

Ancient Sites of Oracles and Healing

2026 Sacred Sites Tour of Greece

With Jason Holley and Gray Crawford

October 10–22, 2026



Hermes-Hestia Tours invites you on a 12-night pilgrimage into the sacred landscapes of northern Greece—lands once known as thresholds between worlds, where seekers traveled in times of uncertainty, illness, grief, and turning, in search of guidance and renewal.

Together we will follow the pathways of mythic figures and historical pilgrims who journeyed to places where the veil felt thin and the voice of soul could be heard. From mountain cave to oak grove, from spring to sea, from oracle to healing sanctuary, we move through landscapes that were understood not only as scenic but as ensouled—alive with presence, responsive to prayer, dream, and divination.

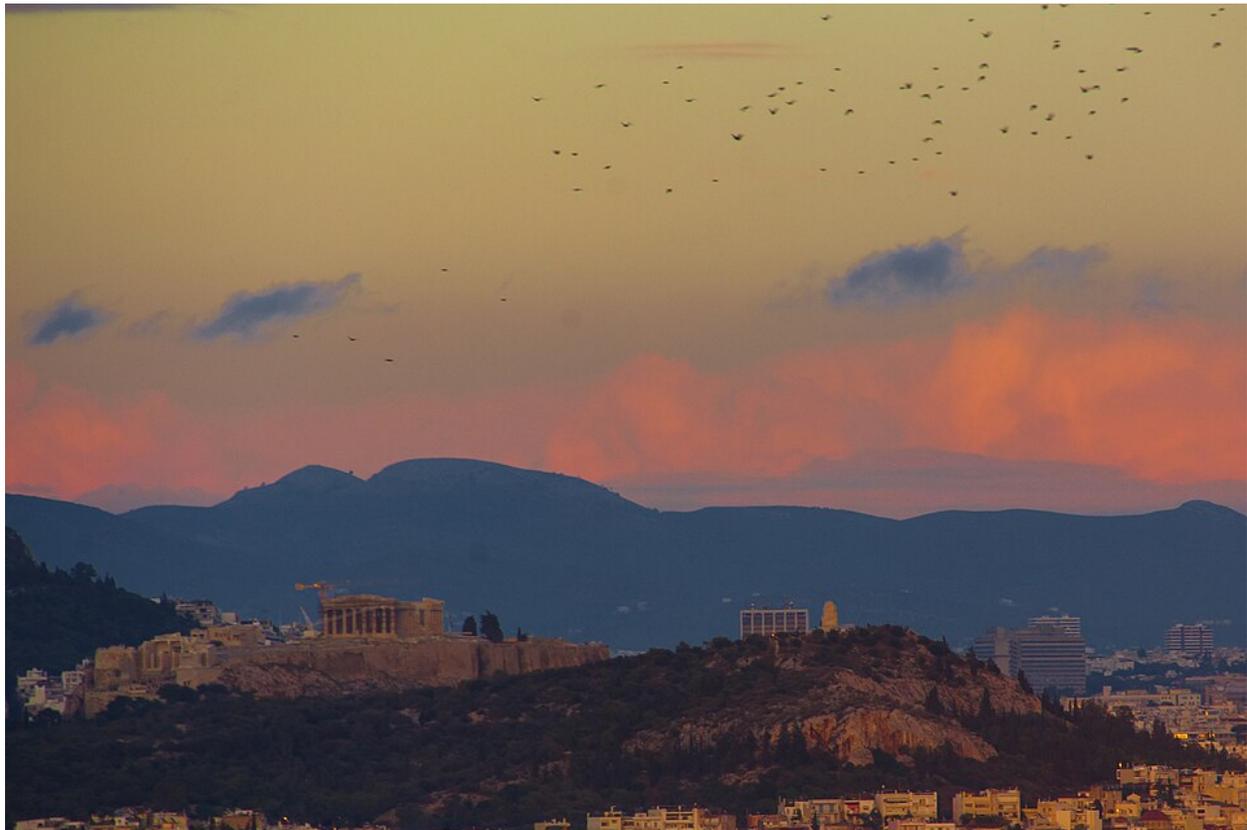
Our journey traces an arc through multiple forms of ancient consultation and healing: from the open heights of Delphi to the caves deeper in Mount Parnassus; from the chthonic waters of the Acheron to the whispering oak of Dodona; from the birthplace of Asclepius in Trikala to the forested slopes of Mount Pelion, home of kindly Chiron.

