

June 2009

Dear Carleton Alums and Friends,

Walking in the mountains of Greece in 2006 with delightful Carleton folks was such fun that we are taking their suggestion and planning a Greek island tour! Sam explored Lesbos last June and found its trails, customs and people immensely charming and certainly worthy of an intensive walking exploration by Carleton alums and friends.

Springtime in Lesbos is magical in many ways, and we've decided to include an exploration of Greek Orthodox Easter traditions in the mix of walking, nature, culture, food and eco-tourism themes that Carl's enjoyed exploring in the mountains. While this is not a religious trip and will doubtless include people of many traditions, it offers the option of learning about and participating in the most joyous and exuberant holiday of the Greek calendar.

Once again, Dimitri Cocconis and his Greek family firm, Educational Tours and Cruises, will handle tour logistics. They have been organizing customized tours and cruises in the Mediterranean for over 30 years, and have the kind of flexibility and local knowledge that makes a trip really special, and reasonable in price.

Lessons learned from participants in the 2006 trip include: adding more meetings with local officials, not over-scheduling (activities after lunch will be optional), keeping the hikes moderate in duration and terrain (we will take day hikes only on this trip, rather than hut-to-hut trips), and keeping the price down by letting people pay for lunch on their own.

We hope you will join us in rambling through beautiful landscapes, learning about authentic Greek island culture and traditions, cooking, and listening to the folk-takes of an enchanted island.

With all good wishes,

Sam Demas, College Librarian and Senior Lecturer

Laurel Bradley, Director of the College Art Gallery and Exhibitions