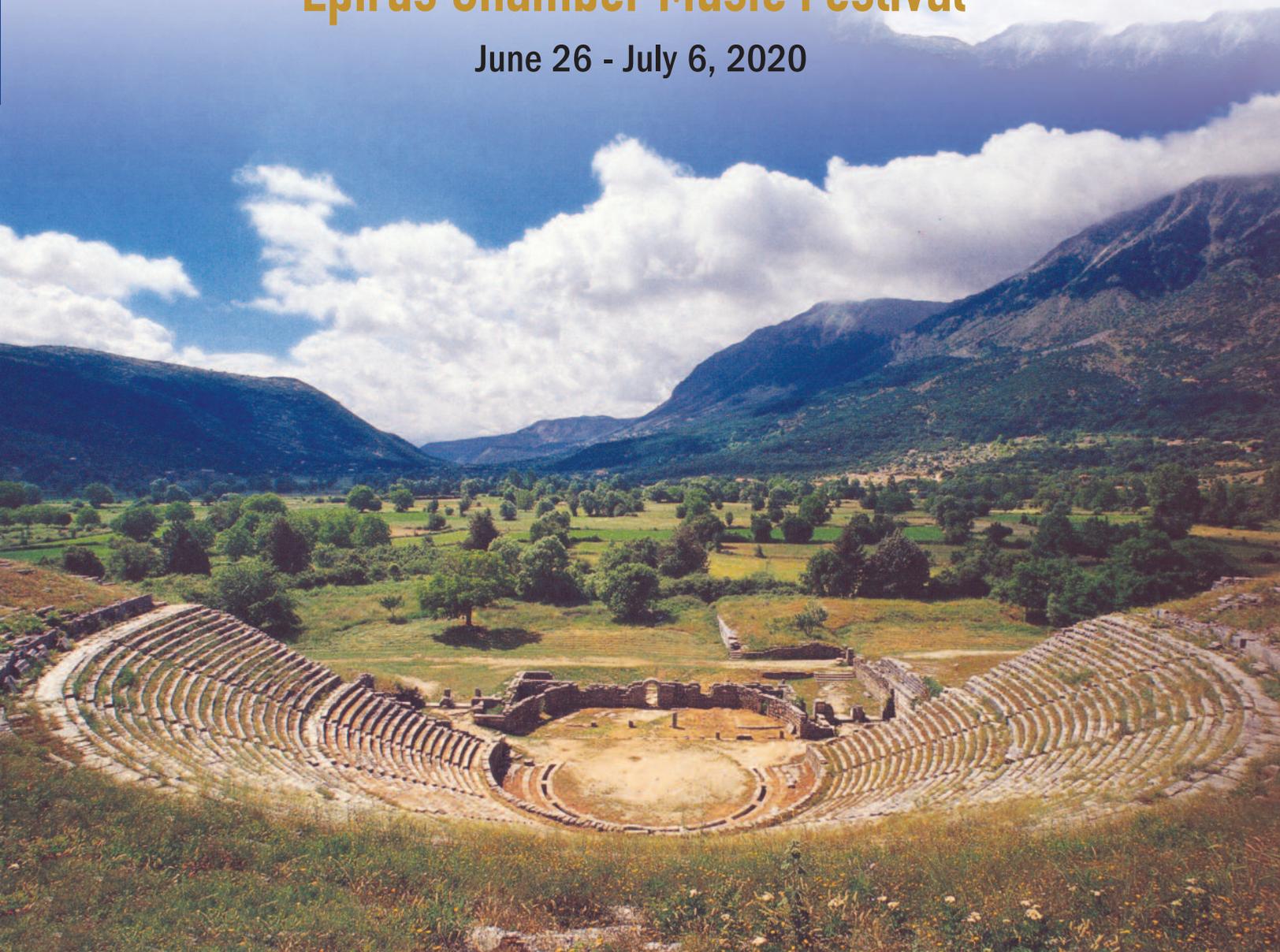


# UNDISCOVERED GREECE

## History, Myth and Music in the Land of the Gods

Including the  
**Epirus Chamber Music Festival**  
June 26 - July 6, 2020



Dear Traveler,

While Greece attracts large numbers of visitors every year from all over the world, there are areas in this ancient land that remain “undiscovered.” Such an area is Epirus, the focus of our unique journey, a place that is not familiar even to most avid travelers. Located in the northwest corner of the country, nature has blessed Epirus with abundant gifts: green mountains and thick forests, an inviting shoreline facing the Ionian Sea, rivers and lakes. Spread around this very beautiful place are picturesque towns, authentic traditional villages and magnificent ancient sites.

