



Greece

ATHENS & KALAMATA

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers



SPONSORED BY

EXPLORERS
ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association

June 14-23, 2024

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

Dear EXPLORERS and Friends,

Join us on an exploration of Greek culture and history as we focus our attention on the Peloponnese, one of the most beautiful and storied areas of Greece.

We'll spend five nights in Kalamata, the city famous for the eponymous olives grown in the region, and discover the cultural wealth of this corner of Greece. Spend your days visiting the spectacular ancient cities of Mycenae and Messene, an off-the-beaten path gem; strolling through the ruins of Sparta; walking in the footsteps of the first Olympians in the original 2,500-year-old stadium; and marveling at the stunning Byzantine city of Mystras. Learn about the importance of olives in Greek daily life and visit a winery. You'll gaze at the sunset during a cruise of the scenic Messinian Gulf and even have the opportunity to join in a festive Greek dance. Plus, three nights in Athens allow you to see the Acropolis and other highlights of the Greek capital.

You'll enjoy comfortable accommodations, ample meals, engaging insights from expert local guides and speakers, plus worry-free travel, thanks to a dedicated Travel Director. With all these fantastic elements, this trip is sure to be popular. Act now to make your dream a reality!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey
Vice President, Alumni & Student Engagement

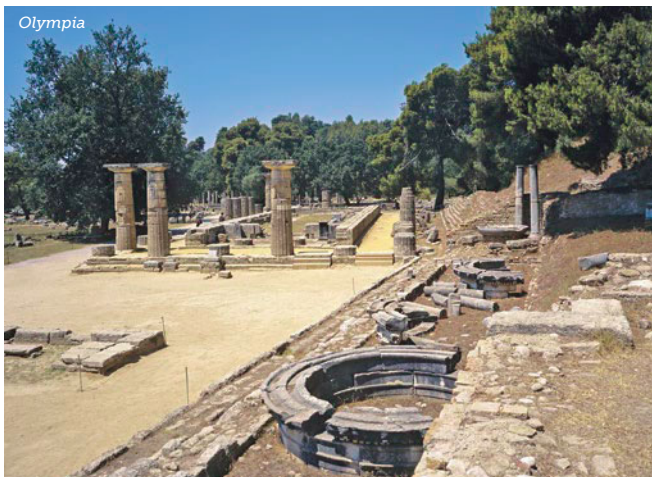
The EXPLORERS program is open to alumni of the University of Illinois, their families, and friends.

UNESCO World Heritage

1. Acropolis, Athens
2. Archaeological Site of Mycenae
3. Archaeological Site of Mystras
4. Archaeological Site of Olympia



Mystras





A World of Discovery



Discover Greece's cultural riches, from the sublime remnants of ancient civilizations to an abundance of delicious food and wine, on this amazing, eight-night journey! Explore famed ruins, including the Acropolis, Mycenae and Olympia, along with Mystras, a Byzantine-era citadel, and Messene, an often overlooked, must-see site. Delight in Greece's alluring landscapes and mouthwatering cuisine fresh from the farm and sea. The enduring beauty of this storied land awaits you!

Top: Messinian Bay near Kalamata | Above: Kalamata coast
Cover: Detail of Parthenon, Acropolis, Athens
Mail panel: Traditional Greek musicians | Kalamata

Inspiring Moments



- Enjoy coastal life in seaside **Kalamata**.
- Stand in the glorious **Acropolis** and relish magnificent views of Athens.
- Wander through the ruins of **Mycenae**, the mighty Bronze Age kingdom.
- Walk in the footsteps of the first Olympians at the archaeological site of **Olympia**.
- Savor Greece's palate-pleasing bounty of **wine, olives, seafood and olive oil**.
- Journey to the beautifully preserved and less explored ancient city of **Messene**.
- Discover a one-of-a-kind treasure, mountainside **Mystras**, an important center of Byzantine culture.
- Experience four **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.

ALUMNI CAMPUS
ABROAD®



The Acropolis overlooking Athens

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Athens, Greece. 🌐

Day 2 | Athens, Greece

Upon arrival, transfer 🚗 to the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.

