

**LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY AND BJORKLUNDEN**

**SEMINAR IN GREECE**

**21 APRIL - 4 MAY 2012**

**WITH SEMINAR LEADER: DAN TAYLOR, LU'63**

**14 day tour – Athens, Classical Tour, and Aegean Cruise**



Χαίρετε!

By Zeus, we're going to Greece! Am I excited or what? After all, that's where it all started: western civilization, democracy, tragedy and comedy, philosophy, mathematics, even linguistics, and so much more. Donna and I spent two months there last spring, and we checked it all out—Athens, bus tour, and cruise—in preparation for our 2012 Bjorklunden Seminar in Greece.

We have four full days in Athens, and we can therefore enjoy two special bonuses, namely, guided visits to the Agora, where Socrates conversed with his youthful admirers, e.g., Plato, and to the incredible national archaeological museum, where we'll see the originals of the artifacts and statues we've only seen in pictures. Our hotel is excellent and ideally located: you can jog around the entire Acropolis before breakfast, stroll through the Plaka's maze of shops, or simply gaze at the Parthenon. Our bus tour, which features other great hotels, and our cruise will take us back through almost 4000 years of history—from the Labyrinth of Greek mythology to the jet-set hangouts on Mykonos. It's a "grand tour" of ancient and modern Greece.

Before we go, I'll send you lots of emails with information about restaurants, museums, churches, shopping, walks, and off-beat things to do on your own (hint: I like cemeteries) as well as tips on Greek history, culture, and language. Meantime, this fall's Bjorklunden Seminar on The Trojan War (October 16-22) is intended to provide, *inter alia*, literary, mythological, and historical preparation for our trip to Greece.

Our Bjorklunden Seminar in Greece is designed just for us, the timing is just right, and the price is definitely reasonable. So let's go to Greece!

θα τα ξαναπούμε,

*Dan*

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**Saturday 21 April**

**Flight to Athens**

Leave your home city for your flight to Athens.

**Sunday 22 April**

**Athens**

**D**

Upon arrival in Athens we will be met and taken on a brief orientation tour on the way to our hotel with commentary by Dr. Dan. We'll see the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the largest in ancient Greece, and Hadrian's Arch—both are just across the street from our hotel; the Evzones in their picturesque uniforms at the Memorial of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Parliament House on Syntagma Square; the University; the Olympic Stadium, site of the first modern games in 1896; the national gardens of Zappeion; and vistas of the Presidential Palace, government buildings, and elegant homes. This afternoon Dan will take us on a walking tour of our neighborhood, including the base of the Acropolis and the Plaka.

Welcome Dinner at the **Athens Gate Hotel**, where we will spend the next 4 nights.

**Monday 23 April**

**Acropolis – Agora**

**B, D**



After breakfast in the hotel our professional English-speaking guide will lead us on a morning visit to the Acropolis and the nearby Agora. Just like the ancient Athenians we'll climb the steps below the Acropolis in order to ascend to the top of this sacred rock, where we'll pass through the Propylaea and enjoy spectacular views of the city and the entire Attic basin. The Parthenon is by far the best known and most awe-inspiring of the structures on the Acropolis, but the Erechtheum and the delicate temple of Athena Nike are incredibly impressive also. After enjoying the Acropolis we'll wander through

the ancient Athenian Agora, the heart and soul of democratic Greece as well as Socrates' daily hang-out.

After lunch on our own we'll bus to the National Archaeological Museum for a guided visit to the most important archaeological museum in Greece. The NAM is one of the top ten archaeological museums in the world and has been completely renovated. We'll see the mask of Agamemnon and other Mycenaean gold artifacts, the Vaphio cups and the Dipylon Vase, and the magnificent bronze statues of Zeus (or is it Poseidon?) and the horse-and-jockey, both from Artemision.

We'll dine in the Plaka at Geros tou Moria, an authentic Greek taverna, with live Greek music & dancing.

<b>Tuesday 24 April 2012</b>	<b>The New Acropolis Museum – Cape Sounion</b>	<b>B, L,</b>
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After breakfast in the hotel we'll meet our guide and walk to the extraordinary New Acropolis Museum. It consists of 14,000 square meters of exhibition space and approximately 4,000 artifacts, all from the Acropolis and including the authentic statues of the Caryatids and Dan's favorite, the Mourning (or Pensive) Athena. Then we'll hop on a bus and head for Cape Sounion, where we'll have lunch at a traditional fish tavern. Afterwards we'll visit the famous temple of Poseidon, which was constructed around 440 BC on the spot where, according to legend, Aegeus, king of Athens, leaped off the cliff to his death in the sea below, which we now know as the Aegean Sea.

