

# TURKEY *and* GREECE



**Make this the year  
for a trip of a lifetime.**

## **Oriental Institute Centennial Tour of Turkey and Greece: From Hittite Fortresses to Minoan Palaces**

Led by University of Chicago professors Theo van den Hout (OI) and Seth Estrin (art history)

**Main tour: June 10 – June 26, 2022 (17 days)  
Cappadocia pre-tour: June 7 – 10, 2022  
(4 days)**

*Tour membership is limited to 25 travelers.*

*Join us on an incredible journey through legendary landscapes and epic history as the OI combines two academic disciplines to navigate the intersections where East meets West. Experience the Iliad from the Hittite perspective as OI professor Theo van den Hout leads a march westward from Hattusa to Troy. In Turkey, we drive up the sky-blue coast of the Aegean to the scented bazaars of Istanbul. In Crete, we are met by art history professor Seth Estrin for an adventure through the stunning beauty of the Minoan world. As the sun sets on our travels, we head up the rugged mainland of Greece to Mycenae and raise a glass in the shadow of the Parthenon*

**When you travel with the OI, you immerse yourself in history and embark on an exploration of discovery.**

### **MAIN ITINERARY:**

#### **Turkey**

##### **Friday, June 10: Ankara**

Your journey begins in Turkey's capital city of Ankara, the gateway of the Hittite Empire. The ancient city's bustling past can be glimpsed in the ruined castle that looks out from the top of a central hill. We meet OI professor and Hittite specialist, Theo van den Hout for a welcome dinner and a toast to the adventures that lie ahead.

*Hotel: Swissotel Ankara or similar  
Meal: dinner*

**Saturday, June 11: Ankara/Gordion** Our day starts with a lecture by Theo van den Hout, who will guide us through the ancient landscape of the Hittite world. After free time to explore Ankara or rest, we depart for Gordion, capital of the Phrygian Empire – the city where King Midas ruled and where Alexander the Great famously cut the legendary knot. The rugged landscape boasts over ninety tumuli (burial mounds), and excavations at the acropolis have revealed five main levels of civilization. In the afternoon we return to our hotel to refresh before dining at a local restaurant.

*Hotel: Swissotel Ankara or similar  
Meals: breakfast, dinner*

##### **Sunday, June 12: Ankara/Hattusa/ Sapinuwa**

After breakfast we set out across the Turkish countryside to visit the capital of the powerful Hittite Empire, Hattusa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This massive 250-acre site is enclosed by an imposing mudbrick defensive wall, which has been partially reconstructed using materials and methods available to the Hittites. We continue on to visit Sapinuwa, a major Hittite religious and administrative center. After a day of exploration, we return to our hotel for dinner.

*Hotel: Swissotel Ankara or similar  
Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

##### **Monday, June 13: Ankara/fly to Izmir/ Kusadasi**

The morning begins with a survey of Ankara's highlights. We visit the Museum of Anatolian Civilization, situated in two fifteenth-century Ottoman buildings. We tour the impressive collection of artifacts found within Turkey and give special attention to the Hittite period of 1750-1200 BC. After poring over the treasures of Hattusa and Alacahöyük, we fly on to the coastal town of Izmir, where we transfer by bus to Kusadasi, one of Turkey's favorite Aegean resort destinations.

*Hotel: La Vista Boutique Hotel or similar  
Meals: breakfast, lunch (in flight), dinner*



## Cappadocia Pre-Tour Extention!



### Pre Tour: Cappadocia 6/7-6/10

#### Tuesday, June 7

Your adventure begins in Cappadocia, a landscape of fantasy and natural beauty known for the "fairy chimneys" that were created by formerly active volcanoes. Our Cappadocia extension will focus on the nature and landscape of the region, as such there will be no professor guiding this portion of the tour. In Cappadocia we will be led by a local English speaking guide from MIR Travel.

