

in the footsteps of alexander the great



trip highlights

Marvel at the Acropolis and visit the New Acropolis Museum in Athens
Visit Delphi, one of the greatest sanctuaries of the ancient world
Explore the amazing rock formations at Meteora
Stand at the entrance to the theatre in Vergina where Phillip II was murdered and Alexander was proclaimed King of the Macedonians
Discover the great metropolis of Istanbul, Turkey's most dynamic city and gateway between East and West
Ancient ruins of Troy and Ephesus
Visit the site of Alexander's first great battle at Granicus
Trip escorted by Ancient Historian Dr Christopher Matthew



Trip Duration	19 days	Trip Code: SOG1282
Grade	Discovery and Cruising level	
Activities	Adventure Touring and Day Walking	
Accommodation	16 nights hotel	

welcome to World Expeditions

Thank you for your interest in the Australian Museum Members 'In the Footsteps of Alexander the Great'. At World Expeditions we are passionate about our off the beaten track experiences as they provide our travellers with the thrill of coming face to face with untouched cultures as well as wilderness regions of great natural beauty. We are committed to ensuring that our unique itineraries are well researched, affordable and tailored for the enjoyment of small groups or individuals - philosophies that have been at our core since 1975 when we began operating adventure holidays. Our itineraries will give you the very best travel experience, designed by people with incredible local knowledge who share our vision of authentic exchange and real exploration with a responsible tourism approach. We hope you will join us for a life changing experience!

why travel with World Expeditions?

Our well planned itinerary offers you the opportunity to stay in a range of good 3.5 - 4 star hotels. We combine the historical highlights of Greece and Turkey in the company of a guide whose knowledge and passion for their country will add a unique dimension to your trip. Their experience and enthusiasm ensures that we maintain the leading edge in adventure travel and therefore provide excellent value for money. We take every precaution to ensure smooth logistics, our vehicles and equipment are the best available on the market. Most importantly, our trips have always sought to benefit the local peoples we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore and contribute to the sustainability of travel in the regions we experience. Given our local knowledge, experience and excellent leadership, we are quite sure that this tour will be a trip of a lifetime and a fantastic adventure.

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trip dates

2013 29 Sep - 17 Oct

trip cost

Joining Sydney Minimum 15-20 passengers: \$8790

options & supplements

10-14 passengers: \$9290

Single Supplement: \$850

World Expeditions does not require single travellers pay a surcharge for travelling alone. We will arrange for you to share accommodation with another traveller of the same gender and if we can not match you up we will provide a single room at no extra charge. If you prefer not to share a single supplement is payable to guarantee your own room. The cost of the single supplement is listed above.

Please note at the time of launching this trip, airfares are not yet available for the time of travel in 2013. Should there be any change in costs to airfares or operational costs we reserve the right to amend the tour price as per Point 14 in the World Expeditions Terms and Conditions.

the trip

For over 2,000 years Alexander the Great has excited the imagination of people around the world. On this cultural and archaeological tour, and follow in Alexander's footsteps, we will explore the very best that ancient and modern Greece has to offer, from fascinating archaeological sites and museums in Athens and Delphi to stunning mountain scenery and gorgeous sea-views. In Turkey we follow in Alexander's footsteps from the site of Alexander's first great battle in Turkey at Granicus to the historical cities of Ephesus, Troy, Gallipoli and Bodrum. Throughout the itinerary we will take time to explore the cultural heart of these fascinating countries with visits to the Grand Bazaar, Topkapi Palace and Blue Mosque in Istanbul. In the company of Dr Christopher Matthew, Ancient Historian and Experimental Archeologist, the life and times of Alexander will be brought to life making this unforgettable tour engaging and enlightening. We hope you can join the Australian Museum Members on this exclusive and exciting adventure!

about your leader

Christopher Matthew graduated with first class honours from the University of New England in 2006 where he focused on the study of ancient Greek and Roman warfare. He then moved to Macquarie University in Sydney where he completed a PhD in 2009 which used physical re-creation, experimental archaeology and ballistics testing to examine the mechanics of warfare in ancient Greece - particularly how the equipment of the infantryman of the time dictated his role and functionality on the battlefield. This research has been very well received and he is now regarded as a leading authority on ancient Greek warfare. The author of numerous articles and books on various aspects of warfare in the ancient world, including a new translation into English of Aelian's *Tactica* - an ancient military manual detailing how Alexander the Great organised his armies (due for publication late 2012) - Christopher has presented papers at a number of local and international conferences, and has been an invited 'guest lecturer' at several institutions across Australia. A keen advocate of using re-enacting and experimental archaeology as research tools, Christopher continues to train with the Sydney Ancients, a group of enthusiasts who re-create the military occupations of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds in order to better understand them. Christopher currently holds a position as a lecturer in ancient history at the Australian Catholic University in Strathfield.

