

GREECE

THE ANCIENT WORLD

a. GLORIES OF MINOAN GREECE

An armchair tour of the palace of King Crete lies at the juncture of great civilisations, between ancient Egypt and Greece. In the second millennium before Christ, the Minoans created the first great palace civilisation of Europe. Minoan art is distinctive and unforgettable. Their richly decorated pottery and frescoes stir the imagination. We visit the Palace of King Minos at Knossos and see its dolphin fresco, the fabled gold of the Minoans and their goddess images, the excavation of the Minoan trading settlement of Akrotiri.



ATHENS - GREEK FOLK COSTUMES ON TOP OF THE ACROPOLIS



AGRICULTURE OF THE PEOPLE OF SICILY

b. GLORIES OF ANCIENT AND MODERN GREECE

The ancient Greeks influenced western civilisation as much or more than the Romans. They gave us the principles of art, medicine and philosophy, the idea of democracy and literature and drama and our visual arts owe a great deal to them. The Greeks showed us what the human mind and imagination was capable of and we see this when exploring sites where they lived and worshipped. From the now restored Acropolis in Athens, the Parthenon built 447-438 BC by orders of Pericles, the Temple of Athena Nike and the theatre of Dionysos where plays by Sophocles and Euripides had their first performances. We drive to the see the sunset over the temple of Sunion, steam through the Corinth canal visit the sacred area of Delphi, one of the most spectacular of all classical sites clinging to the slopes of Mount Parnassus. We see the sanctuary of Apollo and the Delphic oracle. We visit Olympia, the sanctuary of Zeus and site of the quadrennial pan-Hellenic games, forerunners of our modern Olympics although women were banned from seeing them on pain of death, let alone compete. At Olympia we examine the remains of the temples of Hera and Zeus, the sculpture workshop of Phidias



GREECE - THE GATE OF MYCENAE



GREECE - ANCESTRALS AT DELPHI



GREECE - OLIMPIA - SITE OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

and the museum which contains some of the finest works of classical sculpture and finally we go by ship to explore the great island sanctuary of Delos and its museum which also has fascinating works of art found on this island.

c. EXPLORING THE GREEK ISLANDS.

Mykonos with its windmills, now crowded in summer, Simi, the unspoiled island of sponge fisherman and sea captains, Rhodes with its magnificent Crusader castle and buildings of the knights of the crusades and a host of others, each of which has its individual character and history. A *tsunami* originating from the volcanic eruption of the caldera carved a gigantic slice out of the bay of Santorini and made its great *caldera* one of the world's most impressive places, somewhere you must see before you die.

d. THESSALONIKI AND NORTHERN GREECE, THE GOLD OF PHILIP OF MACEDON AND TREASURES OF ATHOS, THE HOLY MOUNTAIN

Thessaloniki, Greece's second city and port offers a rich history and superb treasures dating back to the days of Philip of Macedon. The hidden world of Athos comes to light and the story of the Sydney and Joice Loch, two courageous Australian humanitarians who saved a refugee village and wrote a history of the area and now have their own museum in a Byzantine tower by the sea has been told in Susanna's books *Blue Ribbons Bitter Bread* and *To Hell and Back*, and photographs taken for these books are included in the lecture.