*Hotel: Yunak Evleri Cave Hotel, an incomparable, unique experience offering stunning cave rooms carved into cliff.*

#### Wednesday June 8

Our day starts with a land tour of the region, exploring village life that has remained unchanged for centuries, as well as artisan workshops and cave churches. After lunch we visit Pasabag, a cave city shelter for ancient religious hermits and a site of modern pilgrimage. In the Gorem Open-Air Museum we explore a complex of cave churches and chapels, many which are richly painted with colorful Byzantine frescos,

*Hotel: Yunak Evleri Cave Hotel  
Meals: breakfast, lunch*

#### Tuesday, June 14: Kusadasi/Pirene/ Miletus

After a morning lecture, we depart for the ruins of Priene and Miletus, both Ionian cities, located on either side of the former estuary of the Meander River. After a visit to the ruins of Priene, considered to be one of the most complete examples of an intact ancient Greek city, we find ourselves in the coastal town of Didyma, where the ancient sanctuary once encompassed a monumental temple of Apollo, home to a celebrated oracle second only to the oracle at Delphi. We return to Kusadasi in the early evening.

*Hotel: La Vista Boutique or similar  
Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

#### Wednesday, June 15: Kusadasi/Ephesus/Izmir

Today we visit Ephesus, a prosperous ancient Greek city famous for the Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. We wander among some of the best preserved and most understood ruins on Earth, catching a glimpse into the lives of ancient Greeks and Romans. After touring the

#### Thursday, June 9

We start the morning with a sunrise ride in a hot air balloon, a stunningly peaceful way to view the dream-like landscape. After breakfast, we visit the Red and Rose Valleys and Ortahisar Castle. Thought to be established by the Hittites, Ortahisar Castle was later used as a fortress and watchtower during the Byzantine period. The dramatic climb to the top affords wonderful views of the surrounding valleys and Mount Ericyes. After lunch we visit Pigeon Valley, named after the hundreds of small coves carved into the rock face. The valley's fascinating pale pink and cream colored rock formation provides unique opportunities for day hikes.

*Hotel: Yunak Evleri Cave Hotel  
Meals: breakfast, lunch*

#### Friday, June 10

After breakfast and a bit of morning free time, we begin the scenic four-hour drive to Ankara and the start of our main tour,

*Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

*Airport pick-up in Cappadocia is included. If you do not book a flight from your home point of origin to Cappadocia and would like to arrive early in Istanbul or Ankara before flying on to Cappadocia, we can arrange for hotel accommodations at an additional cost.*



marble streets, public baths, the library façade, and Roman villas, we drive to Izmir for a stop at the Smyrna agora and an evening of leisure.

*Hotel: Renaissance Izmir Hotel or similar  
Meals: breakfast, lunch*





### **Thursday, June 16: Izmir/ Pergamon/ drive to Assos**

After an early checkout we begin our drive to Assos, with a stop at the ancient city of Pergamon, the cultural center of the rich and powerful Attalid Dynasty. We explore the terraced acropolis, the ten-thousand-seat natural amphitheater, the Temple to Dionysus, palaces, aqueducts, fountains, and libraries. After lunch at a local restaurant, we continue our drive to the sea town of Assos, where the evening is yours to wander the streets where Aristotle came to teach.

*Hotel: Kervansaray Hotel or similar*  
*Meals: breakfast, lunch*

### **Friday, June 17: Assos/Troy/Istanbul**

This morning we embark by coach to the ruins of ancient Troy. Celebrated in Homer's Iliad and in the Aeneid of Virgil, Troy has held a firm grasp on human imagination. After touring this UNESCO-listed archaeological site and museum from the perspective of the Trojans, we continue on to one of the world's great cities, Istanbul, where we dine at our hotel.

*Hotel: Barcelo Istanbul Hotel or similar*  
*Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

### **Saturday, June 18: Istanbul**

Sprawled across two continents and connected by two slender bridges, Istanbul leads a dual life, both ancient and modern. We start our day with a visit to the neoclassical Archaeology Museum, built on the grounds of the Topkapi Palace. After lunch we tour the porcelain-tiled interior of the Blue Mosque, which soars upwards with six minarets and layered domes. We continue to the legendary basilica of the Hagia Sophia, one of the most impressive holy structures in existence. Our day concludes with a visit to Istanbul's Grand Bazaar, and dinner at a local restaurant.

*Hotel: Barcelo Istanbul Hotel or similar*  
*Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*



## **Greece**

**Sunday, June 19: Crete/Heraklion** After breakfast we transfer to the airport for flights to Crete, where art history professor, Seth Estrin, takes up the tour and leads us from the Minoan to the Classical world. After checking in to our hotel in Heraklion, we enjoy an afternoon of leisure within the Venetian fortifications followed by dinner at a local restaurant.

