological Museum of Sitia | Zakros | Palaikastro | Toplou Monastery | Agios Nikolaos
Drive to Sitia to explore its little-visited archaeological museum, whose most impressive artifacts are from the Minoan palace at Zakros and the Minoan city of Palaikastro, both of which we visit after the museum. End the day at the imposing, 15th-century Toplou Monastery, which houses important frescoes, icons, and a museum of religious objects. Return to Agios Nikolaos for an evening at leisure. (B,L)

Sunday, October 1: Panagia Kera | Lato | Kritsa | Agios Nikolaos
Start the day with a drive to Kritsa to visit the tiny Church of Panagia Kera, which houses Crete's best-preserved Byzantine frescoes, some as old as the 13th century. Next, explore the ancient, fortified, hilltop city of Lato, one of the best-preserved sites on Crete that postdates the Minoan era. In fact, this Dorian Greek site dates back to the 7th century B.C., and was in use until approximately the 2nd century A.D. Drive back to Kritsa for lunch and some free time to explore. Return to Agios Nikolaos, where the evening is at leisure. (B,L)

Monday, October 2: Gournia | Mochlos | Vasiliki | Agios Nikolaos
This morning we drive to the well-excavated and -preserved Minoan town of Gournia, where we may best envision life in a Late Bronze Age (c. 1500 B.C.) town as we stroll cobbled streets among the ruins of some 50 houses, a small Minoan palace, and a cemetery. We then take a short boat ride to the island of Mochlos, where complex archaeological remains ranging from 3000 B.C. to the 10th century A.D. have been found, including a Minoan town (c. 1700-1430 B.C.) and a Mycenaean village and cemetery (c. 1400-1250 B.C.). We return by boat to Crete proper and, after lunch, we explore the ruins of Vasiliki, one of the first Minoan settlements with town planning. Return to Agios Nikolaos, where we take a walking tour and then have dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, October 3: Areti Monastery | Spinalonga | Agios Nikolaos
Begin the day with a visit to Areti Monastery, which was established in the 16th century and re-established and restored in the 20th century. Afterward, we take a short boat ride from Plaka to the picturesque island of Spinalonga, which is home to a 16th-century Venetian fortress and was a leper colony for the first half of the 20th century. Return by boat to Plaka, where we have some time on our own to explore. We return to Agios Nikolaos for the balance of the day at leisure. (B,L)
Wednesday, October 4: Heraklion | Ferry to Santorini | PM at leisure
This morning we return to Heraklion to catch a high-speed ferry to Santorini (a.k.a. Thera), one of the world’s most breathtaking islands, dotted with whitewashed houses and churches perched on cliffs nearly 1,000 feet above the sea and its huge, drowned volcanic crater (caldera). After arriving at our hotel on the outskirts of the capital, Fira, lunch and the afternoon are at leisure; explore independently the nearby town center’s narrow cobbled streets lined with shops and/or enjoy our hotel’s amenities and views. We dine together at a local restaurant this evening. *Overnight at the 5-star Orama Hotel & Spa for two nights.* (B,D)

Thursday, October 5: Akrotiri | Fira: Museum of Prehistoric Thera
Spend the morning exploring Santorini’s “Pompeii,” the haunting Minoan town of Akrotiri, preserved for millennia under volcanic ash, now excavated and protected with a roof. Navigate the town via wooden walkways among three-storey buildings and traces of life from before the eruption. Drive to Fira for lunch and to explore the superb Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which displays striking frescoes and various artifacts from Akrotiri. The balance of the day is at leisure to enjoy Fira and/or our hotel’s amenities. (B,L)

Friday, October 6: Ferry to Mykonos | PM at leisure
After a relaxed morning (pending the ferry schedule) at our hotel, we take a high-speed ferry from Santorini to the island of Mykonos. Our hotel is located in the center of the island’s capital of Chora. The balance of the day is at leisure to enjoy our hotel’s amenities and/or explore independently Chora’s many upscale shops, art galleries, and seaside cafes. *Overnight at the 5-star Semeli Hotel for two nights.* (B)

Saturday, October 7: Delos | Mykonos: PM at leisure | Farewell dinner
Take a short ferry ride to the nearby sacred island of Delos, legendary birthplace of the twin gods Apollo and Artemis and today a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Delos was considered the most sacred island in the ancient Aegean, and the entire, albeit small, island is an archaeological site. After a thorough walk around the ruins of the sanctuary of Apollo and the town, as well as a visit to the small site museum, we return to Mykonos by ferry. Enjoy lunch and the afternoon at leisure. In the evening, we gather one last time for a farewell dinner. (B,D)

