

Yale *Educational Travel*



May 8-20, 2020

Albania
& Northern Greece
Crossroads of Cultures

Dr. John R. Hale '73

Archaeologist and Director of Liberal Studies, University of Louisville

Dear Yale Traveler

Venture off the beaten path to Albania & Northern Greece with fellow Yalies May 8-20, 2020, and explore a unique side of Mediterranean history and culture that is a living time capsule of an enigmatic past. Northern Greece offers a wealth of under-explored treasures worthy of focused study including the UNESCO World Heritage monasteries of Meteora that reach toward the heavens from atop magnificent rock formations. Further afield lies Albania, a little-known destination that gives a glimpse into the well-preserved traditions of its Balkan past alongside centuries old Ottoman and Byzantine influences.

On this small group journey we'll explore the treasures of Albania including Tirana: the country's first capital; Durres: the link between the Adriatic Sea and Byzantium and Berat: a UNESCO World Heritage site, "city of a thousand windows," a vision of white washed houses, too beautiful for words. We cross into Northern Greece along Vikos Gorge known as one of the steepest in the world as we delve into this magical region of charming towns reflecting quintessential Greek life.

Leading our intellectual explorations on this trip will be fellow alum John Hale '73, archaeologist and Director of Liberal Studies at the University of Louisville. Hale is the author of numerous articles as well as the book *Lords of the Sea: The Epic Story of the Athenian Navy and the Birth of Democracy*. He is currently working on a book about the Greek and Persian Wars for Oxford university Press.

Spring is the perfect time of year for our journey with mild weather and minimal crowds. Learn more at www.yaleedtravel.org/albaniagreece20 and reserve your space or contact us with questions at 203-432-1952 or edtravel@yale.edu.

With best wishes from Yale,



Lauren Summers

Senior Director for Lifelong Learning and Travel
Yale Alumni Association

www.yaleedtravel.org/albaniagreece20

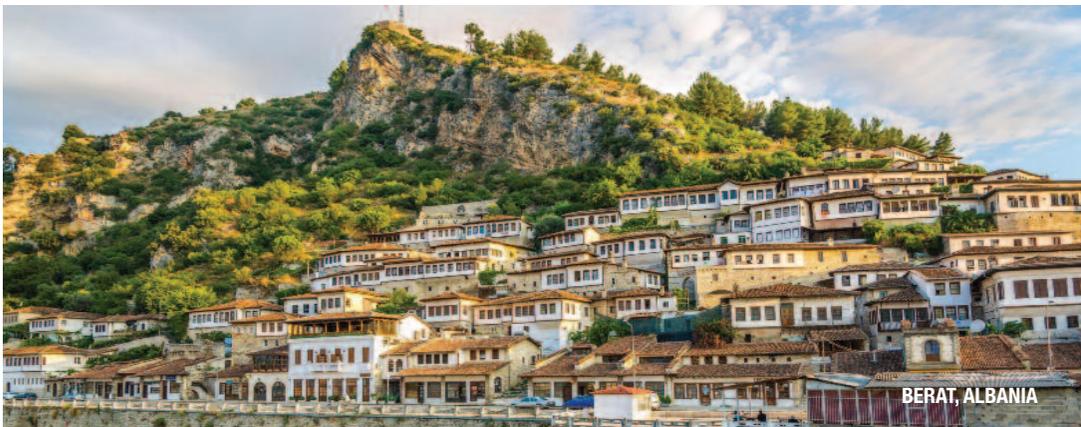
Highlights

Tour Albania, one of Europe's "undiscovered" countries, and its three UNESCO World Heritage Sites at Berat, Gjirokastra, and Butrint.

Admire the spectacular Vikos Gorge and the incredible monasteries "in mid-air" at Meteora.

Visit Vergina, the burial place of the Macedonian kings.

Explore Thessaloniki, the most important Byzantine city in Greece, which also has a long and significant Jewish heritage.



