

The Archaeology of GREECE

WITH DR ROBERT GARLAND



FAR
HORIZONS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL TRIPS

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF GREECE

with Dr. Robert Garland

Northern Greece and The Peloponnese: Hellenistic, Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman Civilizations

It's difficult to imagine a more special journey than an archaeological tour of Greece. With its rugged beauty, Greece has long been a crossroads of history and a battleground of warring cultures. Its early history is utterly fascinating, from the internal struggles between the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations to the rise of city-states three millennia ago.

Under the leadership of Alexander the Great, these fragmented states united. Subsequently, they were designated a province by the Romans, flourished as a beacon of the Eastern Orthodox Christian world with the Byzantines, and became an integral part of the Ottoman Empire for four centuries.

Join Far Horizons on an immersive 16-day educational trip across Greece, exploring northern Greece and the Peloponnese Peninsula. Dive deep into both hidden and renowned archaeological treasures. Begin your cultural tour in Greece with three enriching days in Athens.

Throughout this adventure, indulge in delectable regional dishes, unwind in quaint boutique hotels, savor exquisite wines, and experience the warm hospitality of the Greek locals. Marvel at the grandeur of Byzantine monasteries in Meteora and Mystras. Traverse the iconic cities of Olympia, Delphi, Messini, and historic Thessaloniki, a city echoing over 2,000 years of civilization. Visit the awe-inspiring Sanctuary of Epidauros and the ancient cities of Corinth, Mycenae, and Tiryns.

This journey concludes with two days on Crete, the largest of the Greek Islands, known for its beautiful beaches, delicious cuisine, historic villages, and ancient ruins. From approximately 2800 BC to 1000 BC, Crete was the center of a brilliant civilization of mythical origin. As a result of its varied past, Crete's modern culture is a tapestry of traditions found nowhere else in the world. Our exploration of this fabled island includes a visit to Knossos, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

If you choose, you may join us to continue the journey and explore the island of Santorini.

Daily Itinerary

Day 1

Depart for Greece

Depart on a flight bound for Athens, Greece.

Day 2

Athens

Athens has been a city for more than 3,500 years and much of the glory of ancient Greece is found in the many monuments that still survive. Upon arrival, transfer to our hotel located in the city center, our home for the next three nights. After lunch on our own, we will enjoy a historical walking tour and stop at the Byzantine Museum, housing more than 25,000 exhibits with rare collections of pictures, scriptures, frescoes, pottery, fabrics, manuscripts, and copies of artifacts from the 3rd century AD to the late Middle Ages.

Gather this evening for our welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3

Acropolis and National Archaeological Museum

Begin the day on the Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This great hill dominates the city of Athens and has been occupied since the Neolithic period, and in Mycenaean times there was already a palace and fortified citadel here.

In the mid-5th century BC, the Athenians began the construction of several extraordinary buildings that still stand today. Walk through the Propylaia, the enormous entrance to the Acropolis, and pass the Temple of Athena Nike, built to commemorate the Athenians' victories over the Persians. View the Erechtheion, situated on the most sacred part of the Acropolis, said to be where Poseidon left his trident marks in a rock and Athena's olive tree sprouted. See the Porch of the Caryatids on the south side of the Erechtheion with carved statues of women used in place of columns. The immense and lovely Parthenon was originally built to house the 40-foot-high sculpture of the goddess, Athena Parthenos. The splendor of its frieze and the perfection of its architectural techniques make it immensely impressive even after 2,500 years. Spend time in the Acropolis Museum, which contains the works of art found onsite.

After lunch, spend the afternoon in the National Archaeological Museum, the largest museum in Greece, housing the greatest collection of Greek antiquities in the world.