Dinner this evening is on our own. Dan's emails will list his favorite Athenian restaurants as well as other highly recommended ones.

<b>Wednesday 25 April</b>	<b>Athens</b>	<b>B</b>
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After breakfast in the hotel the day is ours to explore Athens on our own. Dan's emails will ensure that we'll all have more than enough museums to visit, e.g., the Benaki, Cycladic, or Byzantine, areas to explore such as Kolonaki or the First Cemetery, and world-class shopping to enjoy, e.g., Lalaounis jewelry.

Lunch and dinner are on our own today.

<b>Thursday 26 April</b>	<b>Corinth Canal – Mycenae – Epidauros – Nafplion</b>	<b>B, L, D</b>
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After breakfast in the hotel we'll begin our bus tour with our professional English-speaking guide by driving to the Corinth Canal; originally conceived in the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC but built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century AD, it connects the Aegean and Ionian Seas and is a magnificent photo-op. First we'll visit Mycenae, one of the most ancient cities of Greece and the mighty fortress of Agamemnon, the leader of the Greeks at Troy. The gold artifacts we saw at the archaeological museum in Athens were discovered here and prove that Mycenae really was as "rich in gold" as Homer said. We'll walk where Agamemnon and Clytemnestra walked and visit the Treasure of Atreus, the Lion's Gate, the tholos tombs, and the palace.

After lunch we'll continue to Epidauros and visit both the most well-preserved theatre of the ancient world with its astonishing acoustics and one of the largest "hospitals" in classical antiquity, i.e., the sanctuary of Asclepius, god of medicine. Then it's on to Nafplion and a walking tour of this lovely little town that was the first capital of Greece. It features neoclassic houses, picturesque streets, and wooden balconies with cascading flowers, as well as Turkish fountains and fascinating mosques.

Dinner and Overnight at the **Hotel Amalia**

**Friday 27 April**

**Nafplion – Olympia**

**B, L, D**

After breakfast in the hotel we'll cross the central Peloponnese and travel north along the Ionian coast on our way to Olympia. After lunch we'll feel the wonder and thrill of the original Olympic Games, which lasted from 776 BC to 393 AD, as we explore Olympia's justifiably famous archaeological site. We can race on the ancient stadium track, marvel at the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, and try to imagine the splendor of Phidias' gold-and-ivory statue of Zeus, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Then we'll visit the nearby archaeological museum, where we can admire the pedimental statuary from the Temple of Zeus and Praxiteles' especially memorable statue of Hermes with the baby Dionysus.

Dinner and Overnight at **Hotel Olympion Asty**

**Saturday 28 April**

**Olympia – Delphi – Arahova**

**B, L, D**

After breakfast today we'll cross the Sea of Corinth on the beautiful new bridge, enjoy a seaside luncheon, and go to Delphi, the religious center of ancient Greece, still a holy place to some, and the Omphalos or Navel of the Earth. Delphi lies on the slopes of Mount Parnassus in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty with views that no one can forget. We'll walk the Sacred Way that leads to the Temple of Apollo where the famous oracles were pronounced. The theatre and stadium are higher up, and the tholos temple of Athena lower down. The elegant museum features, among other statues, the well-known bronze charioteer of Delphi. Tired but thrilled, we'll head up the mountain to the charming village of Arahova, where we can wander and shop to our heart's delight.

Dinner and Overnight at hotel **Santa Marina**

**Sunday 29 April**

**Arahova – Osios Loukas – Athens**

**B, L**

Our trip back to Athens features a stop at the impressive Monastery of Osios Loukas, an historic walled monastery situated on the western slope of Mt. Helicon and one of the most important monuments of middle Byzantine art and architecture. After a seaside lunch in Microlimano, we proceed to Athens, where we can do some last-minute shopping and dine one last time in Athens on our own.

Overnight at **Athens Gate Hotel**

**Monday 30 April**

**Athens - Mykonos**

**B, L, D**

After breakfast we will transfer to Piraeus and board Louis Cruise's *Majesty*. Departure is at 11:00am, and after an afternoon on the sea our cruise ship will arrive in Mykonos at 6:00pm. After dinner a walking tour through Mykonos will show us the highlights of this busy holiday spot. Departure is at 11:00pm.

**Louis Cruise Majesty**, our home for the next 4 nights.



**Tuesday 01 May**

**Ephesus, Patmos**

**B, L, D**

Arrival in Kusadasi is at 6:00am, and we will start our excursion to Ephesus soon after breakfast. We'll explore this important ancient port with visits to the theatre and baths, the Forum, and spectacular Library of Celsus. We will stand where St. Paul preached and walk where Mark Antony and Cleopatra rode in procession. After lunch onboard we continue to Patmos, where we will arrive at 4:00pm. This charming small island was where St. John authored the Book of Revelations. We'll visit both the Grotto of the Apocalypse and the monastery built later. After the visits we'll have some free time in the port city of Scala before our ship leaves at 9:00pm.



