



Take Me To Europe Tours

2027 CATALOGUE



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About Us

Welcome from the Founder

Welcome to our new season of Take Me To Europe Tours!

We're excited to meet, know, and tour with fellow archaeology, history, and culture enthusiasts who share a love of discovery (and wine!)

We're different from other archaeology and history tour companies in important ways – perhaps because we're younger – we don't sacrifice scholarly depth for a fun, relaxing, and rejuvenating holiday. We can do it all, and that makes every day on tour with us exciting and pleasurable.

As you read the new catalogue, you'll see how we're unique and learn about our intelligent tour design for each day, the narrative arc of each tour, and how we build in fun, relaxation, and time for personal moments and exploration.

From 2027 we are proud to be entering into a long term partnership with the non-profit Mycenaean Foundation to offer tours in Greece. The Mycenaean Foundation's resources and the guiding expertise of the President and Director of Excavations at Mycenae, Professor Christofilis Maggidis will allow for unique experiences and expert perspectives.

My husband, Steve, and I are looking forward to meeting you on tour with us, to laughing together and reflecting on our day's discoveries over regional foods and wine, and to sharing our fascination for the past.

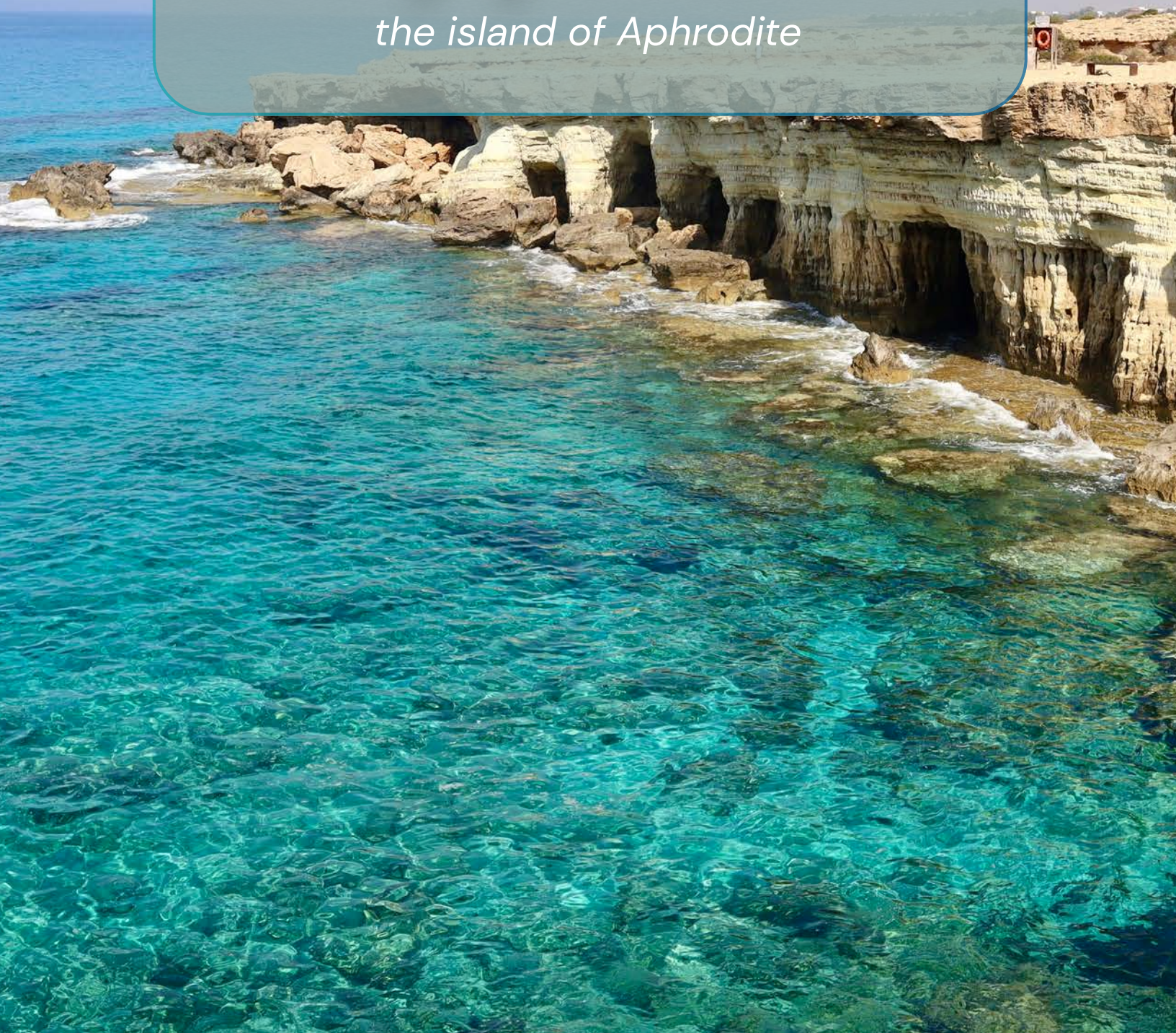


Professor Monique Skidmore



Cyprus

the island of Aphrodite





Why Cyprus Belongs On Your List

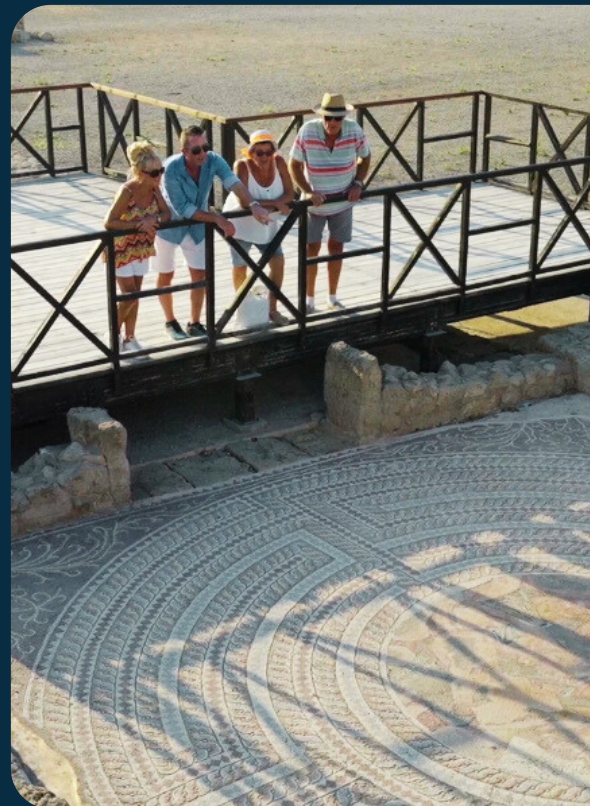
