

Mediterranean Islands small group tours for seniors: Santorini, Crete and Cyprus

Reading List

Empires of the Sea: The Final Battle for the Mediterranean, 1521-1580

by Roger Crowley

In 1521, Suleiman the Magnificent, Muslim ruler of the Ottoman Empire, dispatched an invasion fleet to the Christian island of Rhodes. This would prove to be the opening shot in an epic clash between rival empires and faiths for control of the Mediterranean and the center of the world. In *Empires of the Sea*, acclaimed historian Roger Crowley has written a thrilling account of this brutal decades-long battle between Christendom and Islam for the soul of Europe, a fast-paced tale of spiraling intensity that ranges from Istanbul to the Gates of Gibraltar. Crowley conjures up a wild cast of pirates, crusaders, and religious warriors struggling for supremacy and survival in a tale of slavery and galley warfare, desperate bravery and utter brutality. *Empires of the Sea* is a story of extraordinary color and incident, and provides a crucial context for our own clash of civilisations.

The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean

by David Abulafia

Connecting Europe, Asia, and Africa, the Mediterranean Sea has been for millennia the place where religions, economies, and political systems met, clashed, influenced and absorbed one another. In this brilliant and expansive book, David Abulafia offers a fresh perspective by focusing on the sea itself: its practical importance for transport and sustenance; its dynamic role in the rise and fall of empires; and the remarkable cast of characters-sailors, merchants, migrants, pirates, pilgrims-who have crossed and re-crossed it. Ranging from prehistory to the 21st century, *The Great Sea* is above all a history of human interaction. Interweaving major political and naval developments with the ebb and flow of trade, Abulafia explores how commercial competition in the Mediterranean created both rivalries and partnerships, with merchants acting as intermediaries between cultures, trading goods that were as exotic on one side of the sea as they were commonplace on the other. He stresses the remarkable ability of Mediterranean cultures to uphold the civilising ideal of *convivencia*, "living together."

The Greeks: History, Culture, and Society

by Ian Morris (Author), Barry B. Powell (Author)

Organized chronologically, this text presents a complete picture of Greek civilization as a history and features sections on the art, architecture, literature, and thought of each period.

The Corfu Trilogy

by Gerald Durrell

The trilogy that inspired ITV's six part television series *The Durrells*. Three classic tales of childhood on an island paradise - *My Family and Other Animals*, *Birds, Beasts and Relatives* and *The Garden of the Gods* by Gerald Durrell - are available in a single edition for the first time in *The Corfu Trilogy*. Just before the Second World War the Durrell family decamped to the glorious, sun-soaked island of Corfu where the youngest of the four children, ten-year-old Gerald, discovered his passion for animals: toads and tortoises, bats and butterflies, scorpions and octopuses. Through glorious silver-green olive groves and across brilliant-white beaches Gerry pursued his obsession . . . causing hilarity and mayhem in his ever-tolerant family. Durrell's memories of those enchanted days gave rise to these three classic tales, loved by generations of adults and children alike, which are now available in one volume for the first time.

Captain Corelli's Mandolin

by Louis de Bernieres

Extravagant, inventive, emotionally sweeping, *Corelli's Mandolin* is the story of a timeless place that one day wakes up to find itself in the jaws of history. The place is the Greek island of Cephallonia, where gods once dabbled in the affairs of men and the local saint periodically rises from his sarcophagus to cure the mad. Then the tide of World War II rolls onto the island's shores in the form of the conquering Italian army. Caught in the occupation are Pelagia, a willful, beautiful young woman, and the two suitors vying for her love: Mandras, a gentle fisherman turned ruthless guerilla, and the charming, mandolin-playing Captain Corelli, a reluctant officer of the Italian garrison on the island. Rich with loyalties and betrayals, and set against a landscape where the factual blends seamlessly with the fantastic, *Corelli's Mandolin* is a passionate novel as rich in ideas as it is genuinely moving.

A Cook's Tour of Cyprus

by Maurice Hassall

A witty, commendable book that will wrap you in the cosy comfort of Cypriot culture. It will remain as a permanent souvenir of your time on the Island of Aphrodite. As background reading prior to your first visit it will drive you inquisitively to bring added pleasure to your holiday or business trip. It is a humorous guide through Cypriot cuisine and designed to make you knowledgeable of Cypriot culinary art without being burdened with tiresome recipes and methods. A perfect companion for every excellent or diabolical cook!! The manuscript is composed of short rib tickling stories written as the author travels the length and breadth of Cyprus. The book is informative and will also fill your sombre moments with laughter.

The Chronological History of Cyprus 1489-2015

by Marros Adamides

A chronological history of Cyprus from 1489 (Cyprus was then under the Venetian Republic) to 2015, covering the Ottoman domination which lasted 307 years, the British rule from 1878 to 1960 and 55 years of independence of the Republic of Cyprus, which is covered in more detail ending in the financial crisis of 2010-2015.

