

Greece

ATHENS & KALAMATA

**NO SINGLE
SUPPLEMENT**
for Solo
Travelers



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Western
Alumni

April 16-25, 2027

Other dates available upon request



Western Alumni

Dear Western Alumni & 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. Act now to make your dream a reality! Space is sure to go fast... we urge you to reserve your place today!

Sincerely,

Jacquie Rose, BA
Manager, Alumni Partnerships
Western University
Discover the World
800-258-6896 or 519-661-2111 ext 85105
discovertheworld@uwo.ca

UNESCO World Heritage

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

Mycenae



Your privacy is important to Western. Your personal information is never released to our travel partners.

If you prefer not to receive future mailings, call 800-258-6896 or 519-661-2111 ext 85105, email discovertheworld@uwo.ca or send a note to Discover the World, Westminster Hall, Suite 110, Western University, London ON N6A 3K7

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IMPORTANT! Western University is not the Tour Operator and is not responsible for the operation of the tour; the Tour Operator is AHI Travel. Refer to the General Terms and Conditions established by the Tour Operator with respect to participating in this tour.



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!

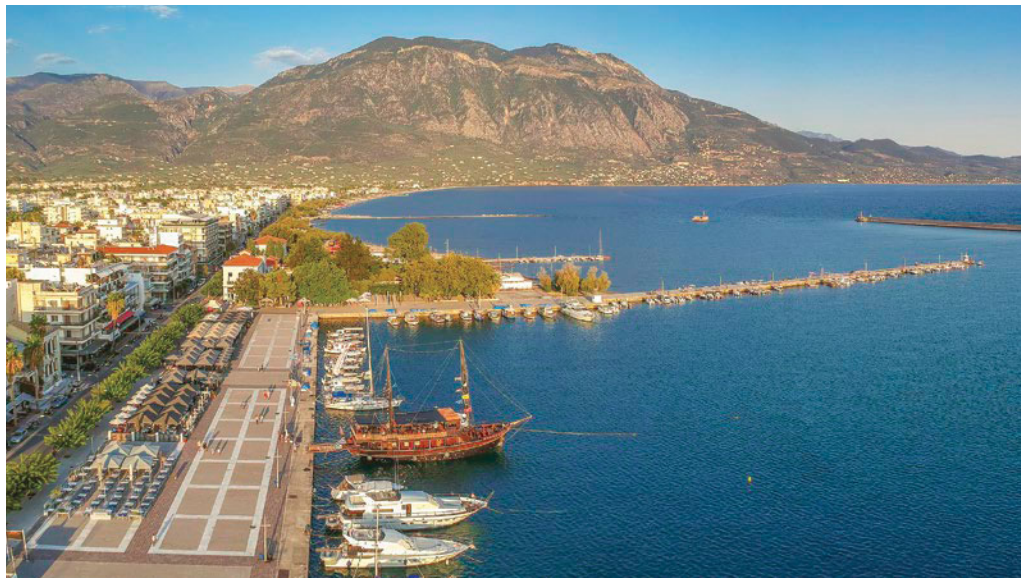
Top: Hillside ruins of Mystras | Above: Greek wine and cuisine, Kalamata coast

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.

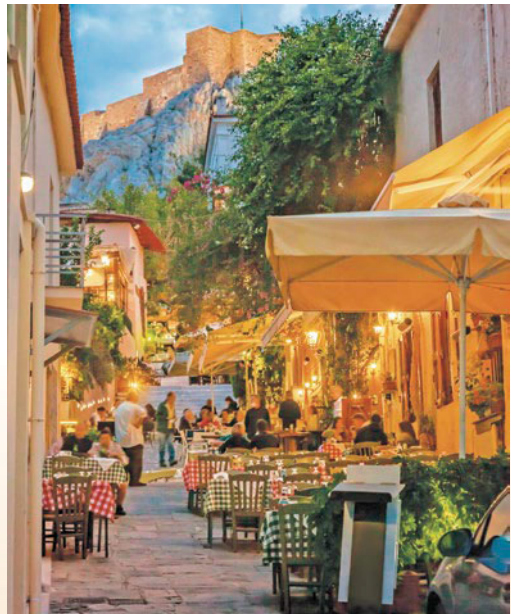
Activity Level

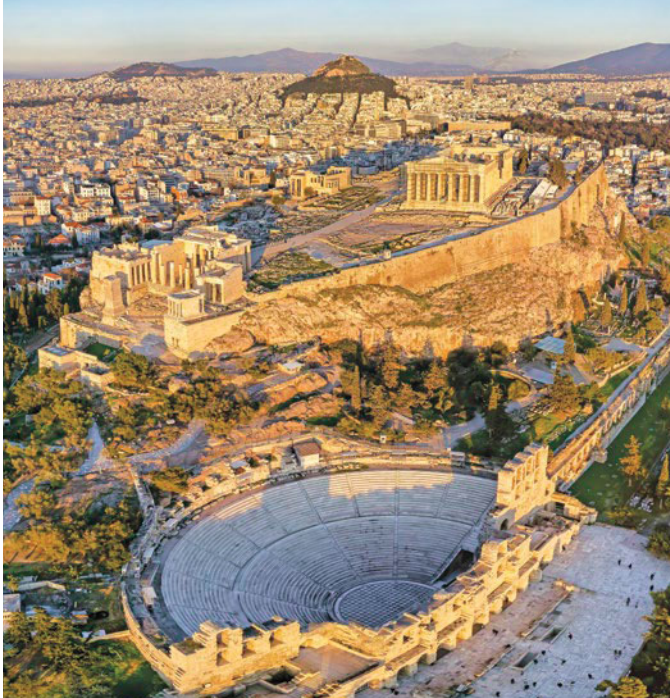
We have designated activity levels for all excursions on this program. For more details, please call or visit our website.

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



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!

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