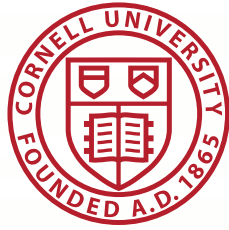


With Barry Strauss

The Bryce and Edith M. Bowmar
Professor in Humanistic Studies



Cornell **CAU**
Education Vacations

UNDISCOVERED GREECE

History, Myth and Majesty in the Land of the Gods

April 20 - May 2, 2023



EXPERT GUEST LECTURER

Dear Cornellians & Friends,

The region of Epirus, in the northwest corner of Greece, is not nearly as well known as the south and the Greek Islands, but it is home to some of the country's most dramatic scenery and rich in a multi-layered history spanning millennia. On this study tour, led by Cornell historian **Barry Strauss**, we will explore sites and monuments that tell the story of this fascinating region from prehistoric times to the present.

Beginning in Athens, we drive westward along the coast of the Gulf of Corinth visiting Delphi and Lepanto as we make our way to Preveza, our gateway to southern Epirus. From Preveza, we will explore picturesque Parga, nestled into hillsides of olive and orange groves and crowned with a Venetian castle; the island of Lefkada; and the city of Nikopolis, founded by Augustus after his victory over Antony and Cleopatra at nearby Actium in 31 BCE. Moving north, we settle in Ioannina, Epirus's main city, and our home base for visits to the Zagori villages and the UNESCO-designated Vikos Gorge; Dodoni, the oldest oracular site in Greece; and the awe-inspiring Meteora with its "monasteries in mid-air."

Throughout the tour, Professor Strauss will enrich our understanding of all we see in lectures on the 4000-year-long history of Greece, focused on antiquity; the ancient Greek cities we visit; Pyrrhus, the famous but ill-starred king of Epirus; and Antony, Cleopatra, and the Battle of Actium. He has said this about our itinerary:

Frankly, this is a magnificent trip, visiting some of the country's most beautiful sites, and several of them off the beaten path. I lived in Greece for two years and I've traveled widely in it, so I think I know whereof I speak.

I hope you will join fellow alumni and friends on this memorable and unique travel experience.

Sincerely,



Lora K. Gruber-Hine, PhD
Director, Cornell's Adult University
Alumni Affairs and Development



Barry Strauss, the Bryce and Edith M. Bowmar Professor in Humanistic Studies, is a classicist, military and naval historian, and consultant. As the Series Editor of the Princeton History of the Ancient World and author of eight books on ancient history, Professor Strauss is a recognized authority on the subject of leadership and the lessons that can be learned from the experiences of the greatest political and military leaders of the ancient world, including Caesar, Hannibal, Alexander, and many others. An expert on military strategy, Strauss is a former chair of Cornell University's Department of History.

He is currently director as well as a founder of Cornell's Program on Freedom and Free Societies, which investigates challenges to constitutional liberty at home and abroad. He is the recipient of Cornell's Clark (now Russell) Award for Excellence in Teaching. In recognition of his scholarship, he received the Lucio Colletti Journalism Prize for literature and was named an Honorary Citizen of Salamis, Greece.

His book *Battle of Salamis: The Naval Encounter That Saved Greece—and Western Civilization* (Simon & Schuster) was named one of the best books of 2004 by the Washington Post. His *Masters of Command: Alexander, Hannibal, Caesar and the Genius of Leadership* (Simon & Schuster) was named one of the best books of 2012 by Bloomberg. He is the creator of the popular new podcast series, ANTIQUITAS: Leaders and Legends of the Ancient World.

Meteora, "the monasteries in mid-air"





The Athenian Acropolis

ITINERARY

Thursday, April 20, 2023

DEPART THE USA

Depart from the US for Athens, Greece.

