

Duke
TRAVELS

With Professor in Classical Studies
& Schiff Family Dean of Humanities
and the Arts, **WILLIAM A. JOHNSON**

TREASURES OF GREECE: A Cultural and Culinary Journey

May 16-29, 2024



Santorini

Dear Duke Travelers,

We invite you to join a special cultural and culinary journey to Greece, **curated exclusively for Duke Travels**, that explores the ancient monuments of Athens and three of the most beautiful islands in the Aegean: Naxos, Santorini and Crete. Our itinerary invites you to linger longer on these islands to experience their culture and sample the foods and wines that have made Greece and its islands famous the world over. **This 12-night journey is truly a feast for the senses with special arrangements that you will find nowhere elsewhere.**

Immerse yourself in the rich legacy of the Classical Age epitomized by the incomparable Parthenon in Athens. Byzantine churches and ancient temples in the Naxos countryside vie for your attention with the Venetian architecture of the island's charming capital. Santorini invites you to explore the miraculously preserved Bronze Age site of Akrotiri, while on Crete, Minoan palaces share pride of place with Venetian and Ottoman influences.

In addition to these celebrated historic sites, you will take time throughout the journey to savor the bounty of the region's cuisines, as you dine in specially curated restaurants in Athens and on all three islands committed to locally-sourced, farm-to-table fare. You will also visit producers and see how local specialties—olive oil, cheeses, and even a liqueur—are produced, followed always by a tasting. And then there are the wines: every dinner will include wine from local vineyards, and you will visit an award-winning winery in Santorini, known for its dry whites.

Accompanying you throughout will be **Duke Professor William Johnson**, the Schiff Family Dean of Humanities and the Arts, who will share some of his insights on a variety of topics of ancient culture, insights gathered from a distinguished career of scholarship and teaching the Classics.

We hope you will be able to join Professor Johnson and fellow Duke alumni, parents and friends next spring on this marvelous cultural and culinary journey among the Treasures of Greece.

Forever Duke,



Beth Ray-Schroeder '83
Senior Director, Duke Travels
Duke Alumni Engagement and Development

What past travelers have to say... *"The itinerary and the emphasis on smaller and locally embedded hotels and restaurants gave a great flavor of Greece...the trip surpassed all our expectations."*
– Dr. Gary Gereffi P'06 and faculty leader on Duke's *"Greece Through the Ages,"* April 2023

FACULTY

WILLIAM A. JOHNSON,
Professor in Classical Studies & Schiff Family Dean
of Humanities and the Arts at Duke University



William A. Johnson, (profwilliamjohnson.com), BA Oberlin College, MA UNC Chapel Hill, PhD Yale University, works broadly in the cultural history of Greece and Rome, with particular interest in ancient books, readers, and reading, and with a general interest in how literary pursuits

intersect with cultural context in antiquity. Among his books is the seminal work, *Readers and Reading Culture in the Roman High Empire* (Oxford, 2010).

He has lectured and published on Plato, Hesiod, Herodotus, Pliny (both Elder and Younger), Gellius, Lucian, and on a wide variety of cultural topics centering on ancient Greece and Rome. Other work has focused on ancient music; he produced the *editio princeps* for two of the very rare papyrus documents containing ancient Greek music (see his Ancient Music Web Site). His most recent work focuses on the sometimes sordid, always complicated histories that devolve from modern acquisitions of ancient manuscripts.

Among his work is a book-length introduction to Herodotus, the ancient historian who is our original witness to the events and stories around the battle of Marathon — he particularly looks forward to exploring with Duke Travelers the ways that a place like Marathon becomes a crucible for the forging of the story of the Greeks and the rise of their cultural preeminence.

Johnson has published 5 books, over 40 articles, and has given more than 50 invited lectures to national and international audiences. He teaches a wide range of Greek and Latin topics to undergraduate and graduate audiences at Duke University. He presently serves as the Schiff Family Dean of Humanities and the Arts at Duke.



Olive oil tasting, Crete



ITINERARY



Thursday, May 16

DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Friday, May 17

ATHENS, Greece

Arrive in Athens and transfer to the *Hotel Athens Capital*, conveniently located just off of Syntagma Square. This evening, gather with fellow Duke travelers for dinner at the restaurant of the Acropolis Museum. (D)

Saturday, May 18

ATHENS

Tour the Agora, the civic and commercial center of ancient Athens and the living heart of its democracy. It was here that Socrates could be seen daily questioning the assumptions of his fellow citizens. The carefully restored remains include the 5th-century BC Temple of Hephaestus and the Hellenistic Stoa of Attalos, which houses the splendid Agora Museum. After lunch



at a local taverna, continue to the Acropolis. Explore the stunning architectural marvel of the Parthenon, built in the 5th-century BCE as a temple to the city's protector, the goddess Athena. Also tour the Acropolis Museum, an award-winning collection of artifacts from excavations of the Acropolis, housed in a state-of-the-art building specially designed for the purpose. (B,L,D)

