

Join **Professor Bart D. Ehrman**  
on a Custom-Made Journey of  
Learning and Enjoyment

# ISLAND HOPPING IN GREECE

**June 10 – 23, 2024**



Chora, Andros's attractive main town, dramatically sited on  
a narrow rocky promontory jutting into the sea.



Dear Friends,

The Greek Islands are one of my favorite places on earth. I've been on a number of occasions, and this Thalassa Journey is taking me there again. Wanna come with me?

We will be island-hopping to some of the most scenic sites in the world – stunningly gorgeous landscapes and seascapes, incredibly beautiful villages and towns, museums, monasteries, churches, and archaeological sites: some of the oldest remnants of western civilization. I can't tell you how excited I am about this trip.

Some of the places we'll be going will be new for me. For many years I've wanted to visit Andros, unusually dramatic and filled with interesting villages, monasteries, and churches. And Naxos (where Dionysus, the Greek god of wine was born. Take note!), boasting significant ancient remains, old Christian churches, and impressive Venetian architecture: a virtual travel through time. And most of all Santorini, widely considered the most beautiful island of them all, historically famous for the volcanic eruption that destroyed its major city fully 4000 years ago.

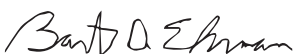
Other places on our itinerary I've visited before and am eager to see again, especially Crete, the home of the Minoan civilization that predates, well, virtually every other western civilization, whose architectural and artistic remains continue to inspire awe today. Most people see Minoan art only in books and museums. We'll see it up close and in person.

On the trip I'll be lecturing on an intriguing issue: "Was Christianity an Ancient Greek Religion?" The lectures will consider Christian beliefs and practices in light of pagan Greek religion and traditions of the time, including stories of miracle-working "divine men" born to the union of a god and a mortal woman, and who ascended to heaven when they died. I will also show how Christianity radically differed from Greek religions of its time, often in ways one would not suspect.

Along with lecturing, I will also be a fellow-traveler, joining in all the activities, enjoying the sites, answering questions, and plunging into interesting discussions.

I can't wait for this trip: it simply doesn't get any better. I hope you can join me!

Sincerely,



Prof. Bart D. Ehrman  
James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies,  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## HOST AND LECTURER

### PROFESSOR BART D. EHRMAN



**Bart D. Ehrman** is the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he has taught since 1988. Professor Ehrman has published extensively in the fields of New Testament and Early Christianity, having written or edited thirty-three books, including six New

York Times Bestsellers: *Misquoting Jesus*; *God's Problem*; *Jesus Interrupted*; *How Jesus Became God*; *Forged*; and *The Triumph of Christianity*.

His Introduction to the New Testament has been the most widely used textbook in colleges and universities for over twenty years and he has recorded ten lecture courses for The Great Courses (The Teaching Company). More than two million copies of his books and courses have been sold, and his books have been translated into twenty-seven languages.

Ehrman's work has been featured in the *New Yorker*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post* and other print media. He has appeared on NBC's Dateline, CNN, The History Channel, National Geographic, the Discovery Channel, the BBC, Fresh Air, other major NPR shows, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, the Colbert Report, and other top media outlets.

A widely sought after lecturer, and winner of numerous university awards and grants, Professor Ehrman also has a weekly podcast *Misquoting Jesus*; runs a daily blog on the New Testament and early Christianity *The Bart Ehrman Blog*; and produces online courses for non-scholars discussing scholarship on the Bible and the history of early Christianity. ([www.bartehrman.com](http://www.bartehrman.com))







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



# ITINERARY



**Monday, June 10, 2024**

## DEPART THE US

Depart the United States for Athens, Greece.

**Tuesday, June 11**

## ATHENS/ANDROS

Arrive in Athens and transfer to the nearby port of Rafina, where we will board the ferry to Andros (2hrs). Upon arrival, transfer to the lovely boutique *Hotel Micra Anglia*, situated in Chora, the island's main town. Enjoy a welcome dinner in the evening. (D)

