THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



Duration
9 days

Activity Level
Moderate

Journey Type
Land
Solo-Friendly

Greece ~ Athens & Kalamata

June 4-13, 2027

Starting from $5,045/pp

Join our eight-night adventure in Athens and the Peloponnese, a land shaped by Greece's famous myths and city-states. Imagine ancient urban life as you amble through ruins of great cities. Visit the Bronze Age kingdom of Mycenae and less explored Messene . Soak up the ambience of Mystras, a stunning Byzantine city, and tour ancient Olympia , birthplace of the modern Olympics. Learn how olives and their rich, green oil seep into every aspect of Greek life. Experience the timeless traditions of winemaking (and tasting!) and folk dancing. In the evenings, stroll along sidewalks adorned with magenta bougainvillea blossoms, savor an alfresco meal and capture memories of a lifetime.





Day-by-Day Itinerary

Greece ~ Athens & Kalamata

Air Program: 10 days/ 9 nights (includes 1 air night)

Land Program: 9 days/ 8 nights

Breakfasts: 8 | Lunches: 4 | Receptions: 2 | Dinners: 3

B | L | R | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners.

A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Please note, excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; and getting on/off motor coaches and boats.

- Mild: Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour
- Moderate: Walk 1-3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50-100 stairs; stand 1-2 hours
- Active: Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain, including up and down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

Day 1 | Depart gateway city

AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Athens, Greece. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: ATH.

Day 2 | Athens, Greece

NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

B

Arrive at Athens Eleftharios Venizelos International Airport. Proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the Arrivals Hall, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Transfer to the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Free Time: The rest of the day is free to explore on your own. Located on Syntagma Square, the hotel is centrally located near many attractions. At the other end of the square is the Greek Parliament building, where you can watch the changing of the guard in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier every hour on the hour. Walk south from the Parliament, and see the National Garden, Hadrian's Arch and the Temple of Olympian Zeus to your left. Your Travel Director can offer more sightseeing suggestions.

This evening, start off your Greek adventure with your fellow travelers at a Welcome Dinner.

Day 3 | Athens

NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

B

Athens City Tour. Get acquainted with legendary Athens, the birthplace of democracy and Western philosophy, theater and architecture. On a scenic tour, see highlights including the neoclassical Academy of Athens, the University of Athens and the National Library. Then, journey to the Acropolis, the hilltop sanctuary of monuments overlooking the city. The world-famous Parthenon and other temples at this UNESCO World Heritage site were built in the fifth century B.C., but the Athenians fortified the hill some 2,800 years earlier. Take in the Parthenon's classical lines and the sweeping views over Athens. At the Acropolis Museum, view stunning artifacts from the Acropolis' slopes and look through the glass floor to see the ruins of an ancient neighborhood. (Active)

Free Time: Pursue your own interests for the rest of the day. Tonight, in the Plaka, you might take a volta, the Greek pastime of strolling leisurely and socializing with family and friends at the end of the day.

Day 4 | Mycenae | Kalamata

Pharae Palace Hotel

B | L | R | D

This morning, depart Athens and travel toward Kalamata on the Peloponnese's southern coast.

Mycenae & Greek Wine. On your route, take a guided tour of the hilltop ruins of Mycenae, one of the oldest archaeological sites on the Peloponnese and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Mycenaean civilization developed and flourished here during the Bronze Age from roughly 1600–1200 B.C., and their culture would later profoundly inspire the Greeks of the Classical period. One of its great cities, Mycenae features prominently in Greek mythology with Perseus as its founder and as the birthplace of Agamemnon, the king who conquered Troy. Imagine this fortified citadel in all its glory as you walk under the imposing Lion's Gate. Afterward, visit a winery for an excellent introduction to Greek winemaking that includes a tasting and lunch. (Active)

Continue to Kalamata and check in to the Pharae Palace Hotel.

Enrichment: Greek History. A local expert discusses the significant figures and critical periods in Greek history associated with the foundation for the modern-day republic.

