

A JOURNAL OF ORTHODOX FAITH AND CULTURE

ROAD TO EMMAUS

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TRAVELLING WITH NICHOLAS KARELLOS

"I have been fortunate to travel in Greece twice with Nicholas Karellos, the first time in 2004 with our bishop and a large group of clergy families. Nikos managed it all for us – even providing a guide for the women to visit Meteora while the men were on Mount Athos. The arrangements and food were excellent, and his informative, fascinating comments brought everything to life.

On our second trip, a decade later, my family was again scooped up by Nikos to bask in the warm companionship that can only be offered by someone who loves Greece and wants his guests to experience its beauty, wonders, and hidden secrets as he does. Nikos asks what you want to do and then offers his own quiet suggestions, which you don't want to miss. Once you set off, the sparkle of life that is his nature brings your experience to an entirely different level. It's never, "This is Tuesday, it must be Belgium." Every day is unique and unrepeatable.

MATUSHKA JUNIA TOLBERT

"I've been on several other pilgrim tours since my time with Nicholas Karellos, but traveling under his care and guidance is still my gold standard. Nikos has the rare ability to understand the interests and needs of his guests, while his knowledge of Greek

Opposite: Quiet evening at the Tinos island Taverna Drossia in the village of Kitados, overlooking the Aegean. Photo courtesy N. Karellos.

history and church culture seems endless. Along the way, I had two troubling medical issues and he went out of his way to make sure I got proper care: I felt as if I was traveling with a cousin. My goal was to be inspired and changed, and Nikos facilitated this by guiding me to Orthodox monasteries, churches and holy sites, some well-known and others off the beaten path that I would never have found on my own."

PHILIP SELBY

"There is no one in the world like Nikos Karellos to take you to places and people that strengthen your faith, change your life, and heal your soul! And he does it all in a spirit of reverence for the holy, while providing hugely enjoyable afternoon side-trips for museums, swimming, local craftsmen or farmers, and marvelous Greek tavernas by the sea."

CATHERINE HOLMES

"I spent a few weeks traveling with Nicholas Karellos and I can't imagine a better guide. He seemed to know half of the monastic community of Greece and he set up visits with monastics and laypeople he thought would be helpful for me to meet. (He was right each time.) Along with the places I wanted to see, Nikos suggested other inspiring sites along the way, and his warm personality and humor makes him a great traveling companion. He guides people to places that connect so deeply with their spiritual needs that my pilgrimage turned out better than I ever could have imagined."

TRISTAN VANCE

Opposite: Excursion on Kerini Lake in Northern Greece. Photo courtesy N. Karellos.

