



A Cycladic Extravaganza April 01-13, 2008

Tinos is in the heart of the Cyclades, the most beautiful part of the Aegean. Its proximity to other islands in the Cyclades will allow us to make it our base; from there we will alternate village trekking with day trips to the neighbouring islands of Mykonos, Syros and Andros, all within a 15 to 60 minute ferry ride. Our hikes and village visits will be leisurely, allowing us the time we need to take photos, make quick sketches al fresco, learn about the history and customs, and taste the local cuisine. Participants should be in good physical condition; we'll average four to five hours of walking a day.

Day 0: April 1st: Arrival at Athens airport, bus to the port of Rafina, where we will spend the night.

Day 1: Tinos. We set sail to Tinos by ferry. We'll start with a refreshing stroll around the harbour of Tinos, one of the oldest inhabited places on the Aegean. We'll visit its famous musea, and the Church of the *Megalohari*, the most holy of churches throughout Greece, credited for many miracles. Evening will take us to the old section of *Pallada* for a welcoming dinner.

Day 2: Tinos. We begin our hikes in *Hóra*, where we'll hike up to *Xomburgo*, a medieval castle perched high in the hills overlooking the Aegean, with most spectacular views; then we'll walk to the villages of *Oxymora* and *Loutro*, full of local history. After a lunch in a taverna, we will take the bus back to *Hóra*.

Day 3: Mykonos. We take a ferry ride to the picturesque island of *Mykonos*, where we'll enjoy first hand its spectacular, world-renowned architecture. We'll photograph, sketch, or visit some of its galleries and boutiques—*Mykonos* is, after all, the home of the jetsetters!

Day 4: Tinos. We start in *Pyrgos*, the only village not visible from the sea and the only one on the island that has never been captured by invaders. *Pyrgos*, a veritable artists' enclave, has more studios per capita than anywhere else in Greece. We'll visit galleries, artists' studios, have coffee in the village square under the thousand year old plane tree, and then walk down the hill to the *Bay of Panormos* for lunch, hiking back to *Pyrgos* for our bus.

Day 5: Syros. We will spend all day on the island of Syros, in *Ermoupolis*, the first capital of Greece after the War of Independence from the Ottomans in 1821. First we'll visit the upper city, a walk of 1,200 steps...that should take care of our workout for the day; then we'll have dinner in one of its restaurants before we take the ferry back to Tinos.

Day 6: Tinos. From the village of *Falatathos* we will hike to *Livada*, a magical gorge at the most eastern part of Tinos. We will have lunch on the beach—and then back to *Falatathos* to explore the historical village. Our special dinner will include local delicacies and *raki*, the world famous ouzo of *Falatathos*!

Day 7: Andros. We visit Andros, the island of the shipping magnates, with the best French painting collection east of Paris at the *Goulandris* Modern Art Museum, lovely villas, and a beautiful port city. We'll start our day with a walk through a forest of cypress trees to the villages of *Lamira* and *Menites*. We'll spend the rest of the day visiting musea, walking through *Hora*, and having a bite or two where our fancy leads us.

Day 8: Tinos. We trek to the tiny village of *Volax*, an otherworldly landscape created by a meteorite thousands of years ago, now home to a handful of basket makers. We'll have a lunch in the village square, where locally grown artichokes, broad beans, and free-range eggs are featured.

Day 9: Tinos. Our hike begins at the village of *Dio Choria* (Two Villages). From there we walk down to the beach of *Pahia Ammo* (Fat Sand Beach), where we will have lunch. We'll take in the sights and maybe a swim depending on how cold the water will be.

Day 10: Tinos. A day of relaxation, shopping in *Hóra* (local handicrafts and foods) and a going away dinner in *Steni*, famous for its *loutza* (air-cured pork) and excellent *potamissio* (white) wine.

Days 11-12: Departure by ferry to overnight in Rafina, then to the Athens International airport the following morning. We return home...to savour our memories.

Price: Can. \$3,195/person, double occupancy. \$500 single supplement.

Includes: All accommodation and breakfasts; all ground transportation including airport transfers; ferry transportation between islands, three special dinners. Airfare to and from Athens not included.

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