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Spiritual Jewels in the Mediterranean

CYPRUS • SICILY

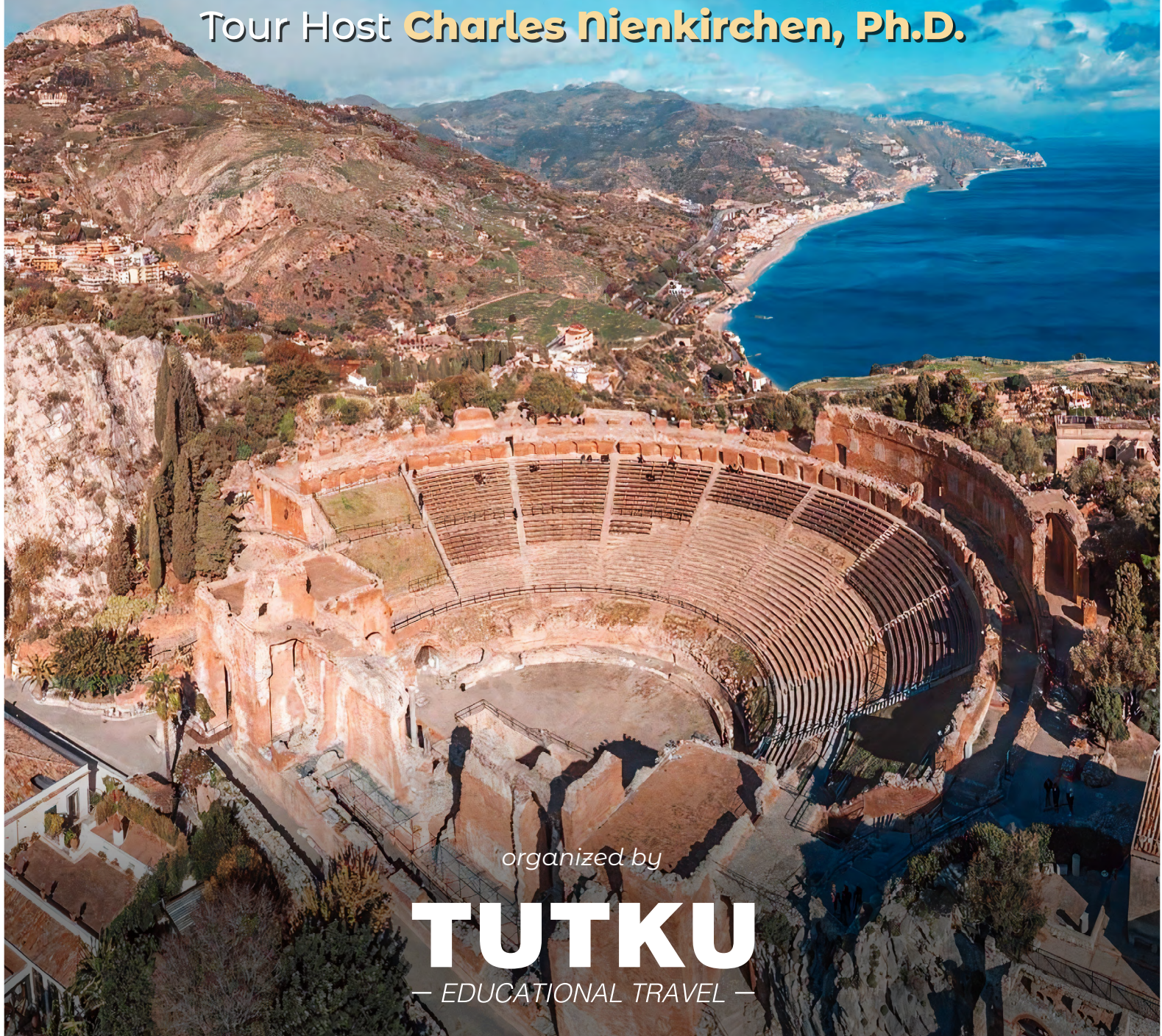
April 29 - May 9, 2025

Tour Host **Charles Nienkirchen, Ph.D.**

organized by

TUTKU

— EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL —





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Tour Itinerary:

April 29 Tue Departure from Canada

April 30 Wed Arrival Larnaca Airport Cyprus. Meet and assist. Athens/Nicosia (Lefkosia) - Limassol