Gather with your fellow travelers for a Welcome Dinner to kick off your Greek odyssey.

Day 3 | Athens

Athens City Tour. Become acquainted with illustrious Athens, the birthplace of democracy. Admire the Academy of Athens, University of Athens, the National Library and other highlights on a panoramic tour. Then, travel up to the resplendent Acropolis with monuments built by ancient Greece's finest architects, sculptors and artists in the fifth century B.C. Take in the Parthenon's classical lines and sweeping city views. Later, at the Acropolis Museum, view splendid artifacts from the Acropolis' slopes and look through the glass floor to see the ruins of an ancient neighborhood. *(Active)*

Free Time: The rest of the day is yours to plan.

Day 4 | Mycenae | Kalamata

After checking out of the hotel, head toward Kalamata on the Peloponnese's southern coast.

Mycenae & Greek Wine. Take a guided tour of the impressive ruins of Mycenae, one of the oldest archaeological sites on the Peloponnese. The Mycenaean civilization flourished during the second millennium B.C. and was home to Agamemnon, the king who conquered Troy, according to Greek mythology. Imagine this fortified city in all its glory as you walk under

the imposing Lion's Gate. Then, sample fine Greek wines with lunch at a winery. *(Active)*

Depart for Kalamata and check in to the Pharae Palace Hotel.

Enrichment: Greek History.

As a special welcome to Kalamata, enjoy a cocktail and a wonderful buffet dinner tonight.

Day 5 | Kalamata | Messene

Enrichment: Classical Greece.

Kalamata's History & Cuisine. Stroll with your guide in Kalamata's charming old town and learn about the city's tumultuous past. As you listen to stories of Kalamata's history and see points of interest, stop to taste traditional foods like their world-famous, fruity, sharp olives and fresh seafood.

Try more specialties at lunch in the old town.

Messene. This afternoon, take a guided tour of an under-the-radar gem, the splendid, vast ruins of Messene set in a serene mountain

Lion's Gate, Mycenae





Byzantine architecture, Mystras

valley. Unlike other sites, this ancient city built around 369 B.C. was largely untouched by subsequent settlements, so its remains are remarkably intact. See its grand temples, agora, theater, stadium and more. *(Active)*

Day 6 | Sparta | Mystras

Sparta, Mystras & the Greek Olive. Walk with your guide through the ruins of ancient Sparta, one of Greece's most powerful city-states. Travel later to the stunning ruins of Mystras above the Laconian plain. In 1249, a Frankish prince built a castle there, which fell into the hands of the Byzantine Empire 13 years later. Over the next two centuries, Mystras evolved into the most important Byzantine city in the southern Peloponnese. Hear about its significance from your guide and admire the monasteries, chapels and churches adorned with frescoes. Finally, tour Sparta's Museum of the Olive and Greek Olive Oil, which details why the olive is prized by the Greeks. *(Active)*

Archaeological Museum, Olympia



Day 7 | Ancient Olympia

Ancient Olympia. This sacred site dedicated to Zeus was the celebrated birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games, which were first played in his honor in 776 B.C. See where renowned sporting events were held, learn what the earliest Olympic games were like and stand at the runners' original starting line in the stadium! See the Temples of Zeus and Hera, then visit the Archaeological Museum to view beautiful sculptures from the temples, bronze artifacts and other marvelous finds.

Free Time: Choose a nice place in Olympia for lunch before returning to Kalamata.

🌐AHI Connects | Greek Night. Opa! Join hands for a joyful Kalamatianos folk dance at a fun-filled party with food, wine and music!

Sparta



Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **3 nights** in Athens, Greece, at the deluxe NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.
- **5 nights** in Kalamata at the first-class Pharae Palace Hotel.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land program.

Extensive Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners, including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at 28 guests.
- **AHI Travel Assurance plan** covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Enrichment by expert speakers** enhances your insight into the region.
- **Engaging excursions** showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Farewell Reception to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



Day 8 | Kalamata

Enrichment: Contemporary Greece.

Free Time: Create your own agenda today! Unwind on the hotel's beach, relish a drink and lovely views at the rooftop lounge or book an optional cooking lesson.

