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FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY
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SPIRIT OF PLACE
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15 days / 14 nights
Sept 7th to Sept 21st 2024, AUD \$8995

HIDDEN JEWELS OF GREECE 2024

With Tony Hewitt





'Sugar cube' style houses spill down the slopes, waters are crystal clear turquoise and all shades of blue, food is fresh, healthy Mediterranean fare and there are unexpected paths leading to ancient monuments.

This travel adventure will be a relaxing journey through some of Greece's hidden jewel islands, with enough time at each destination for your personal exploration and interaction with local Greek people. The tranquil charms of the small islands in the West Cyclades have a timeless atmosphere. Their distinctive white architecture and narrow streets reveal colourful surprises around every corner. Each island is different. There is stunning scenery for photography and for those interested in activity, we have options for our group to enjoy. All activities are voluntary and will be arranged according to the wishes of our travellers.

Photography: Tony Hewitt, an internationally awarded Grand Master of Photography, will share his considerable photographic expertise and experience, while you explore these beautiful islands, and the variations of Aegean light.

Milos is largely an undiscovered island with spectacular landforms and landscapes. Volcanic in nature, Milos is known as the island of colours thanks to its aqua waters; colourful rock formations and buildings painted in vivid primary tones. This horseshoe-shaped island floats serenely in the Aegean Sea and it was here that the world-famous Venus de Milo statue was discovered.

Sifnos has a dreamlike quality and consists of a string of three whitewashed villages, anchored by its capital, Apollonia, that sit like pearls along the crest of the island. The changing light caresses a landscape of abundant terraced olive groves, almond trees, oleander and aromatic herbs. Each of the island's bays are a spectrum of aqua waters offering breathtaking vistas. Sifnos is where photographic legend Henri Cartier-Bresson photographed in the 60's. One only needs to look at his world-famous photograph of Flora running home up the narrow steps (see page 7), to understand why he loved this island of bright light and contrasts so much. We will visit and shoot at his favourite sites.

It is said that **Folegandros** is where the scent of life comes back to you. This untouched jewel of true Greece is an island with wild natural beauty and remains away from mass tourism. Its alluring cliff-top village, Chora is easily one of the most appealing villages in the Cyclades. Our hotel is one of the most stunning I have seen in Greece.

We will discover **Naxos**, the largest and greenest of the Cyclades, where Theseus lost Ariadne to Dionysus, the God of wine. It has impressively high mountains, fertile valleys, lush green gorges, stunning seascapes and traditional villages perched high on mountain tops. It also boasts beautiful old churches, monasteries and Venetian castles coexisting harmoniously with Cycladic cubic houses.

This will be a personal odyssey like no other.

About Your Tour Leader

Tony Hewitt will be your Tour Leader on this photographic travel adventure. With a diversity of travel experience to many parts of the world, he brings a wealth of knowledge, and will guide and advise you both in the field, and during some image feedback sessions where the opportunity may arise.' With decades of travel experience, Nick Melidonis will be providing background support, and while he will not be traveling with us on this trip, he will be working closely with Tony and our travel agent to provide a memorable photographic & cultural experience.

Dates and Cost

- A 15 days/14 nights travel and cultural adventure.
- Commences Athens Saturday September 7th and finishes in Naxos on Saturday September 21st .
- Land content per person twin share AUD \$8995. Unshared Accommodation Surcharge \$900
- A deposit of AUD \$550 is required to secure your place.
- Payment of the balance is required 12 weeks prior to the Commencement of the tour.

LOYALTY DISCOUNT, if you have been on any of Nick's and Tony's tours in the past, you will receive a discount of \$300.

What's Included

- All accommodation, breakfasts, welcome and farewell dinners.
- Ferries, island coach transport, day and boat tours as per itinerary.
- Pre-tour travel advice and a comprehensive tour pack on Greece.
- Greek speaking tour guides.
- Entry fees to monuments, museums and activities as per itinerary.

What's Not Included?

- Travel to and from Greece. Our Travel Agent can assist you with booking suitable flights.
- Any tours/activities/admissions not specifically included in the itinerary.
- Travel Insurance, which is a requirement for this tour. Our Travel Agent can arrange a suitable policy for you.
- Dinners and lunches other than those mentioned in the itinerary (food is inexpensive on the islands).
- Personal expenses such as tips, drinks, laundry etc.



Cancellation Policy

- Our Cancellation Policy is detailed on the tour booking form available from our Travel Agent.

