



Greece

Athens & Crete



SPONSORED BY



Michigan State University
Alumni Office
May 16-27, 2025
Other dates available upon request



Dear Spartan Alumni and Friends,

Join us for this enriching, 10-night adventure featuring seven nights on the spectacular island of Crete, famous for its proud spirit, renowned Minoan civilization and love of good food and music! Over five nights in Heraklion and two nights in Chania, embrace Mediterranean life at its best with the sparkling Aegean Sea as your backdrop.

Spend your days touring the impressive ancient ruins of Knossos and Phaistos, strolling through lively old towns and quiet villages, and exploring the islands of Santorini and Spinalonga. You'll chill out by the beach in laid-back Matala, cruise at sunset on Chania Bay and learn how to whip up some classic Cretan dishes! Plus, three nights in Athens allow you to visit the awe-inspiring Acropolis and see other highlights of the Greek capital. And let's not forget the incredible cuisine! Throughout your travels, you'll indulge in Greece's palate-pleasing bounty of wine, olives, seafood and olive oil.

This thoughtfully planned program features enlightening insights from expert local guides and speakers, plus worry-free travel, thanks to a dedicated, professional Travel Director. With all these fantastic elements, this trip is sure to be popular. Act now to reserve your place on this marvelous journey to Greece!

Go Green!

Regina Cross BS '91
Director, Spartan Pathways Travel Program
888-697-2863

The Michigan State University Alumni Office strongly recommends you purchase travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your email confirmation from the MSU Alumni Office.

UNESCO World Heritage

Athens, Acropolis



Erechtheum, Acropolis



Acropolis overlooking Athens



A World of Discovery



Discover Greece's cultural riches, from the sublime remnants of ancient civilizations to an abundance of tantalizing food and wine, on this 10-night journey to Athens and the island of Crete! Explore the Acropolis, the legendary citadel of Athens, and the great Minoan ruins of Knossos and Phaistos. Revel in the alluring island scenery, including gorgeous Santorini, along with mouthwatering cuisine fresh from the farm and sea. The enduring beauty of this storied land awaits you!

Top: Santorini | Above: Cretan cuisine

Cover: Palace of Knossos, Heraklion

Mail panel: Musicians | Parthenon, Acropolis, Athens

Inspiring Moments



- Uncover **authentic Greek life on Crete** within its charming villages, old Venetian harbors and timeless traditions.
- Feast on delicious **Greek olives, olive oil, wine and seafood.**
- Learn about the ancient Minoan civilization at the **archaeological sites of Knossos and Phaistos.**
- Stroll labyrinthine laneways in **Crete's centuries-old harbor towns** of Chania and Heraklion.
 - Cruise to the uninhabited island of **Spinalonga**, an ancient Venetian fortress.
 - Delight in a visit to the Cycladic island of **Santorini**, rising out of the Aegean Sea.
 - Savor **Crete's delectable cuisine** during an interactive cooking class.
- Experience the glorious Acropolis, a **UNESCO World Heritage site.**





Agios Titos, Heraklion

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart your gateway city for Athens, Greece. 🌐

Day 2 | Athens, Greece

Arrive and transfer ➡ to the NJV Athens Plaza. Gather for a Welcome Dinner this evening.

Day 3 | Athens

Athens City Tour. Begin with a scenic tour of Athens' top landmarks. Then, travel up to the resplendent Acropolis with monuments built in the fifth century B.C. by ancient Greece's finest architects, sculptors and artists. Take in the magnificent Parthenon, other grand temples and the city views before studying the Acropolis Museum's exceptional treasures. *(Active)*

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

Day 4 | Heraklion

Check out of the hotel this morning for your flight to Heraklion on beautiful Crete.