Sunday, May 19

ATHENS

Today is devoted to discovery of the Athenian countryside. Begin with a drive to Marathon, site of the great battle in 490 BC between the large invading army of the Persian Empire and the much smaller force of mostly Athenian citizen-soldiers that resulted in the improbable victory of the Athenians. After exploring the site and visiting the museum, continue to Brauron, famous for its Sanctuary of Artemis Brauronia. Visit the site and the interesting museum displaying artifacts collected during its excavation. After lunch at a seaside taverna, stop at the villa of Ion Vorres, with its lovely gardens and adjoining museum of Greek art, before returning to the hotel in Athens. (B,L)

Monday, May 20

ATHENS/NAXOS

Explore in the morning the bustling main market of Athens and the narrow streets that surround the area, which are lined with small eating places and cafes that serve some of the most traditional and compelling food in the city. We will have a leisurely walking tour, and after lunch at an old-style restaurant that serves authentic Greek food, continue to the airport for the short flight to Naxos. The birthplace of Dionysus, and one of the loveliest of the Cycladic islands, Naxos is notable for its ancient history and monuments, distinctive old villages and churches, and a lush interior that supports a vibrant agriculture. Enjoy dinner and check in to the *Nissaki Beach Hotel*, home for the next three nights. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, May 21

NAXOS

Today is spent exploring the interior of the island, its ancient sites, monasteries, and quaint villages. Start at the Sanctuary of Dionysus, the main place of the cult of the god of wine ecstasy since deep antiquity. Continue to the village of Chalki, known for its distinctive handsome architecture. Here, we will visit one of the island's most important churches, the Protothronos, which dates back to the 6th-century, and the Vallindras Distillery that produces kitron, a liqueur made from citron leaves, a Naxian specialty since the 19th-century. Lunch will be served in Apiranthos, perhaps the most beautiful village on Naxos, perched on a cliff, its narrow winding lanes paved with marble. After lunch, visit one of the oldest and most revered religious centers in Greece, the small church of Panaghia Drosiani, with its series of cave-like chapels and fresco paintings. Before returning to the hotel, visit the site of an ancient marble quarry, where we see two unfinished monumental statues from around 570 BC. Dinner this evening will be at the Axiotissa restaurant, known for its use of locally sourced organic ingredients. (B,L,D)



The Acropolis looms over Plaka, Athens' oldest residential quarter.

Wednesday, May 22

NAXOS

Tour in the morning Chora, Naxos's capital town, its narrow alleyways fanning out from the Kastro, a fortress built by the Venetians, who ruled the island from 1207 to 1537. Visit the archaeological area of the Metropolis, 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, and then continue to the evocative Temple of Demeter, which was built in 530 BC. Naxos is the most fertile island in the Cyclades and is celebrated for its agricultural products, especially its cheeses. Visit an artisanal dairy farm that produces some of these cheeses, learn about their production, and enjoy the opportunity to taste some of them. After an afternoon spent at leisure, continue to discover the foods of Naxos with a cooking demonstration, followed by dinner. (B,D)

Thursday, May 23

NAXOS/SANTORINI

In the morning, board the fast *Seajet* to Santorini, one of the world's most iconic islands. Known in classical antiquity as Thera, during

the Bronze Age, the island was a flourishing trading center inhabited by a prosperous society. In the late 17th-century BC, a massive volcanic eruption collapsed half of the island and buried its main town in a thick layer of ash and pumice, thus preserving its houses, streets and squares as they existed 3,700 years ago. Upon arrival, explore the excavated ancient town, now called Akrotiri. Following lunch at a local restaurant, enjoy the afternoon at leisure to explore Fira, the island's main town, and its white-washed houses built along the caldera. Accommodations for the next two nights will be at the *Hotel Volcano View*. (B,L)

Friday, May 24

SANTORINI

This morning, visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which houses an amazing collection of artifacts excavated at Akrotiri, and then travel to the village of Oia on the northernmost tip of Santorini. One of the most beautiful, and therefore most photographed, spots in the Cyclades, Oia was lovingly restored following a devastating earthquake in 1956 and offers breathtaking views of the Aegean from its perch high atop a ridge of red rock. Wander the streets and admire the neo-classical houses of the ship captains and owners



Flower-filled Cretan countryside



Taverna Axiotissa, Naxos

who lived in this once important center of trade. Return to Fira, where the balance of the day is at leisure. (B)

Saturday, May 25

SANTORINI/CRETE

Santorini is well known for its wines, especially its dry whites. This morning, visit the Boutari Winery, a short distance south of Fira, and sample its award-winning vintages. Return to Fira for lunch at Theoni's Kitchen, a restaurant known for its home-made food, before transferring to the pier to board the fast *Seajet* for the journey to Heraklion, Crete. Upon arrival, enjoy dinner and then check in to the *Hotel Megaron*. (B,L,D)