at a glance

DAY 1	DEPART SYDNEY
DAY 2	ARRIVE ATHENS
DAY 3	IN ATHENS - ACROPOLIS AND NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM
DAY 4	IN ATHENS - NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM
DAY 5	TO DELPHI
DAY 6	TO KALAMBAKA VIA THERMOPYLAE
DAY 7	TO THESSALONIKI VIA METEORA
DAY 8	PELLA AND VERGINA
DAY 9	THESSALONIKI - CITY TOUR
DAY 10	TO ISTANBUL, TURKEY
DAY 11	IN ISTANBUL - BLUE MOSQUE & HAGIA SOPHIA, WALK ACROSS THE GALATA BRIDGE TO TAKSIM & BEYOGLU SQUARES
DAY 12	IN ISTANBUL - ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUMS (ALEXANDER SARCOPHAGUS) AND GRAND BAZAAR
DAY 13	DARDANELLES PENINSULA, GALLIPOLI, KILITBAHIR AND CANAKKALE
DAY 14	TROY TO BIGA (RIVER & VILLAGE / PLACE OF THE BATTLE OF THE GRANICUS)
DAY 15	BERGAMA - ANCIENT RUINS OF PERGAMON (PERGAMUM) - ANCIENT CITY OF SARDIS (SARDES) - SELCUK

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DAY 16	VISIT EPHEBUS.
DAY 17	SELCUK – ANCIENT CITY OF MILETUS (MILETOS) – BODRUM CASTLE & MAUSOLEUM AT HALICARNASSUS
DAY 18	TRIP CONCLUDES BODRUM. FLY TO ISTANBUL FOR ONWARD FLIGHT TO SYDNEY
DAY 19	ARRIVE SYDNEY

what's included

- 16 breakfasts, 9 lunches, 10 dinners
- 3.5-4 star hotels on a twinshare basis with private facilities
- Return economy international airfare from Sydney with Emirates, including taxes
- One way economy flight Thessaloniki to Istanbul and Bodrum to Istanbul
- Expert English speaking guide throughout (one guide in Greece, one guide in Turkey)
- Group arrival and departure transfers
- All sightseeing and entrance fees as outlined in the program
- All internal ground transport by private vehicle
- Trip escorted by Dr Christopher Matthew

Local cash payments are becoming increasingly popular with many operators in the adventure travel industry. The policy seems to benefit the tour operators, more than the local economies or travellers, as it avoids local taxes and transfers the cost and risk of cash handling to travellers. In accordance with our Responsible Travel practices we have chosen a policy not to ask for such payments.

detailed itinerary

DAY 1 Depart Sydney

Today we depart Sydney on Emirates EK413 at 2110, arriving into Dubai at 0540
meals: NIL

DAY 2 Arrive Athens

Arrive Dubai at 0540 and depart for Athens on EK105 at 1005 and arriving into Athens at around 1400. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel to rest for the afternoon. In the early evening you will meet for a group briefing before heading out to dinner at a traditional Greek tavern. Overnight in Athens
meals: D

DAY 3 In Athens - Acropolis and New Acropolis Museum

Today we will explore Athens, the capital of modern Greece and a major early adversary of Alexander. We walk through the splendid remains of the ancient city. The Acropolis and the wonderful new Acropolis Museum will be the major highlights of the day. We will enjoy lunch in the Plaka in the shadows of the Acropolis and continue on foot to the Agora & Kerameikos. In the late afternoon we will return to our hotel. Overnight in Athens
meals: B,L

DAY 4 In Athens - National Archaeological Museum

A chance to rest and relax in the morning, or shop and explore. Today we will visit the National Archaeological Museum to see the greatest treasures of Southern Greece. The afternoon will be at leisure to rest and relax or do some shopping and explore on your own. Overnight in Athens
meals: B,L

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fast facts

Countries Visited:
Greece and Turkey

Visas:
Please check visa requirements with your reservations consultant*

Vaccinations:
Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Private Groups:
Private group options are available for this trip*

Singles:
A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:
Expert local leader

Brochure Reference:
Journeys of Discovery

*Ask our staff for more information.