*Hotel: Aquila Atlantis Hotel*  
*Meals: breakfast, dinner*

### **Monday, June 20: Knossos/Malia/Myrtia**

We spend the morning at Knossos, the largest Bronze Age archeological site in Crete. Settled as early as the Neolithic period, this legendary site became the ceremonial and political center of Minoan civilization and culture. After our visit, we relax in the nearby village of Myrtia for a cooking lesson and exploration of Cretan cuisine. In the afternoon we visit the Minoan Palace and the archaeological site of Malia before ending our day.

*Hotel: Aquila Atlantis Hotel*  
*Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

### **Tuesday, June 21: Heraklion/Gortyn/ Phaistos/Chania**

After a visit to the Heraklion Archaeological Museum and its singularly important Minoan collection, we visit the archaeological site of Gortyn, referenced by Homer as a flourishing and well-fortified city of Crete. After lunch we visit the archaeological site of Phaistos, once the most wealthy and powerful city in southern Crete. After a day of touring the ancient Minoan landscape, we check into our hotel in romantic Chania and enjoy dinner in the Old Venetian Harbor.

*Hotel: Porto Veneziano*  
*Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

### **Wednesday, June 22: Chania/Samaria Gorge**

Today we take a break from history and head south into the mountains for a day of stunning natural beauty. We begin with a visit to a family-owned olive oil press before reaching the incredible Samaria Gorge, one of the longest ravines in Europe. While we won't be venturing down the 16 km path leading to the sea, we will have an opportunity to see century-old trees, wildflowers and local herbs, and rare bird and animal species. After a visit to the Gorge, we explore the Botanical Park and Gardens of Crete before returning to Chania for an evening of leisure.

*Hotel: Porto Veneziano*

*Meals: breakfast, lunch*

### **Thursday, June 23: Athens/Nafplio**

Today we board a flight to Athens, where after lunch we visit the awe-inspiring National Archaeological Museum, housing some of Greece's most important cultural artifacts. Our main focus will be on the Mycenaean collection, including Schliemann's finds at Mycenae, most notably the golden funerary masks, one of which was named erroneously as the mask of Agamemnon. After exploring the museum, we depart by coach to Nafplio, a charming port town that has long been one of the major getaway destinations for local tourists. After checking into our hotel, we relax for an evening of leisure.

*Hotel: Nafplio Amalia*

*Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

**Friday, June 24: Mycenae/Tiryns** After breakfast we explore the Greek side of the Trojan war. The day begins up in the rugged landscape of Mycenae, one of the major centers of Greek civilization in the second millennium BC, a military stronghold, and site of the legendary drama of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra. After exploring the Lion Gate, underground cistern, and immense beehive tombs, we rest for lunch and a wine tasting before heading to mighty Tiryns, the site of the cyclopean tunnels and walls. This afternoon and evening offers an optional excursion to experience ancient Greek drama in the theater at Epidauros. For those interested, we will visit the site and museum at Epidauros, enjoy a pre-theater dinner, and take in a performance of a classic Greek tragedy under the stars in the famed amphitheater.

For those who would like a leisurely evening, the streets of Nafplio are yours to explore.

Epidauros excursion: \$200 per person, includes tour of the impressive site, dinner, and tickets to the theater

*Hotel: Nafplio Amalia*

*Meals: breakfast, lunch*

### **Saturday, June 25: Athens**

After checking out of our hotel, we return to Athens by coach. Our day begins with a visit to the archaeological site of the Kerameikos necropolis, the ancient cemetery of Athens. After lunch in the Plaka, we make our way up past the theater of Dionysus to the Parthenon, one of the world's most impressive architectural structures. We tour the Acropolis and visit the Acropolis Museum before checking into our hotel and meeting for a farewell dinner in the shadow of the Parthenon to toast our journeys.

*Hotel: NJV Athens Plaza*

*Meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

### **Sunday, June 26**

We depart for home or continue on to further adventures.

#### **LED BY**

#### **Turkey:**

*Theo van den Hout, Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor of Western Civilization and of Hittite and Anatolian Languages at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago is currently the chief-editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary and author of several books, most recently The Elements of Hittite. Theo is a corresponding member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Fellow of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation as well as a Senior Fellow at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at New York University.*



#### **Greece:**

*Seth Estrin is assistant professor of art history at the University of Chicago, where he specializes in ancient Greek art and archaeology, from the Bronze Age forward. The author of articles on topics ranging from Minoan wall painting to Archaic Greek inscriptions, he is currently writing a book on the relationship between art and emotion in Classical Greek funerary sculpture.*



**RESERVATION FORM**

**Centennial Tour of Turkey and Greece:  
From Hittite Fortresses to Minoan Palaces**

*\$1,500 deposit per person is required to book*

- I would like to sign up for the Cappadocia pre-tour extension
- I would like to sign up for the in-tour excursion which includes a performance at the Ancient Theater of Epidaurus

Please make reservations for the following people:

Name #1 (Legal name, exactly as it appears on passport)

.....

