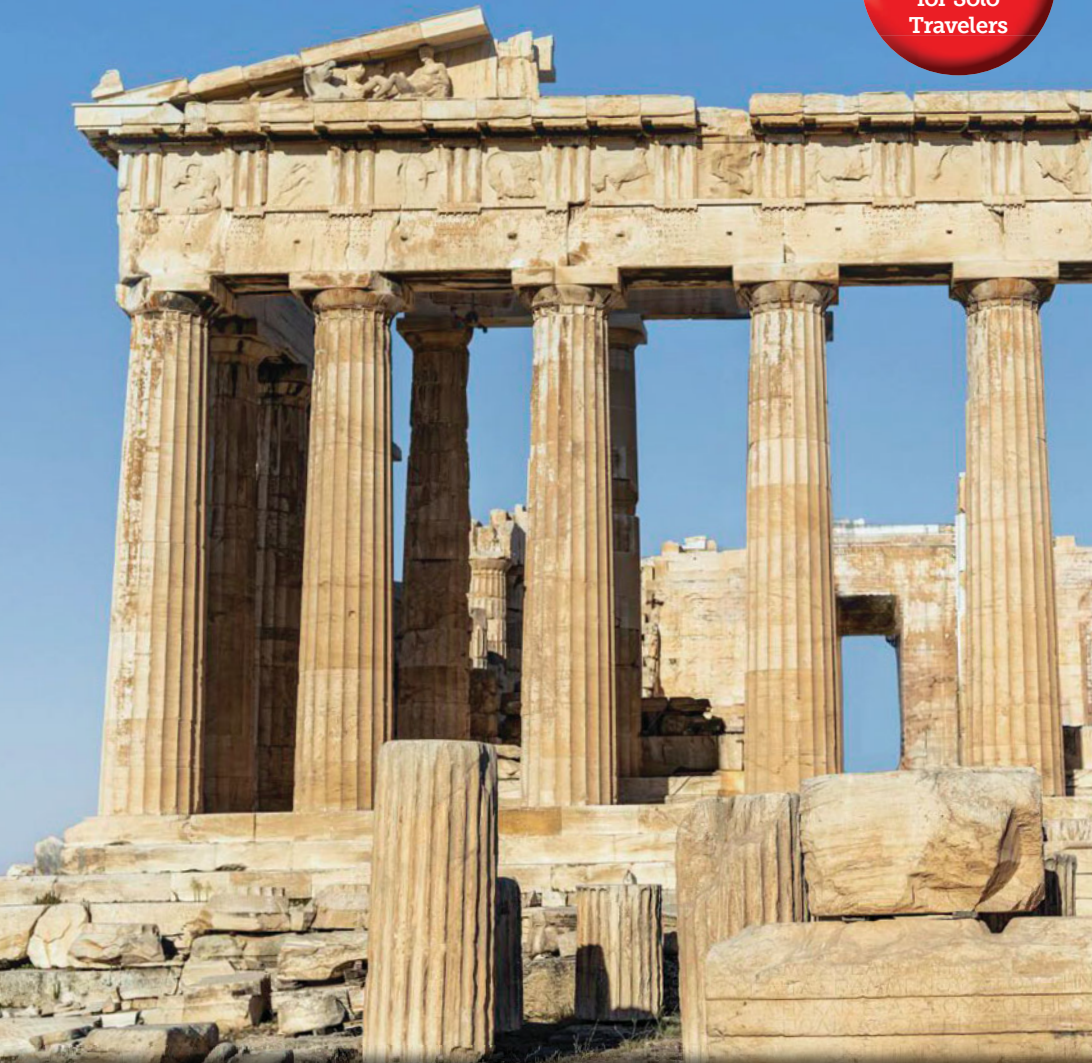


# Greece

ATHENS & KALAMATA

**NO SINGLE  
SUPPLEMENT**  
for Solo  
Travelers



SPONSORED BY



**ALUMNI**

University of Illinois Alumni Association

May 21-30, 2027

# I ALUMNI

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 guaranteed to be popular. Act now to make your dream a reality!

Sincerely,



David Bambrey  
President

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

Mycenae





# Discovery begins here



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 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!

