

# ROAD SCHOLAR®

LEARNING - IT'S A TRIP®

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# Athens to Santorini: A Voyage Into Aegean Antiquity

From the cliffs of Santorini, you spy the *Aegean Princess* in the harbor below, waves lapping its twin hulls after delivering you to yet another Cycladic island. Here, in 1650 B.C., an epic eruption erased the triumphs of one of the world's most sophisticated cities in a matter of hours. Today, some archaeologists argue that the island city was Plato's Atlantis. At the Antoniou Winery, standing before white-washed homes and the glistening Aegean, you ponder this theory. But the vintner draws you back to his craft, inviting you to discover more of the storied landscape and culture embodied in his handcrafted wines.



## Overview

The story of Greek civilization is the story of the Aegean and its islands. Only by sea can one fully grasp the world of Homer, Plato and Socrates. Ply through isles of history aboard our privately chartered, 22-passenger motor yacht, the *Aegean Princess*.

In Athens, a local college professor provides a foundation for the adventures awaiting on both land and sea. From the Parthenon to the treasures of Mycenae at the National Museum — explore the greatest monuments of this former city-state and the archaeological treasures collected from surrounding areas.

Crossing the Corinth Canal on a journey through the Peloponnese, discover ancient Byzantine structures and the acoustically astounding amphitheater at Epidaurus. At Mycenae, examine the Lion's Gate and the Treasury of Atreus. Learn firsthand

the culinary heritage of the Peloponnese during an expert-led cooking class. Your base is Nafplion, a town of sloped, narrow cobblestone streets where you'll have time to sample its historical wonders and mouth-watering offerings at your leisure.

Trade the well-worn paths of the mainland for a seven-night voyage on the *Aegean Princess* — a privately chartered, catamaran motor yacht. During your week at sea, move to the relaxed tempo of Greek life as local cuisines and culture combine for an intimate immersion in the Cyclades, the chain of islands encircling the sacred island of Delos.

The spacious and stable 110-foot catamaran delivers unhindered vistas and special access to the island chain. While onboard, Study Leader Alexander Kotzamanoglu sheds light on the mythology and human history surrounding the ports of call.

On the island of Kea, partake in a culinary workshop with renowned cookbook author Aglaia Kremezi. From Mykonos, travel by local boat to Delos for a guided visit of its holy structures and statuary, including the Marble Lions, the Sanctuary of Apollo and more. Visit a distillery in Naxos, where lemons are used to produce the local liqueur, Citron.



Photos by Bryan Reinhart/Radius Images (above) and courtesy of the *Aegean Princess* (left).

Dock in Santorini and ascend the colorful, rocky sides of the caldera, then head south through the famous vineyards to the archaeological site of Akrotiri. Continue to a local winery to learn about the unique cultivation methods and tastes of Santorini's exceptional wines. The *Aegean Princess* remains docked in each port overnight, leaving you free to take in the island atmosphere at leisure.

After the *Aegean Princess* glides into rugged, unspoiled Folegandros, walk the tranquil roads of this sparsely populated and seldom-visited island. Through the

sublime landscape and gracious hospitality, gain a window into the living, inimitable spirit of Greece.

Road Scholar's Study Leader for this program is Alexander Kotzamanoglu. Born in Rhodes, Alexander graduated from the American High School in Thessaloniki and holds a bachelor's degree in classical economics from the London School of Economics. A certified guide in Greece since 1989, Alexander also completed graduate work at Miami International University. His primary interests are history, archaeology, art, architecture, opera and dance.

## The Basics

NO. OF PROGRAM NIGHTS: 13

NO. OF MEALS INCL.:  
33 total (13B, 12L, 8D)

MAX GROUP SIZE: 22

DEPARTURE DATES /  
PROGRAM ONLY PRICE:

Sep 14–28, 2008

Oct 12–26, 2008

Cat. 1: \$5,890 | Double Occupancy,  
One Double Bed

Cat. 2: \$5,890 | Double Occupancy,  
Two Twin Beds

Cat. 3: \$7,490 | Single Occupancy

For category descriptions, please  
see page 67.

For 2009 dates and prices, call  
for information.

For prices including airfare,  
visit [www.roadsscholar.org](http://www.roadsscholar.org) or  
call (800) 466-7762.

PROGRAM NO: 15481GLF

## Itinerary

### NIGHTS | LOCATION

In-flight night

- 2 Athens, Greece, Fresh Hotel
- 3 Nafplion, Amphitryon Hotel
- 7 Cyclades Islands Cruise,  
*M/Y Aegean Princess*. Ports  
of call include Kea, Mykonos,  
Delos, Paros, Naxos, Santorini,  
Folegandros and Sifnos.
- 1 Athens, Fresh Hotel

### ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

Expect to walk uphill and downhill, over unpaved, uneven terrain at archaeological sites at a leisurely pace, up to five miles per day. Stairs aboard the yacht and on streets are unavoidable.

