

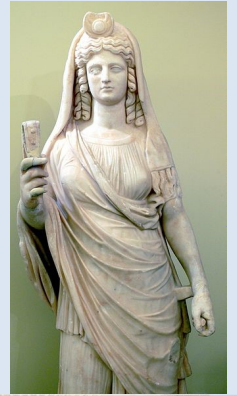


GREEK MYSTERIES

with

RACHEL POLLACK

3-12 MAY 2022



The Mysteries were much older than the buildings and statues, and even the stories that have come down to us. At the heart of this journey is a sense of going back in time, making connections to the spiritual source of the places and rituals, and to the land itself - the mountains and rivers the caves, and animals and plants. We will open ourselves to ancient powers, and discover mystery, wonder, and healing.

Day One: Tuesday 3 May

For those flying in on 3 May, rendezvous at **12 noon** at Klumbo Café in the ground floor Arrivals area of the Main Terminal at Athens International Airport. Linda Marson will be there with a sign. Transfer to hotel.

For people already in Athens, meet at 1pm in the hotel lobby. Free time in the afternoon prior to an information session at 5pm in the hotel with a local tour guide who can provide historical/archaeological information about sites we visit in Athens and Eleusis.

Overnight: Athens (Hotel Athenian Callirhoe, Kallirrois 32, Athina)

Day Two: Wednesday 4 May

This morning we visit The Athenian Acropolis, which is home to one of the most famous buildings in the world, the Parthenon, a temple built for the goddess Athena. Much of our journey involves going back in time. The Parthenon is the great marvel of Classical architecture, seemingly detached from the world on its hilltop. There was an earlier temple, dedicated to a Goddess of serpents, where every morning the snakes came forth from cracks in the ground to be fed and to give their blessing. As our first movement in time we will honor the presence and power of Athena of the Snakes.

Overnight: Athens (Hotel Athenian Callirhoe)

Day Three: Thursday 5 May

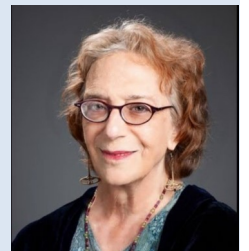


This morning we travel to Delphi on the slopes of Mt Parnassus - the Temple of Apollo where the Oracle of Delphi was consulted through the Pythia, the priestess who spoke the message of the God. The ancients considered Delphi the centre of the world. Here, too, we find the primordial power of snakes—

and the Goddess, for it was said that Apollo conquered Delphi by killing a giant python sacred to Gaia, the Earth Goddess.

Your tour leader

Rachel Pollack is one of the world's foremost authorities on the modern interpretation of the Tarot. Her book *Seventy-eight Degrees of Wisdom*, in print since 1980, is often called "the Bible of Tarot readers." Of the Eleusinian Mysteries, Rachel writes... "Demeter and Persephone are among the great figures of mythology, Demeter for her refusal to surrender her daughter, and Persephone, for her transformation from a frightened innocent to She Who Shines In Darkness (the meaning of her name). By going to the sites, and creating our own rituals, and sharing our stories, we will experience our own Mysteries. This is a journey I led 15 years ago, and I am thrilled to be doing it again."



Your tour organiser

Linda Marson is a professional Tarot reader, teacher, video producer and founder of *Global Spiritual Studies*. She is also a former President of the Tarot Guild of Australia. "Tarot and travel go together like strawberries and cream," she says. "Consulting the Tarot as you travel can yield amazing insights into stuff that's going on in your life. I'm very much looking forward to working with Rachel on ways of bringing Tarot into our Greek Mysteries journey."



Day Three: Thursday 5 May (cont'd)

And yet, the name Pythia remained for the woman who gave the divine messages.

We will honour Apollo, Gaia, whose eternal presence is marked by a giant stone, and Demeter, who had her own temple at Delphi, and the Muses, givers of art and beauty, who dwelt in the caves and springs of Mt. Parnassus, looming above the oracle centre. In the beautiful temple of Athena Pronaia, a short walk down the hill from Delphi itself, we will do a ritual "The Opening to Apollo," to allow the power of the oracle to enter us.

Overnight: Hotel Apollonia, Delphi

Day Four: Friday 6 May

After evoking the ancient powers at Delphi we come to Eleusis itself, where the Mysteries were celebrated for 2000 years. Modern Eleusis (Elefsina) is a thriving industrial town just outside of Athens. The Sanctuary - or its remains - can be found down a side street from one of the main thoroughfares. And yet, when we turn down that street, and come to the ancient site it is once again as if we have traveled back in time.

The Temple of Demeter at Eleusis was the largest of all Greek temples. It was sacked by the Persians in 484 B.C.E., rebuilt by Pericles, then sacked again by Alaric the Goth in 396 to curry favor with the Christian bishop. Few tour groups come here, for there is no grand temple, no rows of statues. And yet, the power of the place remains, made stronger by its simplicity.

Here we begin our proper (self) initiation into our own understanding of the Mysteries, telling the story, sensing the power, and perhaps doing readings on what we will discover.

Overnight: Athens (Hotel Athenian Callirhoe)

Day Five: Saturday 7 May

Today is a day to relax and enjoy ourselves. In the morning, we take a fast ferry to Mykonos, one of Greece's most beautiful islands, and thus a favorite holiday spot. We have the afternoon to just explore, rest, or enjoy the beaches, cafes, and shops, before a festive dinner.

