

## 10-DAY PROGRAM



# GLA GROUP TRAVEL SAMPLE ITINERARY

*EXAMPLE ITINERARY ONLY: DURATION, DATES, COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES ARE CUSTOMIZABLE*



## Greece: The Photography Experience

Explore and capture everything that Greece has to offer! Discover historic Athens, picturesque Santorini, and the scenic Greek countryside.

### OVERVIEW

Calling all aspiring photographers! This program is the perfect opportunity to gain new skills while getting to know the cultural treasure trove of Greece. Students will be instructed through photography workshops and complete photo challenges to begin to build their portfolio. Greece is the perfect place to gain inspiration, with its ancient monuments and natural beauty. We will teach students according to their experience level and concentrate on essential photography skills such as shooting landscapes, slow exposure, urban scenes, and low-light conditions. We will also cover all of the photography basics such as ISO, shutter speed, and aperture. Students will walk away with not only a special connection to Greece, but a travel photography portfolio and the skills to back it up!

### THIS ITINERARY INCLUDES:

- **10 days / 9 nights of accommodation**
- 1 free chaperone per 10 students
- 2 expert GLA staff members
- Medical & evacuation insurance
- 12-24 students (price is per student)

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- ★ Visit the world-famous Acropolis & the Temple of Poseidon
- ★ Improve your skills in landscape, portrait, journalistic, and street photography as you travel throughout Greece
- ★ Make your own traditional Greek cuisine with a local chef
- ★ Relax on a warm white sand beach in the Greek islands
- ★ Learn traditional Greek song and dance

## SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

On our programs throughout Europe, you have the option of incorporating service hours into the itinerary. Your group can choose from a variety of ongoing service projects designed by local leaders in partnership with Global Leadership Adventures. Projects could focus on community development, environmental initiatives, or social welfare projects; of course, the exact projects will vary based on the current needs of the community at the time of your visit.

GLA will provide more details about your projects closer to the date of travel; typically you will contribute to a few community-led projects over the course of a few days. This allows students to experience varied sides of community service. Your group will also participate in a post service reflection where students will discuss their participation in the project, what they learned through hands-on work in the community they are visiting, and how they can continue to foster their own leadership skills once they return home from the program.

## SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN



### DAY 1: WELCOME TO GREECE!

Touch down in Athens, where GLA staff will greet you upon arrival. We'll spend the day settling into our first Home Base and getting familiar with our surroundings and neighborhood. We'll have our GLA orientation and begin to learn a bit about Greek culture, and maybe even learn some essential phrases in Greek. Before we sleep off the jet lag, we'll enjoy the first of many traditional Greek meals.

### DAY 2: ATHENS & THE ACROPOLIS

Follow our local trip leaders back in time to where Western Civilization was born: Athens, Greece. Have your camera at the ready for all of the amazing sights we'll see! Soak up the history that is embedded into the fabric of daily life while admiring the modern culture that thrives along the cafe lined streets. Climb the Acropolis, explore the Parthenon, and get the perfect shot of one of the most famous ancient archaeological sites in the world. Enjoy an afternoon tour of the historic center and follow your senses down narrow cobblestone streets and into locally owned shops, artist studios and traditional bakeries. Get cozy whipping up your own Greek cuisine through a hands-on cooking experience, complete with a trip to a bustling local food market to shop for ingredients that you will use to prepare your meal.

The spirit and culture of Athens is like no other city, you are sure to feel like an old friend being welcomed home when we return towards the end of our trip together!



### DAY 3: DELPHI UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE





Our adventure into Greek mythology and history continues with a day spent in Delphi. The famous UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site is known for its incredible landscape and charged sacred meaning. We'll take a hike through the picturesque Delphi hills, the perfect location to practice some landscape photography. The winding olive groves and rocky outcroppings will lead us to our final destination: a local olive farm, ready to greet us with yet another filling Greek meal and local knowledge of the area and traditions. There is no doubt that as we return to Athens, we will be left curious about the abundant mystery and beauty of Delphi.



#### DAY 4: TRAVEL TO SANTORINI & WALKING TOUR

Getting acquainted with island life awaits us. As we approach this iconic island by ferry, we'll get a first look at the distinctive white and blue domes, adorable cliffside houses, and clear blue waters that make Santorini one of the most popular Greek Isles.

We'll kick off our visit in Santorini with a locally led tour that will help showcase the magic and wonder of the island. The whitewashed buildings will welcome us and be the inspiration of numerous photographs, no doubt. We'll explore villages that look like they were plucked right from the pages of history and meet shopkeepers selling local products and handmade souvenirs. Get lost down small alleyways packed with shops selling handmade souvenirs to bring home as memories of our time spent exploring Santorini together. Finally, we'll get a taste of true Greek cuisine as we indulge in traditional Greek barbecue and a mouthwatering array of other authentic dishes from local restaurants.



#### DAY 5: SANTORINI CALDERA CRUISE

Today we'll swim, snorkel, and sail our way around this beautiful island where volcanic craters and cliffs collide with red sand beaches and unbelievable views of the Mediterranean Sea. Set sail on a private cruise through the mystical caldera, dive into crystal clear coves, and make memories that will last a lifetime while watching the sunset over the Mediterranean. And of course, we'll make sure to get the perfect Mediterranean sunset shot for your travel photography portfolios.