From Bronze Age settlements to Byzantine monasteries, Cyprus is a small island with an extraordinary concentration of history. Layer upon layer of civilisation has left its mark here – Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Lusignan, Venetian and Ottoman – creating a rich cultural tapestry to explore in remarkably short travelling distances.

Beyond its famous ruins and UNESCO-listed sites, Cyprus offers atmospheric harbour towns, mountain villages and a gentle Mediterranean pace that rewards slow, in-depth travel.

How We Explore Cyprus

If you're ready to explore Cyprus, Take Me To Europe Tours is here to show you the way. Our [Cyprus Tours](#) offer a deep dive into the island, taking you to UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Cypriot coastal and mountain villages, and the Greek and Turkish sides of the island, for a captivating and authentic journey.

Our tours are led by experienced local guides and eminent archaeologists who will provide you with first-hand knowledge and experiences as you travel from Kyrenia, Famagusta, and Salamis in the north, to Paphos in the west, and across the Troodos Mountains.





Crossroads of Empires

Archaeological Treasures of Cyprus Tour

An island-wide story of Cyprus

Cyprus is one of the Mediterranean's great crossroads, where rival powers have fought, traded and worshipped for millennia. On this in-depth journey you circle the whole island – both the Republic of Cyprus and the Turkish-controlled north – tracing a continuous story from prehistory to the present. Along the way you encounter cities, sanctuaries and castles that reveal how Phoenicians, Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Lusignans, Venetians and Ottomans all left their mark here.