Dinner is on our own this evening. (B/L)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 4

Athens

Today we continue our explorations of Athens to examine the remains of the ancient city. The Arch of Hadrian was erected in honor of the 2nd-century Roman Emperor. From 600 BC, the Agora formed the political heart of ancient Athens. Nearby, view the Tower of the Winds, an octagonal structure originally built as a water clock and weathervane by an astronomer in the 1st century BC. Move forward in Athenian history and pay a visit to the 12th century Little Metropolis church, or Panayia Gorgoepeikoos ("Virgin Who Answers Prayers Quickly"). Dinner tonight is on our own. (B/L)



Day 5

Corinth, Sanctuary of Epidauros

Leaving Athens this morning we drive to Corinth to visit the Temple of Octavia, where three ornate Corinthian columns still stand on a platform, the Glauke Fountain and its four cisterns carved from a huge monolith, the theater, and the Temple of Apollo, the most striking structure of the lower city. If on site, the archaeological team will give our group a private tour of the current excavations.

For lunch we will drive to Nemea, regarded as a great winemaking region since the time of the ancient Greeks. Here we will enjoy lunch in one of the country's top wineries with a sampling of the estate's wines. Continue on to the Sanctuary of Epidauros, a UNESCO World Heritage site, which was an extensive therapeutic and religious center dedicated to Asclepius.

Drive to the lovely seaside town of Nauplion, lying in the shadow of a huge Venetian citadel, and overnight for two nights in Hotel Liberty. (B/L/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 6

Mycenae, Tiryns

Begin today at Mycenae, another UNESCO World Heritage site. The extensive complex, uncovered by Heinrich Schliemann, is one of the earliest examples of sophisticated citadel architecture. Enclosed by fortification walls up to 5 meters wide, the city contained royal palaces and rich tombs.

If on-site, we will meet with the archaeological director, who will give us a private tour. He will lead us through the glorious Lion Gate, erected in the 13th century BC, to reach the royal family's shaft graves where 31 pounds of gold funerary goods were found, and then to the tholoi, or beehive tombs, outside the city walls. In the afternoon, continue to the nearby UNESCO World Heritage Site of Tiryns, a 13th-century BC citadel protected by cyclopean walls.

Dinner is on our own to search for one of Nauplion's charming tavernas. (B/L)



Day 7

Messini

We spend this morning at the Archaeological Museum of Nauplio, with its new, permanent exhibition that outlines the cultural identity of Argolida from the Paleolithic period until Roman times. Here, the most important exhibits are associated with the Mycenaean centers of the region and present in detail the palatial system, as well as the daily life and burial customs of the Mycenaean world.

We then drive to Messini, ancient Messene, an impressive archaeological site that is on the UNESCO Tentative List. The city was founded in 369 BC by the great Theban general Epaminondas, who defeated the Spartan military power and liberated the Messenia region. The fortification wall, almost five miles in length, is dotted with towers and gates and is one of the most extraordinary achievements of ancient military architecture.

Enclosed within these ramparts are the remains of public and religious buildings laid out in a pattern according to the design of Hippodamus of Miletus, a legendary Greek architect long acknowledged as the inventor of formal city planning. As we enter through the almost complete Arcadian Gate, we will see the ancient theater of Messini, the agora, the Sanctuary of Asclepius, and the stadium.

Overnight for one night in Kalamata at the Hotel Pharea Palace, overlooking the Messinian Gulf. (B/L/D)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*



Day 8

Olympia

Today, we visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Olympia, esteemed for over a thousand years as a religious and athletic center. The sanctuary was famous for the Olympic Games that were born here and held every four years at the late-summer full moon and were the most prestigious of all Hellenic competitions. Here, if onsite, join chief archaeologist Dr. Reinhard Senff for a tour of excavations. The massive column bases and tumbled sections are proof of the former magnificence of the Temple of Zeus. Walk through the colonnade surrounding the central court at the Palaestra, the workshop of Phidias, the archaic Hera Temple, and the still-standing vaulted entrance to the stadium.

In the site museum, view the plethora of artifacts found during excavations, including the sculpted pediments recovered from the Zeus temple.

Dinner tonight is on our own. (B/L)

Day 9

Delphi

We will spend today in Delphi, a UNESCO World Heritage site. This was the home of Apollo and in antiquity, people came here to consult the oracle of the god.

