ATHENS & THE ISLAND OF POROS







JUNE 17-27, 2015

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ith villages that rise like white pyramids over stunning harbors, the craggy shores of the Greek

Isles are caressed by lapping waters and balmy breezes that carry the citrus scent of lemon groves. Ancient stone monuments stand alongside crooked lines of olive trees, while nearby, lively tavernas bubble with good natured gossip and the savory smells of souvlaki and moussaka.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Experience the Greek Islands for six nights on the wonderfully situated island of **Poros**, an artists' enclave.
- Enjoy three nights in Athens, with visits to the Acropolis and the Parthenon, as well as special meals at local restaurants.
- Explore the renowned Greek Island of Hydra.
- Discover **Nauplia and Epidaurus**, two treasures near the Argolic Gulf.
- Listen to authentic Greek music and watch lively Greek dancing — maybe even join in the fun — during a special Greek Night.

Alamni Campus Abroad® Advantages

The unique, value-added features of Alumni Campus Abroad® programs deliver an outstanding educational travel experience.

- Carefully selected hotels with comfortable accommodations is the perfect base for exploring the region's renowned landmarks and off-the-beaten-path treasures while providing opportunities to immerse yourself in the local culture and lifestyle.
- **Groups are limited to 36 travelers** to maximize your travel experience.
- An extensive meal plan is seasoned with traditional specialties.
- Meet the People opportunities allow you to interact with local residents and gain personal insight into their everyday lives.
- Knowledgeable guides lead your excursions and local experts present insightful educational lectures.
- An experienced Campus Director ensures attentive service for the duration of your stay.
- **All gratuities** for excursion guides and drivers are included.

Right: Kore with dove at Acropolis Museum, Athens



Dear Johns Hopkins Alumni and Friends,

Explore the magic of Greece, a mythic land of turquoise seas, azure skies and white villages clinging to the coast. This adventure brings together a small group of travelers while leveraging the convenience and value of group travel. Experts have planned a captivating itinerary that includes enough flexibility to allow you to pursue your individual interests during leisure time.

Experience the extraordinary delights of Greece: the wonders of Athens; the small isle of Poros; the classical Greek towns of Mycenae, Nauplia and Epidaurus; and the magical island of Hydra. As a part of our group, you'll enjoy preferred access to key attractions, the insights of cultural and historical experts and opportunities to interact with local people on a personal basis.

Don't miss your chance to experience the wonders of Greece. Space is limited for your comfort, so reserve your place today!

Sincerely,

Marqueite hylls fores

Marguerite I. Jones, A&S '74, Bus '88 Travel Program Director Office of Alumni Relations The Johns Hopkins University "To deceive a diplomat, speak the truth; he has no experience with it."

~ Greek proverb

"Fair Greece! and relic of departed worth! Immortal, though no more; though fallen, great!"

~ **Lord Byron** 1788-1824, English poet

"All things good to know are difficult to learn."

~ Greek proverb

"How simple a thing is happiness: a glass of wine, a roast chestnut, a wretched little brazier, the sound of the sea."

~ Nikos Kazantzakis 1885-1957, Greek writer, "Zorba the Greek"

"Let him that would move the world first move himself."

> ~ Socrates Greek philosopher, c. 469-399 B.C.

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GREECE

LAND OF LEGEND AND ANTIQUITY

For centuries, travelers have been responding to the siren call of Greece, birthplace of Western civilization. It is the home of some of the world's most renowned antiquities, sun-kissed shores and fascinating mythology. Exploring the modern metropolis of Athens and the charming, peaceful isle of Poros reveals Greece in all its glorious contrasts.

DAY ONE

Depart for Athens, Greece.*
*Provided for AHI FlexAir passengers.

DAY TWO

ATHENS, GREECE

Appropriate in-flight meal service
Arrive in Athens and transfer* to the
InterContinental Athenaeum Athens.
This evening, join your fellow travelers for a
Welcome Reception at the hotel.