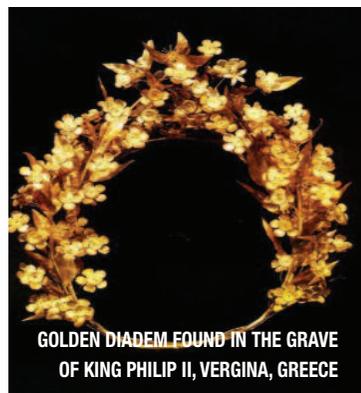
Yale Study Leader

Dr. John R. Hale '73



Dr. Hale is an American archaeologist who has investigated ancient sites throughout the Greek and Roman world. A native of Indiana, he earned his BA degree at Yale University and his PhD in Archaeology at Cambridge University, where he reconstructed the evolution of the Viking long-ship. Major projects have included a study of the Delphic Oracle in Greece. In pursuit of archaeological remains underwater, Hale has participated in a survey of shipwreck sites from the Greek and Persian Wars in

the Aegean Sea and has written a book on the triremes of the ancient Athenian navy, *Lords of the Sea*. His current book project for Oxford University Press is *At Break of Day: How the Greek and Persian Wars launched the Rise of the West*.



Upcoming Trips

Egypt & the Nile:

February 6-19, 2020

Sir Peter Crane

Cruising Provence & Burgundy:

Rhone & Soane:

May 3-11, 2020

Professor Jay Winter

Iceland:

June 21-29, 2020

Professor Maureen Long



Yale Educational Travel • Association of Yale Alumni

Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010

Reservations: (203) 432-1952 edtravel@yale.edu



www.yaletravel.org/albaniagreece20



VIKOS GORGE, EPIRUS, GREECE

Itinerary

May 8- 20, 2020

WELCOME PHONE CALL

Monday, April 20, 2020 (tentative)

Join the group at 4pm Eastern for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Hale to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions

DEPART FOR TIRANA, ALBANIA

Friday, May 8

Depart from the US for Tirana, Albania.

TIRANA, ALBANIA

Saturday, May 9

Arrive in Tirana and transfer to the Hotel Sheraton, located in the center of the city. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner.

Meals: D

TIRANA

Sunday, May 10

Founded in the 17th century, when Albania was part of the Ottoman Empire, Tirana became the country's capital in 1920. That was the time when Italy began to exert its influence and dominance, culminating in 1939, when Mussolini invaded and occupied Albania. In the morning, tour Tirana, whose central square and streets are lined with architecture dating from the Ottoman, Italian, and Communist periods. Visit the National Historical Museum,

where exhibits chronicle Albania's history from prehistoric times to the present. Spend the afternoon at leisure to explore Tirana on your own.

Meals: B

TIRANA / DURRES / APOLLONIA / BERAT

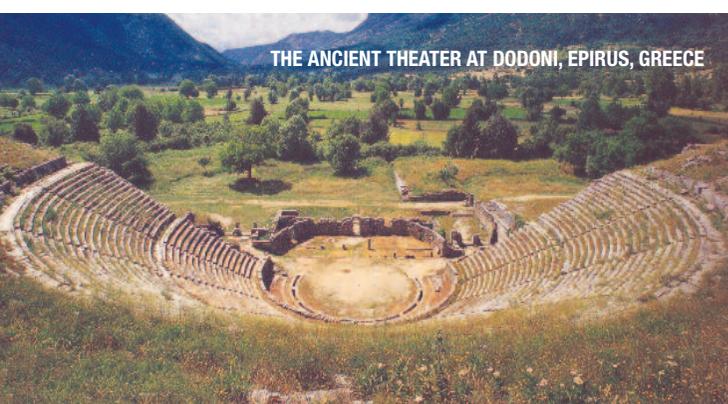
Monday, May 11

Situated at the head of a spacious natural harbor, Durres was founded by Greeks in the 7th century BC. During the Roman period, it flourished because of its position on the great road that linked the Adriatic Sea with Byzantium. This morning explore the ancient remains in Durres and visit the Archaeological Museum. Continue to Apollonia, the second major Greek settlement, founded by Corinthians around 600 BC. Stop at its museum and a nearby 13th-century church to admire stunning Byzantine frescoes. After lunch, drive to Berat, and stay at the Hotel Castle Park or Hotel Onufri.

Meals: B, L, D

Greece's dramatic Vikos Gorge features some of the most stunning scenery in all of Europe, and is likened to the Grand Canyon.

THE ANCIENT THEATER AT DODONI, EPIRUS, GREECE



BERAT

Tuesday, May 12

Inhabited since the Bronze Age, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Berat is one of the oldest and most beautiful cities in Albania. Explore its Byzantine citadel, which houses a superb collection of icons painted by Onufri, a master iconographer who lived in the 16th century; the 15th-century King's Mosque; and the neighboring



monument of Halvati Teqe. Enjoy time to explore Berat's picturesque streets and alleyways on your own.