Begin in the Sanctuary of Athena, containing the remains of several buildings including the enigmatic Tholos, a 4th century BC rotunda. The stunning New Temple of Athena was constructed about 360 BC. Walk to the Castalian Spring, where pilgrims who entered Delphi were required to purify themselves. Water from these springs provided the cold baths in the Gymnasium for athletes who were in training.

Enter the Sacred Way through the agora and pass the Bouleuterion, or Delphic Council House, and the Rock of Sibyl. In the heart of the inner sanctum lies the splendid Sanctuary of Apollo, one of the finest theaters of the ancient Greek world.

Finally, enter the Delphi Museum, which houses a collection second in importance only to the Athenian Acropolis Museum.

Overnight in the Amalia Hotel in Delphi for one night. (B/L/D)



Day 10

Meteora

Meteora, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, consists of a group of monasteries dramatically perched above the plain on rocky stone pillars created by a huge river that flowed through the region millions of years ago. Six of the monasteries are still in operation, and the 14th-century Great Meteoron is the most significant.

Dedicated to the Transfiguration and founded by a scholar monk from Mount Athos, it is the highest, largest, and oldest of the six. The main cathedral is embellished with lovely 16th-century frescoes. The second largest is the Monastery of Varlaam. According to ancient tales, it took more than twenty years to winch the building materials to the top of the rock.

After spending the day onsite, we will drive to Kalambaka, a town in the Meteora region, and overnight for one night in the Kastraki Hotel. (B/L/D)



Day 11

Aigai (Vergina), on to Thessaloniki

An early departure takes us to Aigai, next to the town of Vergina, the first capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia best known today for the discovery of its royal tombs, some dating back to the 4th century BC.

The wealth of imperial burials unearthed in the necropolis attest to the city's prosperity. Certainly, the most important crypt is the one said to belong to Philip II of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great. Built on a hill overlooking the city lies the Palace of Aigai, opened to the public in 2018. Gorgeous mosaic floors and painted stuccoes on the walls display the affluence of the Macedonian kingdom. After exploring the site, continue on to Thessaloniki, a vibrant metropolis that has existed for more than 2,000 years.

Overnight for four nights in the 5-star Daois Luxury Living Hotel in the heart of Thessaloniki.

Dinner is on our own. (B/L)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*



Day 12

Thessaloniki

Begin this morning in the Roman heart of the city – the Galerian Palace, the construction of which began in the late 3rd century AD when Caesar Galerius Valerianus Maximianus selected Thessaloniki to be the seat of the eastern part of the Roman Empire. The complex comprises the remains of several 4th-century structures. The Rotunda, now Saint George's Church, displays domed architecture similar to the Pantheon in Rome, with dazzling mosaics decorating the interior. The Arch of Galerius, originally the ancient town's main entrance gate, features elaborate reliefs that celebrate Caesar Galerius' victorious campaign against the Sassanid Persians in 298 AD. North of the Roman Agora lies the town's main religious sanctuary, the 7th-century Church of Ayios Dimitrios, built in honor of the town's patron saint, the martyred Roman Soldier Dimitrios.

In the afternoon, we will enter The Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, one of Greece's largest museums. Here, artifacts on display span the centuries from prehistory to late antiquity with special collections from all over ancient Macedonia. (B/L/D)

Day 13

The Ruins of Ancient Philippi

East of Thessaloniki are the ruins of ancient Philippi, originally established in the 4th century BC and named by Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. Strategically located between the mountains and the sea, in antiquity, this UNESCO World Heritage city controlled the trade route linking Europe and Asia. In 42 BC, this is where the pivotal battle occurred in which Mark Antony and Octavian defeated Brutus and Cassius, the principal assassins of Julius Caesar. Much of the Hellenistic walls are still visible, along with the 4th century BC theater built by Phillip II.

We will spend the day walking through the extensive remains, including the Roman Forum and basilicas built in the Byzantine era.