Our journey of Discovery will begin in Athens, the cosmopolitan and dynamic capital of Greece and the oldest city in Europe, where we will visit some of its most important landmark sites, including the Agora, ancient Athens’ civic center, and the ageless monuments of the Acropolis. We will then fly to Ioannina, the main city of Epirus. Built on an idyllic spot, a promontory facing a lake, Ioannina has a long history, a beautifully preserved old town, and is home to an important university. From here, we will explore other magnificent places, including awe-inspiring Meteora, the monasteries “in mid-air;” the ancient oracular site of Dodoni; and the idyllic island of Corfu.

From Ioannina, we will continue to the southern part of Epirus, where we will stay at the lovely seaside town of Preveza. This part of Epirus is home to several important ancient sites, which we will tour. Among them is Nicopolis, founded by Augustus after his victory over Antony and Cleopatra at nearby Actium in 31 BC.

We have timed our visit in Epirus to coincide with the Epirus Chamber Music Festival. Organized by Chamber Music Hellas, a New York-based non-profit organization that puts together high-quality chamber music festivals in places in Greece that remain outside the country’s frequented tourist destinations, the Festival will present five concerts in venues of exceptional beauty, mostly in ancient Greek theaters. The ancient Greeks believed that music was a gift from the gods. In fact, the word “music” comes from Muses, the nine mythological daughters of Zeus and patron goddesses of the arts. To explore magnificent historic sites during the day and then attend a concert of sublime music at an outdoor ancient Greek theater in the early evening will surely feel like a gift sent by the gods.

We are most pleased to have as our Expert Guest lecturer **Prof. Barry Strauss**, an eminent classicist and historian, author of several books, the recipient of many awards, and the founder and director of Cornell’s Program on Freedom and Free Societies. Prof. Strauss’s lectures and discussions will add depth and meaning to the journey and greater understanding of the places we will visit.

This unique and unusual journey is certain to appeal to first-time travelers to Greece as well as to those who have visited the country before. We hope you will join us to discover a different face of Greece.

Best wishes,



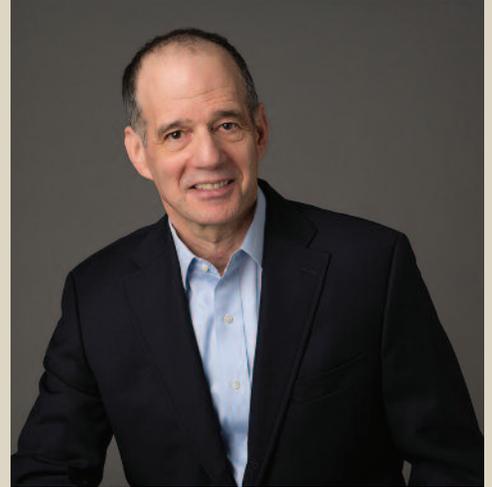
Margaret Devlin,  
Managing Director



*Meteora, "the monasteris in mid-air"*



## EXPERT GUEST LECTURER



**Barry Strauss** 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, among 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 he 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.

He is the creator of the popular new podcast series, *ANTIQUITAS: Leaders and Legends of the Ancient World*.



## JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

**Discover** places in Greece that are of singular beauty and importance, yet they remain “undiscovered.”

**Attend** chamber music concerts performed by internationally accomplished musicians.

**Explore** the islands of Corfu and Lefkada.

**Stand** on the shore of Actium, where Octavian’s forces defeated the combined navies of Antony and Cleopatra (31 BC).

**Derive** a greater understanding of Greek and Roman history from the lectures and discussions of Prof. Barry Strauss.

## ITINERARY

*Friday, June 26, 2020*

### DEPART THE USA

Depart from the US for Athens, Greece.

