



Stitching our Way Through Greece

a Fibre Arts Extravaganza September 26 to October 10, 2005

The looms of Helen, Penelope, and Arachane wove the stories of the women of pre-history. In modern Greece, hand-made cloth, decorations with yarns, garments for all occasions, and intricate woven bed and wall coverings allowed Greek women to present the “self,” command social standing, and create communities that bind and connect through handiwork and ritual.

In this special ArtExchange journey, we will visit musea and private collections, be instructed by local gatekeepers of the embroidery tradition, visit artists’ studios, thread and weavers’ shops, and in the process trace the history of handmade and decorated cloth throughout Greece’s history. We’ll learn how major social changes affected material use, aesthetics and function of textile arts in Greece during the last millennium. Of course, as in all of our sojourns to Greece, we’ll explore and enjoy other aspects of its expressive culture such as fresh local foods and hand-crafted wines—slowly sipped portside in some of the Aegean’s most magnificent isles!

Day 0: September 26th: Arrival in Athens; an evening walk about *Plaka*, Athens’ oldest neighbourhood at the foot of the *Parthenon*.

Days 1–2: Athens. Because a visit to Athens would not be complete without seeing the *Acropolis*, we will do just that. And then we will visit *The Benaki Museum*, *The Folk Arts Museum*, go shopping for threads and cloth, and take a stroll through the famous flea market of *Monastiráki*. To top it off we’ll have a first class dinner at one of *Pláka*’s oldest *tavernas*!

Days 3–6: Nafplio. Our creative adventure continues! On the way to Náfplio we will visit *Mycenae*, site of the Trojan War. In Náfplio we’ll visit weavers’ shops and be guided through the Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation by its founder and Director, a world renowned expert on Greek Folklore. Stitching/embroidery techniques will be demonstrated by an associate of the Foundation. We will visit the Archaeological Museum, the *Akronáplia Citadel*, the *Bourtzi*—and enjoy Sunday brunch with wine tasting at the Papantonis Winery. In our last afternoon in Náfplio we will join the locals to stroll the picturesque seaside boardwalk.

Days 7–10: Tinos. A ferry ride to the Cycladic island of Tinos, production center for silk during Venetian times. We will visit Tinos’ many musea, the Weaving-Embroidery Co-op, and the studios of internationally known fibre artists. Along the way we will visit gorgeous villages with unique dovecotes, taste renowned local cheeses, and perhaps sip coffee with cheese deserts as we enjoy a spectacular sunset at the port!

Days 11–12: Andros and Syros. Day trips to the beautiful islands of Andros and Syros to catch the sites, swim...and enjoy the Aegean.

Day 13–14: Athens. Back to Athens; free evening for packing and last minute shopping. Oct. 10—we return home...to savour our memories.

Price: Can. \$3,295/person, double occupancy. **Includes:** All accommodation and breakfasts; all ground transportation, airport and port transfers; admission to all sites and musea; fees for all demonstrations; three special dinners; wine tastings. Airfare not included.

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