



The Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens

THE ATHENS FRIENDS



A FOUR-DAY EXCURSION
TO

SANTORINI (Akrotiri and Ancient Thera)

to be conducted by Professor Christos Doumas
and Dr. Stavros Paspalas

on Friday 31st May, Saturday 1st June, Sunday
2nd June and Monday 3rd June 2013

We are very happy to announce a four-day tour to Santorini, where we shall visit the world-famous sites of **Akrotiri** and **Ancient Thera**. We shall stay in Fira, the main town of the island that is built along the edge of the volcanic caldera.

Akrotiri, the amazingly well-preserved Bronze Age town engulfed by an ancient explosion of the island's volcano (c. 1600 BC) has been under systematic excavation for nigh on half a century. It is primarily known for its well-preserved architecture and its intriguing wall paintings. A number of years ago the site was re-opened to the public, though an unfortunate accident led to its closure soon afterwards. A few months ago the site, now protected under a newly-erected state-of-the-art shelter, was again opened to visitors. The Friends of the AAIA are *unbelievably fortunate* in being able to offer a guided tour over the site which will be conducted by **Professor Christos Doumas**, the **excavator of Akrotiri** since 1974. We will all benefit from the insights that Professor Doumas will share with us.

We shall also visit the site of Ancient Thera, the main settlement of the island during the Archaic through to the Early Byzantine periods, and one of the most important poleis of the southern Cyclades in Archaic and Classical times. A little-visited site, as it lies –metaphorically– in the shadow of Akrotiri, Ancient Thera has much to reward its visitor. Perched at an altitude of 360 m. above sea level on Mesavouno the well-preserved ruins offer an introduction to urban island life in antiquity. Dr. Stavros Paspalas will guide us over Ancient Thera.

Many of the finds made both at Akrotiri and Ancient Thera are on display in Fira. Those of the former at the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, and those of the latter at the Thera Archaeological Museum. Visits to these museums are included in the programme, and Dr. Paspalas will be present to answer any questions.

The projected itinerary is:

- Friday May 31** **07:30** Depart Peiraius with Super Jet. Participants are asked to be at the boat no later than 07:10.
11:50 Arrival at Santorini (transfer to Pelican Hotel/ Costa Marina Hotel, Fira).
Afternoon / evening At leisure. Suggestion: visit to Megaron Gyzi Museum for an introduction to Santorini's mediaeval and more recent history, and stroll through beautiful Fira.
- Saturday June 1** **10:00** Visit to Thera Archaeological Museum (*walking distance from hotel*).
11:30 Board bus and make way to Ancient Thera.
12:00 Tour of Ancient Thera.
14:00 Oia for lunch (meal not included in package).
17:00 Wine tasting at Santo Vineyards, *Pyrgos (on top of Caldera)*.
Evening At leisure in Fira.
- Sunday June 2** **10:00** Visit Prehistoric Thera Museum (*walking distance from hotel*)
11:30 Board bus and make way to Akrotiri.
12:00 Tour of Akrotiri
14:00 Return to Fira
Afternoon / evening At leisure in Fira. Suggestion: visit to the Folklore Museum in a traditional nineteenth-century cave house in Kontohori, Fira.
- Monday June 3** **10:00** Check out from hotel. Morning free in Fira.
12:55 *Transfer to port. Depart on Super Jet for Peiraius.*
18:50 Arrival at Peiraius.

Members (plus one guest) who wish to participate in this excursion are requested to book their place and pay a **non-refundable** €130 deposit by **Thursday April 25,** at the very latest.

Non-Members are also requested to register their interest by the same date.

Priority will be given to Members (plus one guest) so non- members who have expressed interest will have their reservations confirmed (subject to availability) by **29 April.**

Please ensure, when making your reservation, you advise the office

- a) if you will require a single, double, twin (2 single beds), or triple room,
- b) if you will be travelling to and from Santorini on the Super Jet on the days and times given in the itinerary, and
- c) provide a contact telephone number (mobile *and* landline where possible) and email address if available.

PARTICIPATION COST (per person) SINGLE ROOM

Return Sea Jet Economy fare included		Return Sea Jet fare NOT included (i.e. make own way to and from Santorini)	
Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
€343	€360	€220	€240

PARTICIPATION COST (per person) DOUBLE/TWIN ROOM

Return Sea Jet Economy fare included		Return Sea Jet fare NOT included (i.e. make own way to and from Santorini)	
Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
€275	€290	€155	€170

PARTICIPATION COST (per person) TRIPLE ROOM

Return Sea Jet fare included		Return Sea Jet fare NOT included (i.e. make own way to and from Santorini)	
Member	Non-Member	Member	Non-Member
€253	€270	€130	€150

As some participants may wish to make alternative travel arrangements to and from Santorini the second column provides prices with the cost of the Super Jet deducted. All those who do not wish to travel on the Super Jet on the dates and times given in the itinerary are responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

PLEASE ADVISE WHEN MAKING YOUR RESERVATION IF YOU WILL REQUIRE SEA JET TICKETS.

These rates include: accommodation (and continental breakfast), coach transfers from Fira to the sites and Oia, guiding by our specialist researchers, museum/site entrance tickets (as included in the schedule), and a tour of the Santo Winery including wine tasting.

Not included: meals, and museum entrance fees when visited at leisure, plus any other sundry expenses.

1ST PAYMENT DEADLINE / DEPOSIT

For all confirmed reservations a **non-refundable** deposit per person of **€130** should be paid into Alpha Bank IBAN acc. number GR20 0140 1150 1150 0231 0029 916 by members by **Thursday, April 25, 2013**, at the very latest. *The same deposit should be paid by non-members who have been informed that availability exists by **Thursday May 2, 2013**.*

IMPORTANT: When remitting your deposit please **ENSURE THAT YOUR NAME IS CLEARLY RECORDED** on the **payment slip** and then please either fax or email a copy of the remittance slip to the Institute (fax no. 210 924 1659, email: athensfriends.aia@gmail.com) to ensure we have a correct record of your payment.

Please note that no reservation will be considered valid or confirmed without proof of payment by the deadline given. In the event the number of places have not been filled by the deadline given, then members will be invited to register additional guests, if they so wish, subject to remaining availability.

2ND PAYMENT DEADLINE / FINAL PAYMENT

Full and final payment by all participants must be made into the same Alpha account as above, by **Thursday, May 16, 2013 at the latest**. Any cancellations after this date will be non-refundable.

IMPORTANT: When making your final payment please **ENSURE THAT YOUR NAME IS CLEARLY RECORDED** on the **payment slip** and then please either fax or email a copy of the remittance slip to the Institute (fax no. 210 924 1659, email: athensfriends.aaia@gmail.com) to ensure we have a correct record of your payment.

Places are strictly limited, so please respond within these deadlines, to avoid disappointment.

PLEASE CALL the Office of the AAIA on 210 924 3256 to BOOK though please keep in mind that no reservation will be considered valid if a deposit has not been confirmed by April 25(for members) and May 2 (for non-members).