*Saturday, June 27*

### ATHENS, Greece

Arrive in Athens and transfer to the elegant *Hotel Grande Bretagne*, located on Constitution Square, the center of the city. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner.

Meals: D

*Sunday, June 28*

### ATHENS

One of the world’s most venerable cities, Athens is the oldest city in Europe. Its ancient monuments stand as testimonials to its glorious past that gave birth to democracy and many other ideas and concepts that form an integral part of the Western tradition. In the morning, visit the Agora, the civic center of Athens. In the afternoon, tour the Acropolis, with the incomparable Parthenon and other temples and structures built in the 5th century BC. Also, visit the new Acropolis Museum. Built at the foot of the Acropolis, it houses an outstanding collection of sculpture and other artifacts. In the evening, **attend a performance at the magnificent Herodes Atticus theater, or the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center** (subject to program availability).

Meals: B

*Monday, June 29*

### ATHENS / IOANNINA & DODONI, Epirus

Transfer to the airport for the morning short

flight to Ioannina. Built on a rocky promontory that projects into a lake, the attractive university town of Ioannina first came into prominence in the 13th century. Since that time, it remains the commercial and learning center of northwest Greece. After lunch, tour the quaint old section, which is still enclosed within fortifications. Continue to Dodoni, an archaeological site of great beauty and importance. An early oracular site dedicated to Zeus, Dodoni’s dominant landmark is its superb 3rd-century BC theater, **where we will attend the opening concert of the Epirus Chamber Music Festival**. Dinner will be served at a nearby taverna. Our hotel in Ioannina will be the lovely *Hotel du Lac*.

Meals: B, L, D

*Tuesday, June 30*

### CORFU ISLAND AND GITANA

Leave the hotel in the morning for the port of

Igoumenitsa, where we will board a boat to sail across the strait to Corfu, perhaps the loveliest in the group of islands known as the Ionian. Corfu is notable for its superb landscape and wealth of historic landmarks. Identified as the green and fair island of the Phaeacians, where Odysseus landed after ten years of wandering in the Mediterranean, Corfu, Kerkyra in Greek, was colonized by Corinthians in the 8th century BC, becoming a prosperous city-state. From the 14th to the 18th centuries, Corfu was the prized possession of Venice. The Venetian influence survives today in the town’s characteristic architecture. Explore this delightful place, including the historic center, with its two prominent fortresses; the church of the Metropolis, with its splendid iconostasis; the Archaeological Museum, which houses the huge Gorgon pediment, among other artifacts; and the iconic islets of Vlaherna and Pondikonissi. Return to Igoumenitsa, and after



*Metsovo and its characteristic architecture*



The Athenian Acropolis



Ioannina

dinner at a local taverna, drive to the seldom-visited ancient site of **Gitana, where we will attend the second concert of the Epirus Chamber Music Festival, held at its theater.**

Meals: B, L, D

*Wednesday, July 1*

**METEORA & METSOVO**

Leave the hotel in the morning for Meteora, driving through what is arguably the most spectacular scenery in Greece. In Meteora we are presented with a most extraordinary sight. Rising abruptly from the valley of central Greece are gigantic precipitous rocks on top of which hermits built monasteries (“the monasteries in mid-air”) some 600 years ago. At this celebrated UNESCO World Heritage Site, we will visit the Monastery of St. Varlaam, whose interior is covered entirely with frescoes. The view from the monastery of the surrounding rocks and their monasteries is stupendous. After lunch at Kalambaka, the town just below Meteora, return to Ioannina, stopping on the way at Metsovo, a pretty alpine village built on the side of a ravine.

