THE GREEK ISLAND ODYSSEY

ALUMNI TRIP

MAY 20 - 27, 2017

Land package:
From $1485
Dear Alumni and Friends:

Join The Ohio State University Alumni Association on this exciting 8-day journey to Greece. Walk in the footsteps of Plato and Socrates in ancient Athens, steeped in antiquity and mythology. Sail azure seas to the idyllic island of Poros and surrounding whitewashed gem of Hydra. Travel with like-minded Buckeyes and discover the excitement of sharing enriching experiences with new friends.

Explore the remains of the ancient city of Mycenae, a major center of Greek civilization, UNESCO’S world heritage site Epidaurus, the birthplace of Apollo’s son Asclepius and learn about Greek cuisine during a private cooking class.

The program offers a great balance of planned activities and time for independent exploration, allowing for time to relax and live like a Greek God or Goddess.

We hope you will be able to join us for this amazing experience! Book early to reserve your space on this very popular tour. Book your journey on-line at www.alumniworldtravel.com/osu-gis.html or call Amy Stoneking at (614) 292-2372/1-800-852-TOUR (8687), ext. 2 or email: stoneking.9@osu.edu.

We look forward to having you travel with us.

Sincerely,

Debbie Vargo
Director, Alumni Tours
The Ohio State University Alumni Association, Inc.

8-day base land package: $1485

Rates are based on two people sharing one room. Upon request, AESU will attempt to arrange a shared room with a same gender traveler. If no roommate can be assigned, a single supplement of $395 will automatically be added to traveler’s invoice.

*Special Alumni Land price per person. Airfare priced separately for greater flexibility. Please call AESU Alumni World Travel for great low airfares from most U.S. cities. Airport/Departure taxes are additional and subject to change.
WHAT DO I GET?

**COVERAGE**
When you book your alumni trip with us the necessities of travel are taken care of. These include:

- Superior Tourist Class Hotels
- All Land Transportation
- Daily Breakfast
- Special Cultural Dinners
- Knowledgeable Tour Director
- Local Guided Acropolis Tour

(See more in the inclusions on page 4)

**EDUCATIONAL & ADVENTUROUS**
Whether you can’t wait to immerse yourself in the beautiful historic sites of the Acropolis and the Parthenon or you live to lounge beach side and dare to parasail above the turquoise waters of the Greek Isles, this tour provides a beautiful balance of historical education and complete sensory and cultural immersion into the vivacious life of every spot visited along your route.

THE VERDICT?
Don’t miss out on the opportunity of a lifetime to explore the places you have been dreaming of. Make some new best friends from around the world and create memories that will keep this journey alive forever.

It’s not rocket science, group travel is a safer way to explore the world. This trip provides you with an exciting approach to learning and taking in all the history and culture around you. Open your mind, see the world and have the most fun you’ve ever had.

JUST GO!

WWW.ALMUNIWORLDTRAVEL.COM/OSU-GIS.HTML
GREEK ISLAND ODESSEY
8 DAYS

PLACES VISITED:
Athens - Corinth - Epidaurus - Isle of Poros - Hydra - Mycenae - Nafplio

ABOUT THE TRIP:
From the sun-bleached ruins of ancient Athens to the aquamarine coastlines of the many stunningly beautiful islands, a holiday in Greece is as inviting as ever! Steeped in history, art, and tradition, Greece offers diverse and enriching experiences. Take in the panoramic view from atop the Acropolis, dine on sumptuous Mediterranean cuisine in a friendly tavern and bask in the golden sunshine on a scenic island beach. The splendor that is Greece awaits.

HIGHLIGHTS:
Welcome Cocktail* Guided Tour of Acropolis* Ancient Mycenae and Nafplio* World-Class Greek Cuisine* Cooking Class* Corinthia & Epidaurus* Specialty Dinners and Lunches* Wine and olive oil tasting* Island Hopping* Scenic Beaches and Villages* Watersports and Bicycling* Greek themed dinner!

