We invite you join us as we explore the cultural heritage of ancient Greece.

Like the Athenians in the 5th century BC, we will pay homage to the great Parthenon Temple on the Acropolis, and visit the Oracle at Delphi against the backdrop of Mt. Parnassos.

We will cross the “wine-dark sea” (like Homer’s heroes a few centuries earlier) to the islands of the Aegean.

On Santorini, we will explore the ancient Akrotiri archaeological site (which has reopened) and learn about the cataclysmic explosion in 1450 BC of Santorini.

On Crete, we will attempt to unravel the mysteries surrounding the Minoans: Where did they come from, what language did they speak, what brought about their downfall 3,000 years ago?

Sparkling new museums in Athens, with dazzling collections from ancient Greece, and fascinating archaeological sites will enchant us, as will the every-day splendors of sunset at Santorini and evening light on the harbors at Mykonos and Chania.

All this with superb leadership by expert Dr. Ken Sheedy!

“Ken Sheedy is perfect for this trip, not only for his vast wealth of knowledge, but also for his very pleasant manner...”

—2014 participants
Days 1/2  New York to Athens, Greece
Depart New York's JFK Int'l. Airport for Athens, Greece. Transfer to the Herodion Hotel (4 nights) near the foot of the Acropolis. At leisure to begin to discover ancient Greece in the historic Plaka District. Welcome dinner. D

Day 3  Acropolis & Parthenon
Today we will visit the Acropolis and the Parthenon. The height of the Golden Age of Athens is displayed on this hilltop. The Acropolis will give you a feel for the artistic beauty, richness, and importance of ancient Athens, the empire that ruled the Eastern Mediterranean. Here Pericles, ruler of 461 BC Athens, amassed great fortunes through taxation and then spent this wealth on Athena, the goddess of Athens.

Another highlight today will be a visit to the New Acropolis Museum, at the foot of the Acropolis. It was constructed over a site of ancient Athens, which can be seen through the floor. We will see exhibits from the slopes of the Acropolis and the Archaic Gallery.

The frieze in the Parthenon Gallery is exactly the same dimensions as the Parthenon and includes copies of the frieze that are in the British Museum and Louvre. B

Day 4  National Archaeological Museum & Ancient Agora
This morning, we'll visit the National Archaeological Museum. The collection of prehistoric antiquities includes works of the great civilizations that developed in the Aegean from the 6th millennium BC to 1050 BC (Neolithic, Cycladic, Mycenaean) and finds from the prehistoric settlement at Thira. The treasures are amazing, including collections of ancient Greek sculpture, pottery, and bronzes. We will also enjoy a walking tour of the historic Agora at the foot of the Acropolis. The Agora is the original city center where Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle spoke to devoted students. We will walk the narrow cobblestone streets and imagine this exciting period in the birth of Western Civilization. B

LEADERSHIP
Leading this expedition will be Dr. Ken Sheedy, Director of the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatics at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Formerly with the British Museum and the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens, Greece, Ken is an archaeologist whose special focus is the Greek world, including Greek sites in Turkey.

Ken is an authority on Greek coins and has a particular interest in the archaeology of the Cyclades Islands in the central Aegean. He has based many of his studies on the antiquities of the important Cycladic island of Paros. He has published papers on many Greek archaeology topics including archaic coinage of Paros and the Cycladic City-States, sculpture of archaic Paros, and the development of pottery styles of the Aegean islands. Ken has participated in excavations on Paros and the Greek mainland.

Ken is an experienced lecturer and expedition leader and has led trips to Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, and the Black Sea. He is a popular leader of many past Aegean Odyssey Expeditions for Sigma Xi and AAAS. He looks forward to sharing his love of Greek history and archaeology, and his enthusiasm for the culture and people of Greece with you.

ITINERARY

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Day 5  Mount Parnassos & Delphi
This morning we will drive to Delphi, situated on the slopes of Mt. Parnassos. Mt. Parnassos is covered by Greek firs at the higher elevations. Lower slopes are covered with typical Mediterranean maquis vegetation including aromatic, spiny plants, with an understory of grasses, orchids, and spring wildflowers. Just to the west is Delphi, the center of the world according to Zeus, the ruler of all ancient gods. Delphi overlooks the Gulf of Corinth and has a well preserved 4th century theater, stadium, gymnasium, and reconstructed Athenian treasury. In ancient times, the main walkway was lined with treasures from around the Mediterranean and marble statues given by grateful patrons and governors of the original Greek city-states. The common people would make pilgrimages with their votive gifts to ask for guidance from the Delphic oracle. B,L

Day 6  Benaki Museum & Mykonos
This morning we will see the many artifacts from ancient Greece preserved in the sparkling new Benaki Museum. The collections describe the Greek world over history, from the prehistoric to ancient Greece, the Roman era, medieval Byzantine period, Ottoman occupation and more. You may focus on a time period of special interest (the Neolithic, Classical period, or Hellenistic) for collections from the Aegean Islands, central Greece, Crete, Santorini or elsewhere.