After our tour, we will stop by a vineyard to taste wines of the region before our return to Thessaloniki with dinner on our own. (B/L)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 14

Thessaloniki

During the Byzantine Era, Thessaloniki was among the most important cities of the empire after Constantinople. The defensive walls have towered over the city for almost 2,000 years. We will walk parts of the bastions and see Eptapyrgio Castle. Within the battlements are several structures that UNESCO has designated the Paleochristian and Byzantine Monuments of Thessalonika World Heritage Sites.

Located around the city's acropolis, the Upper Town, known as Ano Poli, is the historic area of Thessaloniki and the only part of the city that survived the fire of 1917. Today it is a delightful labyrinth of cobblestoned streets, traditional wooden houses, Ottoman fountains, and Byzantine sanctuaries.

In the afternoon, take a short walk along the seacoast of the city. Constructed in the 16th century by the Ottomans the White Tower was once part of the town's fortifications and is the only section of the seaward rampart remaining. The intrepid may climb to the top for a splendid view of the city's waterfront. A further stroll along the esplanade takes us to the Museum of Byzantine Culture, with collections of sculptures, frescoes, mosaics, and other artifacts from the Byzantine period.

Dinner is on our own. (B/L)



Day 15

Depart for Crete, Driving Tour

This morning we depart Thessaloniki on a flight to Heraklion, Crete's largest city. Throughout the ages, this city has been under the control of the Romans, Arabs, Venetians, and Turks, and each has left behind spectacular cultural remains.

On our driving tour, we will see the Venetian Arsenal, found at the end of the colorful old port, along with the 16th-century fortress still bearing the Lion of St. Mark, and the city walls, which are three miles long. Reinforced by seven large bastions, these bulwarks were designed by the same man who built the fortifications of Padua and Verona.

Overnight for two nights at the Olive Hotel.
Dinner is on our own. (B/L)



Daily Itinerary *(cont'd)*

Day 16

Iráklio Archaeological Museum, Knossos

We begin today at the outstanding Iráklio Archaeological Museum where we will view a magnificent array of prehistoric artifacts, extraordinary finds from Knossos and other nearby Minoan cities, and impressive art from the Greek and Roman ages.

Then it's on to Knossos, where a maze of corridors, passages, hundreds of rooms, and stairways make up the Palace of Knossos, the ceremonial and political center of the Minoan civilization. Although there is controversy concerning the reconstruction done one hundred years ago, the complex illustrates the richness and complexity of the former civilization. Stunning painted frescoes covered the walls, light wells allowed air circulation, and the royal apartments were adorned with paintings and private bathrooms. Parts of the Royal Road, the paved thoroughfare from the harbor to the palace, are still visible.

Return to the hotel for our Farewell Dinner.
(B/L/D)

Day 17

Depart Greece

Transfer to the airport for our return flights home (B)or continue on the optional extension to Santorini (B / D).



Why Take This Tour?

**Led by The Great Courses lecturer,
Professor Thomas F. X. Noble**

Visit ten UNESCO World Heritage Sites

**Private tour of Olympia
by the director of excavations**

**Private tour of Mycenae
by archaeologists**

**Lunch with the
archaeological staff of Mycenae**

**Spend a day in Aigai
(Vergina) to see the royal tombs**

PLEASE NOTE: This is a sample itinerary that is typical of our trip offerings. In general, you can expect a very similar program, though days may be swapped depending on availability, opening hours, and other affecting factors.

Pre and Post Trip Extensions

Far Horizons offers pre or post extensions for many of our trips. We can also arrange extra nights at the arrival and departure hotel should you wish to arrive early or depart later. Please contact us for details.



Tour Information

Pricing

For current pricing, please visit farhorizons.com and navigate to our trip page.

Inclusions

Price based on double occupancy and includes:

- Internal flights during the trip (if applicable/unless otherwise noted)
- The accompaniment of your scholar throughout the entire trip
- Local English-speaking guide
- Hotel accommodations (3 or 4 stars; or best available based in the area)
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers for arrivals and departures
- Most meals as noted in the itinerary
- Entry fees to all included sites and museums
- Gratuities to guides, drivers, and restaurant and hotel staff
- Coordination for any private presentations or tours

Trip prices are based on a minimum number of participants. If this minimum number is not met, trip prices are subject to change. Should the prices need to change, Far Horizons will reach out to registered guests to discuss directly.

