



Adventures in Mind

Travelling Together ... Learning Together

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2025 Adventure #1: A Cretan Odyssey

Location: Crete and Athens

Dates (tentative): April 13 – May 6, 2025 (including travel to and from Greece)

Themes: The fascinating history of Crete, over several millennia, is written in its caves and ruins, its myths and symbols, its monasteries and WWII cemeteries, and in the food and wine, the weather-beaten frowns and friendly smiles, of its present inhabitants. In this Adventure we'll spend three weeks exploring all facets of this famous island, one of the most important wellsprings of European culture.

Topics included ancient Minoan civilization and its Mycenaean successor, the timeless relevance of the Greek myths associated with Crete, the island's legacy of Roman occupation and of involvement in Venetian trade, the comparison of Greek Orthodox and Catholic Christianity and, in Athens, the sculpture and architecture of the Classical period.

Group Leaders: Dr. James Anderson and Dr. John Black

Tentative Itinerary

- Day 0 Leave Canada
- Day 1 Arrive in Athens; settle into hotel near airport
- Day 2 Fly to Chania; Settle in; Groceries;
Walking Tour of the Venetian Old Town; Group Meal
- Day 3 Seminar: *'History of Grecian Archaeology'*; Tour of Local Museum

- Day 4 Seminar: *'The Eastern and Western Christian Churches'*
Seminar: *'The Sun and the Moon': Greek Ethnography*
- Day 5 Seminars: *'Greek Orthodoxy'* and *'Caves of Crete'*
- Day 6 Tour of Monastery and Cave
- Day 7 Rest Day and optional Samaria Gorge hike
- Day 8 Rest Day and optional Tour of WWII Allied Cemetery
- Day 9 Move to Archanes; settle in at Eliathos, groceries
- Day 10 Seminars: *'Minoan Palaces'*; *'Daidalos and Ikaros'*
- Day 11 Tour of the Heraklion Museum and Knossos Palace
- Day 12 Seminar: *'Theseos, Ariadne and the Minotaur'*; Tour of Phaistos
- Day 13 Seminar: *'Ancient Greek Architecture and a Roman Period City'*
Tour of Gortyna, Roman City
- Day 14 Rest Day and optional winery tour
- Day 15 Rest Day
- Day 16 Gournia and the famous Olive Tree at Azoria
- Day 17 Malia and Diktaion Cave (the "birthplace" of Zeus!)
- Day 18 Seminars: *'Ancient Greek Ideals'* and *'The Athenian Acropolis'*
- Day 19 Fly from Heraklion to Athens and settle in
- Day 20 Tour of the Acropolis, Parthenon Museum, and Agora
- Day 21 Tour of the Plaka; Final Dinner
- Day 22 Rest Day
- Day 23 Fly Home

Program Fee: \$5495 (double occupancy)



Dr. James Anderson received a BA in Classics at the University of Alberta, then an MA and PhD in Roman Archaeology at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, England. He has been on dozens of digs across the Mediterranean region and in North America. He taught Anthropology at North Island College for 24 years before retiring three years ago. He has led 13 archaeological field schools in Jordan, Greece, England, and Canada. Now retired, he continues to be passionate about archaeology, history, literature, art, music, politics, and travel.

Dr. John Black has MAs in Philosophy from Cambridge and Simon Fraser, and a PhD from the University of British Columbia. He taught for twenty-four years in the interdisciplinary Liberal Studies BA program at Vancouver Island University, and led study abroad trips to Europe for twenty years before retiring in 2017. He has published a study of Plato's dialogue *Timaios*, as well as the translation of another scholarly work on the same topic, and in his youth once directed the poet Ted Hughes' version of Seneca's *Oedipus*, a play based on the Greek myth.



Inclusive Packages

Package costs include program overheads, accommodation, airfare between Athens and Crete, minibus rental, tourist guides, educational materials and activities, and admissions to cultural sites and events. Participants must arrange their own air travel to Athens and travel insurance, including medical. Food is not included, but accommodation is in apartments or suites with kitchens, so that food costs are minimal.

Shared Accommodation (two people sharing a bedroom in an apartment shared with others): **included in program fee.**

Single Supplement: up to \$1000, TBD.

Payment Schedule

In order to allow us to make a firm decision to proceed with the Adventure, which depends upon enrolment, and to make bookings for accommodations etc., it is essential that we are able to cover our overheads well in advance of leaving Canada. The following payment schedule is therefore necessary:

1. On application, commitment fee of \$500
2. Due January 15, 2025: booking deposit of \$2500
3. Due March 1, 2025: payment of remaining balance

Payments may be made by e-transfer to info@adventuresinmind.org (no codeword needed), or by cheque payable to Adventures in Mind, mailed to: Adventures in Mind, 797 Girvin Avenue, Nanaimo, BC V9S 4W9, Canada.

Please note that all payments are non-refundable, except in case of cancellation of the program by Adventures in Mind. Late applicants may be allowed some leeway from these deadlines.

Air Travel

Participants must arrange their own air travel between Canada and Athens, but **should not do so until they receive official word (probably in January 2025) that the Adventure will proceed.** Before departure you will be given instructions on what to do on arrival in Athens.

Travel Insurance

All participants are required to have travel medical insurance and are strongly advised also to obtain coverage for trip cancellation and interruption. **Please do not buy insurance until the Adventure has been confirmed.**

For medical, safety and other advice on travelling overseas, please visit the federal government website travel.gc.ca/.

Important Notice

A level of physical and mental fitness is required to get the most out of the Adventure. Some of the sites visited are accessible only on foot (some may not be wheelchair-accessible), and some visits may require lengthy periods of walking and standing. On arrival and departure you will have to carry your own luggage. If you have any limitations or concerns in this area, please consult Adventures in Mind personnel before applying.

Application Process

To register your interest in the 2025 Adventure, or to apply for the Adventure, please email info@adventuresinmind.org or phone (236) 544-1616.

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