Every UNESCO site, expertly led

Across ten days, we visit all three of Cyprus' UNESCO World Heritage Sites: the Neolithic settlement of Choirokoitia, the ancient city and mosaics of Paphos, and the painted churches hidden in the Troodos Mountains. You'll also explore the great ruined city of Salamis, the walled medieval town of Famagusta, Kyrenia's harbour and castle, and dramatic strongholds such as St Hilarion, together with Kourion's clifftop theatre and the Tombs of the Kings.

Throughout the tour, you travel in the company of our Cyprus specialist tour leader Eleni Ellinas and we are guided through these exciting archaeological sites by renowned local archaeologist David Pearlman, whose deep local knowledge and field experience bring the island's sites and stories into sharp focus as you move between both sides of the Green Line, sharing meals in family-run tavernas and staying in characterful coastal and mountain towns.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)

Why Tour With Us



Local Archaeological Expertise

We don't use the old tour model of flying in 'experts.' You'll meet real practising archaeologists who specialize in the areas they guide or the excavation sites they direct..



Truly Small Groups – 4-12 persons

Our small group sizes mean genuine discussions unfold naturally as we explore sites together. You're not just a participant – you're part of an intimate archaeological conversation.



Authentic Local Perspectives

Our guides understand not just the ancient history, but how these sites connect to modern local communities, traditions, and ongoing archaeological research.

Journeys That Stay With You



**Ancient Europe
Revealed**



**Discover
Europe's Food &
Wine Traditions**



**Feel the Thrill of
Standing Where
History Happened**

Malta

"Malta, the island built by gods and conquered by men." – Victor Paul Borg





Malta: Temples, Knights and a Harbour City of Stone

Malta beckons with golden limestone temples that have witnessed seven millennia of human ambition. This extraordinary archipelago holds impossibly massive megalithic temples erected by vanished civilizations, underground necropoles carved from solid bedrock, where flickering torch shadows dance across ancient red paint swirls, and fortress cities where Knights once stood defiant against Ottoman armies.



This compact Mediterranean crossroads has absorbed the footfalls of Neolithic temple builders, Phoenician merchants, Roman administrators, Byzantine devotees, Arab mathematicians, Norman crusaders, and the legendary Knights of St. John—each leaving their mark in stone, art, and tradition across Malta's UNESCO World Heritage Sites and large natural harbors.

How We Explore Malta

Our tour of Malta is an immersive journey, a hands-on exploration of Malta as you trace temple carvings with archaeologists who reveal their meaning, and stand at strategic harbor points where civilizations were defended or fell.

We take ferries and get out to sea and across the Grand Harbor, and we eat traditional Maltese dishes filled with flavor and history.

Our local historians and our eminent specialist in Maltese prehistory transform seemingly silent stones into vivid narratives of power, faith, and ingenuity spanning thousands of years.

Malta Tour



Megalithic Temples and Maritime Fortresses



From prehistoric temples to a baroque harbor city

This island-wide journey through Malta and Gozo focuses on some of the world's oldest freestanding stone temples set above the Mediterranean. Over eight days, we visit all three of Malta's UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the subterranean Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum, the megalithic temple complexes including Ġgantija, Ғaġar Qim and Mnajdra, and the fortified city of Victoria – together with Mdina's hilltop citadel.

Your days follow Malta's story from Neolithic ritual spaces to crusader-era strongholds and the great siege fortifications of the Knights of St John. Wander among carved altars and spiral-decorated stones at the temples, then trace bastion walls, palaces, and auberges in Valletta before crossing the Grand Harbor by traditional boats to the Three Cities and mighty Fort St Angelo.

Malta's deep past and living culture, in expert hands

Throughout the tour, prehistoric specialist Dr Huw S. Groucutt – who actively excavates at Maltese sites – interprets the island's deep past, while our warm local tour leader handles the day-to-day logistics and introduces you to contemporary Maltese life, food and hospitality.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)



Italy

*"You may have the universe if I
may have Italy" – Verdi*



Unparalleled Italy

From Etruscan necropoleis and Roman forums to medieval hill towns and Renaissance cities, Italy offers one of the richest concentrations of archaeology and art anywhere in the world. Within a single journey you can walk amphitheatres and villas, stand in early Christian basilicas and Byzantine-influenced churches, and then step into galleries that shaped the history of Western painting and sculpture.