Single Supplement

Should a roommate be requested and one not be available, the single supplement will be charged.

Exclusions

- International round trip airfare
- A separate donation check of \$150.00 per person to a designated donation project
- Passport or visa fees
- Required vaccines or tests
- Airport or departure taxes
- Alcoholic drinks, beverages or food not included on set menus
- Excess baggage charges
- Personal tips and hotel incidental expenses
- Laundry or other items of a personal nature

Donation Checks

As a tour company that benefits from the cultural and natural riches of our destinations, we have a policy of donating to the scientific and cultural sites and projects which we visit. This has created a bond between Far Horizons and the academic and local communities that has helped us establish an extensive list of lecturers and contacts in each of our destinations. We ask that each participant donate to the noteworthy project we designate. The donation amount is \$150.00 per person. Note that the donation is required as part of your registration for the trip and that it is non-refundable.

Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Prices are based on currency exchange rates keeping below a projected level. While it is unlikely, if the exchange rates should change substantially, Far Horizons reserves the right to charge an additional amount to the trip cost.

Registration

A deposit of \$1000 per person is required along with your registration & health forms, which will be linked in the email confirmation you receive once you pay your deposit on our booking platform. Final payment is due 120 days before departure. Prior to departure, you will be sent a reading list and a tour bulletin containing travel information.



Tour Information *(cont'd)*

Cancellation

Cancellations received in writing at least 120 days before departure will receive a refund less a \$500 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received less than 120 days before the departure date will not receive a refund. If for any reason you are unable to complete the trip, Far Horizons will not reimburse any fees. Upon registering for the tour, the purchase of travel protection with both trip cancellation and emergency evacuation is strongly advised. Links to recommended insurance policies will be included in the email you receive confirming receipt of your deposit.

Expectations During Travel

Our trips are designed for flexible, energetic people who like to be active, have a spirit of adventure and a positive attitude. We have designed this trip to be as comfortable as possible, while also aiming to visit some remote or unique sites that other companies do not attempt to include in their itineraries. There may be days where we have very long drives and the conditions of the roads may vary. Hotels and transportation in some remote areas may not be up to western standards. There may be times when no bellhops are available; please pack with the understanding that you need to be able to handle your own luggage at times. Sometimes we may be walking over uneven trails for a mile or more; hiking boots are strongly recommended. Not every meal will be haute cuisine and several lunches may be picnics or box lunches. By maintaining a flexible attitude we will soon be captivated by the beauty of the natural scenery, the hospitality of the local people, and the fascinating sites we will see. Your flexibility and patience will be appreciated.

Air Ticketing

International round trip flights are not included in the cost of the trip. If Far Horizons must change the trip dates or cancel the trip for any reason, Far Horizons is not responsible for any air ticket you may have purchased. Please send your complete air schedule as soon as you have it. NOTE: Please contact Far Horizons if you would like for us to handle your air ticketing.

Private Tours and Talks

The private tours of archaeological sites and talks by specialists are scheduled in advance and include a donation to each. Specialists working at these sites are excited about showing their work to interested enthusiasts. However, please be aware that there may be times when the director or a member of the staff may not be on site when our groups arrive due to other commitments.

Walking and Standing

Far Horizons expects all participants to be physically active and able to walk and climb independently throughout the full touring days. This includes walking over uneven terrain (uphill and downhill) for 2 miles or more at each site. You should expect to be on your feet for much of each day, averaging as much as 5 miles of walking per day. **As such, each participant should be able to walk unaided at a pace of 3 miles per hour for at least an hour at a time, and to stand unsupported for at least 60 minutes.** Bearing this in mind, we suggest that, if you have not already done so, you begin walking several miles every day, ideally including stairs and hills. If you have questions about your ability to keep up with the group or the strenuous nature of this trip, please contact the Far Horizons staff.



