



ANCIENT ISLANDS: CORFU

EXPLORING CORFU & ATHENS IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE DURRELLS

OCTOBER 10TH - 18TH 2020

Aside from Keeley Hawes, who plays a British widow who moved her family to Corfu in 1935, one of the biggest stars of ITV's drama *The Durrells* is the island itself. In fact, it's almost impossible to watch the hit show or read Gerald Durrell's wonderful books, on which it's based, without thinking, "I wish my parents had moved our family to Corfu!"

We have arranged first-class accommodation for your stay on the island and you'll have the option to take a cruise on the Ionian Sea to the Greek port of Parga and the tiny, unspoiled island of Paxos. We will visit many of the sites familiar from the TV series and there will also be plenty of time to relax by the pool or explore Corfu at your own pace. So instead of daydreaming about "The Durrells," why don't you come and discover this beautiful and beguiling Mediterranean island for yourself?

We'll end our trip with a short stay in Athens. Our hotel is ideally placed in the shadow of the Acropolis, for our adventures in the classical city center. And, if you still haven't had enough, why not join us for a few more days on the ancient island of Crete, cradle of the Minoan civilization.



PONTIKONISI



CORFU TOWN

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY	\$3250
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT	\$ 860

Airfares are available from many U.S. departure cities. Please call for details.

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 7 nights' accommodation at first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 3 dinners
- GUIDES:** Discover Europe tour guide throughout, local guide for all museums and major sites
- BAGGAGE:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites featured in the itinerary

CRETE EXTENSION: The cost of the 6 night extension to Crete is **\$2590** per person, double occupancy (single supplement \$560). This includes round trip airfare from Athens to Heraklion, 6 nights at a first-class hotel, a guide throughout, and all meals and sightseeing as described in the day-by-day itinerary.

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*





SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH - Departure this evening from your international gateway city.
OVERNIGHT: PLANE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11TH - Upon arrival in Corfu, you will be met for the transfer to your hotel for the next five nights. After time to unpack and rest, there will be time to stretch your legs and explore the neighborhood. Welcome drinks and dinner await us at the hotel this evening. **(D) OVERNIGHT: CORFU**

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12TH - We'll begin the day with a guided walking tour through picturesque Corfu Town, beginning at the Old Fortress and its small museum, and then taking in the famous Spianada Square and the 16th-century St. Spyridon Church, one of the island's iconic sights. The afternoon is free for you to discover more of Corfu Town at your leisure - perhaps a visit to the Museum of Asian Art, housed in the palace built for the British High Commissioner, or the Villa Mon Repos, the birthplace of HRH Prince Phillip, the Duke of Edinburgh. This evening is free to sample a local taverna.

(B) OVERNIGHT: CORFU

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH - Inspired by the Durrells, we'll visit some of the unforgettable locations that millions of viewers have fallen in love with while watching the show. Our first stop is to see the exterior of two of the villas the family lived in, the Daffodil-Yellow Villa and the Snow-White Villa. The venue for lunch today is the house where Lawrence Durrell actually lived with his wife: the taverna in the famous White House in Kalami. This afternoon your adventure continues with the opportunity to see some of the picture-perfect villages in the north of the island. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: CORFU**

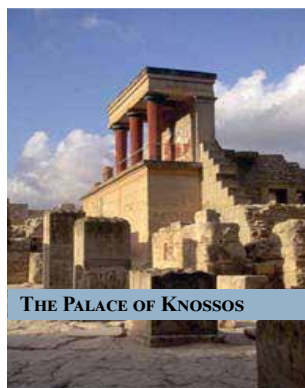
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14TH - We'll start today with a visit to Pontikonisi, or Mouse Island, a place that Gerald and his sister, Margo, both loved to visit. Continuing south, we head for one of Corfu's must-see destinations: the Achilleion Palace and Museum. We'll enjoy a guided tour of the 100-year-old villa, which is filled with statues and other mementoes of its former royal owners: Empress Elisabeth of Austria and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany. On our return to Corfu Town, the afternoon is free. While searching for the right place to have lunch, you might pass down Mantzarou Street. Number 22 is the house where Gerald Durrell's friend and mentor Dr. Theodore Stephanides once had his offices. The evening is free. **(B) OVERNIGHT: CORFU**



ACROPOLIS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH - A free day. Alternatively you can take an optional cruise from Corfu to Parga, where you will have time to explore this picturesque coastal port and have lunch at a local restaurant before sailing on to the tiny, unspoiled island of Paxos, where, after further time to explore, you sail back to Corfu in time for our last dinner in Corfu at a local restaurant. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH - Returning to the airport this morning we board the short flight to Athens. On arrival, our bus will meet us and take us to the city center. After lunch (included), we'll have a guided tour of the National Archeological Museum, before checking into our hotel. The evening is free. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**



THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH - Our day starts with a visit to the Acropolis, the main site of Classical Athens with its Temples and wonderful views over the ancient center of the city. From here, we visit the New Acropolis Museum. It is all a short walk from our hotel. The afternoon is free to take a leisurely lunch and wander through the Plaka, the old part of the city with narrow winding streets bursting with stores and cafes. This evening we gather for our farewell dinner at a taverna in the Plaka. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: ATHENS**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18TH - Morning transfer to Athens Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) OVERNIGHT: HOME**

Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L- lunch, D - dinner

OPTIONAL CRETE EXTENSION: OCTOBER 18TH - 24TH 2020

The island of Crete has an ancient and fascinating history stretching back into the mists of time. It is said that the mighty Zeus was once enchanted by the beauty of Europa, the daughter of Agenor, king of Tyre. He took the form of a white bull and carried her on his back across the sea to Crete. Here she settled and founded the dynasty that was later named for her son, King Minos – the mysterious and enigmatic Minoan civilization that flourished here between about 1700 and 1400 BCE.

Whatever the truth of its founding, we will come face to face with the evidence of Minoan wealth, power and sophistication as we visit the remains of their fabulous palaces and cities at Knossos and Festos, from our base in the modern capital of Heraklion.

For full details and a complete day-by-day program for this optional extension, please see the Discover Europe itinerary **ANCIENT ISLANDS: CRETE**