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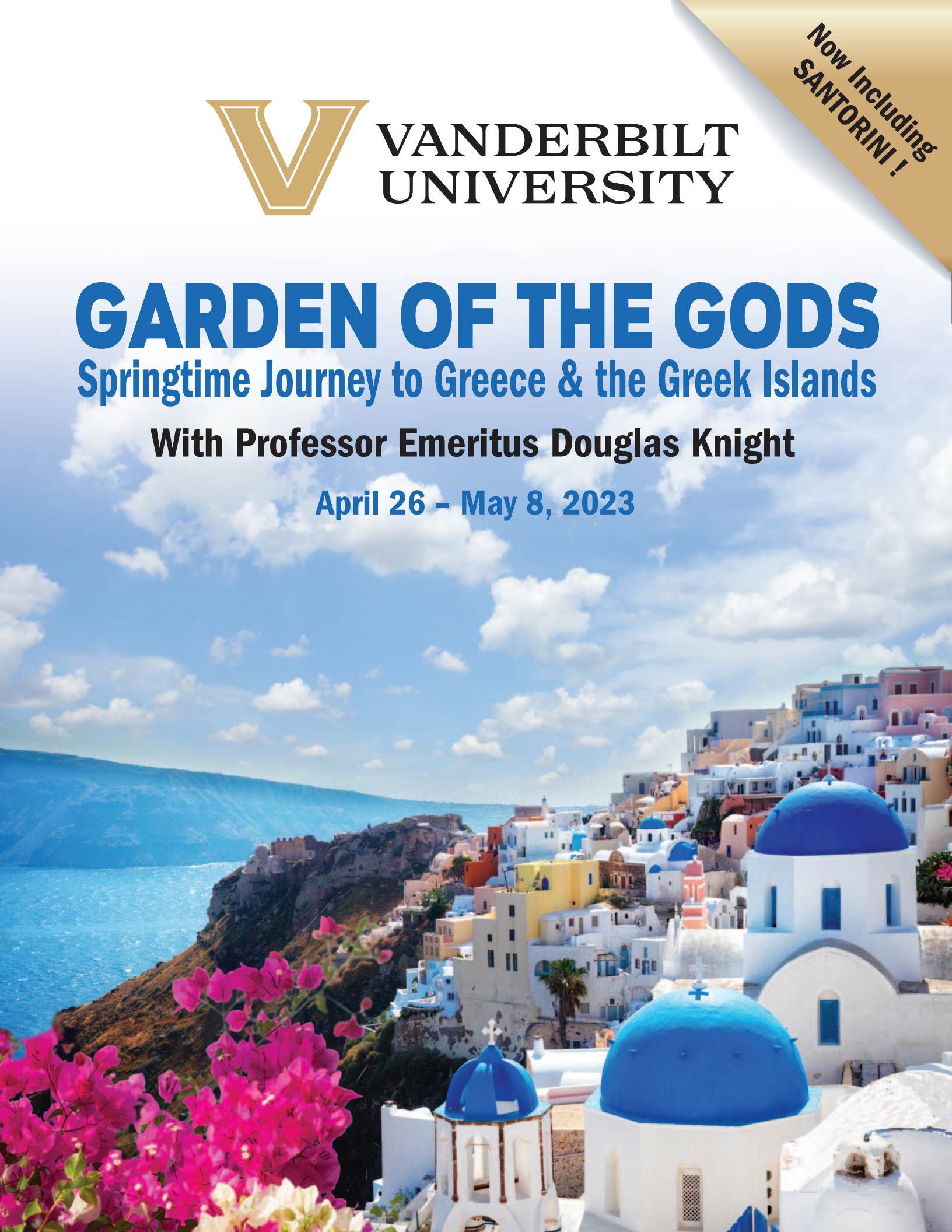
*Now Including
SANTORINI!*

GARDEN OF THE GODS

Springtime Journey to Greece & the Greek Islands

With Professor Emeritus Douglas Knight

April 26 – May 8, 2023





Dear Alumni and Friends,

We are thrilled to announce that Professor Douglas Knight will be our faculty leader on “Garden of the Gods: A Springtime Journey to Greece and the Greek Islands.” A popular leader on many Vanderbilt trips, he is excited to return to Greece and share his love for the country, its history and its culture. Also, we are pleased to have added a full- day excursion to Santorini, the most iconic of the Greek Islands, traveling via fast boat from Crete.