Tour Information *(cont'd)*

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you consider purchasing travel insurance. Should illness or an unforeseen event force you to cancel your travel plans after your final payment or during your trip, it would be doubly unfortunate to incur a significant financial loss. Trip cancellation protection will enable you to be reimbursed for the loss of your payment if you are unable to travel for any of the covered reasons in the "Outline of Coverage" section, or should you have an accident or suffer from any medical conditions during the trip.

Far Horizons offers customized protection plans through Travel Insured International (a Crum & Forster Company) with the following benefits:

- Trip Cancellation and Trip Interruption for covered reasons
- Trip Delay
- Baggage Loss and Baggage Delay
- Emergency Medical Expenses and Emergency Medical Evacuation
- 24-Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment
- 24-Hour Travel Assistance & Concierge Services
- Option to upgrade to 'Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR)

We recommend reviewing the language in detail so you are aware of specific parameters; Depending on the policy, to waive the Pre-Existing Medical Condition Exclusion or to upgrade to CFAR coverage, the plan must be purchased within 14 to 21 days of the initial trip deposit, full trip cost must be insured, and traveler is medically fit at time of plan purchase. Otherwise, coverage may be purchased at any time prior to departure.

To obtain a personalized quote and/or purchase a plan through Far Horizons/Travel Insured International, simply click [HERE](#). For specific questions regarding the Worldwide Protector Plan, please contact Travel Insured International's Customer Care Center at 1-800-243-3174 or by email at customercare@travelinsured.com, and refer to Far Horizons' account number: 54070.

Itinerary Changes

Changes in our itinerary, accommodations, and transportation schedules may occur while traveling. While we are committed to keeping as close to the published details as possible, sometimes it is simply not possible. Weather events, government affairs, or other factors out of our control sometimes come into play. A good book to read as well as patience, flexible attitude, and a sense of humor are essential.





Meet Your Study Leader...

Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble

Thomas F. X. Noble received his MA in History and Latin and his PhD in Medieval History from Michigan State University.

A popular speaker for [The Great Courses](#) (formerly The Teaching Company), Professor Noble is a lecturer on ten different series including the 48 lecture course, The Foundations of Western Civilization. Dr. Noble is the author, coauthor, or editor of 12 books and has published more than 60 articles, chapters, and essays including *From Roman Provinces to Medieval Kingdoms*, and his coauthored textbook, *Western Civilization: The Continuing Experiment*, which is in its 7th edition.

Professor Noble has held fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and research grants from the American Philosophical Society. He has been the invited speaker at many national and international conferences including in Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, France, and Scotland. Dr. Noble was the recipient of both the Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C. and Charles Sheedy Awards for Excellence in Teaching from Notre Dame, and was awarded the Alumni Distinguished Professor Award and a David Harrison III Award for outstanding undergraduate advising, both from the University of Virginia.





What People Are Saying About...

Dr. Thomas F. X. Noble

“Very nice! Tom is warm, friendly, sociable and shared his knowledge readily without overdoing it.”

- SHARON LANGLEY

“Tom is a great source of information and it was a pleasure to travel with him. Whoever signs up for this trip will be very pleased.”

- GAIL GITMAN

Why Travel with Far Horizons?

With over forty years of experience, and an 85% customer return rate, we have stood the test of time. Remind yourself what makes Far Horizons so unique.

✦ Scholar Led Tours

Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

✦ Trusted Partnerships

Trusted Partnerships: Every tour is led by a well-respected PhD scholar with expertise in the subject & regions we visit.

✦ Behind the Scenes Access

Our groups have private access to closed areas and on-site specialists.

✦ Unique Trips

Our itineraries are designed to showcase sites that are off-the-beaten path; we explore places that many travelers never see.

✦ Personalized Service

We love knowing our guests and helping with the decision process. We are here to assist you.

✦ Small Groups

Our tours have a maximum of 14 travelers. So you can trust that you will have a boutique experience every time.



The Archaeology of GREECE

WITH DR THOMAS F. X. NOBLE

Email with Questions

journeys@farhorizons.com

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