Throughout our travels, Jason and Gray will offer storytelling, teaching, and guided reflection attuned to each site. We will explore not only the myths and rituals once enacted there, but how these places still speak—through dream, symbol, astrology, landscape, and the subtle movement of psyche. Morning dream circles, facilitated by Jason, will provide a contemplative rhythm to our days, allowing our inner experiences to weave with the outer terrain.

As with all our journeys, we travel under the patronage of Hermes and Hestia. Hermes, guide of travelers and mediator between worlds; Hestia, keeper of the hearth, center of stillness amid movement. Rarely the focus of grand temples, yet essential to every sacred exchange, they accompany us as protectors of safe passage and inner coherence.

October 10 – Arrival and Evening Reception in Athens

We gather in Athens, cradle of philosophy, drama, and civic imagination. After arrivals and time to settle, we meet in the evening for a welcoming reception at our hotel. From there, we take a gentle walk through the living streets of the Plaka district, where ancient stones and contemporary life interweave. Beneath the illuminated presence of the Parthenon, we share our first meal together at a rooftop taverna. In the spirit of *xenia*—sacred guest-hospitality—we begin by receiving: food, wine, story, and one another.



October 11 – Athens to Delphi

Our first morning begins with dream and reflection, setting the contemplative tone that will accompany us throughout the journey.

We then walk in the footsteps of ancient Athenians along the Panathenaic Way beneath the Acropolis, descending into the Ancient Agora of Athens—the civic and spiritual heart of the city. Nearby, in the district of Kerameikos, we visit the site of a recently excavated sacred well associated with Apollo and the Temple of Artemis, an example of hydromancy—divination through water’s reflective and responsive surface. Here we consider how even within the bustle of civic life, portals to the numinous were carefully tended.

Later, we depart for Delphi, traveling through mountain landscapes toward one of the most revered oracular centers of the ancient world. As we ascend toward Mount Parnassus and look out over the vast sea of olive trees below, we begin to feel the gravitational pull of a place once called the navel of the world.



October 12 – The Oracle of Delphi



Following in the footsteps of ancient seekers of wisdom, the next morning we begin at the sanctuary of Athena Pronaia, guardian of the threshold, before walking to the Castalian Spring, where pilgrims ritually purified themselves prior to consultation. We then ascend the Sacred Way through the ruins of treasuries and monuments, arriving at the Temple of Apollo and the seat of the Pythia.

Passing the Omphalos stone, the symbolic center of the world, we reflect on what it means to seek orientation when life feels uncertain or contingent. We also visit the remarkable Ampitheatre of Dionysus, a counterpoint to the Apollonian where performances took place with the backdrop of sweeping mountain views. After time for contemplation at the site, we visit the Delphi Archaeological Museum, encountering sculptures and offerings that once bore witness to hope, gratitude, and awe.



The evening is free for rest, wandering, and quiet integration in the mountain air of Delphi.

Oct 13 The Corycian Cave



The next morning after our dream group we set out for a hike into the forests of Mount Parnassus to the less-visited Corycian Cave, the earlier site of the Oracle, said to be the home of the Python whom Apollo destroyed and replaced when he created his Oracle site. This walk and our time for contemplation will also be an immersion

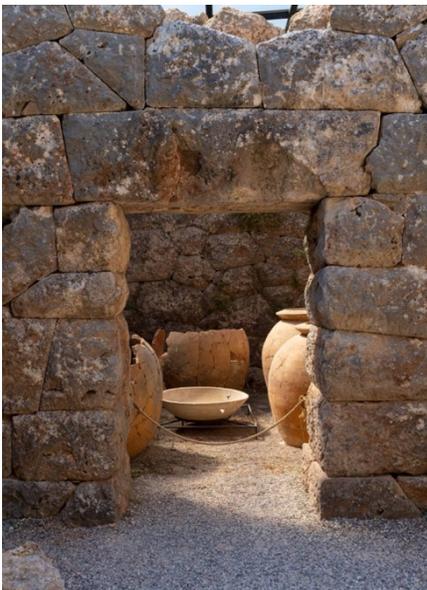
into the land, allowing us to feel into a deeper experience of this place which so inspired the ancients as a place for revelation. We will enjoy a picnic lunch along our hike and an early evening back to Delphi for rest and integration.

Oct 14 Delphi to Parga



Following our morning dream circle and a final view across the valley of olive trees below Delphi, we begin our journey westward into Epirus, a region long associated with ancient, earthy forms of divination and contact with the unseen. Traveling through mountain passes and along dramatic coastal roads, we make our way to the Ionian seaside town of Parga, whose colorful houses rise amphitheatrically above the harbor and whose Venetian castle watches over the sea. As we approach the lands once frequented by oracles of earth and oak, we begin to feel the shift from the Apollonian heights of Delphi to the deeper, chthonic currents of the western mainland. Our evening in Parga offers time to rest, wander the waterfront.