Palace of Knossos & Heraklion

Archaeological Museum. Tour the famed archaeological site of Knossos, a majestic palace-complex, and gain insights from your guide about the fascinating Bronze Age Minoan

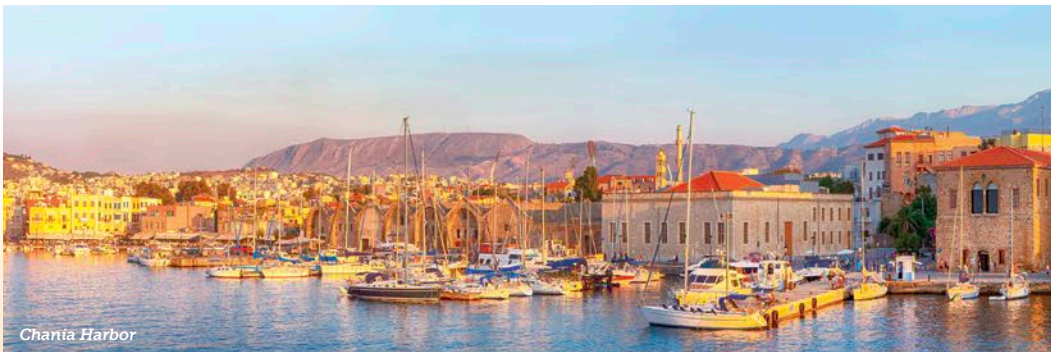
civilization. Explore buildings adorned with joyful frescoes of dolphins, blue monkeys and leaping bulls. Later, see the Heraklion Archaeological Museum's exquisite artifacts including the original frescoes from Knossos, the Snake Goddess figurines and the enigmatic Phaistos Disc, a Minoan clay disk never fully decoded. Check in to the Lato Boutique Hotel.

Heraklion Tour. On a guided stroll in the picturesque old town, witness the influence of the Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman eras. See splendid gems like Agios Titos, the city's oldest church, and the captivating harbor guarded by the 16th-century Venetian Fortress of Koules.

Meet at the hotel's rooftop bar for a cocktail and lovely harbor views before dinner tonight.

Day 5 | Anogia

🌐 **AHI Connects | Anogia Tour.** This pretty village on Psiloritis, Crete's highest mountain, offers a wonderful glimpse into rural traditions. Relish Anogia's warm ambience, then head higher up the mountain to see a recreation of a shepherd's house, followed by a lunch cooked over an open fire (weather permitting).



Chania Harbor



Above: Spinalonga Island

Left: Traditional, stone-built shepherd shelter (mitato) on Mount Psiloritis

Enrichment: Cretan Culture & Legends.

Free Time: Craft your own agenda in Heraklion.

Day 6 | Matala | Phaistos

Southern Crete: Matala & Phaistos. Venture off to the serene south coast and hang out in Matala, a little beach town with a bohemian vibe. Spend free time exploring or enjoying a swim. Rejoin your group for a guided tour of the archaeological site of Phaistos, the most influential Minoan city in the south, built on terraces over the stunning Messara plain.

Free Time: Return to the hotel for leisure time.

Day 7 | Santorini

Santorini. Travel today by high-speed ferry to this celebrated Cycladic island. Soak up the dazzling scenery of whitewashed buildings against the brilliant blue of the Aegean Sea in the cliffside village of Oia, perched on the volcanic caldera that forms the island. More breathtaking vistas await along the tiny paths of delightful Pyrgos. Sample local wines at a tasting and finish with free time in scenic Fira.

Free Time: Make plans in Heraklion tonight.

Day 8 | Spinalonga Island | Arolithos

Spinalonga Island. Board a boat from the village of Plaka to this rocky islet on Mirabello Bay. Uninhabited today, this former military outpost served as a leper colony from 1904 to 1957. Delve into the island's intriguing history and the heart-wrenching experiences of the people exiled here on a private tour through the atmospheric streets, houses and fortress ruins. Take a break for lunch in Plaka later.

Traditions & Cooking at Arolithos. Tour the Arolithos Traditional Village for a look at folk art and farm culture. Next, learn how to prepare authentic Cretan dishes for dinner at a fun cooking class. Regarded as one of the world's healthiest diets, Cretan cuisine incorporates fresh vegetables and fruits, wild greens and herbs, nuts, cheeses and plenty of olive oil.

Day 9 | Chania

Check out of the hotel and depart for Chania.

