



GREECE: MYTHICAL CITIES & ISLAND EXPEDITION

Athens, Crete, Santorini,
Greece

12-DAY PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

- Check out the ancient Acropolis of Athens citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Sail along the caldera of Santorini in a traditional wooden boat
- Experience life on a Cretan farm and eat food grown from the land
- Dive deep into Greek mythology through site visits, guest speakers, and local lore



PROGRAM 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.





PROGRAM ITINERARY

Activities and the daily schedule may vary based on weather, local events, and group needs.

DAY 1: WELCOME TO GREECE!

Arrive in Athens (ATH), where you will meet GLA Groups staff at the airport before settling into your accommodations. Following check-in, participate in an orientation session to get acquainted with the program and your surroundings. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner featuring traditional Greek mezze.

DAY 2: HIGHLIGHTS OF ATHENS

Begin the day with a guided tour of the Acropolis, exploring its iconic ancient monuments, including the Parthenon, while learning about the history and significance of classical Athens. Continue to the Acropolis Museum to view its impressive collection of artifacts and sculptures from the surrounding archaeological site. Later, visit the historic Panathinaiko Stadium, the site of the first modern Olympic Games, followed by a stop at the Temple of Olympian Zeus. In the evening, enjoy a leisurely stroll through the charming Plaka neighborhood, taking in its picturesque streets, local shops, cafés, and traditional Greek atmosphere.

DAY 3: BIKE TOUR & OVERNIGHT FERRY TO CRETE

Begin the day with an exciting bike tour of Athens led by a local guide, discovering the city's historic landmarks and lively neighborhoods from a unique perspective. Continue with an interactive Greek mythology storytelling session, bringing the legendary gods, heroes, and stories of ancient Greece to life in an engaging and memorable way. Later, enjoy free time to explore the vibrant Monastiraki flea market, where you can browse for souvenirs, local crafts, antiques, and other unique finds. In the evening, make your way to the port and board an overnight ferry to Crete, settling in for a relaxing journey to the island.

DAY 4: CRETE EXPLORATION & FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP

Arrive in Crete and begin your island experience with an exploration of Chania's picturesque Venetian harbor and charming Old Town. Wander through the narrow, historic streets, admire the distinctive architecture, and take in the lively atmosphere of this beautiful coastal city. Continue to the traditional village of Margarites, known for its long-standing pottery-making traditions, where you will participate in a hands-on pottery workshop and learn about local techniques and craftsmanship. Later, travel to Rethymnon for an engaging Cretan folk dance workshop, where you can learn traditional steps and rhythms while gaining a deeper appreciation for the island's rich cultural heritage. The day offers a wonderful blend of history, creativity, and authentic Cretan traditions.



DAYS 5-6: FOOD TASTING TOUR & COOKING CLASS

Begin the day with a food-tasting tour through Rethymnon's lively markets and traditional bakeries, sampling local specialties and discovering the flavors and ingredients that make Cretan cuisine unique. Afterward, enjoy some free time to relax on the beach or wander through the charming streets and historic corners of Rethymnon's Old Town. Later, travel inland to Zaros, a picturesque traditional mountain village surrounded by the beautiful Cretan landscape. Here, take part in an authentic farm-to-table cooking class, where you'll have the opportunity to harvest fresh local ingredients, learn about traditional Cretan farming practices, and prepare and cook a selection of classic Cretan dishes. This hands-on experience offers a wonderful way to connect with the island's culture, food, and rural traditions.

DAY 7: PALACE OF KNOSSOS & MUSEUM VISIT

Enjoy a guided tour of the Palace of Knossos, the legendary home of the Minotaur and one of Crete's most important archaeological sites. Continue with a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, where you can discover an impressive collection of Minoan artifacts and learn more about the island's ancient history and culture. In the evening, enjoy free time to explore Heraklion's vibrant pedestrian streets, browse local shops, relax at a café, or take in the lively atmosphere at your own pace.

DAY 8-9: SANTORINI EXPLORATION

Begin the day with a morning ferry from Crete to the stunning island of Santorini. Upon arrival, take an orientation walk through Fira, the island's lively capital, taking in its whitewashed buildings, narrow streets, and spectacular views over the caldera. Continue exploring some of Santorini's charming traditional villages, including Oia, Pyrgos, and Megalochori, each offering its own unique character and beautiful scenery. Along the way, discover the island's traditional cave houses, distinctive architecture, and historic churches while experiencing the timeless charm and culture of Santorini.

DAY 10: WOODEN BOAT TOUR

Enjoy a scenic wooden boat tour along Santorini's dramatic caldera cliffs, taking in the island's striking volcanic landscape from the water. Make stops along the way for refreshing swims in the Aegean Sea and visit the area's famous volcanic hot springs, where you can experience the warm, mineral-rich waters surrounded by unique geological scenery. As the day comes to an end, relax aboard the boat and watch the sun set over the Aegean Sea, creating a beautiful and unforgettable finish to the day.



DAY 9: RETURN TO ATHENS & FAREWELL DINNER

Take the ferry back to Athens and spend the day immersing yourself in Greek culture. Enjoy a fun and interactive workshop introducing the basics of the Greek language and traditional Greek music, offering a deeper connection to the country's rich cultural heritage. Later, take some time to explore Ermou Street, one of Athens' popular shopping areas, and browse for souvenirs and local gifts to remember your journey. In the evening, celebrate your final night in Greece with a special farewell dinner featuring delicious Greek cuisine, live bouzouki music, and traditional dancing for a lively and memorable end to the trip.



DAY 10: DEPARTURE

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before preparing for your departure from Athens. GLA Groups staff will assist the group with the airport transfer and check-in process, helping ensure a smooth and organized departure. After check-in, the group will proceed through the airport for the journey home, bringing the Greek adventure to a close.





PROGRAM SAFETY



**SAFE
TRANSPORTATION**



**CARING SUPERVISION
& EXPERT LOCAL
KNOWLEDGE**



**24/7 SUPPORT &
EMERGENCY RESPONSE**



**GLA HOME BASE:
SAFE & SECURE
LODGING**



**HEALTHY MEALS &
PURE WATER**

**GLA'S
5 POINT
SAFETY
SYSTEM**



GLA HOME BASE

Stay in comfortable hotels and guesthouses, all conveniently located in or near city centers for easy access to shops, restaurants, and cultural sites. Rooms are typically shared, gendersegregated, and feature ensuite bathrooms, providing a cozy and private base for students to relax and connect between adventures.



CLIMATE

Greece has a temperate Mediterranean climate, with warm summers and mild winters. Daytime temperatures usually range from the mid-60s to mid-80s°F, while evenings can be cooler, so packing layers is recommended year-round.



FOOD

Greece is known for its fresh, flavorful cuisine, from olives, feta, and Greek yogurt to hearty stews, grilled meats, and seafood. Students will enjoy local specialties through meals at traditional tavernas, hands-on cooking classes, and market tastings.



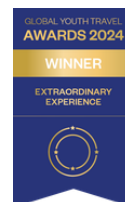
PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

Inclusions:

- Healthy Meals and Drinking Water
- Accommodations in a trusted GLA Home Base
- Safe Transportation - private and public
- Activities and entry fees
- Expert Staff to guide the group
- Secondary medical insurance & emergency evacuation insurance for every traveler

Exclusions:

- Airfare to and from the program
- Additional snacks or drinks outside of mealtimes
- Travel Insurance (lost luggage, etc)



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