Trekking Greece: Athens and the Cyclades Islands
May 19-29th, 2015

Daily luggage shuttle, all in-country transportation for eight days, ten days and nine nights’ accommodation in 3 and 4 star hotels, 7 dinners, all breakfasts, all ferry fees for three rides, museum entrance fees. $2,190.00

Trip Overview

"ἄνδρα μοι ἔννεπε, μοῦσα" Sing to me, Muse. So go the opening lines to Homer's epic poem The Odyssey. Journey with us and let the land, the wine, the sea, and the people of Greece sing to you. From the Acropolis and Agora of Athens, the wine dark sea and ruins of ancient Naxos and the lost city and sunsets on the island of Santorini, you will experience a Greece that few get to know, a Greece come to life through the stories of the land and the culture. Learn about the heroes and the tales of this great civilization and in each place walk among the mountains, olive trees, ancient buildings and small towns that dot the coast.

Greece has always held a special place in the minds of travelers, writers, painters, and thinkers. Straddling the gates of East and West, Greece is a land on which history has been written. From our start in bustling Athens to the idyllic Cycladic islands of Naxos and Santorini, the archaeology, food and people will provide for you a sun bathed glimpse into the past layered with the many colors of the land.

General Schedule of Trip

Tuesday, May 19th: Fly independently to Athens
May 20: Welcome reception at our hotel in Athens
May 21: Tour Areopagus Rock, the Acropolis, and the Agora; free time to explore Athens in the afternoon
May 22: Catch a morning ferry to explore Naxos
May 23: Trek from Chalki to Malenes
May 24: Trek to the summit of Mt. Zas
May 25: Ferry to Santorini
May 26: Trek through vineyards from Perissa to Akrotiri
May 27: Trek to clifftop villages of Fira and Oia on a famous Cliffside footpath
May 28: Explore the black sand beaches and ancient ruins of Akrotiri before the ferry ride back to Athens
Friday, May 29th: Return home or continue traveling on your own

Facilitators

This program will be facilitated by Brady Luceno and Dan Seals. A GRAB alum and Globalization Studies major, Brady has conducted research in Haiti, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Chile and Argentina, and led a program to Tuscany her senior year. Dan—a Dickinson grad and archaeology major—learned Greek while assisting with digs in Mycenae. A number of his finds are on display in the Acropolis. Both Dan and Brady are employees of Project Gaia, an international non-profit advocating for clean-burning alcohol fuels.

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Registration and Payment: Register online 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 60 days prior the trip departure date. To register, please fill out the online form or call John Regentin at 717.337.6319 to register over the phone/or to receive a fax.

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, excesses baggage charges, or other personal expenses incurred outside the scope of the trip. We DO NOT include 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 distance will vary from 10 to 19 km per day, but the average time spent trekking ranges from 4-7 hours, which includes stops for lunch & breaks, appreciating the sites, general conversation, and determining our route.

Group Size: The trip consists of two facilitators from the Office of Experiential Education and up to ten participants from the Gettysburg College community; students, employees and 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, including three ferry rides to the islands and occasional planned taxi or bus pick-ups. If you plan to travel further following the trip, you are responsible for those logistics as well.

Accommodations: All accommodations are in three to four star equivalent hotels with breakfast included. Many are in traditional family-operated hotels built in the traditional style of the Cyclades. In Athens, we will stay in a contemporary hotel overlooking the Acropolis.

Meals: There will be a mix of group dinners as well as opportunities for you to dine on your own. We will sometimes pack a lunch or a picnic lunch and other times visit local restaurants at lunchtime. Participants will be responsible for the remaining two dinners, all lunches, alcohol, and any additional snacks or meals desired.

Weather: Spring is a great time to visit Greece, with its long sunny days, and before the major influx of tourists arrive for summer holidays. The weather will most likely be sunny and dry with temperatures in the mid 70's. Light rain is possible.

Physical Preparation: The trip is staggered between longer hiking days and shorter hiking days with ferry rides. While some may begin the trek without training and be fine, there’s no harm in being prepared. The terrain is mostly rolling countryside over well-traveled roads and trails. We will have some steeper summits when we climb Mt. Zas. You should base your preparation on your personal needs. If you can, get out and walk, run, bike, or move any way you like to accustom yourself to the level of movement necessary for this trip. Any activity will help prepare you for a great experience.

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 60 days or more from 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 - 45 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.