Tonight, embark on a sunset cruise along the Messinian Bay and raise a toast to your adventure with farewell drinks on board.

Day 9 | Corinth | Athens

This morning, depart Kalamata for Athens and stop in Corinth during your journey.

Corinth. Follow your guide on a fascinating walk through the archaeological site of ancient Corinth. See the Temple of Apollo and ruins from the Roman era when Corinth was a major colony and thriving center of trade. Next, check out the Corinth Canal, the deep channel that separates the Peloponnese from the mainland, which first opened in 1893.

Check in to the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.

Free Time: Spend the remainder of your day in Athens sightseeing or shopping.

Day 10 | In Transit

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: Itinerary may change due to local conditions.

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Note About Activity Levels

We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

Excursions on this itinerary require:

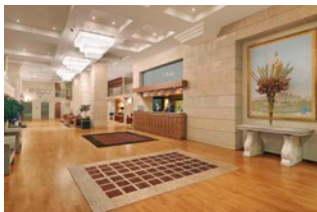
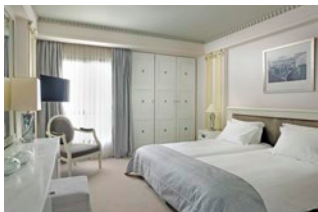
- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Kalamata



Accommodations

Our travel experts have carefully selected these hotels for their prime locations near acclaimed sites. The deluxe NJV Athens Plaza Hotel on the city's famous Syntagma Square features spacious, elegant rooms, personalized service and convenient access to top attractions. At the first-class Pharae Palace Hotel, delight in beachfront access, a rooftop terrace and your room's comfortable sitting area and private balcony. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of each property's services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.



NJV Athens Plaza Hotel | Athens



Pharae Palace Hotel | Kalamata



Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,
please call our AHI Travel Experts
at **844-414-0369** or
visit <https://uiaa.org/explorers/>.

Program Dates

Travel dates †

June 14-23, 2024

† Travel dates include any overnights required for international travel. These dates may vary depending on air schedules.

Tour dates*

June 15-23, 2024

* Tour dates begin on the scheduled arrival date at your destination and end on the scheduled departure date from your destination.

Land Program

Full Price	\$4,245
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Special Savings	\$250
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Special Price*	\$3,995
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*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.
VAT is an additional \$295 per person.

All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).
Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.

Single supplement waived for solo travelers! This offer is limited, capacity-controlled and tends to sell out quickly.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://il.ahitravel.com/destinations/1784A?schoold=69>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

AHI FlexAir

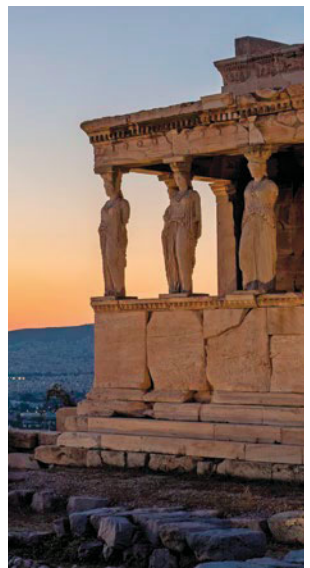
Let us arrange your flights

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Corinth Canal



Acropolis, Athens



Messene

AHI Travel Expertise



From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

Travel Consultants stand ready to answer your questions as they guide you through the reservation process.

Passenger Service Representative offers personalized assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

Travel Information provides pre-departure details and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

Your Travel Director, a seasoned, multilingual professional, manages daily logistics so you enjoy a seamless experience.

Handpicked Expert Guides offer fascinating insights and share their passion for their country with you.

Knowledgeable Lecturers deepen your appreciation for the region and its history, culture and current events.



Plaka, Athens

EXPLORERS

ALUMNI TRAVEL PROGRAM

University of Illinois Alumni Association
EXPLORERS Office
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
601 S. Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

GREKALMA24 77

844-414-0369
<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>



Experience the eternal allure of legendary Greece!

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational, educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

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- Experienced Travel Directors who attend to every detail of your journey.
- An exceptional travel value.
- Unique access to local sites.
- Flexibility and customization.
- Safety and security.



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