Beyond its famous ruins and UNESCO-listed centres, Italy's landscapes range from Alpine valleys and vineyard country to the dramatic coasts and islands of Sicily and Sardinia, rewarding slow travel that links regional food and daily life with the deep layers of history beneath them.

How We Explore Italy's Historical Feast

Our Italy tours are led by experienced local guides and eminent archaeologists who share their deep knowledge – and their enthusiasm – for the places, objects, and stories you encounter. With a maximum of twelve guests, characterful centrally located hotels and carefully paced itineraries, you have time to explore major archaeological parks, historic quarters and museums in depth, as well as to enjoy markets, cafés and evening passeggiate. Throughout each journey, conversations continue over meals in hand-picked trattorie and wine bars, where regional food, local wines and our shared excitement for Italy's past make each day's discoveries vivid and memorable.



Sicily Tour

From Ancient Ruins to Baroque Towns



Following Sicily's history through its landscapes

Over fifteen days we circle Sicily following a historical and geographical arc: we begin with Etna's slopes, Catania's lava-built streets and the island's coasts and plains. We learn of pre-Greek Elymian communities at Segesta before turning to Greek city-states at Selinunte and in the Valley of the Temples, Roman elite life at Villa Romana del Casale, and medieval Norman power in Palermo, Cefalù, and Monreale.

Our route also explores Phoenician seafaring and trade at Mozia and along the west coast before turning to discover the baroque rebuilding of Ragusa, Modica, and Noto after the 1693 earthquake before ending in Syracuse and Taormina, where theatres, harbors, and resort life show how modern Sicilians inhabit, retain, and reinterpret this layered past.



Sicily's layers revealed by your archaeologist

Our small group tours archaeological parks, historic quarters, and markets with Sicilian archaeologist-guide Dr Annalisa Costa, who uses each site, museum, and meal to join these periods into one coherent, conversational story of the island's landscapes, peoples, and living culture.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)



From coastal cities to Nuragic heartlands

Over ten days, we travel from Cagliari up the west coast to Oristano and the Sinis Peninsula, then north through the Nuragic heartland around Santa Cristina and Santu Antine, before finishing in Alghero, Olbia, and Arzachena.

Along this route, we encounter the island's main archaeological phases in context: Neolithic tombs and menhirs at sites such as Anghelu Ruju and Pranu Muttedu, Bronze Age Nuragic fortresses and sacred wells including Su Nuraxi, Santa Cristina, Su Tempiesu and Sa Testa, Phoenician-Punic and Roman remains at Nora and Tharros, and medieval quarters and waterfronts in Cagliari, Oristano, Alghero and Olbia.

Seeing Sardinia's ancient landscapes with expert context

Each day, our prehistoric specialist and field archaeologist, Dottorressa Laura Sedda, guides us through towers, tombs, and wells, explaining how each worked and each fits into Sardinia's wider story. With a maximum of twelve guests and all logistics handled for the group, there is time to ask questions, look closely at details, and enjoy evenings in Cagliari, Oristano, Alghero, and Olbia, where contemporary island life sits just beyond the day's ancient stones.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)

Greece

"I want to see the Parthenon by moonlight"
– Daphne du Maurier





The Home of the Gods

From Minoan palaces and Mycenaean citadels to marble temples, cliff-top monasteries and Ottoman harbours, Greece offers layer upon layer of visible history for anyone who loves archaeology and the ancient world. In journeys that link Athens, Delphi, the Peloponnese and the Macedonian north, you can stand beneath the Parthenon, walk Mycenae's Lion Gate, visit Olympia's stadium and descend to the royal tombs at Vergina, seeing how each era built on the last to shape Western civilisation.

Beyond its UNESCO-listed sites, Greece offers lively squares, white-washed island harbours, mountain villages and vineyards, where daily life, food and landscape keep the ancient past feeling close at hand.



How we explore Greece

Our Greece journeys focus on the great civilizations of this landscape – from the Bronze Age Minoans to Classical Athens and the Macedonian empire – travelling in small groups of no more than twelve with expert archaeologist guides. Instead of sprinting between famous names, we design each itinerary so that major sites and museums sit alongside quieter places: a village taverna near a Mycenaean tomb, a harbour walk after exploring a Hellenistic city, or an island afternoon following a morning at a temple. Centrally located boutique hotels and comfortable transport mean you can spend unhurried time at sites and still enjoy long lunches, sea views and evening strolls. Over shared meals of regional dishes and local wines, and occasional visits to markets, vineyards and family-run tavernas, conversations about myths, monuments and modern life turn Greece from a list of ruins into a connected, living story you continue to tell long after you return home.