As a special welcome to Kalamata, enjoy a cocktail and a delicious buffet dinner with your group this evening.

Day 5 | Kalamata | Messene

Pharae Palace Hotel

B | L

Enrichment: Classical Greece. Learn about the widespread influence of ancient Greece on the Western world and how Greek accomplishments in philosophy, literature and science led Europe out of the Dark Ages and into the Renaissance.

Kalamata's History & Cuisine. On a guided stroll, learn about the tumultuous past of Kalamata, the capital of the Messenia region. In ancient times, the Greek city-states of Athens and Sparta and a few more societies at one time or another ruled over the city, called "Farai" by Homer. By the Middle Ages, Kalamata had claimed its modern name and was part of the Byzantine Empire. In 1481, the Ottoman occupation began. Sovereignty bounced between the Ottomans and the Venetians until 1715, when Venice permanently lost control of the Peloponnese. The Ottomans held the city until March 23, 1821, when Kalamata became the first Greek city to be liberated during the Greek War of Independence. As you listen to stories of Kalamata's history and see points of interest in the charming old town, stop to taste traditional foods, like their world-famous, fruity, sharp olives and fresh seafood. (Moderate)

Try more specialties during lunch with your group in the old town.

Messene. This under-the-radar archaeological gem sits in a serene mountain valley at the foot of Mount Ithome. This afternoon, visit the extensive ruins of the city, founded about 369 B.C. on the site of an earlier settlement. Neighboring Sparta had dominated the region of Messenia and subjugated its people for more than three centuries until the defeat of the Spartans by the northern city-state of Thebes at the Battle of Leuctra. As a result of the Spartan defeat, Messenia regained its freedom, and Messene, a great fortified city, was built to protect it from future encroachment by its aggressive neighbors. Unlike other sites, this ancient city was largely untouched by later settlements, so its remains are remarkably intact. Marvel at the temples, agora, theater, stadium and more on a guided tour. (Active)

Day 6 | Sparta | Mystras

Pharae Palace Hotel

B | L

Sparta, Mystras & the Greek Olive. Travel to Sparta today for a guided walk amid the ruins of one of ancient Greece's most important city-states, which was home to Greece's fiercest warriors. Head next to the Byzantine city of Mystras, dramatically set on a mountainside over the Laconian plain. Looking over the city are the ruins of a castle built in 1249 by William II of Villehardouin, the Frankish prince who ruled over the southern Peloponnese. Upper and lower towns grew below this fortress, and the city reached its peak during its Byzantine years, when it was the center of the empire's power in the Peloponnese. In fact, the last Byzantine emperor was crowned in Mystras. Hear about its cultural significance from your guide and admire monasteries, chapels and churches adorned with frescoes at this UNESCO World Heritage site. Afterward, break for a relaxing lunch. Conclude your excursion at Sparta's informative Museum of the Olive and Greek Olive Oil, which details why the olive is so prized by the Greeks. Learn how the olive and its oil has seeped into nearly each aspect of Greek culture and daily life. (Active)

Day 7 | Ancient Olympia

Pharae Palace Hotel

B | D

Ancient Olympia. This sacred site dedicated to Zeus was the renowned birthplace of the ancient Olympic Games, which were first played in his honor in 776 B.C. As you explore with your guide, discover 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 see beautiful sculptures from the temples, bronze artifacts and other marvelous finds. (Moderate)

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

AHI Connects | Greek Night. Celebrate your amazing week in Greece at a festive party. Savor a wonderful dinner, listen to folk music and watch dancers perform traditional routines. If you'd like, join hands for a joyful Kalamatianos folk dance!

Day 8 | Kalamata

Pharae Palace Hotel

B | R

Enrichment: Contemporary Greece. A local expert discusses how modern attitudes and lifestyles in Greece reflect ancient customs and traditions.

