



Please see the **NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES** at the bottom of this sample itinerary for details on program changes.



GREECE: Mythical Cities & Islands Expedition™

Explore Greece, from the ancient wonders of the world's most influential civilization, to the complexities of modern life and the impressive coastline of Crete and Santorini.

OVERVIEW

On this program you will travel to some of Greece's most influential and picturesque cities. Your adventure begins in Athens, a treasure trove of ancient civilization that has been incredibly memorialized in the form of ruins, museums and iconic spaces that are still in use. Ferry to Crete, Greece's largest island and, according to Greek mythology, the birthplace of Zeus himself. Stay and explore Heraklion and Rethymno, as well as several other colorful villages on the island. Finally, sail through the Aegean Sea to the dreamy island of Santorini, known for its whitewashed cube dwellings.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Check out the ancient Acropolis of Athens citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site which includes the Parthenon and Temple of Athena Nike
- ★ Sail along the caldera of Santorini in a traditional wooden boat, just like a true argonaut
- ★ Experience life on a Cretian farm and sample everything grown from the land, while you dance to Greek music
- ★ Dive deep into Greek mythology through site visits, guest speakers, and local lore
- ★ Participate in community service to help support a meaningful cause

PROGRAM SNAPSHOT

June 13 – 24, 2024

July 13 – 24, 2023

Tuition: \$5,799

Service Hours: 10

Max Group Size: 24

Age Range: 14-18

Student-to-Staff Ratio: 6-to-1

Airport: ATH Arrival (6am-6pm), ATH departure (6am-2pm)



SPOTLIGHT ON ACCOMMODATION, TRAVELING, AND PACKING

This program is a true expedition around Greece. In just 12 days you'll change Home Bases 7 times - that's plenty of opportunities to experience the multiple facets that this wonderful country has to offer! Some hotels will be smaller and more intimate, while others will be bigger - including an overnight ferry in a cruise-style boat that feels like the Titanic! The GLA group will be placed together in the same hotel area or block. Students will always room in gender-segregated rooms of 2 to 4 people, always with a private bathroom. With the constant movement on this program, it's essential that you work on your packing skills before and during the program. You'll receive a comprehensive packing list, as well as packing tips, closer to the departure date to guide you on making your journey more comfortable.



SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather and specific needs of the student group.



DAY 1: WELCOME TO GREECE!

Welcome to Greece! GLA staff will meet you when you land in the Athens airport and we'll travel together to your new home away from home. Get settled into your room and relax as you start getting to know your fellow travelers. Enjoy your first Greek meal with your new friends and get plenty of rest as we have an exciting full day of activities tomorrow!

DAY 2: ATHENS AND THE ACROPOLIS

After breakfast at the hotel, step outside into Athens proper to meet our guide. We'll spend the day visiting the modern city and exploring the ancient architecture that Athens has to offer, including the Acropolis, Panathinaiko Stadium, and the Temple of Olympian Zeus.



DAY 3: BIKE TOUR, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND OVERNIGHT FERRY TO CRETE

It's almost time to move on to the next location! But first, we'll explore the city by bike. A bicycle tour is the perfect speed at which to view the city; fast enough to get to new places, but slow enough to enjoy what you're seeing. After the tour, we'll spend a few hours volunteering in the community. Our project will depend on what the community needs most when we arrive. After a full day of activities we'll take an overnight ferry to Crete. The boat will serve as our Home Base for the night, as we will have dinner on board and lodge in the ferry's passenger cabins.



DAY 4: CHANIA, RETHYMNON, POTTERY, AND CRETE TRADITIONAL DANCES

We'll arrive in Chania bright and early, where we'll get our bearings and tour the city's venetian-style downtown. We'll then travel by bus to Margarites village, where we'll participate in a pottery workshop. Our hotel for the night is in Rethymnon, where we'll have dinner at a local taverna and participate in a Cretan traditional dance.



DAY 5-6: ZAROS, HIKING, AND COOKING CLASS

We'll start the day with a morning food tour around the narrow streets of Rethymnon. Once our tummies are full, we'll embark on a drive through the Cretan mountains to Zaros, our destination for the next couple of nights.

In Zaros we'll have the opportunity to slow down a bit and reflect on our journey so far. We'll be able to go on a hike, admire a mountain lake, and chill at our hotel's pool and enjoy this calm and laid back location. We'll also go on a farm and cooking experience, where we'll pick our own food from the garden.

and learn to make delicious Cretan dishes.



DAY 7: HERAKLION & KNOSSOS PALACE

After our relaxing time in Zaros, it's time to hit the road again. Today we'll travel to Heraklion, Crete's largest town. We'll visit Knossos Palace and learn about the Minoan civilization that once inhabited Crete.

DAY 8-10: SANTORINI ISLAND

This morning, we'll be catching a ferry from Heraklion to Santorini. On arrival, we'll make a stop at our hotel in Santorini and get a feel for the beautiful, crescent shaped island.

We'll take a tour from Fira to the charming village of Oia, with its white houses and scenic terraces set on the cliffside over the blue waters of the caldera. We'll also visit the towns of Pyrgos and Megalochori.

No trip to Santorini is complete without a caldera boat tour. We'll spend an afternoon sailing around the island, swimming, eating delicious food, and watching the incredible sunset from the boat.

When our time in Santorini comes to an end, we'll embark on a ferry journey back to Athens, while getting a last chance to admire the beauty of the Mediterranean Sea and the Greek Islands.

DAY 11: LAST DAY IN ATHENS

Today we'll participate in another community service project as a way to bring closure to our time in Greece. We'll also have time to buy souvenirs, pack, and have a closing activity as a group. At night we'll dress up and go out for a farewell dinner at a special location.

DAY 12: DEPARTURES

Too soon, our trip to Greece has come to an end. We'll head to the airport after breakfast, staff will help get you checked in and see you off on your journey home.



NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES

Every year brings new and exciting opportunities for experiences we can offer students on our programs. While this program is being planned for 2023, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

TRAVELING TO GREECE

CLIMATE | Greece has a temperate climate, but there is some fluctuation in temperature and weather throughout the islands. For the most part, the temperature will be quite warm so make sure to pack plenty of light clothes. In the evenings it can cool down, so make sure to bring a layer or two!! Days will usually be in the mid 80's and sometimes up into the 90's. You'll receive a full packing list closer to your program start date.

FOOD | Greece is known for its amazing cuisine around the world. Expect lots of vegetables, olive oil, Greek yogurt, salads, feta cheese, and various types of meats. Greek dishes are delicious and packed with a variety of fresh and dried herbs.

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times

 **USA TODAY**

 **NBC NEWS**

The Boston Globe
seventeen

OUR EXPECTATIONS

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Contact Us

Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

Enroll Now

We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at www.experiencegla.com/enroll.