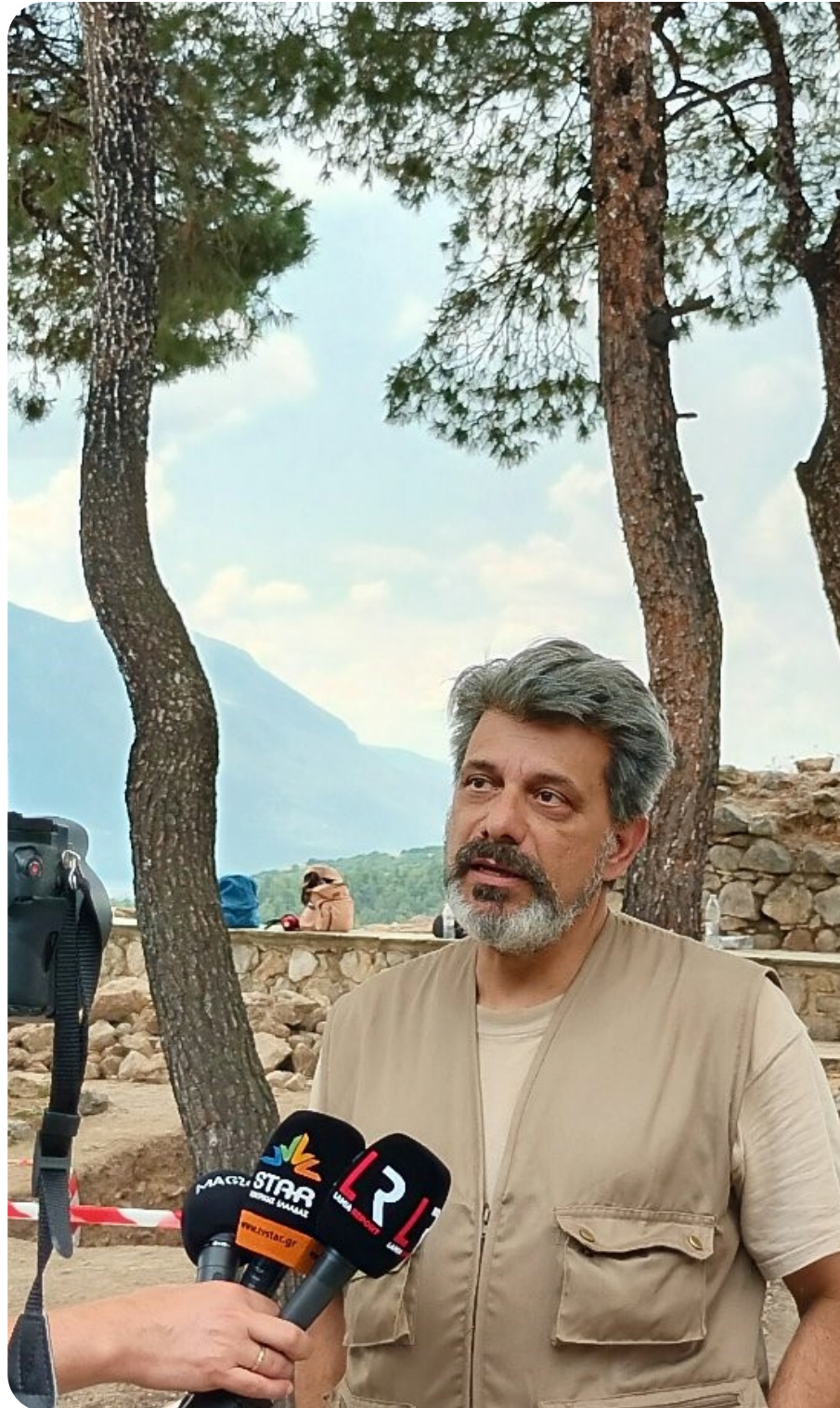
Our premiere new Greek Partnership

From 2027 we are proud to be partnering with the prestigious Greek non-profit organization, the Mycenaean Foundation.