Slaughter us all and make our blood a river.....: Cyprus Poetry and History

by Andreas Melas

Poetry from Cypriot poet Vasilis Michaelides on the events leading to the massacre of nearly five hundred Greek Cypriot clergy and leaders on July 9, 1821. Not merely historical or poetical but high drama in the battle of the minds between the Greek Orthodox Archbishop and the Ottoman Turkish Governor. The Turkish governor was authorized to slaughter all of the Greek Cypriot leadership from the clergy to the laity. The Archbishop was offered a way out to save himself. But if he did then what would happen? The author incorporates sufficient historical and other background to enable the reader to appreciate this epic poem and the context behind it. Turkish invasions and interventions in the island of Cyprus during the past five centuries are highlighted.

Divided Cyprus: Modernity, History, and an Island in Conflict

by Yiannis Papadakis, Nicos Peristianis

"[U]shers the reader into the complexities of the categorical ambiguity of Cyprus [and]... concentrates... on the Dead Zone of the divided society, in the cultural space where those who refuse to go to the poles gather." ?Anastasia Karakasidou, Wellesley College The volatile recent past of Cyprus has turned this island from the idyllic "island of Aphrodite" of tourist literature into a place renowned for hostile confrontations. Cyprus challenges familiar binary divisions, between Christianity and Islam, Greeks and Turks, Europe and the East, tradition and modernity. Anti-colonial struggles, the divisive effects of ethnic nationalism, war, invasion, territorial division, and population displacements are all facets of the notorious Cyprus Problem. Incorporating the most up-to-date social and cultural research on Cyprus, these essays examine nationalism and interethnic relations, Cyprus and the European Union, the impact of immigration, and the effects of tourism and international environmental movements, among other topics.

The Cyprus Problem: What everyone needs to Know

by James Ker-Lindsay

For nearly 60 years--from its uprising against British rule in the 1950s, to the bloody civil war between Greek and Turkish Cypriots in the 1960s, the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in the 1970s, and the United Nation's ongoing 30-year effort to reunite the island--the tiny Mediterranean nation of Cyprus has taken a disproportionate share of the international spotlight. And while it has been often in the news, accurate and impartial information on the conflict has been nearly impossible to obtain. In *The Cyprus Problem: What Everyone Needs to Know®*, James Ker-Lindsay--recently appointed as expert advisor to the UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Cyprus--offers an incisive, even-handed account of the conflict. Ker-Lindsay covers all aspects of the Cyprus problem, placing it in historical context, addressing the situation as it now stands, and looking toward its possible resolution. The book begins with the origins of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities as well as the other indigenous communities on the island (Maronites, Latin, Armenians, and Gypsies). Ker-Lindsay then examines the tensions that emerged between the Greek and Turkish Cypriots after independence in 1960 and the complex constitutional provisions and international treaties designed to safeguard the new state. He pays special attention to the Turkish invasion in 1974 and the subsequent efforts by the UN and the international community to reunite Cyprus. The book's final two chapters address a host of pressing issues that divide the two Cypriot communities, including key concerns over property, refugee returns, and the repatriation of settlers. Ker-Lindsay concludes by considering whether partition really is the best solution, as many observers increasingly suggest. Written by a leading expert, *The Cyprus Problem* brings much needed clarity and understanding to a conflict that has confounded observers and participants alike for decades.

Atlantis of the Minoans and Celts

by Lee Kerr

A travel adventure investigating the Atlantis story, exploring the evidence from Ireland to Iraq, examining ancient artifacts, Bronze Age archaeological sites, and historical locations. You know the story of Atlantis, or at least you think you do. The Story of Atlantis is one of the greatest historical and archeological unsolved mysteries of human history. Did Atlantis exist, and if so, where? Many sites are suggested, but is any the real location of Atlantis? Accompany this detective attorney, historian and archeology investigator on his personal quest For answers, exploring and unraveling the evidence from the Atlantis mystery. Join him as he examines the archaeological sites, artifacts, and museums, covering 4000 years of history, on his investigative journey! Join the investigation in Santorini, Crete, Athens, and Ireland as he builds his case for the origins of Atlantis. Enjoy the photography and experience the islands of Ireland, Santorini and Crete as he guides you through Plato's Atlantis story. Follow him as he ties the Atlantis clues of mythology, history, archeology, geology, language, and genetics back to ancient relationships with Egypt, Spain, and Ireland, for a new, broader, compelling understanding of Plato's Atlantis! Share the experience of exploring and

connecting the archeological evidence of Bronze Age Griffins, (flying eagle headed lions), Dwarf Elephants, and Blue Monkeys to the Atlantis story. Uncover with the author the evidence for the three "The Pillars of Heracles" locations, and find out which site belongs to the actual site of Atlantis. Travel with the author as he analyzes the evidence, ties the clues together, and reveals an ancient Atlantis far more diverse, complex, and intriguing than previously understood.