Sunday, October 8: Transfer to Mykonos Airport | Fly home
You are met at the hotel for a private transfer to Mykonos Airport (JMK) for your flights homeward. (B)

The tour was a fabulous experience. Dr. Murphy gave great background lectures that helped give the sites we visited context, and was happy to discuss to all aspects of the sites and answers questions at all other times... The trip was wonderfully organized. Amazing experience.”
- Joan, New Jersey

The AIA and the AIA Tours Program
The Archaeological Institute of America (AIA) is the oldest and largest archaeological organization in North America. The AIA seeks to educate people of all ages about the significance of archaeological discovery. For more than a century the AIA has been dedicated to the encouragement and support of archaeological research and publication, and to the protection of the world’s archaeological resources and cultural heritage. By traveling on an AIA Tour you directly support the AIA while personally gaining the benefit of the AIA’s network of scholars and worldwide contacts.

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 Accommodations

Heraklion: Four nights at the 5-star Megaron Hotel

Agios Nikolaos: Five nights at the 5-star Wyndham Grand Crete Mirabello Bay

Santorini: Two nights at the 5-star Orama Hotel & Spa

Mykonos: Two nights at the 5-star Semeli Hotel

ACTIVE: Must be able to walk three or more miles per day on mostly uneven terrain, and up and down inclines and steps.

What to Expect
You must be able to make long walks, unassisted, over uneven terrain and up and down step. Some sites require strenuous and/or brisk walking or climbing, sometimes with difficult footing. Participants who are not able to walk or stand unassisted for extended periods are kindly advised not to join this tour. All participants are expected to be physically active and not be an impediment to others on excursions, to enjoy traveling as part of a group, and to be ready to experience cultural differences. Note that there is no porterage service on the two high-speed ferries and you will have to trundle your own luggage, so we advise you not to travel with more than you can handle independently under such conditions. All participants will be required to follow safety/sanitization protocols set forth by Sponsors/Operator, local staff, and host country laws. If the tour manager decides that a participant cannot visit a site safely or in a timely manner, their judgment will be final. Where possible, an alternate activity may be suggested; additional costs may apply. If you have any questions about your ability to participate, we suggest that you visit your personal physician with this brochure in hand and discuss whether or not this program is appropriate for you. Hotels have been chosen for their excellent locations and generous comfort. Included meals are of a very high quality. Average temperatures in early autumn range from the low 60s F at night to the mid-70s F during the day. Complete pre-departure details, including up-to-date Covid-related protocols, will be sent to participants.
Tour Prices Per Person (13 nights)

DOUBLE Occupancy (14-16 participants) .................. $9,495
DOUBLE Occupancy (11-13 participants) .................. $9,895
SINGLE Supplement .............................................. $1,895

Single room supplement will be charged when requested or required (limited availability). With fewer than 11 participants, a small group surcharge may be added.

Prices Include:

- Leadership of AIA lecturer and host Joanne Murphy, a professional tour manager, and an expert local guide throughout
- Thirteen nights at comfortable, well-located, 5-star hotels
- Delicious meals: breakfast daily; 9 lunches; and 6 dinners, including welcome and farewell dinners. All meals include bottled water or soft drinks plus coffee/tea, and wine is included with group dinners
- Excursions and sightseeing as per itinerary
- Ground transportation by modern, air-conditioned coach, including bottled water; and high-speed, business class ferry tickets between Heraklion and Santorini, and Santorini and Mykonos
- Private arrival and departure airport transfers
- All gratuities to the tour manager, guide(s), drivers, waiters for included meals, and hotel porters
- Baggage handling at hotels
- VAT, local taxes, and service charges
- Comprehensive pre-departure information, including a suggested reading/media guide, travel guide, and packing list

Prices Do Not Include: Airfare from/to home; passport and visa fees; airport fees and departure taxes; cost of personal, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; transportation of excess baggage; personal tips; items of a personal nature, such as medical expenses, laundry, taxi, telephone, and fax charges; meals and beverages except as noted; optional excursions or deviations from scheduled tour; other items not listed as included.

Payments: A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve your space and is payable by Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or check made payable to “EOS-Passenger Account-AIA Crete 9/23.” Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure and must be by check, ACH transfer, or wire transfer only; credit cards are not accepted for final payment. By submitting your deposit you are bound by the terms and conditions delineated throughout this brochure and elsewhere published.