This morning we fly from Athens to Larnaca airport and transfer to Nicosia (Lefkosia). Enjoy an afternoon walking tour, that will take us along the Old City's main streets inside the 16th century CE Venetian Wall. We'll arrive at the **Cyprus Museum** which showcases the best archaeological finds from the island. Visit the **St. Johns Cathedral and its impressive frescos**. Enjoy Lunch at local tavern. Drive to Limassol for dinner and overnight. **(B, L, D)**

May 1 Thu Paphos/Limassol

After breakfast today, we journey to **Paphos** yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site on our itinerary and Cyprus's main tourist resort on the western shores of the island. We enjoy a short stop at a local fruit plantation, tasting freshly made lemonade and freshly sliced fruits. The main part of Paphos town is also known as Ktima which lies uphill from the harbour. We visit the archaeological site **Nea Pafos**, dates to the 4th century BCE. The Agora (which contains the Odeon) and Asclepion (the healing centre and altar of the god Asclepius) date to the 2nd century CE when the city was at its zenith under Roman rule. The glittering mosaics found in palatial villas (some of the finest in the world) also date to this period and testify to the city's opulence. The villas of Dionysos, Theseus, Aeon and Orpheus near the harbour feature the finest, exquisite artistry of the mosaics. The local **Byzantine Museum** offers a display of icons. We visit **Kourion**, archaeological park (mosaics and Agora), after lunch at a local tavern, we and have a short stop at Aphrodites birth place. Freetime at the harbor in the seaside village of **Episkopi**. Visit the Tomb of the Kings and return to Limassol for dinner and overnight. **(B, L, D)**

May 2 Fri Troodos Mountains - Nicosia

After breakfast we have a full day in the mountains. We visit St. John Lambadistis Byzantine Church, and Kykkos Monastery, where we will admire the icon of the Virgin Mary painted by St. Luke. Enjoy lunch at a local tavern, and then visit the St. Nicolas Byzantine Church. Dinner and overnight in Nicosia. **(B, L, D)**

May 3 Sat Bellapais Monastery - Shipwreck museum - Kyrenia - Nicosia

After breakfast we start our tour with the lovely village of Bellapais, and visit the world famous 13th century Bellapais Monastery. We then go to Kyrenia town, and visit the Kyrenia castle. We will see the animation rooms and the shipwreck museum, which houses the oldest ship. We walk in the picturesque Kyrenia Harbour. Free time on your own for lunch or coffee, and shopping. Return to Nicosia for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

May 4 Sun Salamis/Monastery of St. Barnabas/Famagusta

We head to North Cyprus today. We will first visit the enchanting St. Barnabas Monastery and Archaeology Museum. It is an important monastery near Famagusta, dedicated to St. Barnabas, the patron saint of Cyprus. It houses a museum with early Christian artifacts. We continue to ancient **Salamis**. Our visit to Salamis also includes the necropolis where some 150 tombs from the 7th century BCE are scattered over a wide area, the theater, the gymnasium, baths, market place and other city ruins. We'll stop in the Old Town of Famagusta, encircled by massive walls and bastions. Our particular focus is the Church of the Greeks, the second largest church in the town which during the medieval period served as the Cathedral of the Greek Orthodox community. Explore the historic center, including the Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque (formerly St. Nicholas Cathedral), which has rich historical connections to the Crusades, and the Othello Tower (which is under construction, visible only from outside), and see the Venetian Palace. Enjoy free time on your own for lunch. Return to Nicosia for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

May 5 Mon Departure - Nicosia - Athens - Sicily arrival

Depending on Flight time (After breakfast enjoy a morning visit to Lefkara village for shopping. Visit a local Basketry to taste the fresh haloumi cheeses. Visit St. Lazarus and) transfer to the airport for departure to Palermo.