Overnight: Mykonos (Hotel Manoulas Beach)



Roman courtyard in The Sanctuary at Eleusis



Our itinerary

Ελληνικά Μύστρια

Day Six: Sunday 8 May

A local ferry takes us to nearby Delos, the birthplace of Artemis and



Apollo, an island with no modern buildings, only sacred ancient sites. Many Gods and Goddesses were honored on Delos, even including a sanctuary to Egyptian Isis, seen in Roman times as “The Great Goddess of a Thousand Names.” Isis’s story became

entwined with Demeter’s, and we will compare them.

We will also honor Artemis, companion of Kore (Persephone’s name when she was young) on the day Hades took her in his chariot to the Land of the Dead. Though Homer portrays Artemis as Zeus’s tomboy daughter, she was one of the oldest of all powers, so ancient no one even knows the origin or meaning of her name. She was a Goddess of the mountains and wild beasts, and protector of women in childbirth. We will honor her before we travel to Crete, with its powerful horned mountains.

Overnight: Mykonos (Hotel Manoulas Beach)

Day Seven: Monday 9 May

Today we take a fast ferry to Crete. We have free time in the afternoon, prior to a session in the hotel with a local guide who will give us historical and archaeological information.

Overnight: Heraklion (Hotel Galaxy Heraklion)

Day Eight: Tuesday 10 May

In the morning, we go to Knossos, Crete’s most famous site, where we view the elegant frescoes of a civilization far older than Greece. The Greeks themselves said that the Mysteries came from Crete. “What is celebrated secretly at Eleusis was done openly at Crete.”

We will look at the power of horned mountains in the rituals, as well as the famous double headed axe, which was not a weapon but a ritual object, evoking both the lunar crescents and the wings of a butterfly. The ancient Greek word psyche meant “soul,” and “butterfly.”



Once again we encounter the primordial power of serpents, this time in the famous statuette of the bare-breasted Goddess with a snake in each outstretched hand. And we see how the famous Cretan labyrinth may have been a map of a ritual dance... “what was done openly at Crete.”

If time allows, we will visit a prehistoric cemetery outside the city, our last venture into the Land of the Dead before we celebrate Persephone’s return.

Overnight: Heraklion (Hotel Galaxy Heraklion)



The Terrace of the Lions, Delos



Remains of the Palace complex at Knossos

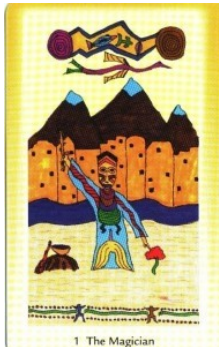


The Cretan Labyrinth

Day Nine: Wednesday 11 May

On our final day, we visit the “Palace” of Phaistos, where the great horned mountain, Ida, seems to loom directly over the walls. Here we follow the turning path of a possible ritual. We share pomegranate seeds in honor of Persephone. Many people believe she knowingly ate the seeds that mean she must cycle each year between the Living Earth and the Underworld, and she does so because she knows the Dead need her as much as the Living.

We consider, for ourselves, the true meaning of “Persephone,” She Who Shines In Darkness. Through readings, and sharing of experiences, we look at how we as Tarot readers and spiritual celebrants serve the people who come to us for readings or simply help.



In the myth, the God Hermes is the one who brings Persephone back from Hades to her mother Demeter. Hermes, God of magic, travel, wisdom is often seen as the Magician in the Tarot. He was also a guide to dead souls. To end our own journey into the Mysteries, we honor the deities who traveled with us: Hermes,

Demeter, Persephone, Apollo, Artemis, and even Hades himself.

Overnight: Heraklion (Hotel Galaxy Heraklion)

Day Ten: Thursday 12 May

After breakfast we depart for Heraklion Airport for international, domestic flights and transfers. We arrive by 10am in time for flight departures from midday onwards.



Remains of the Minoan Palace of Phaistos



Cost

Early bird: \$3,095 USD per person twin share . To qualify for this price, you must book and pay your deposit by **15 November 2021**.

Full price: \$3,300 USD per person, twin share (from 16 November 2021)

Single supplement: \$630 USD per person. Single rooms are few and on a first come first served basis.

Deposit: \$700 USD, payable upon booking (non-refundable after 15 November 2021)

Final payment is due by **28 February 2022**. You will receive an invoice by 14 February with details of the balance due.

Price includes:

- quality, comfortable, mainly 4 star accommodation
- coach travel
- ferries
- breakfast and dinner each day
- entrance fees
- guide fees, taxes and gratuities (excl. drivers) .

Not included:

- international airfares and travel insurance
- gratuities for coach drivers

Payment options

Payment is in US dollars. This can be done online through PayPal using a debit or credit card (with OR without a PayPal account).

Note: Australians registering for the tour can pay in Australian dollars. Please email Linda Marson for the price in AUD and bank account details — linda@globalspiritualstudies.com.

Cancellation policy

If you cancel your booking prior to **15 November 2021**, your deposit minus a \$70 administration fee will be refunded. If you cancel after that time, your deposit/ full tour payment can only be refunded if you find someone to take your place.

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance to cover unforeseen circumstances that could lead to you cancelling your place on a tour, as well as the usual cover for medical expenses, delayed flights, lost luggage and so on.

If *Global Spiritual Studies* cancels the tour due to insufficient numbers, your payment will be refunded in full. If cancellation is due to a pandemic or event beyond our control, we reserve the right to offer alternative arrangements. These could include transfer of the registration and funds received to a future tour.

Register online at <https://globalspiritualstudies.com/product/greek-mysteries-tour-registration/>

Email: linda@globalspiritualstudies.com