



ODYSSEY TOURS

to the Sacred Sites of

ANCIENT GREECE

Mysteries, Myths and Dreams

September 20 – October 3, 2011

with

Brian Clark and Peter O'Connor

Fees include 14 nights accommodation based on double occupancy in 3-4 star hotels with private facilities, all breakfasts, two dinners, four lunches, all air, land and sea transportation within Greece, entrance fees to all museums and sacred sites, tips, taxes, guides, tuition fees and materials.

TOTAL PRICE: Australian \$ 6,495.00
if fees are paid in full by May 1, 2011

The total fees are \$ 6,995 if paid after May 1, 2011. Fees are based on double occupancy. Single rooms are available and a single supplement of Australian \$ 950.00 applies. Payment received after September 1, 2011 is subject to a surcharge. Fees are quoted in Australian dollars and in the case of a dramatic currency fluctuation, Odyssey Tours to Ancient Greece reserves the right to charge a supplement due to any disparity in currency rates.

Over the past decade Odyssey Tours to Ancient Greece has been incomparable in offering the opportunity to visit lesser known sacred sites of Ancient Greece in conjunction with a unique experience of dream groups and seminars on literature, theatre, myths, dreams and psyche. In 2011, with like-minded travellers, we will journey from the initiatory site of the Great Gods in Samothraki to the Sanctuary of Dion at the foot of Mount Olympos through the majestic Meteora and on to the magical region of Pelion in Thessaly.

Tour space is limited so early registration is advised. To ensure a place please remit a non-refundable deposit of Australian \$ 795 to **Odyssey at the Chiron Centre**. Visa and MasterCard facilities are available. Please make cheques payable to the Chiron Centre. Upon registration some travel brochures, maps and further information on the tour is available. Should you have questions please contact Brian Clark on (03) 8415-0315 or astrosynthesis@bigpond.com/.

Peter O'Connor and **Brian Clark** are your guides for this unique tour. Like pilgrims in the ancient world we will journey to sacred sanctuaries that were an integral aspect of the religious life of the ancient Greek and as such were the sacred temenos where transitions in one's life could be ritualised and rendered meaningful. We will be visiting ancient sites dedicated to the Great Gods of Samothraki and Olympos where initiation into the sacred mysteries occurred.

In 2011 a new chapter and decade of *Odyssey* is launched, inspired by the mysterious initiations at the Sanctuary of the Great Gods. Peter O'Connor will conduct an ongoing dream group to enrich and give meaning to your daily experiences while Brian Clark will facilitate groups exploring relevant mythological and historical connections. Both Brian and Peter will lead discussion groups and seminars on the psychological significance of the landscape of Greek mythology.

Odyssey at The Chiron Centre,
PO Box 407, Kew, Victoria 3101, Australia
AstroSynthesis@bigpond.com

Mysteries, Myths and Dreams

2011 Itinerary

DAY 1 **Tuesday, September 20**

ATHENS

Our journey begins in Athens the central focus for the classical period where the seeds of mathematics, astronomy, architecture, philosophy, theatre and science were sown influencing the course of Western civilisation. We will gather in the early evening in our Hotel Amalia to meet one another and orientate ourselves for the journey which lay in front of us. After, we will walk through the colourful Plaka to our taverna where we will share our first meal together.

DAY 2 **Wednesday, September 21**

SAMOTHRAKI

Early this morning we return to the Athens airport to board our flight to Alexandroupoli in northern Greece where we will catch the afternoon ferry to the island of Samothraki. It was here, on this relatively small yet verdant and attractive island, French archaeologists claimed the spectacular statue of Nike as their own and carried her away to France. Winged, armless, headless and over three meters tall, the Nike of Samothraki graces the Louvre in Paris. Locals still say her spirit lingers over the timeless landscape and they are the victors in inhabiting such an astonishing countryside. Legend persists that it was on this island where Poseidon retreated to watch the fall of Troy, high atop the dominant peak of Mount Phengari. Poseidon also brought sailors and sea merchants to Samothraki to take part in the initiations of the Great Gods dedicated to the mythological descendants of Hephaestus, the Kabeiroi.