Friday, April 21

ATHENS, Greece

Arrive in Athens and transfer to the elegant *Hotel Athens Capital*. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner. (D)

Saturday, April 22

ATHENS

The ancient monuments of Athens are testimonials to a glorious past that gave birth to democracy and saw the beginnings of many of the arts and sciences at the core of the Western tradition. This morning, explore the Agora, the civic and commercial center of ancient Athens. Discover the well-preserved 5th-century BC Temple of Hephaistos and visit the Agora Museum, housed in the magnificently reconstructed Stoa of Attalus. After lunch, tour the Acropolis, site of the incomparable Parthenon, which, along with the other temples on site, represent the highest achievement of the Classical period in architecture and art. Also visit the new Acropolis Museum at the foot of the Acropolis, housing an outstanding collection of sculpture and other artifacts. (B,L)

Sunday, April 23

ATHENS/DELPHI/ARACHOVA

We begin this morning with a drive through the Greek countryside to Delphi. Famous in antiquity as the home of the oracle of Apollo,

Delphi is one of the most impressive sites in Greece – massive ruins that include the temple of Apollo, an ancient theater and stadium, the sanctuary of Athena Pronaia, the Kastalia spring, and various treasures that adorn the Sacred Way. As moving as these ruins are, imagine the awe ancient pilgrims must have felt when the temples and shrines were still standing. After a visit to the superb on-site museum, a short drive brings us to Arachova and the *Domotel Anemolia Mountain Resort*, our home for the night. (B,L,D)

Monday, April 24

ARACHOVA/NAFPAKTOS/MISSOLONGHI/PREVEZA

After breakfast at the hotel, depart on a drive along the northern shore of the Gulf of Corinth, through small seaside villages that dot the

rugged coastline. We will stop in Nafpaktos, known as Lepanto in the Middle Ages, the site of a decisive victory of Western European powers over the Ottoman Empire in 1571. Tour the walled town, a mix of Venetian and Ottoman architecture, before continuing to Missolonghi, where we pause for lunch. Missolonghi figured prominently in the Greek War of Independence and is where Lord Byron died in April 1824. In late afternoon, we arrive in Preveza, located on the northern shore of a narrow opening that leads to a spacious gulf and check in to the *Hotel Dioni*, before dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

Tuesday, April 25

PREVEZA/NIKOPOLIS/PREVEZA

After a morning at leisure, travel to Nikopolis, the city founded by Emperor Augustus after



Metsovo and its characteristic architecture



Delphi

his victory at the Battle of Actium. Explore its remains, including the theater, stadium and the commemorative monument. Near the ancient city is the quarter of Nikopolis that grew during the Byzantine period, which we will also visit, as well as the Nikopolis Archaeological Museum, which contains artifacts from the excavation. Continue to ancient Cassope, which occupies a remarkable site almost 2,000 feet above sea level with views of the Ionian coast and Lefkada Island. Return to Preveza and enjoy dinner in a local restaurant. (B,D)

Wednesday, April 26

PREVEZA/LEFKADA/PREVEZA

In the morning, drive across the narrow strait that separates the Ionian Sea from the Ambracian Gulf to Actium, site of the decisive naval battle in 31 BCE at which Octavian defeated the much larger combined fleet of Antony and Cleopatra to become the undisputed ruler of the Roman world, Emperor Augustus. Continue to the island of Lefkada. Valued in antiquity for its strategic position guarding access to western Greece, it is now a favorite destination for sunbathers and surfers, nicknamed "the Caribbean of Greece." Tour the island and enjoy lunch at a local taverna before returning to the hotel in the afternoon. (B,L,D)

Thursday, April 27

PREVEZA/PARGA/EPHYRA/DODONI/IOANNINA

Leave Preveza this morning and head north along the coast to Parga. Situated against slopes clad with olive trees, the village, which

has been settled since antiquity, prospered under rule from Venice and is still overlooked by a Venetian castle. After lunch, travel to the Necromanteion of Ephyra, the sanctuary of Persephone and Hades that marked the entrance to the Underworld. Continue to Dodoni, the oldest oracular site in Greece, dedicated to Zeus and mentioned by Homer in both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Dodoni's dominant landmark is its superb 3rd-century BCE theater. Our day comes to an end at the *Hotel du Lac* in Ioannina, where we enjoy dinner before retiring for the night. (B,L,D)