A journey to Greece and its fabled islands in spring is a magical experience. This is the time of year when the entire country becomes a vast natural garden with a plethora of wildflowers and herbs adding color and fragrance to the countryside and archaeological sites.

The country is justly famous for its history, culture and ancient monuments. In addition to spending time in Athens, we have selected four three islands that are distinguished for their unique beauty, long history and outstanding sites and old villages to explore: Samos, Rhodes Crete and Santorini. Samos was one of the wealthiest and most powerful city-states of ancient Greece, achieving the pinnacle of its prominence in the 6th century BC. The island was also an intellectual powerhouse. Pythagoras, philosopher, mathematician and discoverer of the geometric theorem that bears his name was a native son, as was Epicurus, another philosopher and founder of Epicureanism, an influential school of philosophy. Aesop wrote his fables in Samos, and many artists and writers from throughout the Greek world were drawn to the island. Samos’s inland is forested and dotted with attractive villages that maintain a traditional way of life.

Inhabited since prehistoric times, Rhodes flourished during the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC, when it became a prominent maritime and commercial center. Emperors, statesmen and intellectuals from the Roman Empire traveled to its shores to admire its art and study with its thinkers, orators and scientists. The island was home to the Colossus, an enormous statue that was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The largest of the Greek islands, Crete gave birth to Europe’s earliest advanced civilization, the Minoan, that rose some 4,000 years ago. The palaces, other remains from that period, and the Minoan art housed in the island’s superb museums reveal the brilliance and refinement of the Minoans. And from Crete, we will enjoy a full-day excursion to the spectacular island of Santorini. Throughout the trip we will enjoy the marvelous Greek cuisine that gave birth to the celebrated Mediterranean diet.

To explore Greece and its islands when the ancient sites and the countryside are carpeted with a profusion of wildflowers and aromatic herbs is a rare privilege. I hope you will join Professor Knight and fellow Vanderbilt alumni and friends on this memorable adventure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cary DeWitt Allyn'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cary DeWitt Allyn
Director, Vanderbilt Travel Program

P.S. Our tour operator for this program is Thalassa Journeys, which brings over four decades of experience in operating distinctive educational journeys in Greece and throughout the Mediterranean. Vanderbilt Alumni can anticipate a truly unique and rewarding experience on this custom-designed journey.

VANDERBILT PROFESSOR EMERITUS DOUGLAS KNIGHT



Dr. Douglas Knight served on the Vanderbilt faculty for 42 years and is now the Drucilla Moore Buffington Professor of Hebrew Bible Emeritus and Professor of Jewish Studies. He taught ancient history and literature, focusing on the Middle East in the broader context of Mediterranean cultures. He has also participated in several archaeological digs in Israel. The author or editor of many books and articles, he combines a historian's intrigue with an interest in the contemporary relevance of the past. He has lived in Europe, Israel, Japan, and Hong Kong for altogether some eight years and has traveled in over 50 countries, including Greece where he has spent considerable time throughout the mainland and islands. As Doug states, "the land of Greece is home to one of the world's most distinctive and influential cultural periods of classical history. This trip will allow us to experience prime sites, archaeological wonders, and beautiful landscapes -- all against the background of the magnificent Mediterranean Sea, including the alluring islands of the Aegean Sea. At the same time, the present-day Greek and Turkish settings will treat us to the delights of their rich cultural diversity. It will be an unforgettable experience for all of us."





Library of Celsus, Ephesus

ITINERARY

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

DEPART THE USA

Depart the United States for Athens, Greece.

Thursday, April 27

ATHENS, GREECE

Arrive in Athens and transfer to the *Hotel Athens Capital*, conveniently located near Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the center of the city. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner.