Sunday, May 26

CRETE

Begin today with a drive to the south of the island to visit the Minoan palace of Phaestos (2nd millennium BC), which faces the fertile plain of Messara and Mount Ida, where, according to legend, Zeus was born. In the nearby village of Vori, visit the superb Museum of Cretan Ethnology, and then continue through the scenic Amari Valley to Agreco, an organic farm, where lunch will feature the famed Cretan cuisine. After lunch, continue to nearby Rethymno, one of Crete's most attractive towns, known for its architecture dating to the times when Crete was under Venetian and Ottoman rule. Return to the hotel late in the afternoon. (B,L)

Monday, May 27

CRETE

This morning, browse among the stalls of Heraklion's colorful market before attending a presentation on olive oil production and a tasting of locally pressed oils. Travel to the nearby village of Episkopi, where we will be greeted by representatives of Episkopi's Women's Cooperative, who have prepared a traditional Cretan lunch especially for us. The balance of the day is at leisure. (B,L)

Tuesday, May 28

CRETE

Today, explore the magnificent palace of Knossos, the largest and most impressive Minoan palace in Crete. Clustered around a spacious courtyard, the palace contains a maze of rooms, passages and stairways that probably inspired the concept of the labyrinth, home of the mythological Minotaur, half-man, half-bull. More than any other palace in Crete, Knossos reveals the brilliance and refinement of Minoan civilization. Also visit the superb Heraklion Archaeological Museum. The afternoon is at leisure, before joining fellow Duke travelers for a festive farewell dinner at the excellent Peskesi restaurant, dedicated to farm-to-table cuisine based on traditional Cretan foods sourced from its own organic farm. (B,D)

Wednesday, May 29

CRETE/HOMEWARD

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)



Prehistoric Town of Akrotiri, Santorini



Naxos is notable for the production of cheeses.



In the old town of Rethymno, Crete



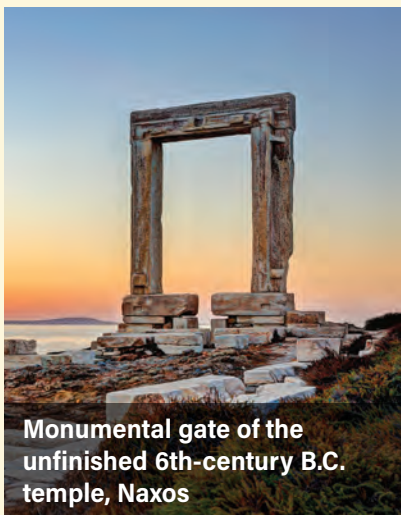
Dolmades (stuffed grape leaves) is one of Greece's most popular dishes

RATE PER PERSON

\$6,990 per person, double occupancy
Single room supplement: \$1,590

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations at deluxe hotels: Three nights at the *Hotel Athens Capital*, Athens; three nights at the *Nissaki Beach Hotel*, Naxos; two nights at the *Hotel Volcano View*, Santorini; four nights at the *Hotel Megaron*, in Crete.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Eight lunches and seven dinners, including wine or beer and soft drinks, at local restaurants and special venues, arranged exclusively for Duke Travels.
- Airfare from Athens to Naxos.
- Passage from Naxos to Santorini and Crete on the fast *Seajet* boat.
- All tours and excursions as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Expert English-speaking Guide/Tour Manager to accompany the tour throughout.
- Lectures by Duke Professor in Classical Studies & Schiff Family Dean of Humanities and the Arts, William A. Johnson.
- Transportation within Greece by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach.
- Group transfers and handling of luggage overseas at designated times from the airport to the hotel and hotel to the airport.
- Entrance fees to museums and historic sites.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Tips to drivers, guides, porters and restaurant personnel.
- Complete pre-departure material.



Monumental gate of the unfinished 6th-century B.C. temple, Naxos

REGISTRATION

DUKE 24L-0516

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ _____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on **TREASURES OF GREECE: A Cultural and Culinary Journey** May 16-29, 2024, 2024, with Duke Travels. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

To reserve your place, please contact **Duke Travels at (919) 684-2988 or duketravels@duke.edu**, or complete and return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person by mail with credit card or a check payable to **Thalassa Journeys** and mail with this registration form to:
Duke Travels, Box 90572, Durham, NC 27708-0572

If you mail in your reservation, please give Duke Travels a call so that space can be held.

AmEx Discover Visa Master Card
No. _____
Exp. _____ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code _____

Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation Double Bed Single Bed
 Single accommodation *Bed configuration cannot be guaranteed.*

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

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CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____

(CELL) _____

EMAIL _____

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

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

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.

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FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT DUKE TRAVELS AT (919) 684-2988 or duketravels@duke.edu

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Join **William A. Johnson**, Professor in Classical Studies & Schiff Family Dean of Humanities and the Arts on **TREASURES OF GREECE** | **May 16-29, 2024**

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Palace of Knossos, Crete

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