DAY 5 To Delphi

Today we depart for Delphi (drive approx 184km), on the south western spur of Mt Parnassus, and one of the greatest sanctuaries of the ancient world. It will be a great opportunity to consider the role of religion in Alexander's life. In Greek mythology, Delphi was the site of the Delphic oracle, the most important oracle in the classical Greek world, and a major site for the worship of the god Apollo after he slew the Python, a dragon who lived there and protected the navel of the Earth. Python (derived from the verb pythein, "to rot") is claimed by some to be the original name of the site in recognition of the Python that Apollo defeated. We will visit the archaeological site of Delphi as well as the Museum. Overnight Delphi.

meals: B,D

DAY 6 To Kalambaka via Thermopylae

Today we depart to Kalambaka, the gateway to the spectacular monasteries of Meteora which cling to sheer rock spires that soar out of the Thessalian plain as they overlook one of the main routes south along which Alexander took his army. En-route, we visit Thermopylae. Thermopylae (literally meaning 'the hot gates') was the pass where the Greeks, under the Spartan king Leonidas, tried unsuccessfully to hold off the Persians in 480BC – fighting a desperate defence and dying to the last man. Immediately after the death of Alexander the Great, the Athenians revolted and regained Thermopylae. Overnight in Kalambaka (driving approximately 318km).

meals: B,L,D

DAY 7 To Thessaloniki via Meteora

Today we visit the breathtaking mountains and monasteries of Meteora. In the afternoon we continue to Thessaloniki, named after the half sister of Alexander the Great and princess of the Macedonians, as daughter of King Philip II. Overnight in Thessaloniki (driving approx 247km).

meals: B,D

DAY 8 Pella and Vergina

Today we will have a full day tour to Pella & Vergina. We drive west to the birthplace of Alexander the Great: the Macedonian Palace at Pella. We'll explore the stunning new museum and walk through the shattered remains of the ancient city before continuing to Vergina. In Vergina we will visit Philip's tomb and stand at the entrance to the theatre where Philip II was murdered and Alexander was proclaimed King of the Macedonians. We return to Thessaloniki in the late afternoon (driving approx 183km). Overnight in Thessaloniki.

meals: B,L

DAY 9 Thessaloniki - City Tour

Today we will have a half day in Thessaloniki, the great modern metropolis of Northern Greece. We will visit the archaeological museum followed by some of the greatest sites of the city. Overnight Thessaloniki.

meals: B,D

DAY 10 To Istanbul, Turkey

Morning at leisure before transferring to the airport for your flight to Istanbul. We will depart on Turkish Airlines TK1882 at 1540 and arrive into Istanbul at 1700. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel where you will spend the next 3 nights. After check in we will enjoy a welcome cocktail on the hotel's roof terrace with magnificent views to the Marmara Sea, Princess Islands and the old city.

meals: B

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responsible travel

The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence. World Expeditions were the proud recipients of the inaugural Australian National Travel Industry's Environmental Achievement award for our Responsible Travel Guidebook. This detailed guide to responsible and sustainable travel is provided to all World Expeditions clients before they travel. Please ask your consultant if you have not received your copy of our award winning book. Alternatively, you may like to download a copy from our website www.worldexpeditions.com

trip grading

Although there is no commitment to extended walking on this journey we nonetheless want to keep the 'accent on the active'. We therefore advise that any physical training you complete before undertaking the trip will be to good effect as you will be able to fully enjoy your sightseeing and visits to archaeological sites.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

DAY 11 In Istanbul - Blue Mosque & Hagia Sophia, walk across the Galata Bridge to Taksim & Beyoglu squares

Today we visit the Hagia Sophia and the Blue Mosque, both within walking distance of our hotel. The Hagia Sophia is a former Orthodox patriarchal basilica, later a mosque, and now a museum. The Blue Mosque (Sultan Ahmed Mosque) was built between 1609 and 1616, during the rule of Ahmed I. The design of the Sultan Ahmed Mosque is the culmination of two centuries of both Ottoman mosque and Byzantine church development. It incorporates some Byzantine elements of the neighbouring Hagia Sophia with traditional Islamic architecture and is considered to be the last great mosque of the classical period. The architect has ably synthesized the ideas of his master Sinan, aiming for overwhelming size, majesty and splendour.