Meals: D

Friday, April 28

ATHENS & SOUNION

One of the world's most venerable cities, Athens is the capital of Greece and Europe's oldest city. Its ancient monuments are testimonials to its glorious past that gave birth to democracy and many other concepts and ideas that form the foundation of the Western tradition. Visit in the morning the 11th-century Monastery of Kaisariani, located on the wooded and wildflower-carpeted Mount Hymettus. Continue to the Agora, the civic and commercial center of ancient Athens and the heart of its democracy. In the afternoon, drive along the coastal road of the Athenian Riviera to Sounion to visit the 5th-century BC Temple of Poseidon, set magnificently on a headland above the sea. Dwarf bearded irises and other flowers cover the site. Dinner will be served at a local restaurant.

Meals: B, D

Saturday, April 29

ATHENS

Spend the morning at leisure to explore Athens on your own. In the afternoon, tour the Acropolis, which rises dramatically out of the plain and dominates the modern city as it did in antiquity. The incomparable Parthenon and other temples built in the 5th century BC represent the highest achievement of architecture and art of the Classical period. Visit also the superb Acropolis Museum, which houses an outstanding collection of sculpture and other artifacts.

Meals: B

Sunday, April 30

ATHENS / SAMOS

Fly to Samos, the island in the eastern Aegean Sea that was one of the wealthiest in the ancient Greek world, as well as a center of learning and culture. Spend the next three nights at the *Hotel Doryssa Seaside Resort*, located on a lovely beach near Pythagoreio, the charming harbor town named after Pythagoras, a native son of the island. Pines, olives, vines and wildflowers cover the island's fertile green hills, and the coast is indented forming inviting sandy coves. Attractive villages dot the landscape.

Meals: B, D

Monday, May 1

SAMOS

Our morning tour of the island will include its most important sites, including the Temple of



Narrow street, Lindos, Rhodes



Greek savories



Samos

Hera, the goddess that was thought to have been born in Samos, one of the largest temples built in ancient Greece; the extraordinary Tunnel of Eupalinos, one of the greatest engineering feats of antiquity; the Monastery of Panaghia Spiliani, housed in a grotto; and Vathi, the capital of Samos, built between a magnificent harbor and green hills, where we will visit the Archaeological Museum, one of the best in the Greek islands. In the afternoon, explore some of Samos's beautiful villages and its interior landscape, which is covered with wildflowers.

Meals: B, L, D

Tuesday, May 2

SAMOS / EPHEBUS, Turkey / SAMOS

Samos is situated near the Turkish coast and the port town of Kusadasi, where we will sail to in the morning. From Kusadasi, it's a short drive to Ephesus, undoubtedly one of the world's most magnificent archaeological sites. Founded by Greeks around 1100 BC, Ephesus flourished between 600 BC to AD 500, becoming one of the largest and most important cities in the Roman Empire. St. Paul lived here from AD 52-54. Tour the main monuments of the sites and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before returning to Samos in the afternoon.

Meals: B, L, D

Wednesday, May 3

SAMOS / RHODES

Fly from Samos to Rhodes, the enchanting island of Helios, the sun god, where the

enormous bronze statue of the Colossus, one of the original Seven Wonders of the World, stood. Inhabited since the Neolithic period, Rhodes achieved the zenith of its power during the Hellenistic period, starting in the 3rd century BC, when it became the first naval power in the Aegean. From 1309 to 1523, the island was ruled by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, whose strong mark can be seen in the Old Town. *Hotel Park*, beautifully located facing the medieval walled town.

Meals: B, D

Thursday, May 4

RHODES

Begin the exploration of the island by driving to a hill above the modern city, the site of the ancient acropolis. Surviving from antiquity are the Stadium, Theater, and the Temple of Apollo.

Continue to the Old Town, one of the best preserved walled medieval towns in Europe, now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit the imposing Palace of the Grand Master, originally built in the 14th century, and walk the celebrated Street of the Knights to the Archaeological Museum. After lunch, the drive to Kameiros reveals Rhodes's rich flora. Tranquil Kameiros was one of the island's three ancient cities. The remarkably well-preserved remains include temples, private homes, public squares, and baths.