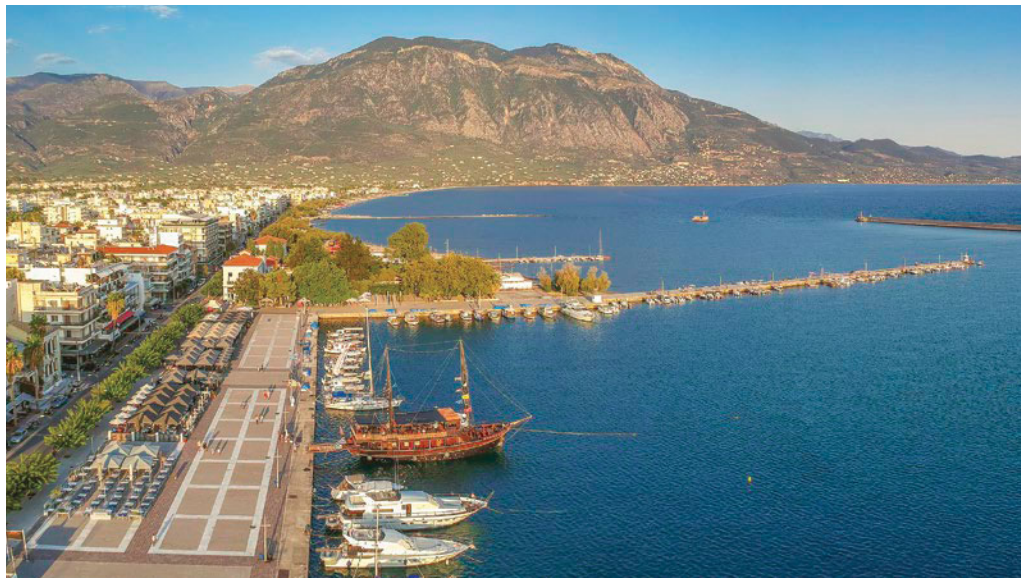
Top: Hillside ruins of Mystras | Above: Greek wine and cuisine, Kalamata coast

Cover: Detail of Parthenon, Acropolis, Athens  
Mail panel: Sparta | Ancient theater, Messene

## Inspiring Moments



- Enjoy the pace of coastal life in bustling, 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 mountainside **Mystras**, a one-of-a-kind treasure and important center of Byzantine culture.
- Experience four **UNESCO World Heritage sites**.



Kalamata

### 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.** Get acquainted today 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 superb artifacts from the Acropolis' slopes and look through a glass floor to study the ruins of an ancient neighborhood. *(Active)*

**Free Time:** The rest of the day is at leisure.

### 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)* Continue to 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



Winery visit



Ruins of Ancient Olympia

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 stadium, temples, agora, theater and more. *(Active)*

### Day 6 | Sparta | Mystras

---

**Sparta, Mystras & the Greek Olive.** Along your route to Mystras, stop to see the ruins of ancient Sparta, one of Greece's most powerful city-states. Then, travel 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. On a guided tour, 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)*

### 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! After seeing the Temples of Zeus and Hera, visit the Archaeological Museum, which houses sculptures from the temples, bronze artifacts and other 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!

### Day 8 | Kalamata

---

**Enrichment:** *Contemporary Greece.*



Archaeological Museum, Olympia





## 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.
- **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 Connects:** Local immersion.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

**Free Time:** Create your own agenda today! Unwind on the hotel's beach or relish a drink and lovely views at the rooftop lounge.

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

After checking out this morning, depart Kalamata for Athens with a stop in Corinth during your journey.

**Corinth.** Follow your guide on a fascinating walk through the archaeological site of ancient Corinth, featuring the Temple of Apollo and ruins from the Roman era when Corinth was a major colony and thriving center of trade. Afterward, marvel at the Corinth Canal from a bridge over the water. This deep, man-made waterway separates the Peloponnese from the mainland and first opened in 1893.

Check in to the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.