Crete: the Battle and the Resistance

by Antony Beevor

Acclaimed historian and best-selling author Antony Beevor vividly brings to life the epic struggles that took place in Second World War Crete - reissued with a new introduction. The Germans expected their airborne attack on Crete in 1941 - a unique event in the history of warfare - to be a textbook victory based on tactical surprise. They had no idea that the British, using Ultra intercepts, knew their plans and had laid a carefully-planned trap. It should have been the first German defeat of the war, but a fatal misunderstanding turned the battle round. Nor did the conflict end there. Ferocious Cretan freedom fighters mounted a heroic resistance, aided by a dramatic cast of British officers from Special Operations Executive.

The Histories: Complete

by Herodotus

Herodotus was an ancient Greek historian who lived in the fifth century BC (c.484 - 425 BC). He has been called the "Father of History", and was the first historian known to collect his materials systematically, test their accuracy to a certain extent and arrange them in a well-constructed and vivid narrative. The Histories-his masterpiece and the only work he is known to have produced-is a record of his "inquiry", being an investigation of the origins of the Greco-Persian Wars and including a wealth of geographical and ethnographical information. The Histories, were divided into nine books, named after the nine Muses: the "Muse of History", Clio, representing the first book, then Euterpe, Thaleia, Melpomene, Terpsichore, Erato, Polymnia, Ourania and Calliope for books 2 to 9, respectively.

The Collapse of the Eastern Mediterranean: Climate Change and the Decline of the East, 950-1072

by Ronnie Ellenblum

As a 'Medieval Warm Period' prevailed in Western Europe during the tenth and eleventh centuries, the eastern Mediterranean region, from the Nile to the Oxus, was suffering from a series of climatic disasters which led to the decline of some of the most important civilisations and cultural centres of the time. This provocative study argues that many well-documented but apparently disparate events - such as recurrent drought and famine in Egypt; mass migrations in the steppes of central Asia; and the decline in population in urban centres such as Baghdad and Constantinople - are connected and should be understood within the broad context of climate change. Drawing on a wealth of textual and archaeological evidence, Ronnie Ellenblum explores the impact of climatic and ecological change across the eastern Mediterranean in this period, to offer a new perspective on why this was a turning point in the history of the Islamic world.

The Eastern Mediterranean and the Making of Global Radicalism, 1860-1914

by Ilham Khuri-Makdisi

In this groundbreaking book, Ilham Khuri-Makdisi establishes the existence of a special radical trajectory spanning four continents and linking Beirut, Cairo, and Alexandria between 1860 and 1914. She shows that socialist and anarchist ideas were regularly discussed, disseminated, and reworked among intellectuals, workers, dramatists, Egyptians, Ottoman Syrians, ethnic Italians, Greeks, and many others in these cities. In situating the Middle East within the context of world history, Khuri-Makdisi challenges nationalist and elite narratives of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern history as well as Eurocentric ideas about global radical movements. The book demonstrates that these radical trajectories played a fundamental role in shaping societies throughout the world and offers a powerful rethinking of Ottoman intellectual and social history.

Islands of the Eastern Mediterranean (American Geographical Society - Around the World Program)

by Jay and Marcia Forman

Experiencing Dominion: Culture, Identity, and Power in the British Mediterranean

by Thomas W. Gallant

Experiencing Dominion pushes contemporary literature on historical anthropology in a new direction by moving the discussion away from an emphasis on a simple polarity between hegemony and

resistance, and instead focusing on the shared interactions between colonizers and colonized, rulers and ruled, foreigners and locals. In this important study, Gallant emphasizes contingency and historical agency, examines intentionality, and explores the processes of accommodation and, when warranted, resistance. In so doing, he reconstructs the world Britons and Greeks made together on the Ionian Islands during the nineteenth century through their shared experience of dominion.

The Islands of the Eastern Mediterranean: A History of Cross-Cultural Encounters

by Özlem Çaykent (Editor), Luca Zavagno (Editor)

The Mediterranean, or 'Middle Sea', has long been regarded as the symbolic centre of European civilization. The binding water between Turkey, the Middle East, the trading communities of North Africa, and the European powerhouses Italy, France and Greece, a history of this sea is a new and vital way of understanding the history of the societies which have flourished in the region. The Islands of the Eastern Mediterranean charts the story of the water as both connector and border, and analyses the islands role in world history. From Mehmed II's efforts to conquer the old Roman Empire, through the claims of Rhodes and the role of the Aegean Islands in Ottoman international relations, to the British in Cyprus and the present-day tensions surrounding the region.

A Brief History of Greece

by Christos Visvardis

From the Neolithic Period to today's economic crisis, via Ancient Athens, the Persian Wars, Alexander the Great, the Byzantine Empire and two world wars, this book narrates the history of Greece with all the significant events that shaped it.