Name #2 (Legal name, exactly as it appears on passport)

.....

Street address.....

.....

City/State/Zip code.....

Home telephone..... Other telephone.....

E-mail address.....

Enclosed is a deposit of \$ ..... (\$1,500 per person, payable to: Oriental Institute)

Please charge my deposit of \$ ..... to my credit card

**(credit card charges will incur an additional 5% processing fee.** Checks can be sent to the address below. If mailing a deposit check, please email mwelton@uchicago.edu or call 773-834-9777 to reserve a space.)

Name as listed on credit card.....

Card name and number.....

Expiration date.....

Signature.....

- I request a single room. I understand there is a supplement charge.
- I will be sharing with.....
- I request a roommate and understand a roommate is not guaranteed.
- I/We have read the Cancellations and Responsibility clauses and agree to all therein

**Return this form to:**  
The Oriental Institute  
Membership Department  
1155 East 58th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637

Signature.....

*For additional information,  
please contact the Oriental  
Institute Membership Office  
at 773.702.9513  
mwelton@uchicago.edu*

## THE TURKEY AND GREECE TOUR AND EXTENSION RATES INCLUDE:

- All accommodations based on double occupancy per itinerary
- Vehicle for group arrival and departure, transfers on the first and last days of the program
- Land transportation per program by private coach
- Flights within Turkey (Ankara – Izmir), Turkey to Crete, and Crete to Athens are included.
- Private English-speaking tour guide throughout the program
- All sightseeing and excursions, including entrance fees per program with the exception of the optional Epidaurus excursion which will operate at an additional fee
- Water provided on bus during all visits, transfers, and all included meals
- Gratuities to tour manager, local guide, restaurant staff at included meals, drivers, and porters
- Baggage handling at all hotels and domestic airports, where available
- Breakfast daily, lunch and dinner as indicated on the itinerary
- A contribution to the Oriental Institute

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR COST: International airfare at the start and end of the tour (with the exception of the in-tour flight from Istanbul to Crete); passport and visa fees; excess baggage charges; transfers to and from airports for tour participants arriving or departing on flights outside of the tour dates or specified group; pre- or post-tour services; medical and trip interruption insurance; evacuation costs; beverages other than water on the bus; food not included in group meals; items of a personal nature such as laundry, alcohol, telephone expenses, and photo/video expenses inside sightseeing or museums where allowed; optional excursion in Epidaurus; other items not expressly listed as included.

OPTIONAL EXTRA COSTS: Optional room upgrades where available; private airport transfers to and from the hotel when arriving/departing on a separate flight not designated as the group flight (group flights will be determined by the largest number of travelers arriving or departing at any one given time); post- and pre-tour arrival hotel rooms and transfers; the excursion to Epidaurus, including transportation, site visit with an English-speaking guide, dinner, and a ticket to an ancient drama at the Theater at Epidaurus priced at \$175 per person.

TARIFFS: Based on foreign exchange rates in effect December 2018 and a minimum of 22 participants for the main tour, 5 participants for each of the extensions. All rates subject to change. Greece flight pricing will be set post pandemic and will be added to tour cost.

DEPOSIT & PAYMENTS: A \$1,500 deposit is required to book; \$1,000 per person is non-refundable. Final Payment is due March 10, 2022.

TARIFFS AND PRICING: Based on foreign exchange rates in effect December 2018 and a minimum of 22 paying participants on the main tour, 5 participants for the pre-tour excursion. All rates subject to change.

SINGLE ROOMS: For those traveling alone but who prefer to share with another, we will endeavor to work out congenial rooming arrangements. If impossible, or if a single room must be assigned due to the roommate's canceling or incompatibility, or for any other reason, even if at the last moment or while on tour, the single supplement or prorate thereof must be collected.