In the afternoon we cross over the Galata Bridge that spans the Golden Horn in Istanbul. On the other side of the Golden Horn there will be time to explore the Taksim and Beyoglu squares, famed for their restaurants and shops and considered the heart of modern Istanbul. This evening is at leisure. You may like to dine in one of the fantastic restaurants that can be found in Sultanahmet area near our hotel, or try a traditional Turkish bath (or hammam). Overnight Istanbul.

meals: B

DAY 12 In Istanbul - Archaeological Museums (Alexander Sarcophagus) and Grand Bazaar

Today we visit the Istanbul Archaeology Museums, next to the Topkapi Palace. The Istanbul Archaeology Museum consists of three museums, the Archaeological Museum (in the main building), the Museum of the Ancient Orient and the Museum of Islamic Art. It houses over one million objects that represent almost all of the eras and civilizations in world history. The facade of the building was inspired by the Alexander Sarcophagus and Sarcophagus of the Mourning Women, both housed inside the Museum. The ornate Alexander Sarcophagus, once believed to be prepared for Alexander the Great, is among the most famous pieces of ancient art in the museum. In the afternoon there will be time to visit the Grand Bazaar, known as Kapali Carsi. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul is one of the largest and oldest covered markets in the world, with 61 covered streets and over 3,000 shops which attract between 250,000 and 400,000 visitors daily. Overnight Istanbul.

meals: B

DAY 13 Dardanelles Peninsula, Gallipoli, Kilitbahir and Canakkale

Today we leave Istanbul and continue our adventure to follow the trails of Alexander the Great. We follow the Marmara Sea to the mighty Hellespont. When Alexander the Great crossed he sacrificed to Poseidon and poured libations of wine to the spirits of the sea. The strait has always played a strategic role in history and is considered one of the most hazardous, crowded, difficult and potentially dangerous waterways in the world. The ancient city of Troy was located near the western entrance of the strait and the strait's Asiatic shore was the focus of the Trojan War. We visit the historic Gallipoli Peninsula and Anzac Cove. In the late afternoon we take the ferryboat to Canakkale, where we spend the night (driving approx 345km).

meals: B,L,D

DAY 14 Troy to Biga (River & village / place of the Battle of the Granicus)

Today we drive to Troy (Truva), known as Ilium/Ilion. Alexander the Great visited the site in 334 BC and made sacrifices at tombs there associated with the Homeric heroes Achilles and Patroclus. Afterwards we continue east to the village of Biga. On the banks of the river Granicus Alexander nearly died in his first victory over the Persians. Dr. Matthew will bring these battles to life and you will examine the most likely location of the battle. From Biga we drive to Bergama where we spend the night (driving approx 375 km).

meals: B,L,D

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important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

DAY 15 Bergama – ancient ruins of Pergamon (Pergamum) – ancient city of Sardis (Sardes) – Selcuk

Pergamon was an ancient Greek city and became the capital of the Kingdom of Pergamon during the Hellenistic period, under the Attalid dynasty. The Attalid dynasty was a Hellenistic dynasty that ruled the city of Pergamon after the death of Lysimachus, a general of Alexander the Great. They remodelled the Acropolis of Pergamon after the Acropolis in Athens. Notable structures still in existence on the upper part of the Acropolis include a Hellenistic Theatre with a seating capacity of 10,000; Pergamon's library on the Acropolis (the ancient Library of Pergamum) is the second best in the ancient Greek world. From Pergamon we drive to the ancient city of Sardis (Sardes). Sardis was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia, one of the important cities of the Persian Empire, the seat of a proconsul under the Roman Empire, and the metropolis of the province Lydia in later Roman and Byzantine times. During the Ionian Revolt, the Athenians burnt down the city. Sardis remained under Persian domination until it surrendered to Alexander the Great in 334 BC. Afterwards we continue to Selcuk (driving approx 280km).

meals: B,L,D

DAY 16 Visit Ephesus.

With the exception of Pompeii, Ephesus is the largest and best-preserved ancient city around the Mediterranean. We will enjoy a morning tour of this exceptional site with our guides who bring to life the various rooms and buildings. Following this there will be ample time to explore on your own. The late afternoon in Selcuk will be at your leisure.

meals: B,L,D

DAY 17 Selcuk – ancient city of Miletus (Miletos) – Bodrum Castle & Mausoleum at Halicarnassus