Need to Know

- This tour starts in Athens and concludes in Naxos. From the cosmopolitan island of Naxos (it has an airport), clients may wish to continue their journey through the larger Greek islands (close by), Europe or return to Perth. All options are available and will be facilitated by our travel booking agent (see below).
- Itinerary may be subject to change due to weather, ferry timetable changes and other factors. A significant change in exchange rates or other cost factors may necessitate a variation in price.
- A current travel insurance policy is required with COVID inclusion is a requirement for this tour.
- We require a minimum of six participants to run this tour.

Bookings and Information

For bookings and enquiries please contact the **sole booking agent:**

Our World Travel East Perth
Nick Missikos (Owner/Manager)

Ph: 08 9221 9977 Fax: 08 9221 5577
(outside Australia +61 89221 9977)

Email: travel@owtravel.com.au



HIDDEN JEWELS OF GREECE 2024 ITINERARY

Day 1: Athens, Sat Sept 7th

We will visit the stunning state-of-the-art **Acropolis Museum** with our own bus and guide who will explain to us the history and significance of the Parthenon. We will then take a gentle stroll with our guide to the Athens Archeological Museum for an informative session with photo opportunities. This stunning museum includes the statue of Poseidon and the gold mask of King Agamemnon.

This evening's welcome dinner (included) is at a traditional Taverna near our hotel.

Overnight - Athens

Day 2: Athens-Sifnos, Sun Sept 8th

This morning we transfer to the port in Piraeus and board our ferry for the beautiful small island of **Sifnos**. We book into our hotel in the port and spend the afternoon and evening exploring the pristine fishing village and port of Kamares and its colourful shops; waterside restaurants (many are right on the water) and the beach for those that want to swim.

Overnight - Sifnos

Day 3: Sifnos, Mon Sept 9th

Sifnos is where the photographic legend, Henri Cartier-Bresson took his famous photograph in the 60's of the girl Flora running up steps on her way home. We will follow in the footsteps of Bresson and explore the village in which he did his photography with a focus on capturing black and white images in the style and spirit of Bresson. There are three villages all intersecting with colourful coffee shops, small churches and squares. This afternoon, we will take our own transport and drive to the amazing hilly port of Kastro. Kastro is the old capital and features medieval fortifications, a living museum overlooking the tiny cove of Seralia. The narrow winding streets are a photographer's dream. We also explore the vivid aqua and azure blue waters in the surrounding area. The small church of the Seven Martyrs is set on a craggy cliff overlooking the blue waters.

Overnight - Sifnos

Day 4: Sifnos, Tues Sept 10th

This is the first of our 'chill' days on the tour where participants can engage in the optional activities and workshops which are offered on demand. These can include photography, dance, and cuisine (cooking demonstrations when we can arrange these). Some may wish to explore the island on their own through the regular bus services or hire a small car or quad bike. Others may choose to lay by the pool or swim at the beaches.

Overnight - Sifnos



Day 5: Sifnos–Milos, Wed Sept 11th

We catch our ferry from Sifnos for the one hour sail to the majestic island of Milos, known as ‘The Island of Colours’ mainly because of its spectacular rock formations and landscapes. There are dozens of beaches of all different colours and various combinations of sand, stone and shell. We arrive in the port of Adamas and transfer to our comfortable hotel on the island with its sizeable pool and tennis courts, just a few minutes’ walk from the main waterfront. We explore this lively port filled with restaurants, churches and shops with many yachts lining the waterfront, offering day cruises around the island.

Overnight – Milos

Day 6: Milos, Thurs Sept 12th

We relax in the morning and an optional photo session will be offered. This afternoon we take our own transport to discover the stunning tiny ports, villages and landscapes. We will explore at our own pace and include visits to the port of Pollonia, Mandrakia, Klima and Sarakinikos. Klima is unique. Set below a cliff face by the sea with its multi-coloured boat sheds which are underneath the fishermen’s houses and found nowhere else in Greece. The sleepy village of Plaka overlooks the main port and we have time to shop in the evening and have dinner there. We also plan to meet with Milo’s best fine-art photographer, Dimitris Tsirigotis for a visit to his gallery. This will be a fun and inspirational day.

