Gettysburg College
Experiential Education

Greek Islands:
Myth and Modern Contexts

May 23–June 4, 2018

 Included: Eleven nights of lodging, all meals, group equipment, and permits.

$1850

Trip Overview
Discover the lost island of Atlantis, visit the burial place of Zeus, and explore the ruins of Minos’ palace, rumored home of the Minotaur’s labyrinth, on an expedition to the islands of Greece. Along with Dr. Victoria Reuter, we will trek through Athens, Santorini, and Crete to investigate the origins of Greek myths and their modern-day interpretations.

After a one-day exploration of the country’s capital, we will begin our tour of the beautiful Greek islands in Santorini with the famed Fira to Oia sunset hike. The next day we will explore the volcano at the heart of the Atlantis myth, then board a ferry to Greece’s largest island, Crete. Once on Crete, we will visit the Minoan palace of Knossos, Zeus’s final resting place, and some of the most beautiful hiking terrain in Greece: the Samaria Gorge and Lefka Ori (White Mountains). We will use podcasts, literature, artwork, and music to take a deeper look into Greece’s ancient myths and modern culture.

General Schedule of Trip

Wednesday, May 23: Depart independently to arrive in Athens, Greece on the 24th.
May 24: Arrive in Athens
May 25: Walking tour of Athens
May 26: Take ferry to Santorini, hike Fira to Oia sunset trail
May 27: Explore volcano rumored to have sunk Atlantis
May 28: Santorini beaches, catch a ferry to Crete
May 29: Visit Knossos
May 30: Hike Mt. Juktas, rumored burial-place of Zeus
May 31: Bus to the Kallergi Refuge
June 1: Hike Samaria Gorge, ferry to Sougia
June 2: Hike E4 Trail to Paleochora
June 3: Bus to Chania, then fly to Athens for final dinner

Monday, June 4: Depart home, or continue traveling separately

Facilitators
This program will be facilitated by Rachel Loughran ’18 and Maggie DeBell ’18, and Dr. Victoria Reuter, Adjunct Professor of English. Rachel is a Philosophy major and active in debate and mock trial programming on campus. Maggie is a Health Sciences major with minors in Spanish and music.

Dr. Reuter received a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Oxford University. Her research interests include myth, contemporary fiction, and feminist theory. She also lived in Athens for two years working as a literary translator.

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Registration and Payment: Registration is at www.gettysburg.edu/grab. A $150 non-refundable deposit is due at time of registration to secure a place on the trip of your choice. We accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, e-checks or cash. The final payment will be required at least 60 days prior the trip departure date. To register, please fill out the online form or call the Office of Experiential Education at 717.337.6319.

Not Included in the Price: Hospitalization, individual evacuation costs, insurance, meals in destination cities prior to and at the conclusion of the trip, souvenirs, alcohol, excess baggage charges, or other personal expenses incurred outside the scope of the trip. We DO NOT include transatlantic airfare in the pricing of our trips. We want to give participants the opportunity to have flexibility in their travel arrangements. Some people will have frequent flyer miles, many people will be traveling from various destinations, while others may already be at the site location or decide to extend their trip once our expedition has concluded.

The Trek: Trekking distances on hiking days range from 3-11 miles a day. Total hiking time ranges from 2-7 hours, with breaks budgeted into that time. Some days will be centered around area exploration, and thus not have any hiking. For reference, please consult the itinerary on the flip side of this page. The trekking series expeditions are designed to accommodate those who enjoy trekking at a moderate pace but also enjoy taking numerous stops to enjoy the location.

Group Size: The trip consists of two GRAB staff members from the Office of Experiential Education, Dr. Reuter and up to eleven participants from the Gettysburg College community; students, employees and their families, and alumni of the college are all welcome.

Transportation: You are responsible for your own flights to and from Athens and for your transportation from the airport to the hotel, and back to the airport at the end of the program. All other ground transportation will be arranged and provided. If you plan on traveling further following the trip, you are responsible for those logistics as well.

Accommodations: The program’s accommodations will include Airbnbs in Athens, a hotel and established campground with cots in Santorini, and Airbnbs with one night in a mountain refuge on Crete.

Meals: The price of the program covers all breakfasts, lunches and dinners, excluding alcohol. Participants will be responsible for any additional snacks.

Weather: Be prepared for warm, sunny days. Average temperatures at this time of year range from 55 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit, but temperatures may be lower at higher altitudes. Conditions can become stormy on the coast, so pack accordingly.

Physical Preparation: You do not need to be a top notch athlete to participate on this program, but proper preparation will make the trip much more enjoyable. Exercising 3-5 days a week and walking with a 20 pound pack to get used to the weight are great ways to prepare. No prior experience hiking is required, and all backcountry skills and expectations will be covered during the trip.

Health and Medical & Release of Liability: We require each participant to fill out medical/liability forms for Gettysburg College and for any contracted services who request similar documentation. We can provide information on short term insurance that covers baggage, accident/life, and trip cancellation which is required for our international programs. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Cancellation of Trips: We reserve the right to cancel trips due to lack of participants, State Department warnings, or natural occurrences that may be potentially hazardous. If you cancel the trip more than 60 days before the departure date, you will receive a full refund minus the $150 deposit. If cancellation occurs 45 -60 days prior to the departure date a 50% refund is available. If cancellation occurs 21 - 44 days prior to the trip a 25% refund will be available. There will be no refunds for cancellations made within 21 days of the expedition.