Oct 15 The Acheron Necromanteion and River Trip on the Acheron



Today we visit the haunting and powerful site of the Nekromanteion of Acheron, near the confluence of the rivers believed by the ancients to be entrances to the Underworld. Here stood the Necromanteion, the “Oracle of the Dead,” where supplicants sought communion with departed souls. In Homer’s *Odyssey*, it was to these waters that Odysseus journeyed to consult the shade of Tiresias.

Walking the stone corridors of the ancient site—associated with the rivers Acheron, Pyriphlegethon, and Cocytus—we will contemplate the rituals of descent enacted here: purification, fasting, disorientation, and symbolic death before encounter. This is a place that invites reflection on grief, ancestry, and the thin boundary between the living and the dead.



In the afternoon, we take to the waters ourselves with a gentle river journey along the Acheron. Surrounded by steep cliffs and crystalline currents, we experience the river not only as mythic threshold but as living landscape. The day offers an opportunity to reflect on our own underworld passages and the wisdom that may be found there.

Oct 16 The Oracle of Zeus at Dodona

From the realm of the dead we travel to one of the oldest oracular sites in Greece: the Oracle of Zeus at Dodona. Before Delphi rose to prominence, pilgrims came to Dodona seeking guidance from Zeus Naios and Dione. Here divination did not arise from a priestess's trance, but from the whispering leaves of a sacred oak tree, the cooing of doves, and the resonance of bronze vessels hung to chime in the wind.

We will walk among the remains of the great theater and the sacred precinct, imagining the ancient oak at the center—the living axis through which heaven and earth spoke. Dodona invites a different mode of listening: attunement to wind, leaf, and subtle vibration. We will have time for contemplation, exploring how guidance may arise through the more-than-human world.



Oct 17 Meteora

Today we journey east toward the astonishing rock formations of Meteora, where medieval monasteries crown towering pillars of stone. Though belonging to a later Christian era, Meteora continues the Greek tradition of sacred heights and spiritual retreat.

Suspended between earth and sky, the monasteries evoke a vertical pilgrimage—an ascent toward stillness, prayer, and perspective. As we visit selected monasteries and walk among these immense geological forms, we will reflect on continuity and transformation in the sacred imagination of Greece: from oracle and healing temple to hermitage and icon.

Our overnight stay nearby allows for sunset views of the rocks, when light and shadow reveal the dramatic interplay of stone and sky.



Oct 18 Trikala and Pelion

We begin the day in Trikala, birthplace of Asclepius, the great healer of the ancient world. According to myth, Asclepius was born in this region and trained in the healing arts by the wise centaur Chiron. We will reflect on the Asclepian tradition of incubation—ritual sleep in sacred enclosures in order to receive healing dreams—and consider how our own dream work throughout the journey resonates with this lineage.

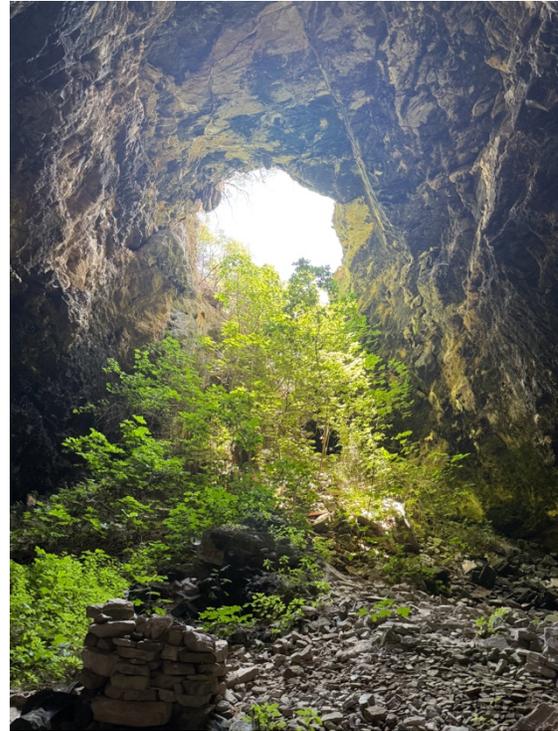
From there we travel south and east to Mount Pelion, a lush and storied peninsula where mountain forests descend into the Aegean Sea. Pelion is the mythic homeland of Chiron, teacher of heroes, healer, and astrologer.

We settle into our lodging among stone villages and chestnut groves, preparing for several days immersed in this landscape of centaurs and springs.

