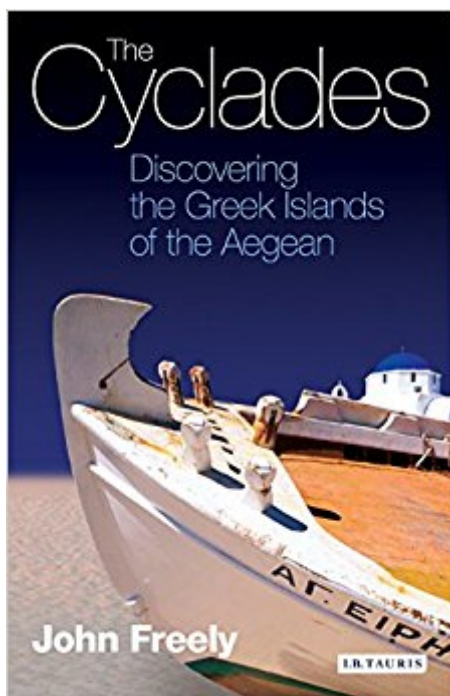


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The Cyclades: Discovering The Greek Islands Of The Aegean



Synopsis

The Cyclades are the quintessential Greek isles, renowned for the beauty of their seascapes, their historical monuments, and a unique way of life deeply rooted in the remote past of the Aegean. Over the course of more than 7,000 years the Cyclades have seen a succession of civilizations, the earliest of them perpetuated in legends such as that of Atlantis, which has been identified with volcanic Santorini. The islands are arrayed around their sacred centre on Delos, where Leto was said to have given birth to the divine twins Apollo and Artemis, children of Zeus. Dionysus was born on olive-embowered Naxos, where he fell in love with Ariadne, and myths relate that Poseidon was the protector of Tinos, whose mid-summer festival of the Virgin is celebrated with the folk-dances and songs for which the Cyclades are famous. In this comprehensive guide to the Cyclades, John Freely describes the immemorial past and timeless present of these enchanting islands, which still await discovery.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

After something of a retreat following exhaustive coverage spurred by the 2004 Olympics, Greece is back on the publishing scene. This is one of the most appealing new titles.--San Francisco Chronicle
Praise for John Freely's previous works:
The Western Shores of Turkey: Discovering the Aegean and Mediterranean Coasts
Enchanting guide...lightly worn and charmingly conveyed. I fell in love with the book and stayed enamoured until the final page.--Paul Bailey, *The Sunday Times*
Strolling through Istanbul
A classic. The best travel guide to Istanbul.--The Times

John Freely (1926 - 2017) was born in New York and joined the US Navy at the age of seventeen, serving during the last two years of World War II. He had a PhD in physics from New York University and did post-doctoral studies in the history of science at Oxford. He was for many years professor of physics at Bosphorus University in Istanbul, where he taught physics and the history of science. He wrote more than forty books, including *Light from the East: How the Science of Medieval Islam Helped Shape the Western World* (I.B.Tauris, 2010), *The Grand Turk*, *Storm on Horseback*, *Children of Achilles*, *The Cyclades*, *The Ionian Islands* (all I.B.Tauris), *Crete*, *The Western Shores of Turkey*, *Strolling through Athens*, *Strolling through Venice* and the bestselling *Strolling through Istanbul* (all Tauris Parke Paperbacks).

Disappointing. Thought it would be a tour guide and it was historical in nature. Okay - but not what I was looking for.

We're just back from a sailing vacation in the Cyclades, and brought this book along for reference. The historical perspective that the author carefully provides, is the most useful aspect of the book. After reading the book, and visiting the land, it is clear that many aspects of Ancient Greece are still alive! Visiting today and observing the ruins, one feels like a mere speck in time. The only criticism I have, is that some of the information in the book is out of date. For example, the Chora in Kea was not clean, but somewhat dirty and depressed, and felt chronologically displaced. So we're told, it turns out that Kea was a Communist enclave during the 1960's, and we even observed the word "Castro" written in Greek and engraved in large stone letters on a walkway. I recommend the book as an interesting historical read, but not as a practical guide. At least for sailing, the most popular text is "Greek Waters Pilot" by Rod Heikell. It also contains good general information about Greece and its ports.

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