GREECE: TURTLE & CONSERVATION ADVENTURE

12-DAY PROGRAM

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the Acropolis in Athens and embark on a food tour around the city
- Explore the island of Kefalonia and learn all about Loggerhead sea turtles in the area
- Leave a positive footprint by volunteering with a local organization that helps towards the conservation of this magnificent species
- Learn how to conduct snorkeling surveys and collect valuable data on seafloor coverage
- Make (and taste!) your own Greek food at a cooking class
- Visit a bee farm and learn firsthand about bees and their contribution to sustainability worldwide

ACTIVITY LEVEL

- Heavy

2027 PROGRAM DATES

- June 29 - July 10
- July 13 - July 24

GET IN TOUCH!

experiencegla.com
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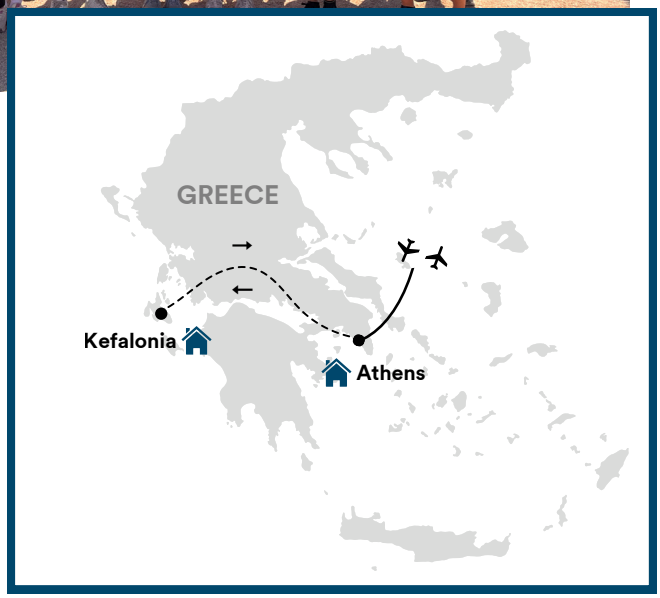
Learn about marine conservation and sea turtles while you explore the island of Kefalonia and historical sites of Athens.



OVERVIEW

Set sail for Greece, where we will explore one of the world's oldest cultures and learn about important marine conservation work. Due to climate change and human impact on this ancient land, Loggerhead sea turtles and other native wildlife are at risk of extinction.

Learn about the importance of preserving these magnificent creatures and their unique role in marine ecosystems. Get to know Athens and discover its ancient sites, such as the Acropolis and the Ancient Agora. Immerse yourself in the Mediterranean island lifestyle of Kefalonia and learn all about Loggerhead sea turtles and marine conservation. Wrap up your adventure with a visit to a local bee farm. Meet with warm locals, taste incredible Mediterranean cuisine and immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of this vibrant and warm culture!

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ITINERARY

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. 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. Get introduced to Greek cuisine by taking part in a food tour around Athens.

DAY 3: TURTLE VISITOR CENTER & TRAVEL TO KEFALONIA

Today we'll visit Archaelon, Greece's largest organization dedicated to protecting sea turtles. We'll take part in an informative tour around the facilities and we'll be able to see some rescued turtles. This will serve as aperfect introduction for the work we'll do for the next week in Kefalonia. After the tour, we'll say goodbye to Athens and we'll embark on a beautiful bus and ferry journey through the Peloponnese towards the island of Kefalonia, our home for the next week.

DAYS 4-5: START OF YOUR MARINE CONSERVATION PROJECTS

This week is all about sea turtles and marine conservation! Spend your time on the island of Kefalonia assisting a local organization dedicated to the protection of the Loggerhead sea turtle. Most days are long and filled with adventure! On beach survey mornings, you'll start early at 5:00 AM to beat the heat and the tourists, walking the sands to look for sea turtle nests then measuring, recording and marking the sites to shield them from predators and human impact. On other mornings, begin around 8:00 AM to carry out harbour surveys, observing turtles that frequent the docks when local fishing boats arrive with their daily catch. Alongside your fieldwork, take part in engaging workshops and discussions covering climate change, seagrass ecology, fish identification, sea turtle biology and the innovative use of drones in marine conservation.