**Free Time:** Enjoy your final afternoon and evening in Athens at leisure.

### 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.

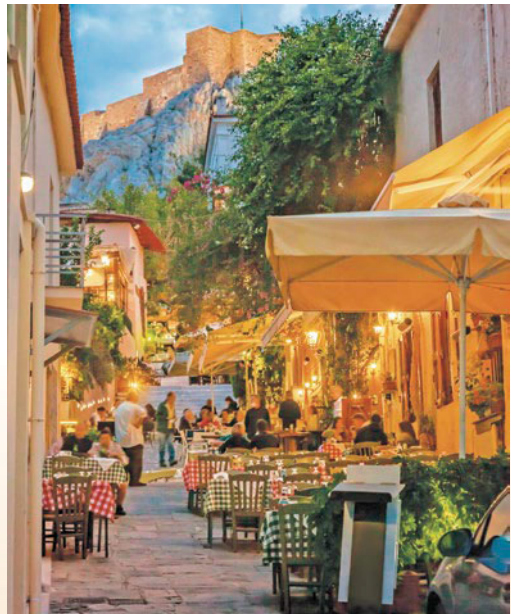
### Activity Level

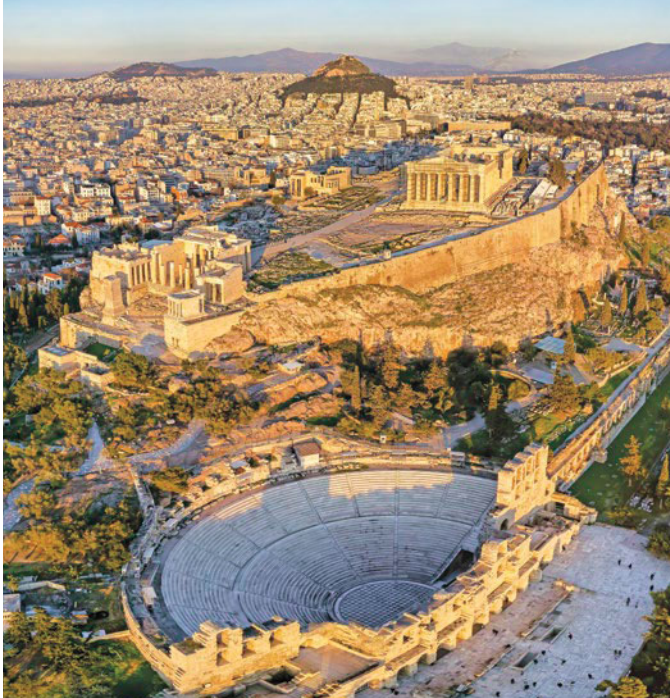
We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

#### Excursions on this itinerary require:

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

Athens





*Acropolis, Athens*



*Above: Caryatid porch of Erechtheion, Acropolis, Athens | Below: Corinth Canal*



# 2027 | Departure Details

## Program Dates

**Travel dates** † **May 21-30, 2027**

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

**Tour dates\*** **May 22-30, 2027**

\* 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** **\$5,045**

**Special Savings** **\$500**

**Special Savings Price\*** **\$4,545**

**\*This Special Savings Price includes our \$250 Early Booking and \$250 Pay-in-Full discounts and is valid if you book by the date on the address panel and pay in full at booking.**

Deposit amount is \$1,000 per person.

Final Payment is due at least 150 days prior to departure.

Price includes applicable program taxes (such as VAT and port charges).

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/2033A?schoolid=69>.

## 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 before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

## AHI Travel Expertise

**Travel Consultants** guide you through the reservation process.

**Travel & Air Coordinators** offer assistance with flights, electives and special requests.

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

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

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



# Accommodations



**NJV Athens Plaza Hotel** | Athens



**Pharae Palace Hotel** | Kalamata



Our travel experts have carefully selected these hotels for their prime locations near acclaimed landmarks. The deluxe NJV Athens Plaza Hotel on the city's famous Syntagma Square features spacious, elegant rooms and personalized service. 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.



*Taverna*



*Below: Krypte, Olympia*



*Olive oil & Kalamata olives*



**Book your journey today!**

**844-414-0369**

**<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**

# I ALUMNI

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

GREKALMA27 77



Experience the eternal allure of legendary Greece!

Please call or refer to  
our website for the  
most current program  
information, discounts  
and pricing.

Book your journey today!

**844-414-0369**

**<https://uiaa.org/explorers/>**

Presorted Std.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
AHI Travel