CANCELLATION POLICIES: \$1,000 per person of the initial deposit is non-refundable unless the tour operator cancels the tour. From 90 to 31 days prior to the tour, 50% of the land-tour cost is non-refundable; at 30 days or fewer prior to departure, 100% of the land-tour cost is non-refundable. **NOTE: Neither the Oriental Institute nor MIR nor Travel Muse, Inc. accepts liability for any airline penalties incurred by the purchase of nonrefundable airline tickets.**

The purchase of travel insurance, including cancellation/interruption coverages is strongly recommended.

Each tour participant must submit a valid passport no later than 6 months prior to the tour start date.

RESPONSIBILITY: The Oriental Institute in accepting booking for the tour clearly stipulates that it is not liable for the faults or defaults of other companies and persons that may be used in carrying out of the tour services; also for accidents, baggage losses, delays, strikes, political unrest, riots and acts of God and war. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort or well-being of the passengers, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operator. Additional expenses, if any, including medical emergencies and evacuations, shall be borne by the passengers. The right is also reserved to withdraw this tour; also to decline to accept or retain any persons as members of the tour. No refund can be made for absence from the tour unless arrangement are made at the time of booking. IATA carriers concerned are not to be held responsible for acts, omissions or events during the time passengers are not on board. The passage contract in use by the companies concerned shall constitute the sole contract between the company and purchaser of these tours and/or passengers. Please note the inherent hazards of international travel and assume the risks involved, including but not limited to: walking on uneven and broken surfaces; traveling by motor vehicles, aircraft, trains, boats, or any other conveyance; roads, trails, and accommodations that are not maintained or operated to standards common in the United States; traveling in remote areas; forces of nature; civil disturbances; terrorism; government restrictions; high-altitude conditions; accident or illness in remote locations without access to rapid rescue or medical facilities; the adequacy of medical attention once provided; among many other unforeseeable risks.. Smoking is not allowed in vehicles and other designated non-smoking areas. Tour itinerary and order is subject t change.



Join us for this once-in-a-lifetime adventure that will deepen your understanding of the history and culture of Turkey and Greece.

## Oriental Institute Centennial Tour of Turkey and Greece: *From Hittite Fortresses to Minoan Palaces*

Our centennial year warrants a very special centennial tour. Join us for the unique opportunity to take a journey through legendary landscapes and epic history as the OI combines two academic disciplines to navigate the intersections where East meets West. OI professor Theo van den Hout accompanies us through Turkey as we march west from the Hittite capital of Hattusa to Troy, with stops at some of the world's most impressive coastal regions. In Greece, University of Chicago professor Seth Estrin leads us through the rich artistic and cultural landscape of Crete and mainland Greece for a journey into the beauty and drama of the birthplace of Western civilization.

Our tour offers exclusive highlights that include:

- A journey through two countries and thousands of years of history with University of Chicago professors of Anatolian language and art history
- An on site exploration of Hittite culture by one of the world's foremost experts
- Cooking lessons and wine tastings in Crete and mainland Greece
- An optional in-tour excursion to an ancient drama at the Theater at Epidaurus
- Exclusive access and private site tours by world luminaries in the field of archaeology

OI tour leaders provide vast knowledge of history, familiarity with the sites, extensive professional contacts, and enthusiasm that will bring the ancient world to life. Traveling with the OI takes you far beyond the usual paths, providing up-to-date information about current research and discovery.

We invite you explore more by taking advantage of our excursion to Cappadocia. Soar above a fantasy landscape in a hot air balloon and relax in a cave hotel for an experience that will make you fall in love with the natural beauty of Turkey.



### Date & Cost of Tour

*Turkey and Greece*

*June 10-26, 2022*

**17 days | \$8,596**

**Single Supplement | \$1,015**

*Pre-tour extension, Cappadocia:*

*June 7-10, 2022*

**4 days | \$1,695**

**Single Supplement | \$445**

*In-tour excursion to Epidaurus and a performance at The Ancient Theater*

**June 24 | \$200**

### To Book

*To reserve a place on this tour, call, e-mail, or return the attached form to:*

1-773-702-9513

[mwelton@uchicago.edu](mailto:mwelton@uchicago.edu)

The Oriental Institute  
Membership Department  
1155 East 58th Street  
Chicago, IL 60637

(prices exclude international airfare.)



THE  
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*From Hittite Fortresses to Minoan  
Palaces: Ol Centennial tour of Turkey and  
Greece*

June 10 - 26, 2022; optional pre-tour June 7-10, 2022

Escorted by Theo van den Hout (OI)  
and Seth Estrin (art history)