## The Basics

NO. OF PROGRAM NIGHTS: 18

NO. OF MEALS INCL.:  
48 total (18B, 15L, 15D)

MAX GROUP SIZE: 24

DEPARTURE DATES /  
PROGRAM ONLY PRICE:

Oct 20–Nov 9, 2008  
\$4,650 | Single: +\$1,050

Jan 5–25, 2009  
Jan 26–Feb 15, 2009

\$5,099 | Single: +\$1,100

For prices including airfare,  
visit [www.roadsscholar.org](http://www.roadsscholar.org) or  
call (800) 466-7762.

PROGRAM NO: 15466GLF

## Itinerary

### NIGHTS | LOCATION

In-flight night

- 1 Bangkok, Thailand, Radisson Hotel Bangkok
- 3 Chiang Rai, Wiang Inn Hotel
- 1 Pakbeng, Laos, Pakbeng Lodge
- 3 Luang Prabang, Grand Hotel
- 3 Siem Reap, Cambodia, Borei Angkor Hotel
- 2 Phnom Penh, Sunway Hotel
- 1 Chau Doc, Vietnam, Victoria Chau Doc Hotel
- 2 Can Tho, Victoria Can Tho Hotel
- 2 Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Equatorial Hotel

### ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

This is a moderately strenuous program that takes place in a tropical climate. Extensive walking over uneven terrain. Expect to climb steps, stand for 30 minutes and walk up to three miles per day.

Thailand | Vietnam | Cambodia | Laos

# The Mekong River: The Heart and Soul of Indochina

With the dawn, a vague horizon sharpens, revealing a forest canopy pierced by the silhouette of three stone spires. As the sun inches upward, innumerable bas-reliefs take shape. Higher still, its beams multiplying each second, the sun breaks and showers its munificent light upon the impossibly massive structure — Angkor Wat. Built in the 12th century as a Hindu temple to the Supreme Being, Vishnu, it is the crown jewel of the Mekong, and not a bad place to watch the sun rise, either.

## Overview

With the Mekong River as your guide, access ancient cities, hidden temples and isolated villages far from the beaten path. In four countries, look back in time with archaeologists and diplomats, and investigate the area's most pressing issues with charitable groups and Akha villagers.

Dart through the quiet inner streets of Chiang Rai, Thailand, by rickshaw before examining Southeast Asia's remote but endangered Hill Tribes, as an expert illuminates the modern-day challenges facing these people. There, the curator of the Hill Tribe Museum reveals the fluidity of Hill Tribe culture in the traditional clothing and implements. At the Princess Mother Royal Villa, a director of the Doi Thung project explains efforts by Her Royal Highness to end opium farming by teaching villagers trade skills. Understand why this region is infamously called the "Golden Triangle"; discuss the historic role of opium, examining the myths, facts and social costs of the illicit drug at the Opium Museum.



Photos by [istockphoto.com/Anthony Brown](http://istockphoto.com/Anthony Brown) (left) and [Photodisc](http://istockphoto.com/Photodisc) (right).

With scenic contrasts of modern Thailand to your right and rural Laos to your left, cruise the Mekong south to Pakbeng, Laos. Stops along the riverbank deliver firsthand insights into the living culture of minority villagers.

In Luang Prabang, a member of La Maison du Patrimoine, the UNESCO-sponsored authority, discusses the heritage of this magnificent rural city. Experience the soul of the region at one of the many Luang Prabang monasteries, and discuss daily life with a Buddhist monk.

A once-in-a-lifetime experience awaits with sunrise at Angkor Wat. After the sun breaks over the temple, be among the first of the day to explore this UNESCO World Heritage Site. In one of the Angkor complex temples, an archaeologist details the temple's restoration. Contrast this with Ta Phrom, the "Jungle Temple," an example of how these massive temples appeared when rediscovered.

Explore the Royal Palace in the capital city of Phnom Penh. At S-21 (Tuol Sleng) Interrogation Center, an expert explains the Khmer Rouge Genocide. Visiting

the Choeung Ek Killing Fields Memorial provides a deeper understanding of the scars left by the genocide. Discuss U.S.-Cambodia relations with a panel of U.S. Embassy staff and freedom of the press with Michael Hayes, founder and editor of the Phnom Penh Post.

As a special experience, travel by speedboat into Vietnam. Arriving in Chau Doc, discover the floating houses that double as catfish farms. In a small weaving village, walk the alleyways and visit with local families, marveling at their impressive stories and craftsmanship.

Wander through the expansive, colorful floating market of Cai Rang and stroll footpaths ashore, pausing for tea at a farmer's home. Float through the canals of the Mekong Delta on a small boat and talk with workers at a brick and pottery factory.

In Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), savor the city's lively atmosphere. A guided excursion introduces French Colonial flavor with visits to Notre Dame Cathedral, the historic central post office and Reunification Hall. Experience the vitality of Vietnam today in this vibrant economic capital at the terminus of the great Mekong.