Meet your tour manager at the airport of Palermo. You travel inland starting at the ancient Greek city of Segesta with its majestic 36-columned, 5th-century BC temple and stunning Greek theater. In the afternoon, you are free to explore the delightful city of Palermo on your own. Overnight in Palermo. **(D)



Palermo Cathedral

May 6 Tue Palermo - Monreale

Breakfast and a gem of a day. The morning is centered on the Piazza della Vittoria, one of the city's major squares, where some of Palermo's most remarkable buildings are to be found. The first stop is the Norman Royal Palace and the Palatine Chapel, the perfect illustration of that miraculous Norman combination of Latin, Byzantine and Arab culture. Close by is San Giovanni degli Eremiti, a Norman church decorated with Arabic domes and an exquisite Romanesque cloister. A short walk will take you to Palermo Cathedral and its fascinating mix of architectural styles. After lunch, you will travel the small distance out of Palermo to experience the beauty and grace of Monreale Cathedral, with its glorious 12th-century mosaics covering over 1 1/2 acres of wall space and its cloister, perhaps the most magnificent in the world. Overnight in Palermo. **(B, D)**

May 7 Wed Palermo - Piazza Armerina - Taormina

Breakfast. In the morning, move to Piazza Armerina. Enjoy a guided visit of the Villa Romana, (Roman Villa) belonging to the UNESCO heritage. Lunch in a typical local trattoria. Continue driving to Taormina. "Taormina is a landscape where you seem to find everything created on the earth to seduce the eyes, the spirit and the imagination." (Guy de Maupassant). In the afternoon, enjoy a guided visit of Taormina, including the Greco-Roman theater. Dinner on your own. You can eat at one of the many excellent restaurants and trattorias in Taormina. Overnight in Taormina area. **(B, L)**

May 8 Thu Syracuse

Breakfast. Full day excursion to Syracuse (1 1/2 hrs drive from Taormina). Visit the Church of St. John on site where Paul preached, followed by a visit to Ortigia Island with its famous Cathedral. Visit the Archaeological Park with spectacular Greek Theatre and 2nd century Roman Amphitheatre in the afternoon. Return to Taormina area for dinner and overnight. **(B, D)**

May 9 Fri Departure

Breakfast. Transfer to the Catania airport for departure home. **(B)**



Syracuse

LAND ONLY (in USD)

\$4,070 Per Person in Double Room
\$740 Single Room Supplement

INCLUDING

- 2 nights in Limassol, Mediterranean Beach or similar
- 3 nights in Nicosia, Centrum Hotel or similar
- 2 nights Palermo, Hotel Garibaldi or similar
- 2 nights Taormina, Splendid hotel or similar
- Daily breakfast and dinners (except May 7)
- Lunches on April 30, and May 1,2,3 and 7 A/C bus transportation
- English speaking licensed guide according to program
- Whispers
- Entrances and reservations for sites and museums according program
- Local city taxes
- Entrance fees to all sightseeing as per itinerary
- English-speaking licensed tour guide throughout the itinerary
- English speaking assistant during transfers
- 1 group transfer upon arrival in Larnaca and 1 group transfer upon departure in Catania.
- Service charges and local taxes to hotels

EXCLUDING

- Roundtrip international airfare from Calgary-Cyprus Larnaca, departure from Catania, Sicily -Calgary
- One way flight from Larnaca to Palermo
- All lunches and all Drinks, except for lunches included above
- Tips to tour guides and drivers, waiters
- All personal expenses, Travel and Health Insurances, any other item not mentioned above
- ****Citizens of ALL countries are responsible for checking their own countries' visa regulations for travel for Italy**
- Any item not specified under "Included items"
- Any transfer aside for the main group transfer

REGISTRATION

you can fill in the secure form at TUTKU website



OPTION 1

REGISTER NOW



<https://tutku.travel/tour/DAPCYSIC25>

OPTION 2



1. Open the Camera app on your device.
2. Move the QR code into the frame.

PAYMENT PROCEDURE

1. 500USD per person Deposit due at time of booking: Due on or before November 15, 2024
2. Full Payment : Due January 15, 2025

Land Only Cancellation Policy:

Cancellations made before 60 days of departure: Full refund
Cancellations made within 45 days of departure: 90% refund
Cancellations made within 30 days of departure: 75% refund
Cancellations made within 15 days of departure: 50% refund
Cancellations made within 7 days of departure: 25% refund
Cancellations made within 6 days of departure: No refund

In addition to the above cancellation policy, we charge a 5% processing fee for all refunds, no matter the date of cancellation. This fee is necessary to cover the costs associated with processing refunds, including bank fees and administrative expenses. We understand that sometimes travel plans change, and we appreciate your understanding of this policy.

CYPRUS MAP



SICILY MAP



TUTKU

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