Meals: B, L

Friday, May 5

RHODES / HERAKLION, Crete

Drive in the morning to the village of Lindos, which presents one of the prettiest settings in the Aegean Sea. Spread between its towering ancient acropolis and a spacious bay are the



Rethymno, Crete



Palace of Knossos, Crete



Street scene in Plaka, Athens



Lindos, Rhodes

white-wash cubic houses of the village. Visit the acropolis, crowned by the 4th-century BC Temple of Athena, and enjoy the superlative views. Time will also be allotted to explore the narrow village alleyways and to visit the church of the Panaghia, which is covered with frescoes dating from the 18th century. Lunch will be served at a village restaurant. Spend the afternoon at leisure in Rhodes until the evening flight to Heraklion, Crete. Accommodations for the next three nights will be at the *Hotel Megaron*.

Meals: B, L

Saturday, May 6
CRETE

Incredible Crete was home to the Minoan civilization, Europe's earliest advanced civilization, which came to prominence about 4,000 years ago. Crete is also famed for its flora, which is more extensive than the flora of most European countries. Today's exploration will reveal Crete's magnificent landscape and some of its ancient

sites. Drive to Gortyn, which was settled from the Minoan to the Roman periods, and to Phaistos to visit the evocative Minoan palace (2nd millennium BC), beautifully situated in the plain of Messara. After lunch at a village taverna, proceed to 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 that probably inspired the concept of the labyrinth. More than any other Minoan remains, Knossos reveals the brilliance and refinement of the Minoan civilization. We will also visit the Heraklion Museum to admire the exquisite Minoan art.

Meals: B, L

Sunday, May 7
CRETE

Depart Heraklion this morning on a full-day excursion to Santorini, traveling comfortably by fast boat (2.5 hours each way). Perhaps the

Mediterranean's most spectacular island, Santorini is known for the beauty of its white-washed main town, Phira, which is perched atop the 1,000-foot-high caldera. After ascending to the town via funicular, travel to the Bronze Age site of Akrotiri, which was buried in pumice and ash some 3,700 years ago and is one of the world's most important archaeological sites. Also enjoy lunch in Santorini and visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thera before the return to Heraklion. Crete is renowned for its age-old culinary tradition, which forms the foundation of the Mediterranean diet. Tonight's farewell dinner will be served at a restaurant that specializes in Cretan cuisine.

Meals: B, L, D

Monday, May 8
HERAKLION / USA

Transfer to the airport for the return flight home.
Meals: B

RATE

\$6,290 per person, double occupancy
Single room supplement: \$980

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Fine hotel accommodations throughout: Three nights at the *Hotel Athens Capital*, Athens; three nights at the *Hotel Doryssa Seaside Resort*, Samos; two nights at Rhodes's *Hotel Park*; three nights at the *Hotel Megaron*, Heraklion, Crete.
- Full breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Five lunches and seven dinners at local restaurants with wine or beer and soft drinks.
- Athens/Samos/Rhodes/Heraklion, Crete, flights.
- Airport/hotel transfers and handling of luggage.
- All tours and excursions as described in the itinerary with professional English-speaking guide, expert on the sites we will visit.
- Entrance fees to museums, archaeological and historic sites.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Complete pre-departure material.

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

FOR INFORMATION,
PLEASE CONTACT
VANDERBILT
TRAVEL OFFICE
AT
615-322-3673
OR

alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu

REGISTRATION

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ _____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on *Garden of the Gods*, April 26-May 8, 2023 with Vanderbilt Alumni Association. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

Please make check payable to and mail with this registration form to:
Thalassa Journeys, 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835
Phone Toll-Free: (866) 633-3611

For further information, contact Vanderbilt Travel Office at 615.322.3673 or e-mail alumni.travel@vanderbilt.edu.

AmEx Discover Visa MasterCard

No. _____

Exp. _____ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code _____

Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation Double Bed Single Bed

Single accommodation *Bed configuration cannot be guaranteed.*

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT)

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (DAY) _____

(EVENING) _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

E-MAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

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 our 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.

CST 2138603-50
ST 42048



**For Reservations and Information,
Please Contact Vanderbilt Travel Office at**

615.322.3673

Old Byzantine church, Vathi, Samos