**Wednesday, June 12**

## ANDROS

Although Andros is one of the most attractive islands in the Cyclades, it has eschewed mass tourism. Perhaps this is due to the wealth generated by its long tradition in shipping that has made it possible for the islanders to be prosperous without the need of deriving income from tourism. Whatever the reason may be, the fact is that Andros has retained its considerable natural beauty and traditional way of life. A mountainous and verdant island, with fertile and well-watered valleys, Andros's hillsides are dotted with picturesque old villages. Explore in the morning Chora, the island's attractive main town, dramatically sited on a narrow rocky promontory jutting into the sea, its headland crowned by a fort built by the Venetians in the 13th century. The town's striking Neoclassical architecture reflects the shipping prosperity. There are two outstanding museums in town we will visit, the Archaeological Museum, which displays artifacts from the island's ancient sites, and the superb Goulandris Museum of Contemporary Art, home to paintings by prominent international artists and works by notable Greek sculptors. Lunch will be served at a seaside taverna. Spend the afternoon at leisure. Andros is a walker's paradise. There are well-marked paths you may wish to choose from for a walk through beautiful landscapes. (B, L)

**Thursday, June 13**

## ANDROS

Explore Andros's scenic interior, with its old monasteries and villages. Begin in Stenies, a beautiful village where its lanes are closed to traffic, and which is known for its stately architecture. Further up the hill is the extensive Monastery of Aghios Nikolaos, whose buildings date from the 16th century. The village of Apikia features the Sariza spring, its water famous throughout Greece for its therapeutic qualities, while in the shaded square of nearby Menites water gushes from the marble mouths of lions. Continue to the whitewashed fortress-like Monastery of Panachrantou, founded in the 10th century. Its position high on the slope of the Messaria Valley affords spectacular views. Descend to the village of Korthi, known for its stone towers and mansions dating from the 17th and 18th centuries. A short distance away is the inviting bay of Korthi with a seafront esplanade. (B, L)

**Friday, June 14**

## ANDROS/NAXOS

Sail from Andros to Naxos (2hrs, 10mins). Situated in the middle of the Cyclades, Naxos is notable for its ancient history and monuments,



The picturesque town of Naxos.

attractive old villages, early Christian churches with painted interiors, and an active contemporary life that includes vibrant agriculture. The island was the birthplace of Dionysus, the god of wine, and the place where the Athenian prince Theseus abandoned Ariadne. Upon arrival, enjoy dinner and then check in at the *Hotel Naxos Resort*. (B, D)

**Saturday, June 15**

#### **NAXOS**

Tour in the morning Naxos's main town, its narrow alleyways fanning out from the Kastro, a fortress built by the Venetians, who held the island from 1207 to 1537. Visit the Della Rocca-Barozzi Venetian Museum, a tower house dating to the 13th century, and the archaeological area of Mitropolis. Facing the town is a small islet, connected to the town by a causeway, on which are the remains of an unfinished 6th century BC temple. Surviving is the temple's monumental gateway. Spend the afternoon at leisure for independent activities. (B)

**Sunday, June 16**

#### **NAXOS**

Spend the day exploring the island's attractive interior, starting at the Temple of Demeter, which was constructed in the 6th century BC. Continue to Chalki, an attractive village that features distinctive architecture. Here, we will visit the Fish and Olive Gallery that displays exquisite galleries made by the owners. Then on to Apeiranthos, a picturesque village perched on a high cliff, where we will enjoy lunch at a restaurant that serves local specialties. After lunch, drive to Panaghia Drosiani, one of the oldest and most revered churches in Greece, which consists of a series of cave-like chapels. Nearby, we will visit an ancient marble quarry, where we will see two unfinished monumental statues from around 570 BC. (B, L)

**Monday, June 17**

#### **NAXOS/AMORGOS**

Sail from Naxos to Amorgos (1hr, 20mins), which presents perhaps the most striking and memorable scenery in the Cycladic group of islands. Despite its considerable beauty, the island has retained its traditional way of life and characteristic ages-old architecture

of white-wash houses and country chapels. Settled since the 5th millennium BC, in the 3rd millennium BC, Amorgos became an important center of the distinctive Cycladic culture, and later, in the 10th century BC, it was settled by Ionians, who founded its three ancient cities, the remains of which can still be seen to this day. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Skopelitis Village Hotel*. (B, L, D)

**Tuesday, June 18**

#### **AMORGOS**

Spend the day exploring this delightful island, including the charming villages of Tholaria and Langada; Katapola, the island's harbor town since antiquity, set on scenic bay; and the famous Monastery of Chozoviotissa. Founded in the 11th century by order of the Byzantine emperor Alexius I Comnenus, the monastery is built into a sheer 600 ft cliff above the sea, presenting one of the most memorable sights in the Greek islands. Inside are several rooms, two churches and a library that contain precious icons and manuscripts. Continue to the enchanting Chora, the island's main town crowned by a 13th-century castle, its winding narrow streets lined with balconied white-wash houses and artisanal shops. Here, we will visit the Archaeological Museum, housed in a 17th-century mansion, and spend time at leisure to explore independently the delightful town. (B, L, D)