DAY THREE

BIL

ATHENS

Excursion: *Athens City Tour.* Become acquainted with Athens, known as the birthplace of democracy and the stomping ground of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. See the neoclassical buildings of the Athens

Academy, Athens University and the National Library. Then, visit the breathtaking Acropolis, completed in the fifth century B.C. in honor of Athena, the goddess of wisdom. See the

Parthenon, then examine treasures and legendary sculptures housed at the Acropolis Museum.

Local Flavor: Sample local specialties for lunch at an Athenian

restaurant.

Independent

Exploration: Spend the remainder of the day at leisure. Consider roaming the streets of Athens and admiring the array of Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman landmarks in the city.



UNESCO

The archaeological sites of Mycenae, Epidaurus and the Acropolis in Athens are the UNESCO World Heritage sites featured on this program.

DAY FOUR

POROS

BID

After breakfast, transfer to the pier and embark a hydrofoil to the island of Poros, your home base for the next six nights.

Upon arrival, check in to the New Aegli Hotel. Later, savor local specialties and spend time with friends old and new during a Welcome to Poros Reception and Dinner with wine.

DAY FIVE POROS

DAY SIX

BILID

BILID

After breakfast, learn more about your Alumni Campus Abroad experience in Greece.

Educational Focus: Classical Greece.

Learn about the profound influence of ancient Greece on the Western world and how Greek philosophy, science and literature led Europe out of the Dark Ages and into the Renaissance.

Excursion: *Poros.* Stroll the streets of Poros Town, lined with whitewashed houses. Walk through St. George Square, past bustling shops along the crystalline waterfront and arrive at the Archaeological Museum of Poros for a tour.

Local Flavor and Meet the People: Meet residents of Poros and enjoy lunch at a taverna.

NAUPLIA | EPIDAURUS

Educational Focus: *Greek History.* Learn about critical periods and people in Greek





reflected in modern Athenian lifestyles and attitudes toward family and personal honor.

DAY EIGHT

BILID

MYCENAE

Excursion: *Mycenae.* Travel to ancient Mycenae and see the vestiges of what was the most powerful kingdom in Greece from

16th-13th centuries B.C. According to Greek mythology, the fortress here was the seat of Agamemnon's kingdom.

Local Flavor: Visit a local winery for a wine tasting and lunch.

DAY NINE

BID

POROS

Educational Focus: *Greek Art.* The visual arts in Greece have reflected the culture, character and beliefs of its people throughout history. The artists of Poros and the Saronic Islands carry on this torch of their ancestors, forming a bridge to ancient artists.

Independent Exploration: Spend your last day in Poros at leisure.

Tonight, recount your Greek adventure with your fellow travelers during a special Greek Night, featuring live music and Greek dancing. Also, enjoy a Farewell Reception, Graduation Ceremony and Farewell Dinner with wine.

DAY TEN

BID

ATHENS

After breakfast, return to Athens.

Excursion: *Corinth Canal.* Drive along the coastal road and see the famous Corinth Canal, which separates the Peloponnesian peninsula from mainland Greece.

history who serve as the foundation for the modern-day Republic: Alexander the Great, the founding of Constantinople, Turkish occupation and democracy, a concept born in Greece 2.5 millennia ago.

Excursion: Nauplia and Epidaurus.

Discover coastal Nauplia, situated on a rocky peninsula jutting into the Argolic Gulf. From a maze of narrow winding streets, admire the prominent profile of Palamidi Citadel, which zigzags across a hilltop ridge. Continue to Epidaurus, home to the best-preserved ancient Greek theater, which is still used today.

Local Flavor: Savor local specialties during lunch at a local restaurant.

DAY SEVEN

BID

HYDRA

Excursion: *Hydra.* Cruise to Hydra, considered to be the most fashionable Saronic Isle. Distinctive for its architecture, rugged terrain and lack of cars — motorized vehicles are prohibited on the island — Hydra's lovely waterfront is lined with many lively cafés and shops.