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS:
(Not included in package price)
Enjoy watersport activities just a few steps away from the hotel. From banana boats to wakeboarding, waterskiing, tubing and parasailing - there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Cost for watersport options will depend on the type of option you select. Book directly through your tour director on Poros.

Please check with your tour director for detailed schedules. Some options may require a minimum number of participants to operate. Rates for options are per person, approximate and subject to change.

WHAT’S INCLUDED:
- 6 nights at superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- Arion Hotel or similar in Athens and Hotel Poros Image or similar on Poros
- Daily continental breakfast
- 6 specialty dinners
- 3 lunches
- Welcome cocktail
- Bike rental on Poros
- Greek cooking class
- Excursions:
  - Corinthia & Epidaurus
  - Excursion to Hydra
  - Excursion to Mycenae & Nafplio
  - Wine and olive oil tasting
  - Guided tour of the Acropolis led by a local historian

Admission:
- Archeological site in Mycenae
- Acropolis
- Acropolis museum
PLUS:
- Private tour director for the entire duration of the land tour
- All scheduled sightseeing
- All ground transportation by air-conditioned motor coach, as per itinerary
- All service charges and local taxes
- Luggage tag and travel guides

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**GREEK ISLAND ODYSSEY**

**ITINERARY**

**DAY 1 – TRAVEL TO ATHENS**

Sparkling azure seas and endless golden skies appear on the horizon as our overnight flight transports us back to the origins of civilization, ancient Greece.  
Meals: In-flight

**DAY 2 – ATHENS**

Free time to wander amid fascinating temples and shrines to pagan gods, as well as Byzantine monasteries. See for yourself why Greece is often referred to as the world’s greatest outdoor museum. No other place can match the beauty and significance of its archaeological sites. Become acquainted with your fellow travelers at our welcome orientation and dinner of Greek specialties.  
Meals: In-flight meals, Dinner

**DAY 3 – ATHENS – CORINTHIA – EPIDAURUS – ISLE OF POROS**

Today we board our motor coach for a trip on the coastal National highway to the Isle of Poros. Stop at the Corinth Canal where the Ancient Greeks had slaves drag boats across the narrow spit of land that separated the Aegean Sea from the Adriatic Sea. Modern man has since then created a canal to allow ships to pass and the Corinth Canal is a wonder of modern engineering. Continuing along the coast, we come to Epidaurus, an UNESCO world heritage site, reputed to be the birthplace of Apollo’s son Asklepios. Epidaurus is most famous for its ancient amphitheater from the 4th century B.C., one of the best preserved classical Greek buildings and still used today due to its amazing acoustics. Enjoy lunch at a local taverna before we continue to Galatas and arrive on the Island of Poros after a short boat ride. Kick off your shoes and get ready for some fun in the sun.  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Welcome cocktail, Dinner

**DAY 4 – ISLE OF POROS * Cooking school**

On this free morning you might consider visiting the picturesque Monastery from 1726, a white jewel in the pine forests set in the rugged mountainside. Then venture to the highest point of the island and see the ruins of the Sanctuary of Poseidon from 500 B.C. There’s more than enough life to see a Greek god or goddess—swim and sunbathe at the pool or beach, or take part in optional activities such as water skiing, wakeboarding, parasailing, banana-boating or tubing. We will also have bicycles available for you to use during this free day of exploration. In the late afternoon, you’re invited to create and taste traditional dishes of Greek cuisine during our cooking lessons featuring fresh Mediterranean ingredients such as local olives, herbs, fruits and vegetables. We’ll dine on the delectable dishes we’ve created including tzatziki dip, souvlaki and more. After dinner, perhaps stroll along the harbor quay past colorful fishing boats and jet-setter sailing yachts from around the world or explore cafes, shops and waterfront tavernas which are alive with traditional Bouzouki music.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner  
Optional activity: Water sports