Free Time: Create your own plans in Kalamata! Unwind on the hotel's beach, take in lovely views at the rooftop lounge or explore on your own.

This evening, embark on a sunset cruise on the Messinian Bay and enjoy farewell drinks on board.

Day 9 | Corinth | Athens

NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

B | L

This morning, check out of the hotel and depart for Athens. Stop in Corinth along your route.

Corinth. Walk through the archaeological site of ancient Corinth with your guide. See the Temple of Apollo built circa 550 B.C. and ruins from the Roman era, when Corinth was a major colony and thriving center of trade. Later, see the Corinth Canal. First opened in 1893, this deep channel separates the Peloponnese from the mainland and connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf. Stop for lunch in the area after your sightseeing. (Moderate)

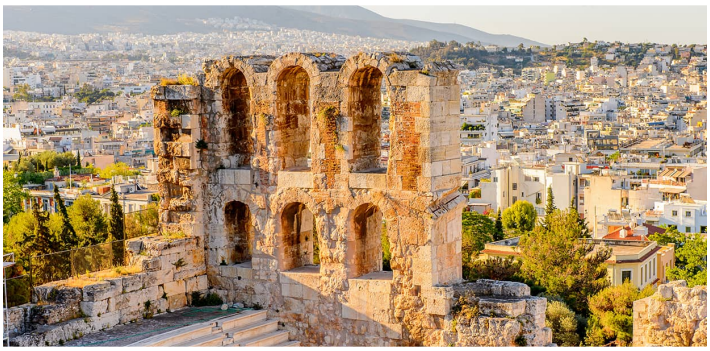
Continue to Athens and check in to the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.

Free Time: Spend your final afternoon and evening in the city doing some sightseeing or shopping. Odos Ermou (Ermou Street), the city's main shopping area, is just off Syntagma Square. Look for familiar shops as well as Greek department stores here. If you prefer more of a market atmosphere, check out nearby Monastiraki, where you can find olive wood spoons, olive oil products, spices, evil eye souvenirs and more.

Day 10 | Depart for gateway city

B

After breakfast, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for Athens Eleftherios Venizelos International Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.





What's Included

Program Overview

- Small group: Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 3 nights in Athens, Greece, at the deluxe NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.
- 5 nights in Kalamata at the first-class Pharae Palace Hotel.
- AHI Connects: Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise: We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions and Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

On-site Features

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program with baggage handling.
- 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.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.





FlexAir Travel Program

Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.

Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

Flexibility

- Flexibility to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights

Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

Travel and Hotel Accommodations

NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

Located directly on Constitution Square in the center of Athens, the deluxe NJV Athens Plaza is one of the most distinguished hotels in the city. Stop for a drink in the British-style Explorer's Bar and enjoy all-day dining in The Parliament restaurant featuring a menu of Mediterranean cuisine made with fresh local ingredients. For more casual fare, there's the Plaza Café. Travelers have privileged access to the nearby Holmes Place Athens Club and Spa. Wi-Fi is complimentary.



Tripadvisor

Pharae Palace Hotel

Stay in the heart of Kalamata at the inviting Pharae Palace Hotel, situated along the Messenian Bay and with views of the Taygetos Mountains. Its central location is not only ideal for walking to the city center and nearby restaurants and shops but for exploring the historic attractions of the region. The hotel also is just steps from the beach. In addition to warm Greek hospitality, relish delicious regional cuisine at the rooftop restaurant, and enjoy cocktails and a waterfront view at the Loft Lounge. Guest rooms feature a host of amenities, such as complimentary Wi-Fi, to make your stay unforgettable.



Tripadvisor

Pricing

$250 Full Payment Discount expires January 5, 2027

Trip Price (USD)

Base Price	**$5,045**
Full Payment Discount *	**-$250**
Special Price	**$4,795**
You Pay	**$4,795 per person**

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click here. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.


GREECE
Athens
Corinth
Mycenae
Olympia
Mystras
Messene
Kalamata
Sparta
Aegean Sea