Oct 19 Pelion

Today is devoted to the mythic and natural landscape of Pelion. In this place where mountain meets sea, we contemplate the centaur as symbol of our own hybrid nature—instinctual and intuitive, sensuous and sensitive.

We will visit traditional villages such as Makrinitsa and Tsagarada, walking ancient stone paths (kalderimia) and, weather permitting, spending time by one of Pelion's crystalline beaches. We will also have time for herb-collecting in this land where practitioners of *pharmakeia*, including figures of myth such as Asklepius and Medea, as well as the historical Thessalian doctors and the iatromanteis ("healer-prophets"), cultivated both the plants and their relations to them.



Our final full day in Pelion offers spaciousness for integration. We will visit one of the caves in Pelion that evokes the mythic cave where Chiron was said to dwell, overlooking the sea and near a special cove beach for relaxation. We will also visit the small church and chapel in the village of Milles containing a remarkable zodiac fresco.

In the spirit of Hestia, we gather in the evening for a closing circle in this sacred landscape—honoring what has been stirred, healed, or revealed across our journey from oracle to underworld to mountain.

Oct 21 Return to Athens and Farewell Dinner

On our final day together, we will spend the morning in contemplation of the dreams, stories, and encounters we have met across our travels. We then begin our return journey to Athens. At our final dinner together in the historic Plaka district, we will share food and remembrance, offering farewells and well-wishes as each of us carries forward the threads of this pilgrimage into our own lives.

Your Guides



Jason Holley - Over the years I've visited Greece cumulatively for several months, in contexts of pilgrimage, education, dance, and romance. Time in Greece connects me sensuously and imaginatively with the mythic mycelium that nourishes the arts of astrology, imagination, and soul. It has also been a place of pleasure, fun, and camaraderie.

The places we visit have memory, and as in dreams, we will find the stories often hiding where we least expect. It is no small thing to connect with land that remembers, with trees whose relatives were there when people first heard the stories on the winds, felt the gods in the forest, and made temples to remind themselves. As we approach and step into them with respect and intention, we too remember and feel more of our own experience and mystery.

After 18 years as a psychotherapist and 35 years as an astrologer, I lead experiential astrology workshops and retreats including storytelling, dreamwork, psychodrama, art-making, and land-based practices in Australia, Europe, and the Americas. Organizer of the first Living Astrologies Conference held in Santa Fe in 2025, I also teach for conferences and programs including UAC, ISAR, NORWAC, FAA-Australia, Southwestern College, Astrology University, Mercury-Internet School for Psychological Astrology, and the Center for Astrology, Myth, and Symbol.

<http://jasonholley.net/library>



Gray Crawford is an astrologer whose practice is rooted in relations with the Greek gods, goddesses and daimons whose home we will visit on our tour. For mysterious reasons when I experienced my darkest night of soul at the beginning of my twenties, Greek mythology and astrology emerged as a navigational compass for me to understand the mystery of my own psyche. Much later at the beginning of my forties, after having already established myself as a professional astrologer who had learned how to help others understand themselves

through myth and astrology, it was an experience of the living presence of the Greek gods while exploring an exhibit of artifacts from the Antikythera shipwreck that convinced me to dedicate myself to learning the arts of Hellenistic astrology. <http://graycrawford.net>

Jason and Gray first met one Jupiter cycle (12 years) ago at an astrology conference. Friends since that time, we share a deep love of myth and a commitment to the symbolic life. In 2024, we led our first Greek tour together, inspired by our mentor-friends Brian Clark and Demetra George to continue their decades-long traditions of leading trips to Greece. We are excited to share with you this land of myth and dream that has inspired us so deeply for many decades.

Financial Details

USD 6495 total if deposit received before March 31 (**Early-Bird Rate**)

USD 6995 total if initial deposit received after March 31

Optional Single Room Supplement: USD 1195

Schedule of Payments

Initial Deposit: USD 995 *before March 31*; USD 1495 *after March 31* [Register with Deposit Here](#)

May 20: USD 2750 (plus single room supplement if applicable)

July 20: USD 2750

Fee includes:

- 12 nights' double occupancy accommodation at 4-star hotels
- All entrance fees to sites visited
- All guide and driver fees and expenses
- All transportation and associated fees, tolls, portage between sites by deluxe a/c coach
- All tuition/fees for seminar and dream/reflection group sessions
- All breakfasts, 2 dinners including house wine, and 2 picnic lunches
- All current relevant EU, national, and local charges and taxes

Not included: transport to/from Athens airport (easy metro/car); meals except noted.

Questions? Email hermeshestiacycenter@gmail.com