**DAY 5 – ISLE OF POROS * Excursion to the Isle of Hydra**

Enjoy a free morning at your leisure. After lunch this afternoon, join us on an excursion to the island of Hydra. This island is considered the Saronic diva and locals like to tell of movie stars who make regular visits as ritzy yachts tie up in the harbor. No cars allowed here either, donkeys are the main means of transportation. Walk the stone-paved narrow alleyways lined with red-tiled houses rising majestically from the steep harbor, bustling with life. Sip on a cocktail while taking in the panoramic views and breathtaking sunset from a cliff bar overlooking the glistening sea. After leisure time, we meet for dinner at a local taverna before returning to Poros under starlit skies.  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**DAY 6 – ISLE OF POROS * Excursion to Mycenae and Nafplio**

This morning, we travel to Mycenae, former kingdom of Agamemnon, leader of the Greek army during the Trojan War. We visit the remains of the ancient city; see the ‘Lion’s Gate’ part of the great Cyclopean Wall and the palace complex on the summit of the citadel, where Agamemnon was slaughtered by his wife, Clytemnestra, and Agamemnon’s Tomb. We continue our drive to Nafplio, once the capital of Greece. This beautiful town on the Argolic Gulf features a small port beneath the Palamidi fortress, Venetian homes and neoclassical mansions line narrow streets. After lunch, explore the town on your own, sip on a coffee at one of the quayside cafes, or shop at craft stores and boutiques. En route back to Poros, we’ll stop at a traditional olive press to learn about the process of making olive oil and sample some of the local liquid gold. We invite you to our Greek themed dinner on the last island night in Poros.  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**DAY 7 – ISLE OF POROS – ATHENS**

In the morning we board our boat to Athens. See the 2,400-year-old Parthenon, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and Constitution Square. In the afternoon, we visit the remarkable Acropolis museum followed by some free time for us to try our bargaining skills at the markets of Monastiraki. Enjoy a leisure evening in Athens then follow the sounds of traditional bouzouki music and join our farewell taverna dinner in the Plaka District – Athens’ oldest neighborhood at the foot of the Acropolis.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

**DAY 8 – TRAVEL HOME**

Our Grecian Odyssey ends with breakfast this morning. Even Ulysses had to go home eventually, so wrap up your memories of sun-filled Greek Isles.  
Meals: Breakfast, in-Flight Meals
BEFORE YOU GO

HOW DO I BOOK?
Booking your trip is easy! To make your reservation click the “CHECK AVAILABILITY” button on any trip page to book your trip online, or you can call us at 1-800-852-TOUR (8687) ext. 2 if you have any questions.

DO I NEED A PASSPORT? A VISA?
Travel to EUROPE if you are an American or Canadian citizen, you only need a Passport. The easiest way to get a passport is through your local post office, County Court House, or Passport Agency. When applying, be sure to take with you your genuine birth certificate, which includes the registrar’s signature and a raised seal, two recent photographs that are 2” x 2”, full face view, black/white or color, and ID like your Driver’s License. You may need a Visa for our tours if you are not an American or Canadian citizen. If you are a citizen of another country, you must contact the appropriate consulates for each nation on the itinerary, and you must obtain these visas on your own.

Travel BEYOND Europe: Check on Visa requirements (incl. American or Canadian citizens) with the respective consulate or embassy. Some countries may charge for a tourist visa on entry or a departure tax on leaving the country.

HOW MUCH MONEY WILL I NEED?
We recommend $50-$80 per day, depending on your spending habits. That money covers items of a personal nature, laundry, beverages with meals except for coffee/tea at breakfast, water at dinner, and occasionally a glass of wine), meals not included on tour, and expenses for free-time activities (metro tickets, taxis, entrance fees). This amount does not include money for souvenirs/gift shopping. We strongly recommend bringing a credit card (Visa, American Express, and Mastercard are the most widely accepted) as well as an ATM card. Check with your bank prior to departure to ensure your ATM card is usable overseas.

SHOULD I PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE?
We highly recommend travel insurance. (Some schools or alumni associations may offer travel insurance to you at a reduced rate.)