Meals: B, L, D

BERAT/BYLLIS / TEPELENA / GJIROKASTRA

Wednesday, May 13

This morning travel to the impressive archaeological site of Byllis. View the remains of private homes, and other buildings within its 4th-century BC walls. Enjoy lunch in Tepelena, the hometown of the notorious Ali Pasha, an Ottoman Albanian, who in the late 18th century served as ruler of the Ottoman Empire's European territories. Continue to beautiful Gjirokastra and the Hotel Agjiro.

Meals: B, L, D

GJIROKASTRA

Thursday, May 14

The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Gjirokastra is built below its castle that commands fine views of the Drinos Valley. Old stone houses with slate roofs line the twisting cobbled streets and alleyways. Our morning exploration of the town includes the Old Bazaar district, the Skendulaj House and the Zakate House, fine examples of Gjirokastra's characteristic architecture, and the labyrinthine Town Hall Air Shelter, built during the Communist period. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Meals: B, L, D

GJIROKASTRA / BUTRINT / GJIROKASTRA

Friday, May 15

Take a full-day excursion to Butrint, one of Albania's most important and evocative archaeological sites.

Located across the narrow strait from Corfu, it was the inhabitants of that Greek island that founded Butrint in the 6th century BC. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Butrint has monuments from the Greek, Roman, and Byzantine periods. Stop for lunch at a seaside restaurant before returning to the hotel in Gjirokastra.

Meals: B, L, D

GJIROKASTRA / VIKOS GORGE / IOANNINA, GREECE

Saturday, May 16

In the morning cross the Albanian-Greek border, to reach the fantastic Vikos Gorge, perhaps the most magnificent natural landscape in southern Europe. Featuring the steepest walls of any gorge in the world, Vikos compares to the Grand Canyon in scale and grandeur. Around the gorge are centuries-old villages with stone houses, and small frescoed chapels, some of which we will visit. After lunch continue to the town of Ioannina and check-in at the Hotel Grand Serai.

Meals: B, L, D

IOANNINA / DODONI / IOANNINA

Sunday, May 17

Built in an idyllic setting, on a rocky promontory that projects into a lake, the university town of Ioannina is the commercial and learning center of northwest Greece. Visit its old town, still enclosed within fortifications, and known for the manufacture of fine filigree silver jewelry, a tradition that goes back hundreds of years. In the afternoon, take an excursion to nearby Dodoni, an archeological site known for the ancient theater and oracle of Dodoni.

Meals: B, L

IOANNINA / METEORA / VERGINA / THESSALONIKI

Monday, May 18

Leave Ioannina in the morning for the extraordinary Meteora - "monasteries in mid-air." Rising abruptly from the valley of central Greece are gigantic precipitous rocks on top of which are monasteries built by hermits some 600 years ago. Visit the Monastery of St. Varlaam, noted for its luminous mosaics. After lunch at a taverna in Kalampaka, continue to Vergina, ancient Aigai, the burial place of Macedonian kings, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The royal tombs include that of Phillip II, the father of Alexander the Great. Proceed to Thessaloniki with accommodations at the Macedonia Palace hotel.

Meals: B, L

THESSALONIKI

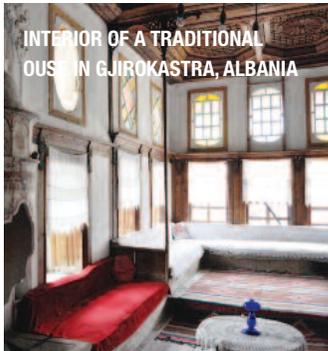
Tuesday, May 19

Vibrant, cosmopolitan Thessaloniki, the biblical Thessalonica, was named after the sister of Alexander the Great. It is the pre-eminent Byzantine city of Greece and the country's second largest city after Athens. It was a major center of Jewish life and learning from the Middle Ages to World War II. This morning we tour the city's principal monuments including the remains of the Palace and the Arch of Galerius, which housed the Roman emperor; the Church of Holy Apostles with 14th century mosaics; and the 5th century Cathedral of Aghios Dimitrios. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure or visit the superb Archaeological Museum.
Meals: B, D.

THESSALONIKI / USA

Wednesday, May 20

Morning transfer to the airport for return flights to the US.
Meals: B



INTERIOR OF A TRADITIONAL HOUSE IN GJIROKASTRA, ALBANIA



BUTRINT, ALBANIA

PROGRAM COST

\$4,980 per person, double occupancy.