Meals: B, L, D

*Thursday, July 2*

**IOANNINA / EPHYRA / PARGA / CASSOPE / PREVEZA**

Leave Ioannina in the morning for the southern part of Epirus. Reach the Necromanteion of Ephyra, the site that marked the entrance to the Underworld, and the sanctuary of Persephone and Hades. One of the most famous visitors here was Odysseus, as mentioned by Homer in the *Odyssey*. After visiting the site, drive to nearby Parga. Situated on the lush Ionian Sea coast, Parga’s position on the neck of a headland and against slopes

clad with olive and other trees makes it a most attractive place. Settled since antiquity, Parga prospered in the middle ages when it came under the domination of Venice. Enjoy lunch in this lovely place, and then explore ancient Cassope. Founded in the 4th century BC, Cassope occupies an attractive position below its acropolis. Large public buildings were built, including two theaters, and private houses have been excavated. Near Cassope is the seaside town of Preveza, where we will stay at the *Hotel Dioni* for the next three nights. After checking in and enjoying dinner at a town taverna, we will return to **Cassope’s ancient theater to attend a concert of the Epirus Chamber Music Festival.**

Meals: B, L, D

*Friday, July 3*

**PREVEZA / NIKOPOLIS / ARTA / PREVEZA**

Located at one end of the narrow opening that leads to a spacious gulf, Preveza is built on the site of the ancient Berenikia, which was

founded in 290 BC. In 1499, it was occupied by the Venetians, who held it for 200 years. It was off Preveza that the decisive Battle of Actium took place in 31 BC by the fleet of Octavian and the much larger combined fleet of Antony and Cleopatra resulting in the victory of Octavian’s forces and his becoming Roman Emperor Augustus. Drive to nearby Nikopolis in the morning, the city founded by Augustus after his victory at Actium. Explore its remains, including the theater, stadium and the commemorative monument erected by Augustus after the battle. 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 excavations. Return to the hotel later in the morning. In the afternoon, drive to the town of Arta, which occupies the site of Ambracia, an ancient town that was founded at the end of the 7th century BC. After exploring the town, including the remains of the ancient city and the



Chamber Music Hellas concert at a Byzantine church

remarkable Bridge of Arta, a stone packhorse bridge dating from the Ottoman period. Enjoy dinner at a local restaurant and **attend a concert in the splendid church of Panaghia Parigoritissa**, built in 1282-89.

Meals: B, D

*Saturday, July 4*

### **PREVEZA / LEFKADA ISLAND / PREVEZA**

In the morning, drive to the south side of the strait, stopping at Actium, to view the scene of the Battle of Actium. Continue to Lefkada, an island that is connected to the mainland by a causeway. Lefkada was valued in antiquity for its strategic position that gave access to western Greece. Tour the island and enjoy lunch at a local taverna. Return to the hotel in the afternoon. After dinner in Preveza, drive to Nikopolis to **attend the closing concert of the Epirus Chamber Music Festival, held at the imposing ancient theater.**

Meals: B, L, D

*Sunday, July 5*

### **PREVEZA / IOANNINA / ATHENS**

Drive from Preveza to Ioannina's airport for the flight to Athens. Upon arrival, check-in at the *Hotel Sofitel*, conveniently located across the street from the airport's terminal.

Meals: B

*Monday, July 6*

### **ATHENS / USA**

Walk across from the hotel to the departures terminal for the return flight home.



*Pondikonissi island and Vlacherna Monastery, Corfu*

## **EPIRUS CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL**

We have planned our journey to Undiscovered Greece to coincide with the Epirus Chamber Music Festival, whose five concerts, performed at venues of exceptional beauty - ancient Greek theaters and a 13th-century Byzantine church - we will attend. The festival is under the aegis of Chamber Music Hellas, a New York-based non-profit organization, and its Artistic Director, **Lowell Liebermann**, is one of America's most esteemed composers of classical music. Participating musicians include **Stefan Ragnar Hoskuldsson**, the principal flutist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra; pianist **William Hobbs**, a recitalist and soloist who has performed throughout America, Europe and Asia; violinist **Lucie Robert**, lauded by The New York Times for her "melting tone" and "wonderfully supple approach to phrasing;" bassoonist **Natalie Pilla**, a regular performer with the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra; violist **Chiu-Chen Liu**, who enjoys a diverse career in orchestra, chamber music and pedagogy; and pianist **Jeffrey Cohen**, praised by The New York Times for the "lucidity and poetry" of his playing.

