



Mount Lycabettus



the Acropolis and Patheon



entrance to the  
National Archaeological Museum



the Panathenaic Stadium

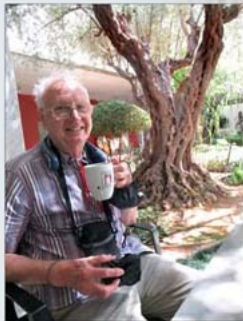




National Archaeological Museum



The Antikythera mechanism: described as the oldest example of an analogue computer, used to predict astronomical positions and eclipses of the solar system decades in advance





roof-tops covered with solar water heating devices





Piraeus Cruise Terminal



the Viking Classical Duo in The Atrium



a Viking helmet





Tuesday 7th September

a tour to the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion



kit for the tour; Vox device,  
masks, Viking card key, tracking  
device, neck-worn cooler  
- and a Queen Victoria cap





The Temple of Poseidon built at Cape Sounion

it was so windy it was difficult to stand







Steam Ship Hellas Liberty, a Liberty class ship launched in 1943 in Jacksonville, Florida. She was converted into a pipe carrier in 1944 and used in the construction of a fuel pipeline under the English Channel following the Normandy landing. After the war she was laid up then in 1956 and converted into a cable ship. In 1957 she was transferred to the United States Reserve Fleet until 1964. Only two other Liberty ships survive: this one and two in the United States.



departing Piraeus



Cafe Attendants Blessing and Blessing



an included tour to the medieval town and the 14th century Palace of the Grand Masters







**Palace of the Grand Master of the  
Knights of Rhodes**

Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint  
John of Jerusalem, an medieval and early  
modern Catholic military order





in The Chef's Table Restaurant for dinner

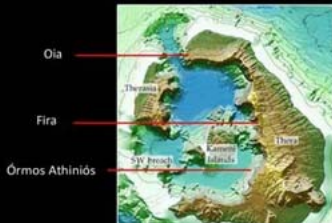


Thursday 9th September

Σαντορίνη - Santorini - is one of the Cyclades islands in the very southern part of the Aegean Sea.

The 'original' island was devastated by a volcanic eruption in the 16th century BCE, and the result was a large caldera; this caldera is now under water and forms the anchorage for the many cruise ships visiting Santorini.

Its two main towns, Fira and Oia, cling to cliffs above an underwater caldera.



Viking Venus anchored in the caldera and we were ferried to Órmos Athiniós for our tour to Oia





Órmos Athiníós,  
the arrival port  
for most ferries





a view of the sea-filled caldera from the town of Oia



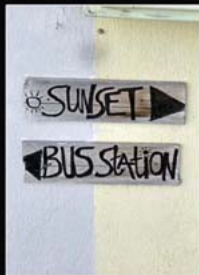




the sign says, "PRIVATE PROPERTY NO CLIMBING KEEP OFF"



Oia is famous for the sunsets



TV advert for Viking Cruises



the highest peak on Santorini, Mountain of Prophet Elias



Viking Vnus at anchor in the caldera



Oia is the white line of houses in centre. Fira houses are perched on the cliff tops. Two cruise ships, Wind Surf and Seabourn Ovation, are at anchor (centre)



Fira





Skaros Rock





ferry back to  
Viking Venus



Room service on the balcony



Venus (or Sirius?) with the moon from Viking Venus



Arriving in the port of Souda with a tour to Chania





The Central Market of Chania, opened in 1913, when Crete was finally free of the Ottoman Empire and joined the modern Greek state, the Hellenic Republic









manhole cover manufactured  
by Saint-Gobain PAM at the UK  
foundry near Melton Mowbray









statue of Anagnostis Mantakas, an 19th century freedom fighter. The Ottoman Empire had taken over the island of Crete in 1669, putting an end to the Republic of Venice era which had lasted since 1204. Despite the exodus of many residents, the Cretans never acknowledged the Ottomans; there were two revolutions, in 1692 and 1770. On 1st December 1913 Crete became officially part of the Greek state.



departing from Crete





Saturday  
11th September  
VIKING DAILY

a day crossing the Mediterranean Sea  
to arrive in Valletta this evening



dinner in Manfredi's Restaurant



arrival in Valletta at 9.30pm





most guests are now leaving the ship at the end of their cruise - but we stay on and leave tomorrow



on Queen Elizabeth, at the same berth, in November, 2014



our morning chat  
in the World Café  
with Marko from  
Montenegro





Portes des Bombes, originating from 1721

We have joined a Viking complimentary tour though it is a repeat of the one we did on 2nd September; a return visit to Mgarr Qim, and Marsaxlokk. Malta has a good network of motorway-style roads - not quite the image of beaches etc.

The official languages of Malta are Maltese and English and all road signs are in English. Like Cyprus, Malta drives on the left, the only two Mediterranean countries to do so, so it felt very much like being at home.



The War Memorial in Floriana, commemorating the soldiers of the First and Second World Wars



a return visit to Haġar Qim







Marsaxlokk

pronounced marsh a slok





Marsaxiokk





the "infinity" pool is visible on Viking Venus



Tony took a walk into Valletta



The Upper Barrakka lifts opened in 2012, linking the Grand Harbour to the Upper Barrakka Gardens and the city centre. The earlier lift was dismantled in 1983, having operated since 1905. The two lifts, which travel 58 metres can each carry 21 people, the journey taking twenty-five seconds.



the Upper Barrakka Gardens overlooking the Grand Harbour



Viking Venus from  
the Gardens



Les Gavroches by the  
Maltese sculptor  
Antonio Sciortino





The Auberge de Castille in Castile Place, the official residence of the Prime Minister, close to the Upper Barrakka Gardens. It sits at the highest point of Valletta and overlooks Floriana and the Grand Harbour

(below) St George's Square  
Malta gained independence from the United Kingdom on 21st September, 1964, so there are still many reminders of the British time - like the statue of Queen Victoria, red post and telephone boxes, driving on the left - and the use of the English language. And M&S is still here.

Republic Street, formerly Kingsway







waiting for the taxi to the airport



then at 11.40am  
a posh car and chauffeur  
to take us to the airport  
for our British Airways  
flight to Heathrow



in the La Valette Club Lounge at the airport  
with views over the runway and apron



British Airways A321neo  
**BRITISH AIRWAYS**

Windsor Castle