Our Cradle of Democracy and Ages of the Peloponnese tours are created in partnership with the Mycenaean Foundation, a research and teaching institute led by Professor Christofilis Maggidis, a specialist in Bronze Age and Classical Greek archaeology.

Together, we co-design itineraries that feel more like joining an expert field team than following a standard sightseeing route: Maggidis and his colleagues shape the story on site, guide key visits, and open up behind-the-ropes areas, dig simulators and hands-on activities usually reserved for students and researchers.

Guests get to ask big questions, try real techniques, and see how discoveries are made, turning the history of Greece from something you read about into something you actively do or discover, alongside the people pushing the research forward.





Athens & Attica

The Cradle of Democracy Tour

The Birth of Democracy in six unforgettable days

Over six days, we base ourselves in the historic heart of Athens and explore the city that shaped democracy, philosophy, and drama, with time to revisit favorite streets and views. We discover the Acropolis with its Parthenon and Erechtheion, wander the Ancient Agora and Kerameikos, and visit the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Roman Agora, Temple of the Winds, and Hadrian's Library to see how Athens' story continued from Ancient and Classical Greece to Roman and Byzantine times.

Beyond the city center, you follow the Sacred Way to Eleusis, visit the rural sanctuary of Brauron, and stand at the cliff-top Temple of Poseidon at Sounion, linking Athens' everyday life with its coastal and sacred landscapes.

Athens with an esteemed professor of archaeology



Our tour is limited to twelve guests and led by a local archaeologist, with in-depth visits to the Acropolis Museum and National Archaeological Museum. Based in a central boutique hotel, you can step straight from site visits to café tables, tavernas and evening strolls through Plaka's lanes and Syntagma's squares. Shared lunches and dinners of Attica regional dishes and wines create time to talk through the day's discoveries and see how modern Athens lives around its ancient treasures.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)



Peloponnese Tour



Ages of the Peloponnese

From Mycenaean Citadels to the Oracle's Sanctuary

Across 10 days we journey from Athens to some of the world's most storied ruins nestled in living landscapes of sea, vineyards, and mountains. At Mycenae, go behind the rope with the director of excavations and President of the Mycenaean Foundation, Professor Christofilis Maggidis, then spend a day on-site at the Mycenae dig simulator, working alongside professional archaeologists to learn real field techniques. We take our seats in the theater of Epidaurus, wander Mystras' Byzantine streets, explore the ruins of once-mighty Sparta, and discover Olympia where athletes once ran barefoot for honor and for the gods. Days at Ancient Messene, Methoni's sea-battered fortress, the Palace of Nestor, and finally Delphi's cliff-side sanctuary layer palaces, city-states, and oracles into one astonishing story of the Ages of the Peloponnese.



Archaeological empires with an expert guide

This small-group journey is led throughout by professional Greek archaeologists, who guide you through the ages of the Peloponnese by showing how palaces, sanctuaries, fortresses, and towns evolved across Mycenaean, Classical, Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine times. With private visits, behind-the-rope access, and a full training day in the Mycenae dig simulator, shared Peloponnese meals help you see each day's discoveries as chapters in one continuous story.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)