Today we drive to Bodrum, known as Halicarnassus in ancient times. On the way we first visit the ancient ruins of Miletus. Before the Persian invasion in the middle of the 6th century BC, Miletus was considered the greatest and wealthiest of Greek cities. In 479 BC, the Greeks decisively defeated the Persians on the Greek mainland, and Miletus was freed of Persian rule. During this time several other cities were formed by Milesian settlers, spanning across what is now Turkey and even as far as the Crimea. We continue to Bodrum, birthplace of Herodotus, and the site of the celebrated Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, and the remains of the fortifications against which Alexander laid a desperate siege. Tonight we will join for a celebratory farewell meal at one of Bodrum's many restaurants (driving approx 180km).

meals: B,L,D

DAY 18 Trip concludes Bodrum. Fly to Istanbul for onward flight to Sydney

Our trip concludes in Bodrum today. There will be one group transfer to the airport for your flight to Istanbul and onward flight to Sydney. Depart Istanbul on EK122 at 1925pm and arrive Dubai at 0040am (+1).

meals: B

DAY 19 Arrive Sydney

Arrive Dubai at 0040. Connect with EK414 departing Dubai at 0215 and arriving into Sydney at around 2205.

meals: NIL

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

country information

TURKEY

Turkey is a natural bridge between the two worlds of the West and the Orient. It displays an amazing diversity in its geography, geology and climate, varying from extremes such as the

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subtropical forest of the Black Sea coast to the evergreen pine forests of the Mediterranean, snow capped mountains, rolling steppe and rich agricultural valleys. Turkey's population is nearing 70 million. More than 95% of the population is Islamic. The original nomadic people, the Yoruk, or Black Tent Dwellers, still keep their original culture and way of life, alternating between the summer and winter pastures of the Taurus Mountains. Their Mongolian faces can distinguish them and they commonly wear loose baggy trousers, as they do in other regions of Central Asia.

GREECE

Greece is a vast country, connected in our imagination with the glories of the ancient world and the magnificent temples of Delphi and the Acropolis; the military might of Athens and Sparta; the land that gave birth to democracy, philosophy, glorious art, theatre and history. Greece is a land of deep blue seas, beautiful mountain ranges, and strings of beautiful islands. It has a wonderful cuisine, with the emphasis firmly placed on fresh produce simply cooked, best sampled in a family run taverna. With its people and their zest for life, delicious food, amazing geography and antiquities, Greece has all the ingredients as a wonderful and fulfilling cultural destination.

climate

TURKEY

Autumn (September to October) is one of the best times to visit Turkey as the climate is perfect for sightseeing in Istanbul and on the Aegean and Mediterranean coasts

GREECE

Autumn is one of the nicest times to visit Greece, September/October being the most pleasant. Average daytime highs are around 20-25 degrees Celsius. It can get cold up in the northern regions around Thessaloniki at this time so you will need to be prepared with warm clothing and water/windproof jacket.

a typical day

The itinerary has been designed to capture the very best of Greece and Turkey in a 3 week Alexander the Great tour. Sometimes this means staying in one spot for two nights and at other times it will mean moving hotels each day. Depending on the itinerary for the day, you will either be travelling or sightseeing. Local experts generally fill the mornings with tours to the local sites. After lunch, further sightseeing will take place or there will be leisure time for you to read, relax at the hotel or explore. Please note there is walking on this trip, sometimes up to 2 hours at a time around archaeological sites or places of interest. We recommend bringing a comfortable pair of walking shoes.

what you carry

In your daypack you will need to carry extra warm clothing (depending on location and weather), a rainjacket, water bottle, camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen, lip-eze etc.

equipment required

We recommend a comfortable pair of walking shoes or boots and day pack (a comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking).

what's not included

- Items of a personal nature such as beverages, phone calls, laundry, etc.
- Transport other than that stated in the itinerary
- Additional sightseeing, entrance fees and meals other than that stated
- Bottled water, aerated and alcoholic drinks
- Visa

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→ **Travel Insurance**

→ **Tips**

trip availability

If this trip seems right for you then we encourage you to call us now to check availability. To ensure we can assist you onto your adventure of a lifetime we ask that you check your trip availability with our team at your earliest convenience.

how to book

Please fill out the booking form and return with a \$400 deposit to World Expeditions to reserve your place on the tour. Please note that all reservations are subject to availability at the time of booking. The deposit is payable by cash, cheque, or credit card (made payable to World Expeditions) & is non-refundable. Please send your completed booking form to the following address:

World Expeditions
Level 5, 71 York St
Sydney NSW 2000
Ph: (02) 8270 8400
Fax: (02) 8270 8401

Please Note: This is an Australian Museum Members Tour and participants are required to be current Members. For further details about Membership, please call Australian Museum Members on (02) 9320 6225.