DAY 3 **Thursday, September 22**

SAMOTHRAKI



After our morning dream group our bus will take us to the Sanctuary of the Great Gods. In ancient times the island became renowned as the centre for highly sacred mysteries dedicated to the Great Gods. From the earliest records these great gods were foreign but were adopted by the Greeks who settled on the island. The initiatory practices were shrouded in secrecy so very little remains known about these rituals. It was believed they were associated with the Kabeiroi, beneficent deities who remain relatively anonymous. By the Hellenistic period these mystery initiations took on special significance, rivalling those of Demeter and Persephone at Eleusis. It was during these initiation rites that Phillip of Macedon met and fell in love with Olympias, Alexander the Great's mother.

DAY 4 **Friday, September 23**

SAMOTHRAKI

Today is the autumnal equinox; the seasons are shifting, yet the weather will still be temperate and warm for us to enjoy our exploration of the stunning island of Samothraki. After our morning dream group we will board our bus that will take us through the scenic landscape of the island visiting some of the island towns like Hora, its capital, finishing at one of Samothraki's best restaurants for lunch.

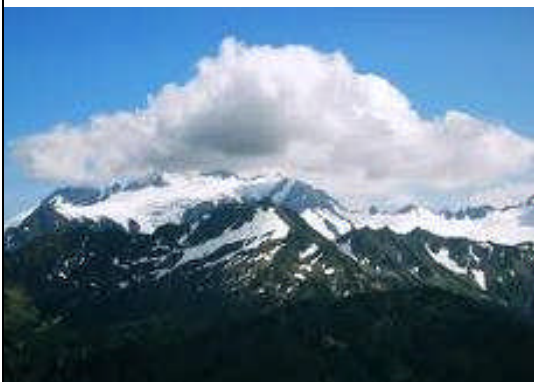
DAY 5 **Saturday, September 24**

SAMOTHRAKI

Today will be a seminar day and Peter and Brian will present both relevant mythological and psychological material to help understand both our outer and inner experiences. Drawing on the wealthy legacy of Greek myth, epic, poetry, drama and art, Peter and Brian will explore the abundant outer landscapes and inner imaginal terrain that we have been experiencing. As part of this seminar we will also have ample time for discussion and amplification. In the evening we will be free to explore the local town.

DAY 6 Sunday, September 25**ALEXANDROUPOLI**

After a leisurely morning, we are bound for the harbour of Kamariotissa where we board a ferry back to Alexandroupoli. By late afternoon we will arrive at the port and be taken to our hotel, the classical Egnatia, where we will stay the evening.

DAY 7 Monday, September 26**OLYMPOS**

Today we board our bus for the journey to Mount Olympus. On the way we will stop in the town of Xanthi. Here we will spend some time exploring the old town on our own and having some lunch before we head off for our next stop at Kavala where we will visit its well known castle. Finally we will arrive at our hotel, the Litothoro Spa and Resort, near the beaches of the Northern Aegean, where we will stay two nights to explore the region of Mount Olympus, the mythological home of the Olympians.

DAY 8 Tuesday, September 27**OLYMPOS**

In the morning we will visit the sanctuary of Dion, the sanctuary sacred to Zeus, nestled at the foot of Mount Olympus. As we meander through the site we will encounter the sanctuaries to Demeter, Isis and Zeus as well as the Villa of Dionysus with its fabulous mosaics. After, we will drive to the marvellous museum connected with the site which houses some beautiful statues of Aphrodite, Poseidon, Asclepius and Hygieia as well as important sculpture found at the site. After spending some time in the shops and cafes nearby we will board our bus and drive up Mount Olympus, the home of the Olympians, visiting the Eliconas River and Livithra.