Gods, Oracles and Kings

Sacred and Royal Sites of Northern Greece

From Delphi's oracle to the Macedonian kings

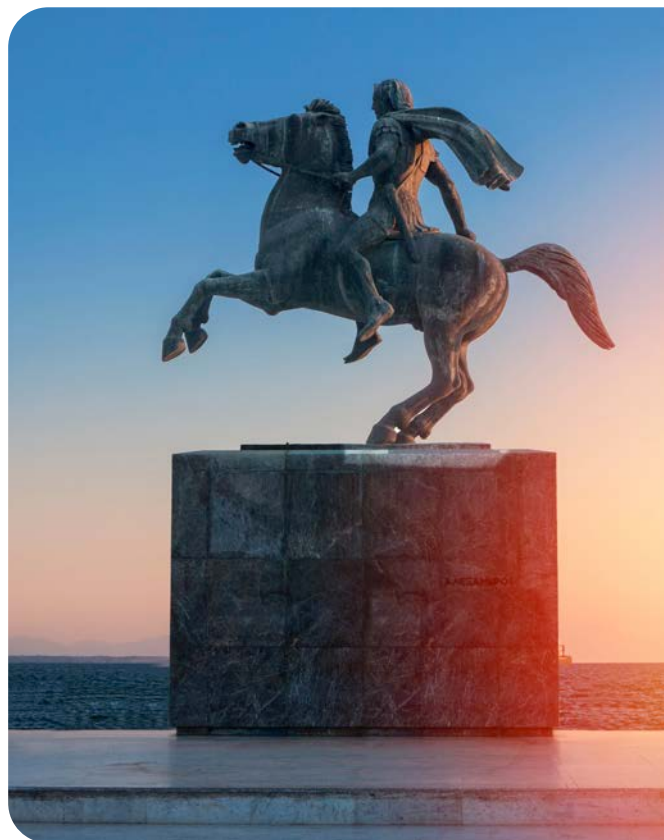
Over nine action-packed days, we travel from Athens to Delphi, Meteora and into the heart of Macedonian Greece, tracing the rise of sacred centres and royal power. We walk the sanctuary of Delphi, explore the cliff-top monasteries of Meteora, and then settle into Thessaloniki to visit Ancient Dion, Pella, and Philippi, where Philip II and Alexander the Great shaped their empire.

A final day at Vergina's underground Royal Tombs and museum brings you face to face with the glittering grave goods of Macedonian kings.

Expert-led journeys through Northern Greece

This tour is limited to twelve guests and led throughout by archaeologist Dr Elena Soulioti, whose clear, engaging narratives connect oracle sanctuaries, royal cities, and living Greek culture.

Comfortable boutique hotels, long lunches and carefully timed site visits mean you can explore UNESCO sites such as Delphi, Meteora, Philippi, Thessaloniki, Vergina and Mt Athos in depth, with time left for tavernas, seaside walks and conversations that bring northern Greece's gods, oracles and kings to life.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)



Secrets of the Labyrinth

Minoan Crete, Santorini & Athens

From Athens to the heart of the Minoan world

Over thirteen days, we trace the arc of Minoan civilization from Athens to Crete and on to Santorini, visiting all four major Minoan palaces along the way. Beginning with the context of the National Archaeological Museum's treasures in Athens, we then journey across Crete from west to east, with visits to major sites on both north and south coasts from Chania and Rethymno, to Heraklion, Zakros, and Mochlos, touring Minoan cemeteries, ports and palatial complexes that reveal how this Bronze Age society lived, traded and worshipped.

Our journey finishes on Santorini, where Ancient Akrotiri, the island's volcanic vineyards and caldera sunsets show the wider Aegean world that shaped, and was shaped by, the Minoans.

Minoan Crete interpreted by Dr Elena Soulioti

Throughout the tour, we travel in a small group of no more than twelve guests with specialist Minoan archaeologist Dr Elena Soulioti, who brings her academic research and on-the-ground experience in Minoan Crete to every site we visit. With centrally located boutique hotels, meals in village tavernas, and time for harborside strolls, there is time to absorb complex sites such as Knossos, Phaistos, Malia, and Akrotiri without rushing, and to end each day in relaxed conversation over Cretan and Cycladic food and wine.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)



The background image shows a scenic view of a Mediterranean coastline. In the foreground, there is a low stone wall made of irregular blocks and a single, weathered wooden column. Beyond the wall, the sea is a vibrant blue, and the coastline is rugged with cliffs. The sky is blue with some white clouds. A semi-transparent grey box with rounded corners is overlaid on the upper part of the image, containing the title and a subtitle.

Islands of the Med

Join our tours together



Of Stones and Sea

Ancient Mediterranean Islands of Cyprus and Malta Tour



Islands at the crossroads of empires

Of Stones and Sea weaves Cyprus and Malta together into one journey spanning 9,000 years of Mediterranean history, from Neolithic settlements and megalithic temples to Roman villas, medieval harbors, and Baroque cities.

