

EDUCATIONAL TOURS & CRUISES

Specialist in Group Travel to Greece, Italy & Turkey

EDUCATIONAL TOURS & CRUISES

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Vernal Wanderings and Greek Easter on Lesbos

Carleton Alumni Adventures Trip

March 30 - April 8, 2010

Monday, March 29

Some travellers will prefer to arrive in Athens early and spend one or more nights (at their own expense) in Athens, where we recommend the Hotel Herodion, near the Acropolis (<http://www.herodion.gr/homepage.asp>). Others will prefer connections that get them to Athens on Tuesday, March 30 in time for us all to meet at the Athens International Airport at approximately 4PM (precise rendezvous details will be provided) for a 6:15PM flight from Athens to Mytilini.

Day 1: Tuesday, March 30: arrive in Athens and meet at Athens International Airport

6:15 PM flight to **Mytilini** via Aegean Airlines

Bus transfer to the hotel Hotel Votsala, Thermi

Late dinner at the hotel

Day 2: Wednesday, March 31: Mytilini

Hotel Votsala, Thermi

•**Theophilos Museum & Theriade Museum & Library, Mytilini,**
Byzantine Art Museum

•Lunch in town at own expense

•Afternoon free. Rest and recuperation on beach and relaxing at hotel

•Optional: **Evening wildflower walk/visit Roman baths** (by hotel owner)

•**Evening discussion of walking and ecotourism with ETAL officials.**

•**Dinner** at the hotel

Day 3: Thursday, April 1: Molyvos

Hotel Delfinia

•**Morning seaside hike:** Skala Sikaminia, Coast and Panorama tour via the hot springs.

We walk along the coastline with stunning views toward Asia Minor to the picturesque fishing village of Skala Sikaminia. Hike is approximately 18 km, difference in altitude 300 m, dirt track and cobblestone path. Hike leader: Eva Traumann

•**Lunch** at Skala Sikaminia at own expense. Try some fresh fish in one of the taverns!

•Afternoon free

•Optional studio visit: icon painter

•**Dinner** at the hotel

Day 4: Friday, April 2 (GOOD FRIDAY): Molyvos

Hotel Delfinia

- Morning hike with Eva Taumann.** 20 km from Molyvos. Hiking thru the fields, crossing over streams, slow ascent to 350 meter elevation. The first 10 km take us through the back country with a scenic view of the Genovese Fortress of Molyvos. and the blue Aegean Sea. Stop at the watermills near St. Mary's Chapel. The hiking tour ends in the mountain village of Petri.
- Lunch in the village or at hotel (at own expense), depending on the timing.
- Optional architectural tour of Molyvos in late afternoon.
- Evening discussion of Orthodox religion and Greek Easter traditions.
- Optional church service to follow the procession of the Epitaphio (elaborately decorated representation of the Tomb of Christ).
- Dinner** at the hotel

Day 5: Saturday, April 3: Molyvos

Hotel Delfinia

•**Excursion to Petrified Forest**

and visit National History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest **by bus and guide**

•**Lunch in fishing village of Sigri.**

- Afternoon will be devoted to the group cooking in preparation for after church feast.**
- Light dinner at own expense if wanted
- Nap recommended before church
- Optional **midnight church service**
- After church service: traditional feast breaking the Lenten fast*, at home of Helen and Dan Lindsay

Day 6, Sunday, April 4: Molyvos EASTER SUNDAY

Hotel Delfinia

- Sleep late and relax.
- Free day with beach time, or optional wildflower or bird walks
- EASTER SUNDAY BUFFET** in the hotel (another fabulous feast!)
- Light dinner at own expense if you are still hungry?

Day 7, Monday, April 5

Hotel Mytilana Beach

•**Hike: Agia Paraskevi into the heart of Lesvos**

A 20 km largely downhill trek towards the south and into the sun. **Walk** through fascinating ancient agricultural area of old mills, pebble stone paths and over the medieval bridge of Kremasti to Agia Paraskevi. Hike Leader: Eva Traumann

•**Museum of Industrial Olive Oil**

- Lunch at own expense
- Explanation of olive and soap making outside the museum.
- Optional Tour of organic olive orchard
- Dinner** –dinner at own expense at hotel or in village

Day 8: Tuesday, April 6

Hotel Mytilana Beach

•**Hike in region of Gulf of Kalloni** (approx. 16 km, reasonably easy)

An historic, cultural and nature walk visiting three Monasteries (no shorts please) on the way to the wetlands of Skala Kalloni, **a birdwatchers paradise**. Hike leader: Eva Traumann

- Optional: tour of gardens & agricultural enterprises, and visit to hot springs of Polichnitos.
- Dinner at hotel**

Day 9, Wednesday, April 7

Hotel near Mytilini and S. Coast - **Hotel Mytilana Beach**

- Visit **Environmental Education Center of Asomatos**; discussion with local officials
 - Charming walk from Anna Anagyri to Assomatos and return. Green and lush nature of the Olympos mountain, includes visit to the restored watermill of Milelia. Hike Leader: Eva Traumann
- [Afternoon free](#)
- Farewell dinner**

Thursday, April 8: Transfer by bus to airport and port of Mytilini

Flights home or embark on optional extension trip

The tour package price includes :

- Lodgings** in the above 3 and 4 star hotels as per itinerary in shared double rooms with private bath or shower for 9 nights; double occupancy.
- Daily breakfasts**
- Lunch** in Sigri Day 5; all others at own expense.
- Five dinners**, on days 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8
- Easter Saturday midnight meal**, day 5
- Easter Sunday Buffet**, day 6
- Farewell dinner**, day 9
- Bus travel around the island, to and from hikes, to Mytilini airport, etc.**
- Local hiking guide**
- Local guides** for museums and the Petrified Forest
- Story teller**
- Educational Tours and Cruises guide/escort from Athens** for the whole trip
- Admission fees** to sites and museums.
- Air tickets** Athens→Mytilini →Athens including taxes
- Assistance by ETC** and its local agents
- Tips** except for hiking guide and ETC guide