**Wednesday 02 May**

**Rhodes**

**B, L, D**

Arrival in Rhodes is at 7:00am, and we will explore this culturally rich island all day. We will visit the Acropolis and Temple of Athena in Lindos and the medieval city of Rhodes, which was dominated by the Knights of St. John for many centuries. Needless to say, the roses should be magnificent.

**Thursday 03 May**

**Crete, Santorini**

**B, L, D**



At 7:00am we will arrive in Crete, the largest of the Greek Islands and home of the Minoan civilization, which dates back to 4,000 BC. Think of the Labyrinth and the Minotaur. We'll enjoy a guided visit to the Palace of Knossos and then return to the ship for lunch before continuing to Santorini for a 4:30pm arrival. We'll be able to spend several hours in the picturesque, cliffside city of Fira with its charming architecture, quaint shops, fine restaurants, and ever so spectacular views. Departure is at 9:00pm.

**Friday 04 May**

**Athens – Home**

**B**

We'll arrive back in Piraeus at 7:00am and transfer to the airport soon after arrival. Then it's back to the USA with vivid, lifelong memories of our Bjorklunden Seminar in Greece.



## **TOUR DETAILS**

**Cost Per Person: \$3876.00** per person based on two people sharing a twin bedded cabin/room. The trip cost is based on a minimum of 30 participants. We reserve the right to cancel this trip if a minimum number of participants is not reached.

**Accommodations are limited to 36 participants and early reservations are recommended.**

Accommodations on Louis Cruise "Majesty" are in category XC, outside superior stateroom. Accommodations in other categories, based on availability, may be booked at an additional charge. Please contact us for further information.

A limited number of single rooms are available at a supplemental charge of \$820 per person for both land and cruise accommodations. Single cabins are in a category XA Outside Standard Cabin. Please contact our office for availability.

An initial deposit of \$1,200 per person is required at the time of booking. A second deposit is of \$800 per person is due on Jan 15, 2012. Final payment is due no later than March 1, 2012.

Deposits and final payment are non-refundable if cancellations are made after the respective due date.

Airline tickets have separate changes and cancellation fees depending on fare paid and date of change or cancellation.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.**

### **Included Services:**

- 12 nights hotel/cruise accommodations as listed
- Meals as listed in the itinerary
- Deluxe motor coach for touring, transfers and excursions as listed
- Service of a professional driver and guide, and local guides
- All sightseeing with entrance fees
- Hotel portage for 1 piece of checked luggage per person
- Service charges and taxes
- Tips and gratuities for included services

### **Not Included:**

- International airline tickets
- Passport and visa fees
- Communication costs, such as phone calls, emails, and faxes
- Any items of a personal nature
- Any items not included in inclusions

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**AIRFARE:** We will arrange air transportation per your request based on the lowest available fares available at the time of booking. At present, the lowest economy class airfare from Chicago to Athens round trip is \$1,646.00 per person. This fare is subject to change based on availability at time of booking. Tickets at the lowest airfares usually require instant payment and are non-refundable. Please call our office for more information.

**INSURANCE:** Travel insurance for travel accident, loss/damage/delay of baggage, flight insurance and trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. Applications will be sent on request.

**OPERATORS:** This program is operated by Travelstore of Brentwood, California, Hellenic Tours of Athens, Louis Cruises of Cyprus and hotels listed in the itinerary.

For further information, please contact:

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**14 day tour – Athens, Classical Tour, and Aegean Cruise**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) for this trip

Passenger # 1  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Dr.

Name as it appears on your passport \_\_\_\_\_ (First) (Middle) (Last)

Passenger # 2  Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Dr.

Name as it appears on your passport \_\_\_\_\_ (First) (Middle) (Last)

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(City) (State) (Zip or Postal Code) (Country)

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

- I/We have read the "Tour Details / Conditions and Contract" section and agree to its terms.  
 Enclosed is my deposit check of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1200.00 per person), made payable to TravelStore

- Charge my deposit in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to:  
Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Number \_\_\_\_\_ Sec: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- Yes**, Please send me information on Optional Insurance  **No**, Declining Insurance  
 **Yes**, Need Air Line Reservation from (city) \_\_\_\_\_  
 **No**, I am making my own Air Arrangements

**Clip and Mail this Reservation Form and Deposit to:**

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\*\*\* There is limited availability. Although you may have already indicated your intent to participate, your spots will be confirmed upon receipt of the deposit. After receiving your deposit, TravelStore will mail you a confirmation packet that will include additional travel details.