

DAY-TO-DAY ITINERARY

July 25, Sunday: DARDANELLES

Under full sail today at sea. We will learn all about the sails (all 32,000 sq. ft. of them!), and watch them being set as the crew climbs the rigging. The sail through the Dardanelles is spectacular! Dr. Faith Hentschel will present a lecture on Pergamum, which we will visit the following day.

The evening will get off to a great start with the Captain's welcome cocktail party, followed by a delicious dinner and dancing on the Lido Deck.

July 26, Monday: PERGAMUM

Morning arrival in Dikili on the Turkish coast for our excursion to Pergamum. A city with a dramatic layout for its citadel, Pergamum is famous for its library, which rivaled that of Alexandria. Its spectacular altar of Zeus represents one of the key monuments of Hellenistic sculpture. The Sanctuary of Asklepios/Aesculapius, one of the most renowned "hospitals" of the Roman world, was dedicated to the god of healing.

July 27, Tuesday: KUSADASI • EPHEBUS

Our sail this morning will bring us to Kusadasi. In the afternoon, we will visit Ephesus, perhaps the premier archaeological wonder of the Ancient World. Once a very cosmopolitan city, today it is still possible to explore its layout. We will visit the Celsus Library, the fountains, markets, private houses and the Great Theater, which can hold 25,000 spectators. Dr. Hentschel will explain to us in detail these fascinating sights.

July 28, Wednesday: BODRUM

Afternoon arrival in Bodrum, the capital of the Karians. It is also the home of the Maussoleion (local spelling), the tomb of the ruler Maussollos and one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Most of the stones were robbed by the knights of St. John to build the castle of St. Peter, which now houses the impressive Museum of Underwater Archaeology, founded by Professor George Bass.

Prof. Bass will guide us personally through these extraordinary sights and give a talk on his fascinating life in Turkey (schedule permitting).

This evening we will have a dinner at Bodrum castle with Prof. Bass as our guest of honor.

July 29, Thursday: RHODES

Morning arrival in Rhodes. Legend has it that the god Apollo blessed this island with sunshine and beauty. True to the myths, Rhodes is a treasure of magnificent scenery and glorious shores. We will visit Lindos and walk up to the Acropolis, then continue on to the ancient walled city of Rhodes with its palm-fringed parks and citadels. During our afternoon sail, Dr. Hentschel will present a lecture on Santorini which we will visit the following day.

July 30, Friday: SANTORINI

Morning arrival in Santorini (formerly ancient Thera). You will find yourself at an unearthly and mysterious place. In 1500 B.C. an earthquake

followed by a volcanic eruption buried the island of Thera under lava and pumic. The rediscovery through excavations of the Bronze Age settlement (1600-1800 B.C.) is perhaps the closest we have come to validating Plato's account of lost Atlantis. We will visit Akrotiri, a trading colony of Crete's famous Minoan civilization, which was buried by the volcanic eruption. Excavations have rediscovered this extraordinary well-preserved city.

Our farewell dinner will be a grand affair with caviar and champagne and dancing under the Greek skies.

July 31, Saturday: PIRAEUS • ATHENS

Morning arrival in Piraeus. Transfer to the airport for our return flight to the US or you may participate in the Athens extension.

Itinerary subject to change.

ATHENS EXTENSION

July 31, Saturday

Upon arrival in Athens, we will have a guided tour of the Acropolis, the Temple of Hephaistos, the Temple of Zeus, the Arch of Hadrian and the Acropolis Museum. Lunch will be served at the popular *Plaka*, just below the Acropolis.

In the afternoon we will continue to the *Hotel Grand Bretagne*, the finest in Athens, which will be our home for the next two nights.

Our dinner this evening will be in a rustic taverna in Athens.

August 1, Sunday

Our excursion today will take us to Delphi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. One of the most important archaeological sites of Greece, evidence has been found that it was inhabited in the Neolithic era. Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the center of the world and its oracle famous for its accurate predictions of the future. Highlights of the tour will include the Temple of Apollo, the Tholos, the theater and the stadium. After a late lunch we will return to Athens.

Our farewell dinner will be at the hotel.

August 2, Monday

Transfer to the airport for our flight back to the US.