In the afternoon, we will fly to Mykonos, a picturesque village with winding streets, recessed doorways, and a charm all its own. This ancient fishing village has been transformed into a tranquil seaside town that affords us the opportunity to visit the sacred island of Delos. On the ridge crest you can visit the beautiful row of white windmills and view the turquoise Aegean and offshore islands. Transfer to the Leto Hotel (2 nights). B

Day 7  Delos
We’ll ferry to Delos and explore the archaeological site and museum today. The pinnacle of Delos was during Hellenistic times. It was a religious and commercial center, trading with Egypt and Syria. Athens placed a tax on all it controlled and stored the wealth at Delos. The wealthy merchants and bankers lavished Delos with the most expensive gifts in the form of frescoed temples, a Terrace of the Lions, House of Cleopatra, the mosaic House of the Dolphins, and the Theater of Delos. All during this time, they worshiped Apollo, the god of the sun and poetry. We should see Jerusalem sage, pink rockroses, scarlet anemones, or poppies amidst the ruins. Afternoon return to Mykonos and the colorful waterfront area. Dinner in a Greek taverna. B,D

Day 8  Mykonos to Santorini
Today we will ferry to the volcanic island of Santorini, which some say is the site of the fabled Atlantis. Around 1450 BC, Santorini experienced one of the greatest volcanic explosions of historic times, creating the spectacular island landscape and sheer cliffs we see today. Two small towns are perched on the cliffs, Thira and Oia. Transfer to Aressana Hotel (3 nights) in Thira. B,D

Day 9  Akrotiri & Village of Oia
Ancient Akrotiri was a major trading outpost for the Minoan Civilization centered at Knossos, Crete.
Akrotiri is one of the best preserved archaeological sites in the Aegean because of the violent eruption of Santorini. In the mid-15th Century BC, the massive eruption covered Akrotiri and the surrounding agricultural lands with many feet of ash. We are in luck because the site reopened in 2012 after six years under repairs for a collapsed protective roof. In late afternoon, we will depart for Oia, one of the most picturesque of Santorini’s villages perched on the northern tip of the island overlooking the massive caldera. One can wander through the narrow streets and at every step another picture of beauty awaits you. The architecture is both secular and ecclesiastical, infused with finesse and charm from the imagination of the local artisans. B,D

Day 10  Santorini Archaeology Museum
Today we will visit the Santorini Archaeology Museum which includes artifacts from excavations on Santorini, plus beautiful red and black vases from the 5th Century BC and Minoan items. There are frescoes and sculptures from ancient Greece, and more. At the Prehistoric Thira Museum, we will learn about the history of archaeological discovery on Thira and the geology of the island. We will also learn about the plan and architecture of the historic city of Akrotiri, the development of the art of wall painting and vase painting, and the city’s and island’s contacts with Crete and elsewhere. In late afternoon, we will visit the Petros Nomikos Exhibition of Fresco Replicas. B

Day 11  Santorini to Heraklion, Crete
Today will be at leisure for personal exploration until our flight or ferry to Heraklion, Crete. Arrive in Heraklion and transfer to the Galaxy Iraklio Hotel (2 nights). B

Day 12  Minoan Sites of Knossos & Phaistos
Today we will visit the renowned archaeological site of Knossos. Knossos was the center of the Minoan culture and palace of King Minos, who ruled the eastern Mediterranean, and made Crete the hub of trade and center of ancient arts. The Palace has been partially restored, with repainted frescoes, mosaic walls and floors, large storage vessels, fresh water system, ceremonial baths, stone walkways, and central plaza. Much of this was destroyed after the eruption of Santorini and rebuilt. We’ll also visit the ancient Minoan palace of Phaistos, south of Knossos. It is situated on a small hilltop overlooking the Messara Plain which edges the Libyan Sea, with 8,000 foot Mt. Idi to the north. Phaistos was the home of Radamanthis, the brother of the legendary King Minos. B,L

Day 13  Heraklion to Chania
This morning we will visit the excellent Archaeology Museum in Heraklion, which has some of the finest artifacts from the Minoan civilization on Crete. The collections include the Phaistos Disc, which is covered on both sides by stamped symbols and is one of the famous mysteries of archaeology. We will also tour the ancient walls of medieval Heraklion and learn about its Greek, Roman, Venetian, and Ottoman heritage. This afternoon we will travel to the charming north coastal city of Chania. Porto Veneziano Hotel (2 nights). B,L

Day 14  Chania
Chania has a rich mix of narrow streets, wood-balconied Turkish houses, Venetian monuments,
Yes! I/we want to join the Aegean Odyssey Expedition, April 27–May 11, 2015, offered by AAAS Travels, Sigma Xi & ACS Expeditions. Please reserve ______ space(s). As a deposit, I/we enclose a check for $_________ ($500 per person) payable to Betchart Expeditions Inc. Trust Account.