DAYS 6-8: FIELDWORK & ADVENTURE TO MELASSANI CAVE

Take your conservation efforts into the water as you learn how to conduct snorkeling surveys, an essential, hands-on technique used by marine scientists around the world to monitor marine ecosystem health. You'll also lead vital beach cleanups in nesting areas to keep habitats clean and safe for hatching turtles.

In between fieldwork, celebrate local culture with a hands-on Greek cooking class, learning traditional island recipes and sharing meals together. You'll also take well-deserved breaks to swim and relax along the breathtaking beaches that make Kefalonia so famous, highlighted by a visit to the world-renowned Melassani Cave—a stunning limestone sinkhole filled with crystal-clear water where you'll glide across the turquoise depths by boat before gathering for evening reflections









DAY 9: WRAP UP SERVICE PROJECTS & SUNSET DINNER

Wrap up your fieldwork with a final round of harbor observations and nesting data collection, synthesizing your group's findings alongside our partner marine organization. Look back at the tangible impact of your effort, from protecting vulnerable nests to clearing debris from vital habitats and participate in a final leadership workshop highlighting your growth as young global conservationists. Celebrate your hard work with a sunset dinner overlooking the Ionian Sea, reflecting on lifelong memories made on the shores of Kefalonia.

DAY 10: FERRY BACK TO MAINLAND & BEE FARM

It’s time to say goodbye to Kefalonia. We'll retrace our steps back towards Greece's mainland by taking a ferry and a then a bus. In the afternoon we'll visit a local bee farm. We’ll tour the farm and learn all about bees and their importance in the local ecosystem. We’ll put on our beekeeper suits and interact closely with the bees. We'll spend the night at a cozy hotel in the countryside and we'll get a taste of Greece's charming village lifestyle.

DAY 11: LAST DAY IN ATHENS

As our adventure is almost coming to an end, we'll begin the day by driving back towards Athens. In the afternoon we’ll 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

While this program is being planned for this season, 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.

PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- **Tuition:** $6,299
- **Service Hours:** 25
- **Ages:** 14 - 18
- **Student-to-Staff Ratio:** 6-to-1
- **Accommodations:** Exclusive Hotel Block
- **Arrival and Departure Airport**
  - Athens (ATH)

GLA HOME BASE

This is a moving program. You'll be staying at 3 hotels in different parts of Greece. Rooming will always be shared in double or triple rooms with private bathrooms and AC.

GLA HOME BASE OVERVIEW

- Pool
  - Home Base 1 - Athens: Yes
  - Home Base 2 - Kefalonia: No, but has a outdoor jacuzzi
- Air conditioning
  - Home Base 1 - Athens: Yes
  - Home Base 2 - Kefalonia: Yes
- Remote
  - Home Base 1 - Athens: No
  - Home Base 2 - Kefalonia: No

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.



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.

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 environment 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 experience can transform their perspective. 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.

ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

At Global Leadership Adventures, we welcome age-eligible teens who are excited about the opportunity to travel to apply for our programs. To ensure a safe and meaningful experience for everyone in the group, we follow essential eligibility criteria. While out intent is not to be exclusionary, it's important to note that GLA programs are not therapeutic programs and are not able to support struggling teens seeking behavior or mental health outcomes.

Applications are carefully considered and screened to align with these criteria. It is not uncommon for GLA to require supporting documentation or information in the application screening process to confirm eligibility or suitability for program participation. Failure to disclose full medical history may also result in the application not being accepted, additional fees, and/or removal from the program. Please discuss with our team for any further clarification or concerns and visit **https://www.experiencegla.com/policies/essential-eligibility-criteria/** to view the full essential eligibility criteria list.

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 up 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.**