Single supplement: \$690

WHAT IS INCLUDED

- Educational program of lectures and discussions with Professor John R. Hale.
- In Albania: two nights in Tirana at the Hotel Sheraton; two nights in Berat at the Hotel Castle Park or Hotel Onufri; and three nights in Gjirokastra at the Hotel Agjiro.
In Greece: two nights in Ioannina at the Hotel Grand Serai and two nights in Thessaloniki at the Macedonia Palace hotel.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotels.
- Eight lunches and eight dinners, with wine or beer served.
- Group airport/hotel/airport transfers and handling of luggage in Tirana and Thessaloniki.
- Transportation within Albania and Greece with air-conditioned motor coach.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary, with professional English-speaking guides.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- Entrance fees to archaeological and historic sites.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Tips to guides, drivers and porters.
- Complete package of pre-departure materials.

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

Airfare; travel insurance; items of personal nature; any items not mentioned in What is Included.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO ATHENS

Explore Athens, Europe's oldest city and the birthplace of democracy, on an optional two-night extension. Included are tours of the Acropolis, the Acropolis Museum and other sites. Additional details and pricing will be sent to confirmed participants.

Reserve Your Trip To Fabled Albania and Northern Greece Today

Book online: www.yaledtravel.org/albaniagreece20

Albania & Northern Greece

Crossroads of Cultures

May 8-20, 2020

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To register, return this form with your deposit of \$1,000 per person to Yale Educational Travel. Final payment is due February 8, 2020.

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PASSPORT ORIGIN _____

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SECONDARY PHONE _____

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Payment Options

Pay by check made out to "Thalassa Journeys"

Please charge the deposit of \$1,000 per person to:

AMEX Visa MasterCard

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

SECURITY CODE _____

Accommodations

Bed preference at hotels (not guaranteed):

Two beds One bed

I wish to have a single accommodation

I will share accommodations with _____

I/We confirm that I/we have carefully read the Terms and Conditions and Responsibility section of this brochure and agree to their terms.

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DATE _____

SIGNATURE(S) _____

DATE _____

To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to "Thalassa Journeys" to Yale Educational Travel, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010.

Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this tour, please mail a deposit of \$1,000 per person payable to "Thalassa Journeys," along with the completed reservation form, to: Yale Educational Travel, Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010 or fax the completed form to (203) 432-0587. Deposits may be charged to a credit card. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due February 8, 2020.

CANCELATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be in writing to Yale Educational Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a \$300 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received before February 8, 2020. Cancellations received between February 8 and March 9, 2020 are subject to a cancellation penalty equal to 50% of the program cost. Cancellations received after March 9, 2020

will be assessed a penalty equal to 100% of the program cost.

WHAT TO EXPECT: We consider this a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions involve walking, often on uneven terrain. In some instances, elevators are unavailable and stairs may not have handrails. Participants must be physically fit, active, and in good health.

INSURANCE: Yale Educational Travel highly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. If participants purchase trip insurance, and we hope that they do, participants are free to purchase the insurance of their choice. Most travel insurance must be purchased within 7-10 days of paying a deposit in order to include certain provisions including pre-existing conditions.

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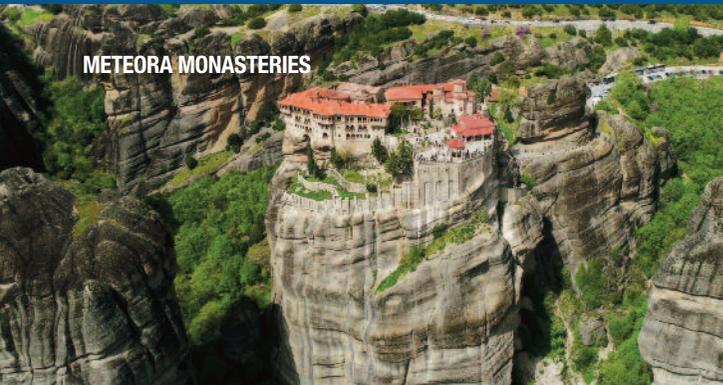
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Dr. John R. Hale '73
Archaeologist & Classical Historian

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METEORA MONASTERIES

From ancient Apollonia and Dodoni to the spectacular “monasteries in the air” at Meteora explore sites visited by few Americans.

Engage in the rich Mediterranean culinary traditions of Albania and Greece.

Experience the legacies and cultures of Albania and Northern Greece