DAY 9 Wednesday, September 28**KALA NERA, *the Pelion Region***

Today we leave the foothills of Olympus and travel south towards Mount Pelion, the home of the centaur Chiron and the region known as the summer playground of the Gods. On our way we will pass through the Vale of Tempe detouring towards the region known as Meteora, celebrated for its majestic landscape and its monasteries perched on its mountainous rooftops. We will visit two of the district's monasteries before we resume our journey, stopping in Trikala for lunch. Trikala is the original birthplace of Asclepius, the god of healing. The town honours their god with a huge statue of the healer-god in the main town. By early evening we should arrive at our quaint hotel near the Bay of Volos in the town of Kala Nera, *Good Waters*.

DAY 10 Thursday, September 29**KALA NERA, *the Pelion Region***

Today will be a free day to rest and review where we have been so far and to catch up with all the details that have got left behind on our journey. In the evening we will all gather for cocktails before everyone strolls to dinner at one of the many tavernas along the seashore.

DAY 11 Friday, September 30**KALA NERA, the Pelion Region**

Today we will tour the Pelion visiting the towns of Miles, one of Pelion's most picturesque traditional villages, and Makrinita, known as the balcony of Pelion. Our journey will take us through the scenic region where the Centaurs roamed the mountainous countryside, where Achilles learned to hunt with his mentor Chiron, where Jason built the Argo and where the great wedding feast of Peleus and Thetis occurred. Steeped in mythology and magic the Pelion region is a rich feast for both the imagination and the senses. In the evening we will gather together to review our journey so far.

**DAY 12 Saturday, October 1****DELPHI**

In the morning we continue our southern journey through the plains and into the mountains towards Delphi stopping en route for lunch. From the remotest age Delphi was known as the seat of an oracle; the earliest belonging to Earth and the chthonian gods. When the oracle became Apollo's domain, suppliants journeyed from all over the Mediterranean world to receive the advice of his priestesses, Pythia. Like pilgrims in the ancient world we are travelling towards the navel of the Earth and one of the most notable sites in antiquity, carrying the question we hope to be answered by the oracle. By late afternoon we will arrive in Delphi.

DAY 13 Sunday, October 2**DELPHI**

In the morning, with our local guide, we will visit the museum at Delphi in order to orientate us to this impressive and revered site. Encased in the museum are beautiful artefacts from the numerous treasuries, the Sphinx of the Naxians the colossal statues of the twin kouroi, Kleobis and Viton, the famous statue of the Charioteer. Then our guide will take us through the imposing site built into the slopes of Mount Parnassus where we will see the Rock of the Sibyl, the magnificent treasuries, and the Temple of Apollo where the Pythia prophesied. We will have some spare time to either climb up to the Stadium or visit the Theatre of Dionysus or meditate by the Castilian Springs. We will re-group at the spectacular temple of Athena Pronoia where pilgrims climbing to the site would stop and offer a votive to the goddess Athena. Then we will continue on to the mountain village of Arahova to have a late lunch together in one of its quaint cafes. After there will be some time to visit the village shops filled with local crafts.

DAY 14 Monday, October 3**ATHENS**

Today is our last day and to ritualise the closing we will visit the chthonic oracular site of Trophonius where the mythical rivers of Lethe (forgetting) and Mnemosyne (remembering) meet. Here in this peaceful place we will start to close our journey. Then we will continue to Athens where in the evening we will share our last meal together in the Plaka.

BRIAN CLARK is an astrological counsellor in private practice whose focus is on the mythological underpinning of astrology. He facilitates a specialised curriculum in astrology, a distance learning program as well as a year course in mythology. He has his Graduate, Post Graduate Diploma and Masters in Classics and Archaeology from the University of Melbourne.

PETER O'CONNOR, Ph. D. is a psychotherapist with a special interest and focus on dreams in his clinical work. For over 30 years Peter has also facilitated weekly ongoing dream groups. He was the popular columnist for the Good Weekend's *Inner Life* and the author of the highly acclaimed *Understanding the Mid Life Crisis*, and numerous other books including *Facing the Fifties*, *Beyond the Mist*, *The Inner Man*, *Dreams and the Search for Meaning*, and *Understanding Jung*.