Friday, April 28

IOANNINA

Built on a promontory that projects into a lake, the university town of Ioannina first came into

prominence in the 13th century. It remains today the commercial and educational center of northwest Greece. This morning, tour the atmospheric old town, enclosed by fortifications that were first built during the Byzantine period. Within the walls are the Municipal Museum, housed in a mosque that dates from the early 17th century, and the Kahal Kadosh Yashan Synagogue, built in 1826. Also visit the Archaeological Museum, which houses artifacts from ancient sites in the area, including votive bronzes and oracular tablets of lead from Dodoni. The afternoon is at leisure for independent exploration of Ioannina and its many silversmith workshops, famous for producing fine filigree jewelry. (B)



Parga

Saturday, April 29

IOANNINA/ZAGOROCHORIA/IOANNINA

Today we drive north to explore Zagorochoria (the Zagori villages), a place of towering mountains, thick forests, sparkling streams, and delightful stone-built villages that have changed little through the centuries. The landscape here is among the most dramatic in Greece, particularly the incredible UNESCO-protected Vikos Gorge, with the steepest walls of any gorge in the world. Enjoy lunch at *Kanela & Garyfallo*, a restaurant that relies entirely on local produce and that specializes in dishes incorporating the vast array of mushrooms that grow wild in the surrounding forests. On the return to Ioannina, we will stop along the way to admire the craftsmanship of ancient stone bridges that still span streams centuries after they were built. (B,L,D)



View from the walls of fortress of Nafpaktos

Sunday, April 30

IOANNINA/METSOVO/METEORA

Depart Ioannina this morning for Meteora, stopping briefly along the way at the charming alpine village of Metsovo. As we approach Meteora, gigantic precipitous rocks rise abruptly from the floor of the valley, creating the platform for "the monasteries in mid-air" constructed by hermit monks some 600 years ago. After lunch, we will visit the Monastery of Varlaam, second-largest of the cloisters at Meteora, offering exceptional views over this celebrated UNESCO World Heritage Site as well as a beautiful new museum displaying the monastery's relics, art, and manuscripts. Overnight at the *Hotel Divani*, with dinner at a local restaurant. (B,L,D)