2020 marks the third year that Chamber Music Hellas will offer a music festival in a part of Greece that remains outside the country's frequented tourist destinations. Travelers who have participated on prior journeys incorporating the concerts of Chamber Music Hellas have been delighted by the intimacy of the experience and the exceptional musicianship of the performers.

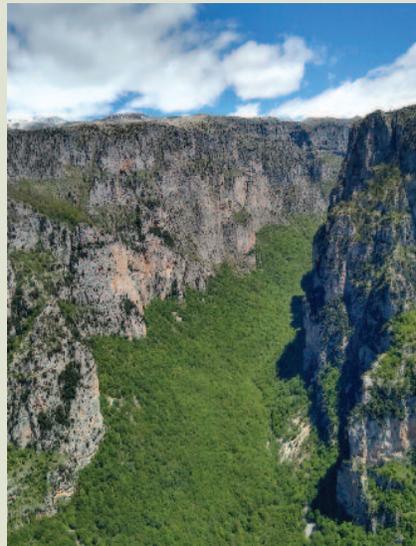
"The music was fabulous, and all the other arrangements were wonderful." L.S., Chicago, IL

"It was an extraordinary trip, and I have been telling all my musical friends about how special it was." O.H., Woods Hole, MA

"A lovely memory and so well done." H.S., New York, NY

## **OPTIONAL POST-FESTIVAL EXTENSION TO THE VIKOS GORGE AND THE ZAGORI VILLAGES**

**July 5 - 8, 2020**



*Vikos Gorge*

Extend your exploration of Epirus by visiting the quaint villages of Zagori and the magnificent UNESCO-protected Vikos Gorge. Located north of Ioannina, near the Greek-Albania border, the Vikos Gorge features the steepest walls of any gorge in the world. Vikos has been compared favorably to the Grand Canyon in scale and grandeur. As one 19th-century traveler observed, it's a sight "beyond words." In this extraordinarily impressive mountainous country are scattered old villages that have preserved their traditional stone architecture. During our stay, we will have ample opportunities to view the gorge, explore the surrounding area and the villages, and taste the delicious local cuisine. Accommodations for three nights will be at the superb *Aristi Resort and Spa*, a boutique hotel that is a featured property of National Geographic's Unique Lodges of the World. Rate: \$ 1,395 per person, double occupancy. Single room supplement, \$ 390.



*The Aristi Mountain Resort & Villas*

## RATE

\$ 5,490 per person, double occupancy.

Single room supplement: \$ 690

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Two nights in Athens at the *Hotel Grande Bretagne*; three nights in Ioannina at the *Hotel du Lac*; three nights in Preveza at the *Hotel Dioni*; one night at the *Hotel Sofitel*, Athens airport.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Five lunches and seven dinners at local select restaurants, with wine or beer.
- Round trip airfare from Athens to Ioannina.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach and professional English-speaking guide.
- The concerts of the Epirus Chamber Music Festival.
- 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.

## REGISTRATION

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **Undiscovered Greece**, June 26-July 6, 2020, with Thalassa Journeys. 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

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DR./MR./MRS./MS.    FIRST    LAST

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CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY)    (EVENING)

E-MAIL

### Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation   

Single accommodation   

Share with \_\_\_\_\_

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

SIGNATURE    DATE

SIGNATURE    DATE

## 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 and the tour's sponsoring organization. Thalassa Journeys and the tour's sponsoring organization act 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 the City of New York, pursuant to applicable New York 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.



Beyond the ordinary

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Join Cornell Professor of History, Barry Strauss, on a journey to Undiscovered Greece including concerts of the Epirus Chamber Music Festival  
*June 26 - July 6, 2020*

*Parga*

**FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION  
PLEASE CALL  
TOLL-FREE 866-633-3611  
[www.thalassajourneys.com](http://www.thalassajourneys.com)**

