



THALASSA  
JOURNEYS

Beyond the ordinary

Join **PROFESSOR BART D. EHRMAN**  
on a Journey of Discovery



# ISLAND HOPPING IN THE AEGEAN SEA

May 14 - May 26, 2025



Dear Friends,

The Greek Islands are some 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 to will be new for me. The seldom-visited island of Tinos, site of a major annual Greek Orthodox pilgrimage, is prized for its natural beauty and also known for its long tradition of support for artists, including the sculptor Yannoulis Chalepas, who has influenced several subsequent generations of artists and whose work we will see in several places. Paros is the source of an extremely high-quality marble, which has produced the wealth to build the picturesque towns of Parikia and Lefkes, and its tiny neighbor, Antiparos, is home to one of the finest walled settlements in the Cycladic Islands.

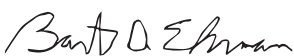
Other places on our itinerary I've visited before and am eager to see again, especially Crete, the home of the Minoan civilization that predates, well, virtually every other western civilization, whose architectural and artistic remains continue to inspire awe today. Most people see Minoan art only in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

On the trip I'll be lecturing on "The Greek Philosophers and the Apostle Paul." My talks will be based on my forthcoming book, *The Origins of Altruism: How the Teachings of Jesus Transformed the Conscience of the West*. I will discuss how ancient Greek thinkers from Platon onward understood both why and how people should live ethical lives; and then I will reflect on how later Christians changed ethical thinking in significant ways while promoting many of the ancient Greek views as well. One of my ultimate goals is to consider lessons from the ancient world that can help us find satisfying and fulfilling lives today.

When I'm *not* lecturing, I'll be living the good life myself, with you, my fellow travelers - joining the activities, enjoying the sites, discussing whatever strikes our mutual fancy, answering questions, eating great food, drinking great drink, and generally having an amazing time.

It simply doesn't get any better than this. 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

Cover photo: Seaside village of Naousa, Paros

## 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*; 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-five 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 the New Testament and early Christianity ([www.ehrmanblog.org](http://www.ehrmanblog.org)), and produces online courses connected with the historical study of the Bible and Christian antiquity ([www.bartehrman.com](http://www.bartehrman.com)).









# ITINERARY



Wednesday, May 14, 2025

## DEPART THE US

Depart the United States for Athens, Greece.

Thursday, May 15

## ATHENS

Arrive in Athens and transfer to the *Hotel Sofitel*, which is conveniently located across the street from the arrivals terminal of the Athens airport. Meet Professor Bart Ehrman, your fellow travelers and the Greek guide who will accompany you on the trip at a welcome dinner. (D)

Friday, May 16

## ATHENS/TINOS

Transfer in the morning to the nearby port of Rafina to embark on the ferry boat and sail to Tinos (3.5hrs). Inhabited since prehistoric times, Tinos, situated in the Cyclades, the group of islands in the central Aegean Sea, is known throughout Greece for its Church of Panaghia Evangelistria (Church of the Virgin Mary of the Annunciation), the site of a major annual Greek Orthodox pilgrimage. The island is also known for its artistic heritage and natural beauty. Terraced hillsides, inviting coves, and unspoiled old villages are characteristics of the island, as are the countless beautiful ornate dovecotes that dot every corner of Tinos, the legacy of the Venetian, who ruled the island during the medieval period. Spend the next three nights at the *Hotel Aeolis Suites*. (B, L, D)

Saturday, May 17

## TINOS

Explore Chora in the morning, the island's main town, and visit the Church of Panaghia Evangelistria, a spacious complex built in marble in the early 19th century that dominates the town; the Cultural Foundation of Tinos, which houses a collection of sculptures by Tinian Yannoulis Chalepas, one of Greece's most famous sculptors; and the Archaeological Museum, a small museum whose collection includes magnificent large clay vessels dating from the 7th century BC. Afternoon at leisure for independent activities. (B, D)

Sunday, May 18

## THE VILLAGES OF TINOS

Spend the day exploring Tinos's interior and its attractive old villages, including Ktikados, built on the side of a valley; Kambos, sited on top of a hill, where we will visit the Costas Tsoklis Museum, home to art by the notable Greek artist; Kardiani, perched on a cliff and whose narrow alleyways afford superb views of the sea; and enchanting Pyrgos, with its beautiful square lined with cafés and tavernas. Since antiquity, it has been the center of the quarrying, cutting and carving of marble. Here, we will visit the Museum House



Paros's village of Lefkes commands a superlative location.





Characteristic architecture lines the harbor of Chania, Crete

of Yannoulis Chalepas, a native son, who became perhaps the most famous sculptor of modern Greece. (B, L)

**Monday, May 19**  
**TINOS/PAROS**

Sail in the morning to Paros, one of the most quintessential Cycladic islands. Prosperous since antiquity as the source of some of the world's finest marble that was preferred by master sculptors from antiquity to more recent times, Paros was also the home of Archilochus, the great 7th-century BC lyric poet who was considered by the ancients as great as Homer. Upon arrival, tour Parikia, the island's beautiful main town, known for its typical architecture of white-wash cubic houses that line the narrow streets and alleyways. One of the most important Byzantine churches in Greece, Ekatonpiliiani, is located here. Dating originally to the 4th century, Ekatonpiliiani has been a place of worship for over 1,700 years. The Archaeological Museum houses a fine collection of artifacts excavated at ancient sites of Paros and nearby islands. *Hotel Agnanti*. (B, L, D)



The House/Museum of Yannoulis Chalepas, one of Greece's foremost sculptors. Tinos.