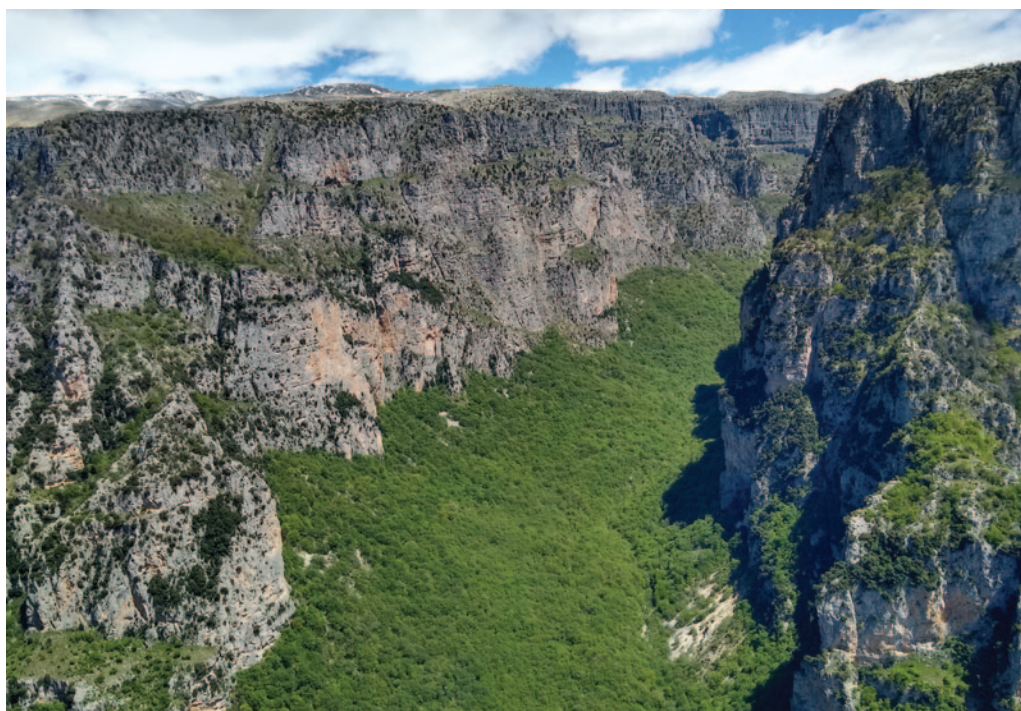


Triple-arched stone bridge dating from the 18th-century in the Zagori region

Monday, May 1

METEORA/THERMOPYLAE/ATHENS

Leave Meteora in the morning for Thermopylae, site of the famous battle between the Persians and Greeks in August 480 BCE. After lunch at a seaside taverna in the lovely town of Kamena Vourla overlooking the Malian Gulf, continue to Athens and check-in at the *Hotel Sofitel*, conveniently located across the street from Athens's airport terminal. Farewell dinner at the hotel. (B,L,D)



Vikos Gorge

Tuesday, May 2

ATHENS/USA

This morning, walk across the street to the departure terminal for flights homeward. (B)

RATE

\$6,890 per person, double occupancy.

Single room supplement: \$990

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Two nights in Athens at the *Hotel Athens Capital*; one night in Arachova at the *Domotel Anemolia Mountain Resort*; three nights in Preveza at the *Hotel Dioni*; three nights in Ioannina at the *Hotel du Lac*; one night in Meteora at the *Hotel Divani*; and one night at the *Hotel Sofitel Athens* airport.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Eight lunches and nine dinners at select restaurants, with wine or beer.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach and professional English-speaking guide.
- Lectures and discussions by Barry Strauss, Professor of History and Classics at Cornell University.
- Airport/hotel transfers and handling of luggage in Greece.
- Entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums.
- Gratuities to porters, guides and drivers.
- The services of an experienced tour manager.
- Complete pre-departure material.

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

While Cornell is pleased to facilitate travel opportunities for its alumni and friends with tour operators that specialize in high-quality educational travel, please be aware that Cornell does not conduct, manage or operate these travel experiences, or act as an agent for travelers interested in tours. Tour operators and travelers are responsible for making their own safety decisions concerning this travel, and, as a facilitator between travelers and the tour operators with whom travelers make arrangements for completing travel, Cornell's role and liability are strictly limited. Specific tour operator and national health and safety protocols will apply to each trip, and travelers should review all protocols and trip terms and conditions, including terms and conditions regarding cancellations, refunds, health and safety, and insurance prior to making a reservation. Cornell is not responsible for changes to trips or travel arrangements or for losses, expenses, damages, or injuries resulting from travel.

REGISTRATION

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on ***Undiscovered Greece: History, Myth and Majesty in the Land of the Gods***, April 20 – May 2, 2023 with Cornell's Adult University. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure on January 20, 2023 and is payable by check.

**Please either make check payable to and mail with this registration form to
Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835**

or call Thalassa Journeys to register using a credit card:

Phone Toll-Free: (866) 633-3611

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Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

GENERAL INFORMATION

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.

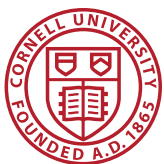
ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

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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Join Cornell Professor of History, Barry Strauss,
on a journey to Undiscovered Greece

April 20 - May 2, 2023

Parga

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PLEASE CALL TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611**