Overnight – Milos

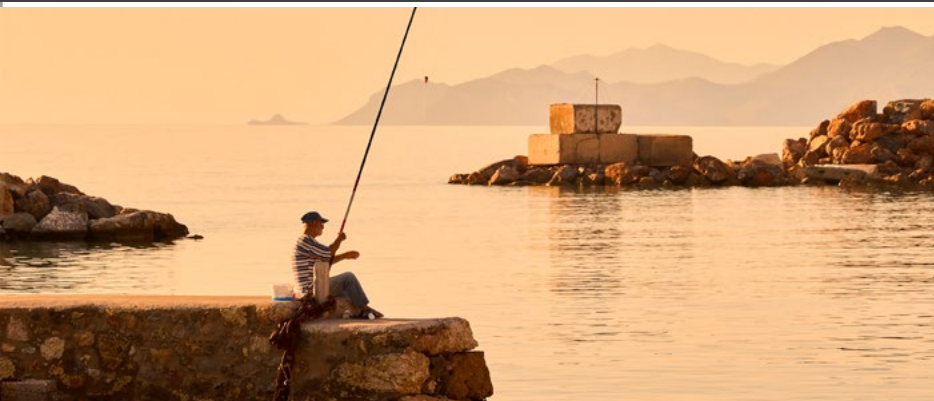
Day 7: Milos, Fri Sept 13th

A highlight of our tour will be a boat cruise including lunch. The day of this tour may vary depending on the weather forecast. The yacht/boat cruise includes stunning little ports which we will see by sea and have a lunch stop at the iconic sea formations of Kleftiko. These pillars rise out of the sea with a passageway through them big enough to allow a small boat to pass. We can swim and snorkel in the crystal clear deep blue waters.

We also pass the ancient Sulphur mines and volcanic rock formations sailing in the sunset on our way back home. Scuba diving is also available on the island.

Overnight – Milos





**Days 8-11, Folegandros,
Sat Sept 14th - Tues Sept 17th**

We enjoy a short ferry ride to the spectacular and traditional Folegandros. Boats dock at the little harbour of Karavostasis on the east coast and aside from it and the village of Chora, the only other settlement of any size is Ano Meria. The main village of Chora where we are staying just above the port, has three large tree-lined squares surrounded by tiny churches and picturesque tavernas serving the most mouth-watering Greek cuisine. Time seems to have stopped here and visitors will delight in its wild rocky character and its craggy vertical cliffs that lead the eye gently to its impossibly blue waters. Most fall in love with the old Kastro area behind the ancient walls and fortifications; ideal for photography. High above the village through long zig-zag stairs lies the imposing monastery of Panaghia (Virgin Mary) and is a must to visit.

Our hotel with its large wrap-around pool with tiny villas set amongst bougainvillea is the most beautiful we have witnessed in Greece. Our time here is spent with sessions on photography in the village and port plus other activities including spectacular walks, dance and cuisine, all in a laid-back environment. Transport hire or buses are available to explore the wild landscapes. All who visit this magic island will relax in the paradise it offers.

Overnight - Folegandro



Day 12: Naxos, Wed Sept 18th

We enjoy a leisurely short ferry ride to the largest and greenest island of the Cyclades, Naxos, entering the port guarded by the ancient Apollo's Gate. We transfer to our resort hotel near St Georges Beach. The Naxos port area boasts one of the finest old Venetian Kastro quarters next to the historic Bourg market area. This labyrinth of ancient buildings with classic tavernas and specialty shops will delight all who visit and it will provide a contrast to the smaller, quieter islands of the Western Cyclades. We will explore the exciting old port and castle area above the town and the vibrant waterfront catching a sunset over the busy harbor and fishing boat area.

Overnight - Naxos

Day 13: Naxos, Thurs Sept 19th

Today we take our own transport to explore the beautiful village of Chalki with a visit to the historic Citron liqueur factory with a tasting session of their world-famous drinks including brandies and ouzo. There is a magical square in the middle of the small village for coffee and delicious Greek sweets. We continue our tour with a visit to the striking mountain village of Apiranthos and its ancient fortifications. This village is one of the most spectacular mountain villages in Greece. We return for a leisurely afternoon and enjoy a relaxing dinner together.

Overnight - Naxos



Day 14, Naxos, Fri Sept 20th

Today is our final 'chill' day to enjoy doing our own thing or join in with our optional activities on offer. As this is the largest island in the Cyclades, people may wish to hire a small car to explore on their own or enjoy the historic and vibrant port and waterfront area for final shopping and an exploration of foot. Your tour leaders will assist with options. The waterfront and fishing port as well as the extensive mountain and village landscapes will delight the photographers in the group; Nick will be happy to make suggestions and assist in a shoot. Tonight, we celebrate our time in the islands with a farewell dinner (included).

Overnight - Naxos

Day 15, Naxos, Tour end, Sat Sept 21th

The tour ends today after breakfast. Participants may wish to extend their Greek adventure by visiting the nearby islands of Mykonos and Santorini which are only a short ferry ride from here or continue with their own travel plans.



Photo of 'Flora' taken in Sifnos by Cartier-Bresson 1960

Tour itinerary, ferry schedules and activities may change due to weather, local and other conditions.