Educational Focus: *Contemporary Greece.* Learn how ancient customs, traditions and ceremonies are



Later, check in to the InterContinental Athenaeum Athens.

Independent Exploration: Spend your last afternoon in Greece at leisure in the city.

Local Flavor: Enjoy a final dinner featuring Greek cuisine at a local restaurant.

DAY ELEVEN

В

Transfer* to the airport for the return flights to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary subject to change. Some events on this program involve an element of walking.

Included meals indicated each day as $B \mid L \mid D = Breakfast \mid Lunch \mid Dinner.$





"ATHENS, THE EYE OF GREECE, MOTHER OF ARTS AND ELOQUENCE."

—JOHN MILTON, 1608-1674, ENGLISH POET

INCLUDED FEATURES

Accommodations

- Three nights in Athens, Greece, at the deluxe InterContinental Athenaeum Athens Hotel.
- Six nights on the island of Poros at the first-class New Aegli Hotel.

Meals

- Enjoy an extensive meal program, featuring nine breakfasts, four lunches and six dinners. Tea or coffee is included with all meals, plus wine with dinner. Take advantage of leisure time to try local cuisine independently.
- Attend Welcome Receptions in Athens and Poros and a Welcome Dinner in Poros.
- Gather for a Farewell Reception and a Graduation Ceremony followed by a Farewell Dinner.

Transportation

 All deluxe motor coach and hydrofoil transfers in the Land Program itinerary and baggage handling on these transfers are included.

Your Exciting Travel Program

(For details, see the day-by-day itinerary.)

- Informative educational programs, presented by local experts, will enhance your insight into the region.
- **Personal VOX listening devices** allow you to hear every word from your expert, English-speaking guides.

• All excursions:

- Admire the Acropolis, Acropolis
 Museum and Parthenon in Athens.
- Discover coastal Nauplia and explore Epidaurus.
- Stroll the charming streets of Poros and visit the Archaeological Museum.
- See the vestiges of Mycenae during a visit to the ancient site.
- Cruise to the car-free island of Hydra and spend time at leisure.
- Drive along the coast and see the Corinth Canal.

Many Included Extras

- Consultation services of a dedicated
 Passenger Service Representative prior to departure.
- Services of an experienced **Campus Director**.
- Detailed travel and destination information to assist in your planning.
- Tipping of excursion guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel wallet.

ACCOMMODATIONS









INTERCONTINENTAL ATHENAEUM ATHENS HOTEL

The InterContinental Athenaeum is located near the Parthenon and a short distance from the Plaka, the scenic Old Town of Athens. This deluxe hotel has a business center, 24-hour fitness center, swimming pool, spa and several lounges and restaurants, including a rooftop restaurant with stunning views of the city. The guest rooms are equipped with every modern convenience, including complimentary Wi-Fi.

NEW AEGLI HOTEL POROS

The New Aegli is situated overlooking scenic Askeli Bay. Each guest room features a spacious balcony that affords a breathtaking view of the sea and surrounding landscapes and is appointed with individual climate controls, minibar, safe, satellite TV and complimentary Wi-Fi. The hotel has an outdoor swimming pool and beach access. The restaurant offers terrace seating and is noted for its Greek specialties.

GREEK DANCING AND MUSIC

Greeks love life, and they love to have a good time! Traditional Greek dancing can break out almost anywhere, and often is accompanied by songs played on the bouzouki. You don't even need a partner! Most dances are performed in a line with dancers holding hands. Passed down from generation to generation since days of



old, these dances have stood the test of time. While each region or group of islands has its own dances, there are a few that are known throughout the country. Keep an eye out for the syrtos, considered to be the national dance; the hasapikos, the lively butcher's dance; and the tsamikos, traditionally performed by men. Don't be shy; join in! Opa!

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Top to bottom:

Greek musicians at outdoor dining patio

Mule for transport, Hydra Detail of ancient columns,

Acropolis Cover photos:

Poros



A word about your Tour Operator

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