Name(s) ____________________________________________________________________________
Age__________

Address _____________________________________________________________________________
City __________________________________ State ____ Zip ______________

Phone: Home (________) ___________________________________________________________________________
Work (________) ___________________________________________________________________________

Email Address _____________________________________________________________________________

Membership: ___ AAAS ___ Sigma Xi ___ ACS ___ Planetary Society

Accommodations Preference: ___ Twin  ___ Single  ___ Twin Share: ___ with a friend or
 ___ Nonsmoker  ___ Smoker  ___ assign a roommate

Signature ___________________________________________________ Date __________

Signature ___________________________________________________ Date __________

Please Mail To:  Aegean Odyssey 2015
                 Betchart Expeditions Inc.
                 17050 Montebello Road,
                 Cupertino, CA 95014-5345

Responsibility

Betchart Expeditions Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, and the American Chemical Society (ACS) act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and hotels, and exercise every care possible. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, delay, loss, accident or irregularity in connection with the services of any airplane, ship, motorcoach, or any other conveyance used in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, terrorism, acts of God, or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger, as tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to substitute another leader of similar expertise or reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure, in which case the entire payment will be refunded with no further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. The price of the program is based on current tariffs and rates, and is subject to change. Any tariff, exchange rate, or fuel increases will be passed on to participants. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. It is understood that the air ticket when issued shall constitute the sole contract between the passenger and the airline concerned. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or conveyance.

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Photographs courtesy of Jack & Kathy Propp, John Perry and the New Acropolis Museum.
Trip Fee: $4,295 per person twin share (plus air approximately $1,295 plus tax from New York to Athens, Greece, round trip, plus $575 in-tour flights or ferry).

Singles: We encourage singles to register on a “twin share” basis. Should you desire single accommodations, the additional cost is $795.

Expedition Fee Includes: Land transport; group airport transfers; accommodations in first class hotels that reflect the cultural heritage of Greece; breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners; tips to guides and drivers; group entrance fees; baggage handling; leadership, administration.

Expedition Fee Does Not Include: Air fare (quoted separately); some meals; gratuities to leader; personal items such as alcoholic beverages, laundry, phone calls, bottled water, snacks, passport, personal insurance.

What to Expect: This expedition is planned for the travel enthusiast who would enjoy exploring and learning about the archaeological and cultural heritage of the Aegean. Travel is by motorcoach and scheduled flights, with daily outings on foot of 1 to 2 miles at a leisurely pace suitable for exploring archaeological sites, museums, and Greek villages. Exploring archaeological sites requires some walking uphill and sites are extensive. Please be prepared to actively explore the sites on foot. Binoculars are recommended. Temperatures will be in the 70’s to 80’s with a sea breeze.

This expedition is a tremendous experience for travelers with an appetite for adventure and discovery who would like to explore Athens, Delphi, and the Greek Isles led by a Mediterranean classical archaeologist. (No smoking in vehicles, during lectures, or meals, please.)

Air Fare: Air fare is an estimate from New York to Athens, round trip, plus in-tour flights on Aegean and Olympic Airways or ferry. All in-tour bookings and ticketing will be handled by Betchart Expeditions Inc. For assistance, please contact Marisa, (800) 252-4910. AIR FARES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Accommodations: Are in first class hotels which reflect the charm and heritage of Greece, within walking distance of tavernas, shops, and historic sites.

Reservations, Deposits, & Payments: Please mail a deposit of $500 per person with the completed reservation form to:

Aegean Odyssey 2015, Betchart Expeditions Inc.
17050 Montebello Road, Cupertino, CA 95014-5435

The balance is due 60 days before departure.

Questions: Please call Betchart Expeditions Inc.

Telephone: (800) 252 4910
or (408) 252 4910
Fax: (408) 252 1444
Email: Marisa@betchartexpeditions.com

Cancellations & Refunds: The initial deposit is refundable up to 60 days before departure less a handling fee of $100 per person. There is no refund after the 60-day period unless your place is resold, then only the $100 per person handling fee is withheld. There are no refunds for unused meals or other expedition features.

Discover the cultural heritage of Western Civilization on the AEGEAN ODYSSEY!
April 27–May 11, 2015