Chania Archaeological Museum &

Venizelos House. Examine ancient artifacts unearthed around the Chania region in the city's sleek museum. Afterward, explore the remarkable life and career of Eleftherios Venizelos, one of Greece's most important





Included Features



Accommodations (with baggage handling)

- **3 nights** in Athens, Greece, at the deluxe NJV Athens Plaza.
- **5 nights** in Heraklion at the first-class Lato Boutique Hotel.
- **2 nights** in Chania at the first-class Avra City Boutique Hotel.

Transfers (with baggage handling)

- All transfers in the Land Program: flights, ferries and deluxe motor coaches.

Extensive Meal Program

- 10 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Welcome Dinner; 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.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Farewell Reception to mingle with fellow travelers.
- **Free time** to pursue your individual interests.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.

modern leaders, at a museum in his former home. Born near Chania, he served as prime minister multiple times from 1910 to 1933.

Enrichment: Contemporary Crete.

Check in to the Avra City Boutique Hotel.

Chania Tour. Take a pleasant guided stroll along Chania's enchanting, pedestrian-only alleyways. See the colorful, 14th-century harbor with its old lighthouse and end at the restaurant where you'll dine tonight.

Day 10 | Vouves | Chania

Ancient Olives & Olive Oil. Marvel at one of the world's oldest olive trees, estimated to be 3,000 years old, in the village of Vouves. Then, learn about cultivating olive trees and olive oil production at the village's Olive Tree Museum. Sit down for a relaxing lunch in Vouves later.

Tonight, embark on a sunset cruise and enjoy a Farewell Reception with your fellow travelers.

Day 11 | Chania | Athens

After breakfast this morning, fly to Athens and check in to the NJV Athens Plaza.

Free Time: Set off to see more of Athens.

Day 12 | 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:

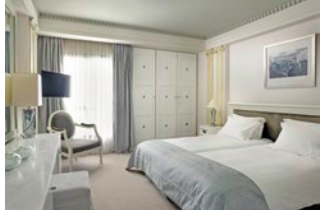
- walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces
- getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Ancient olive tree, Vouves



Accommodations

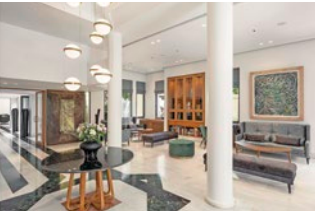
Our travel experts have carefully selected these deluxe and first-class hotels for their prime locations near acclaimed sites. While staying at each property, delight in comfortable, stylish guest rooms and friendly, personalized attention from the welcoming staff. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of their services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.



NJV Athens Plaza | Athens



Lato Boutique Hotel | Heraklion



Avra City Boutique Hotel | Chania



View from Acropolis over the Odeon of Herodes Atticus



Reserve your trip today!

To book your journey,
please call our AHI Travel Experts
at **833-303-1333** or
visit **michst.ahitravel.com**.

Program Dates

Travel dates †

May 16-27, 2025

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

Tour dates*

May 17-27, 2025

* 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 **\$5,545**

Special Savings **\$750**

Early Booking Special Price* **\$4,795**

*Early Booking Special Price valid if booked by date on address panel and paid in full at booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$250 per person.

VAT is an additional \$395 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 accommodations are an additional \$1,095 (limited availability).

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://michst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1878A?schoollid=100>. 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:

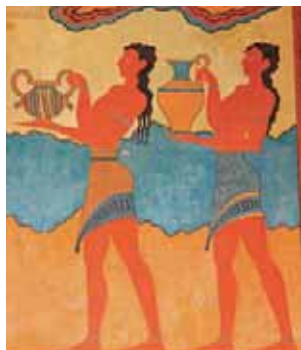
- **price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **flexibility** to change or cancel your reservation before departure on most flights (Fees may apply.)
- **assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays



Archaeological site of Phaistos



Harbor and 16th-century Venetian Fortress of Koules, Heraklion



Fresco, Palace of Knossos



Lighthouse, Chania

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.

Travel & Air Coordinators each offer their 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.



Beach and limestone caves, Matala



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Revel in ancient treasures and the charms of Crete!

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

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

With AHI you can rely on:

- 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.