**Wednesday, June 19**

#### **AMORGOS/HERAKLION, Crete**

Sail across the southern Aegean Sea from Amorgos to Heraklion, the main city and commercial center in Crete, Greece's largest and perhaps most important island. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Hotel Megaron*. (B, D)

**Thursday, June 20**

#### **CRETE**

Crete is home to Europe's first civilization, the Minoan, which flourished during the Bronze Age, starting at about 2000 BC. With an incredibly beautiful and varied landscape that harbors an amazingly large number plants and aromatic herbs, outstanding archaeological sites and museums, atmospheric medieval towns, and an ages-old cuisine that forms the basis of the Mediterranean





**Palace of Knossos, Crete**

diet, Crete is a magnificent place to visit and explore. Visit in the morning the Historical Museum of Crete, whose exhibits illustrate periods of the island's history; the Koules Fortress, dating from the 16th-century; and the church of St. Titos, which was built originally in the 9th century. Then wander through the market of the city, where stalls selling Crete's famed herbs can be found. After lunch, drive to Rethymno. Built between a commanding 15th-century fortress and the sea, Rethymno is one of Crete's most enchanting towns. (B, L)

**Friday, June 21**

#### **HERAKLION/SANTORINI/HERAKLION**

Take a full-day cruise to iconic Santorini, the island that was inhabited by a sophisticated society during the Bronze Age. In the late 17th century BC, a massive volcanic eruption collapsed half the island and buried its main town, now called Akrotiri, in a thick layer of ash and pumice, preserving its houses, streets and squares as they existed 3,700 years ago. Excavations have revealed the Bronze Age town, making Akrotiri one of the world's most important prehistoric sites. Upon arrival, visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which exhibits artifacts excavated at Akrotiri, and after lunch at a local

restaurant, visit the excavated site. Return to Heraklion late in the afternoon. (B, L, D).

**Saturday, June 22**

#### **CRETE**

Spend the morning at leisure for independent activities. In the afternoon, tour the palace of Knossos, the largest and most magnificent Minoan palace in Crete. Clustered around a spacious courtyard, the palace contains a maze of rooms, passages and stairways that probably generated the concept of the labyrinth. More than any other surviving palace, Knossos reveals the brilliance and refinement of the Minoan civilization. Continue to the superlative Archaeological Museum to admire the exquisite Minoan art. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at a restaurant that specializes in Cretan cuisine. (B, D)

**Sunday, June 23**

#### **HERAKLION/USA**

Transfer to the airport for the return flight home. (B)



**Katapola, Amorgos**



**The fast and reliable SeaJet boats, our means of transportation to the islands.**



## RATE PER PERSON

\$6,790 per person, double occupancy  
Single room supplement: \$1,095

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Fine hotel accommodations throughout: Three nights at *Hotel Micra Anglia*, Chora, Andros; three nights at the *Hotel Naxos Resort*, Naxos; two nights at the *Skopelitis Village Hotel*, Amorgos; and four nights at the *Hotel Megaron*, Heraklion, Crete.
- Full breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Seven lunches and seven dinners at local restaurants with wine or beer and soft drinks.
- Lectures and discussions with Professor Bart D. Ehrman.
- Ferry ride to Naxos, Amorgos and Heraklion, Crete.
- Airport/hotel/pier transfers and handling of luggage on the program arrival and departure dates.
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary with a professional English-speaking guide.
- Entrance fees to museums, archaeological and historic sites.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the Itinerary and the Program Inclusions.

## OPTIONAL EXTENSION

In conjunction with the tour, we will offer a **pre-tour optional extension:**  
**Two nights in Athens from June 9 to 11.**

### RATE PER PERSON

\$1,290 per person, double occupancy  
Single room supplement: \$230



Monastery of Chozoviotissa, Amorgos

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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**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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**June 10 – 23, 2024**

Oia, Santorini



**FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CALL**

**THALASSA JOURNEYS AT**

**866-633-3611**

or email

**[reservations@thalassajourneys.com](mailto:reservations@thalassajourneys.com)**