**Tuesday, May 20**  
**PAROS**

Explore the island's attractive villages and other sites, starting with the ancient marble quarries, where the famous Parian white marble was sourced, continuing to picturesque Lefkes, which prospered in the 16th century when it was the capital of Paros, and Prodomos, built as a small medieval fortified village. We will enjoy lunch at Naoussa, formerly a fishing village, now a stylish small port town. After time at leisure at this picturesque place, visit the Moraitis Estate, Paros's finest winery, for a tasting of its excellent wines. (B, L)

**Wednesday, May 21**  
**PAROS/ANTIPAROS/PAROS**

Visit in the morning Antiparos ("opposite Paros"), a small pretty island, which is separated from Paros by a narrow channel. Just inland from the attractive waterfront is the island's main town, a walled settlement that dates from the 1440s, considered to be the finest of its kind in the Cycladic islands. Enjoy exploring this delightful



The Dounias restaurant, outside of Chania, serves authentic Cretan dishes prepared in centuries-old method.





Typical street in Parikia, Paros

place before returning to Paros for an afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

Thursday, May 22

### PAROS/HERAKLION, CRETE

In the afternoon, sail to Heraklion, the main city and commercial center of Crete. The largest of the Greek islands, Crete is home to Europe's first civilization, the Minoan, which rose about 4,000 years ago. With an incredibly beautiful landscape that harbors a rich flora that includes thousands of species of wildflowers and aromatic herbs, outstanding archaeological sites and museums, historic towns, and a cuisine that gave birth to the Mediterranean Diet, Crete is a magnificent place to visit. Upon arrival, enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and spend the night at the *Hotel Megaron*. (B, L, D)

Friday, May 23

### HERAKLION/KNOSSOS/RETHYMNO/CHANIA

Tour in the morning 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. More than any other Minoan site, Knossos reveals vividly the brilliance and refinement of the Minoan civilization. Also visit the superlative Heraklion Archaeological Museum, home of the world's finest Minoan artifacts. After lunch, drive to Rethymno, one of the island's most attractive old towns, where time at leisure will be made available. Continue to Chania, perhaps Crete's most evocative city, with its strong Venetian and neoclassical architecture (Crete was a Venetian possession from 1204 to 1669). Accommodations for the next three nights will be at the *Hotel Porto Veneziano*. (B, L)

Saturday, May 24

### CHANIA

Explore Chania in the morning, focusing on the area of the atmospheric Venetian Harbor, visiting among other sites, the church of Aghios Nikolaos, originally a Dominican monastery founded in 1320; the splendid Archaeological Museum; and the Maritime Museum of Crete, which is part of the hulking Venetian Firkas

Fortress. For lunch, drive to the hill country south of the city to the small village of Drakona, home of Dounias, perhaps Crete's most traditional restaurant serving authentic Cretan dishes. Afternoon at leisure in Chania. (B, L)

Sunday, May 25

### CHANIA/POLYRRENIA/KISSAMOS/CHANIA

Leave the hotel in the morning for the ancient city of Polyrrenia, which was founded in the 8th century BC. Its ruins are spread on a hilltop that affords spectacular views of the surrounding countryside and the sea. Nearby is the working-town of Kissamos-Kastelli, where we will visit its excellent Archaeological Museum, which displays among other artifacts, exquisite mosaics excavated at nearby sumptuous villas dating from the Roman period. Return to Chania, where the rest of the day is at leisure until a farewell dinner that will be served at a local restaurant. (B, D)

Monday, May 26

### CHANIA/USA

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

## OPTIONAL POST-TOUR EXTENSION TO ATHENS | May 26 – 28

For those who would like to tour Athens and its ancient monuments, including the incomparable Acropolis, a two-day extension will be available from May 26 to 28. Hotel accommodations will be at the *Hotel Athens Capital* (or similar). The rate is \$ 1,590 per person, double occupancy (single room supplements: \$ 390), and it includes in addition to the hotel, the one-way airfare from Chania to Athens, tours with professional English-speaking guide, airport/hotel transfers, two breakfasts, one lunch, and one dinner.



## RATE PER PERSON

\$ 7,290 per person, double occupancy  
Single room supplement: \$ 1,790.

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations at deluxe hotels: One night at the *Hotel Sofitel* (or similar) in Athens; three nights at the *Hotel Aeolis Suites* (or similar) in Tinos; three nights at the *Hotel Agnanti* (or similar) in Paros; one night at the *Hotel Megaron* (or similar) in Heraklion, Crete; and three nights at the *Hotel Porto Veneziano* (or similar) in Chania, Crete.
- Buffet breakfast each morning at the hotel.
- Eight lunches and six dinners.
- Soft drinks, wine or beer served with each lunch and dinner.
- Group airport/hotel/pier transfers overseas at designated times on the indicated arrival and return dates, and handling of luggage.
- Comprehensive program of tours, excursions and other activities as described in the itinerary, with a professional English-speaking guide.
- Educational program of lectures and discussions with Bart Ehrman.
- Boat transportation from Rafina to Tinos, Paros, and Crete as described in the itinerary.
- An experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Gratuities to porters, drivers and guides.
- Complete pre-departure material.

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



Golden Bee pendant. c. 1900 BC.  
Heraklion Archaeological Museum.



In the old town of Rethymno, Crete



Medieval Kastro, the main settlement of the small island of Antiparos.

## 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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# ISLAND HOPPING IN THE AEGEAN SEA

With Professor Bart Ehrman



The attractive white-wash village of Pyrgos, Tinos.

**FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION**

**PLEASE CALL**

**THALASSA JOURNEYS AT**

**866-633-3611**

or email

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