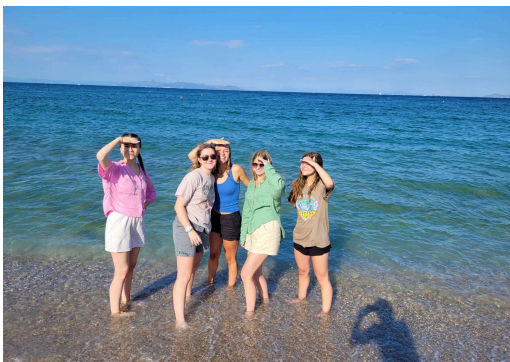


#### DAY 6: SYROS - A LOCAL'S FAVORITE!

It's time to explore Syros, a true hidden gem of the Greek Islands! Leave the ordinary behind and dive headfirst into a paradise that's been kept secret by the locals for generations. As we disembark our ferry, we will transport – as if by time machine – into the past. Imagine strolling down streets made of shimmering marble, each step echoing with the whispers of a rich and storied past, each unique neighborhood like pages from a fairy tale. These historic streets will make the perfect backdrop as we practice portrait photography.



#### DAY 7: ALITHINI VILLAGE VISIT & BEACH TIME



Today, we'll ascend to new heights as we maneuver through the majestic streets of the village of Alithini. Perched high above the harbor, this picturesque village offers views that will make you feel like you are on top of the world. By this point in the program, you'll be getting the hang of landscape photography and be able to participate in a photography challenge with your group. Who will win today's photo challenge!?

As the day heats up, we will hit up the warm waters and relax on a local beach. You will be able to experience firsthand why the Greek Islands are known for relaxation and taking it easy as you sink into the Mediterranean island lifestyle.



## DAY 8: PORTFOLIO WORKSHOPPING & TRAVEL TO ATHENS

This morning, we'll have time to share some of the amazing photographs we have taken throughout our trip in Greece. Our trip leaders will help explain and give tips about how to curate a professional photography portfolio that truly captures the essence of a country: the historic sights, the everyday moments, and the little bits of magic that are so elusive to capture. We'll share our photographs with friends and help to choose the images that express the vision of each individual photography portfolio. What will your focus be: Greek food? Island life? Architecture? Local people and their stories? The possibilities are endless! In the afternoon, we'll travel back to Athens and have some time to visit local markets and artisanal fairs to get some souvenirs to share with friends and family back home. Then we'll head back to the Home Base to rest up for our final day in Greece.



## DAY 9: LAKE VOULIAGMENI & TEMPLE OF POSEIDON

On this epic final day, get ready to dive into a world of magic, history, and healing, as we bid farewell to Greece in the most unforgettable way possible. Our day kicks off with a splash of rejuvenation at the mesmerizing Lake Vouliagmeni. Swim and soak in the warm embrace of a thermal saltwater lake, a natural wonder with a reputation for healing properties that's been whispered through the ages.

Embark on a journey to the very heart of ancient Greek mythology, the Temple of Poseidon, a marvel crafted from flawless white marble. This architectural masterpiece stands proudly at the southern tip of Attica, a tribute to the mighty Poseidon, ruler of the seas. And as the sun begins its breathtaking descent into the horizon, you'll witness a spectacle like no other – a canvas of blues, reds, and oranges that engulf the temple.

Then comes the grand finale, a feast fit for legends. Time to celebrate our time together and reminisce about the incredible journey we've shared – the sights, the sounds, the tastes, and the lessons that have enriched our hearts and minds during this unique experience while we share a meal at a local traditional Greek restaurant. Finalize your photography portfolio, the perfect way to always remember the times we shared and get to share your experience with friends and family back home!







## DAY 10: DEPARTURE DAY

And just like that, our group's adventure draws to a close. Staff will bring the group to the airport (ATH) and bid you all farewell as you ruminate on the memories that will last a lifetime. Safe Travels!

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## TRAVEL TO GREECE

**GLA Home Bases** | The Home Bases are locally-run hotels located in each location we visit. Students will dorm with one other roommate in comfortable, gender-segregated rooms equipped with AC and en-suite bathrooms.

**Food** | Greek cuisine has traditional dishes that we will try throughout the country. We will eat at many local restaurants and will provide many options for you to sample! Greek staples include meat, fish, bread, cheese, olives, cucumber, eggplant, and lentils. This location can accommodate a wide variety of food allergies & dietary restrictions.

**Climate** | Greece has a Mediterranean climate, with mild and wet winters in the southern lowland and island regions and cold winters with strong snowfalls in the mountainous areas in the central and northern regions and hot, dry summers.

**Flights** | Most group travel clients opt to travel together on the same flight, whether that be a group booking or individually-purchased tickets. GLA's partner travel agency, StudentUniverse, can be a helpful resource in finding and booking flights that meet the groups' budget and logistical requirements.

## 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 group's daily experience to the desired degree. 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

GLA 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.

## OUR EXPECTATIONS

### Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their unique 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. Students may get hot, dirt, and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can be transformative to both the community and themselves. 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 staff.

### **Flexibility & Program Changes**

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 or various cultural celebrations and holidays. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, and willing to embrace the experience when plans

change. GLA will communicate adjustments to group leaders with advance notice whenever possible and work together with custom group leaders to reschedule or replace activities if needed.

### **Mentorship & Health**

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 all participants should be physically and mentally healthy. Each student and staff member will undergo a self-reported medical screening process that includes a physician sign-off to ensure that our program can safely accommodate everyone's physical and mental health needs.