



Greek Pilgrimage: In Search of the Foundations of the West

John Carroll

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This is a travel book in the grand sense. The horizons it explores are of land and sea, and of the mind.

Greek Pilgrimage is a meditation on classical Greece, journeying through its great sites, monuments, and cultural works. On the way, it examines the country's pivotal role in the foundation of the modern world. We who are born into the West are all Greeks. Here lie our roots.

The ancient Greeks invite us to think about who we are, and the best ways to organize ourselves, to build institutions, and to make our cities beautiful. They lead us into a skeptical orientation to ourselves and the world we inhabit, questioning the meaning of it all. They have bequeathed to us science and philosophy, drama and sport, our engagement with nature, and much else that graces our modern world.

In Greece, our metaphysical perspective was set. We were introduced to the mystery — an abiding sense that there is a deep secret, one which somehow holds the key to the big questions about life. An aura lives on, a mysterious vitality, among the ruins that remain today — in Delphi, at Olympia, and on the Acropolis.

Greek Pilgrimage is also designed to serve as a practical guide for the modern traveller to Greece. Two itineraries are recommended at the end, with maps and illustrations.

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