Participant Cancellation Fees: All requests by participants for cancellations must be received in writing by AIA Tours. Cancellations received at least 180 days prior to departure (March 28, 2023) are fully refunded. Cancellations received from 179 days through 90 days (June 26, 2023) prior to departure are refunded less a cancellation fee of $250 per person. Cancellations received from 89 days through 61 days prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee equal to 50% of the tour cost. Cancellations received 60 days or less prior to departure are subject to a cancellation fee of 100% of the tour cost. For this and other reasons, participants are strongly encouraged to purchase trip cancellation insurance. Information will be provided with confirmation of receipt of your deposit.

Note: Prices are based on tariffs and exchange rates in effect at the time of publication and are subject to change prior to departure. Substantial changes in tariffs, exchange rates, and the price of fuel, services, and labor may increase the cost of arrangements significantly, and we reserve the right to alter our prices.

Flights & Transfers

Airfare from/to home is not included. Private transfers are included on your arrival at Heraklion International Airport (HER) and for departure from Mykonos Airport (JMK). Your flight itinerary must be provided to our office prior to the tour. Once you have received your final payment invoice, you should book your flights. If you are considering booking non-refundable airline tickets before this time, please contact our office first. We do not accept any liability for cancellation penalties related to domestic or international airline tickets.
Minoan Crete & the Cycladic Islands

September 24-October 8, 2023 (15 days | 16 guests) with archaeologist Joanne Murphy

“Our AIA Tour was so well organized. I enjoyed all the ruins and also the small group.”

- Dorothy, California
To fill out an online reservation form, click here. Or, print and mail or fax this form to the address below.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA TOURS

RESERVATION FORM

MINOAN CRETE & THE CYCLADIC ISLANDS
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with archaeologist Joanne Murphy

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or aia@studytours.org.

Name 1
(As it appears on passport)

Name 2
(As it appears on passport)

Address

City       State       Zip

Phone (home)       Phone (cell)

Email(s)

☐ I/We have read the ‘What to Expect’ section and am/are physically able to participate fully on the program.

Are you traveling with any other parties on this program? Yes, _____________________________________________________

How did you hear about this tour? ☐ eNewsletter ☐ mailing ☐ website ☐ friends/family ☐ other ___________________________

ACCOMMODATIONS:
(Accommodation preferences are not guaranteed.)

☐ Double (one bed) ☐ Twin (two beds) ☐ Single

☐ I will be sharing with: ______________________________

☐ Share - please assign a roommate (not guaranteed)

☐ Please share my contact information with potential roommate(s).

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENT:
A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to confirm a reservation. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Please note that credit cards are not accepted for final payment. You will receive an invoice for final payment. All prices and payments are in US dollars.

DEPOSIT TYPE (please check one):

☐ Check payable to: EOS Passenger Account–AIA Crete9/23 ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express ☐ Already paid by phone

CC#

Exp. Date       3- or 4-Digit Code

Name on Card

Please complete this reservation form, choose/enclose your method of deposit, and sign the release statement.

Submit via email, mail, or fax to:

AIA Tours - P.O. Box 938, Walpole, NH 03608-0938
Fax: 603-756-2922 • Email: aia@studytours.org

By signing this form, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to all Terms & Conditions delineated throughout.

Signature (participant #1)                  Date

Signature (participant #2)                  Date

(EOS Passenger Account–AIA Crete9/23)

To hold your reservation for seven days while this form and your deposit are in the mail, please contact us at 800-748-6262 or aia@studytours.org.
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RESPONSIBILITY: The Archaeological Institute of America and its agent, Eos Study Tours, and its and their employees, shareholders, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers, directors or trustees, successors, and assigns (hereinafter “Sponsors/Operator”), and the tour operator and/or its agents (collectively “Sponsors/Operator”) do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip including, for example, lodging facilities; airline, vessel, or other transportation companies; guides or guide services; local ground operators; providers or organizers of optional excursions; food service or entertainment providers; etc. All such persons and entities are independent contractors. As a result, Sponsors/Operator are not liable for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person or of any other third party. In addition and without limitation, Sponsors/Operator are not responsible for any injury, loss, death, inconvenience, delay, or damage to person or property in connection with the provision of any goods or services whether resulting from, but not limited to, acts of force majeure; acts of God; acts of government; acts of war or civil unrest, insurrection, or revolt; bites from or attacks by animals, insects, or pests; strikes or other labor activities; criminal or terrorist activities of any kind or the threat thereof; sickness, illn...