We explore Choirokoitia, Kourion, Salamis, and the fortified streets of Famagusta in Cyprus, magnificent Paphos and the Byzantine churches of the Troodos, then cross to Malta for Valletta, Gozo, the mighty fortifications of the Crusader Knights, and the remarkable megalithic temples and Hypogeum that predate the pyramids.

Renowned local archaeologists lead our tours

Throughout the tour, we travel in a small group led by Cypriot tour leader Eleni Ellinas, whose deep local knowledge and storytelling frame each day's experiences. In Cyprus, we are joined by local archaeologist David Pearlman, and in Malta, by Mediterranean prehistory specialist Dr Huw Groucett. Evenings bring time to swim, walk coastal paths, and enjoy local food and wine, as conversations about the day's discoveries continue by the sea and in the mountains.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)

Malta and Sicily Tour



Sea Roads of the Old World

Islands of the Southern Mediterranean

Across 23 days, these two islands reveal themselves as they always were — two halves of the same Mediterranean story, connected by the sea lanes that carried civilisation westward. We begin in Malta, where



history starts earlier than almost anywhere in Europe, then follow that current to Sicily, where Greeks, Romans, Normans, and Byzantines built upon one another's foundations for two millennia. Led by two resident archaeologists — Dr. Huw Groucutt, currently excavating in Malta, and Sicilian specialist Dr. Annalisa Costa — you move from the world's oldest freestanding temples and the subterranean Hal Saflieni Hypogeum to Greek theatres, Roman villas, and baroque hilltowns rebuilt from earthquake rubble.



Expert-led journeys through Malta and Sicily's wonders

This small-group tour is limited to twelve guests and is fully escorted by an archaeologist guide, so every major monument, museum, and lesser-known site is set in its wider historical and cultural context. Carefully paced days, comfortable travel, and boutique 4-star hotels mean you can climb acropoleis, walk sanctuaries, and still have time for long lunches, sunset views, and unhurried evenings.

Along the way, we sample regional food and wine from Attica, the Peloponnese, and northern Greece, with conversations over dinner weaving together myths, inscriptions, battlefields and living traditions into one continuous story of mighty Greece.



[See itinerary + Departures](#)

Why Travel With Us



Why Travel With Us



ATIA Accredited

Take Me To Europe Tours is proud to have achieved ATIA (Australian Travel Industry Association) Accreditation. Our ATIA Membership Number is: A19784. You can search for us on the ATIA database, learn more about the rigors of ATIA Accreditation, and contact ATIA on their website.



Here's what ATIA says about ATIA Accredited travel operators:

Peace of Mind for Every Journey

Look for the ATIA Tick when planning your next trip ATIA Accredited members are Recognised Travel Experts. Only businesses that meet rigorous industry, financial, and operational standards earn accreditation, ensuring peace of mind from booking to return. Plus, if something doesn't go as expected, ATIA is here to help resolve issues fairly.

Trust in Expertise

ATIA Accredited agents and tour operators meet strict workforce requirements, ensuring they have the skills and experience to plan your trip with precision and care. With in-depth destination knowledge and access to exclusive industry deals, they create holidays tailored to you.



Layered Financial Protection

ATIA Accredited businesses meet rigorous financial benchmarks, meaning the money you spend on travel is managed by a financially sound and responsible company. ATIA Accredited businesses must hold your funds in a separate account from operational funds, ensuring your money is used only for your travel.

ATIA Accredited businesses are required to hold both Professional Indemnity and Public Liability insurance policies. These safeguards ensure that, in the event of unforeseen circumstances, the business is equipped to continue providing travel experiences with the necessary cover in place.

Commitment to High Standards

Every ATIA Accredited business complies with Australian Consumer Law and are required to follow the ATIA Code of Conduct, which sets clear standards of good practice for travel businesses to uphold in their day-to-day operations. This ensures professionalism, integrity, and accountability across all interactions.

Support When You Need it

If your experience falls short of expectations, you can lodge a complaint with ATIA, where it will be independently assessed and resolved, giving you added confidence and protection.

Assessed Annually

The ATIA Accredited Tick isn't a one-time achievement. Each year, businesses who wish to continue to hold accreditation must undergo a thorough assessment. We are evaluated annually against strict financial, workforce, and commercial safeguards, ensuring we consistently meet the high standards required to maintain their accreditation.



Discover Europe with us



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