HOW MUCH LUGGAGE SHOULD I TAKE?
Due to limited space on the tour motor coach, you may only bring ONE suitcase and ONE carry-on. Limit your suitcase size to no larger than 29” x 20” x 10” and your carry-on to no larger than 18” x 16” x 11”. Check your airline’s website for any additional luggage restrictions. Keep in mind that throughout the duration of the tour you are responsible for your own luggage, so do not pack more than you can carry. Laundry facilities are available in major cities.

WHAT SHOULD I PACK?
The easiest way to make your tour stressful is to over pack! See more details in Planning & Packing section on your trip’s Toolbox pages. Download our suggested packing list.

WHAT ABOUT PACKING DOCUMENTS?
Never pack your passport! Always keep it with you. The same goes for cash and credit cards.
Pack 2 extra passport photos if possible (in the event that you lose your passport), photo copies of your passport’s personal data pages, your flight itinerary and e-ticket information, a listing of your credit card, and copies of any personal IDs. This info will be extremely valuable should you lose any actual documents. Always keep actual documents on your person, and never in your checked suitcase.

WHAT ARE HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?
European trips: We stay in superior tourist class hotels, 3-star or 4-star, all with private baths/shower. Our hotels have been especially selected for their European atmosphere, friendly hospitality, cleanliness and location. TOUR ROOMING POLICY: AESU & AESU Alumni World Travel Graduation tours: All rates based on per/person 2-share basis. Two persons booking together as roommates receive a 2-share room. Solo travelers will be accommodated in a 2-share room, depending on availability. This share basis means, if you travel on your own, you do NOT have to pay a single supplement.* AESU special tours & AESU Alumni World Travel Young Alumni tours: If you are traveling alone and do not want a single room, we will attempt to arrange for a 2-share room. If this is not possible, we will make arrangements for a single room and charge the applicable single supplement. The overnight ship from Italy to Greece offers 4-share cabins. Some tour companies offer budget programs that stay in remote cabin campsites utilizing sleeping bags or occasional hotels with 4 or more sharing a room with no bath. We do NOT believe that this is the best way to spend a night in Europe.

I DON’T HAVE A ROOMMATE, WHAT DO I DO?
European trips: Going solo is not a problem with AESU. Many of our participants don’t have a travel companion when booking a trip. If you’re traveling alone, we will arrange for you to share a room (same gender) at NO EXTRA COST. Our hotels are superior tourist class, ALL with private baths/shower. Usually accommodations are two sharing a room, however, if you prefer to stay in a single room, our reservations agent can make arrangements for a single at the applicable single supplement rate. (See above regarding exceptions.)

I KNOW SOME MEALS ARE INCLUDED, BUT WHAT ABOUT SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS?
Tours include breakfast daily, lunches & dinner as per itinerary. If you are a vegetarian, or have special dietary needs, please inform your tour director as soon as you arrive. All included meals are pre-paid, so a substitute meal is always up to the goodwill of the establishment. We cannot guarantee that all special requests will be granted, but, in the past, most restaurants have been cooperative. Please keep in mind that substitute meals may not be as varied as they are at home.

DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?
Check with your doctor or the CDC (www.cdc.gov/travel) to find out if vaccinations are required. If you suffer from any form of illness, be sure to have an adequate supply of medicines before departing on your trip. You must advise us of any important medical condition you may have, before departure.

DOES AESU SUPPORT ECO TRAVEL?
Every traveler shares a common responsibility to preserve our planet’s environment and respect its people. AESU enthusiastically endorses ASTA’s 10 Commandments, which effectively reaffirm that responsibility. Let’s live by these Commandments, to ensure our world’s beauty is preserved for our generation and for generations to come. Thank you for the opportunity to travel together and to discover our remarkable world in a responsible manner. Over a decade ago AESU founded “TRAVEL FOR GOOD” — many years before large travel companies became active in environmental travel.

FOR MORE FAQ’s VISIT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.ALUINIWORLDTRAVEL.COM/OSU-GIS.HTML
BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested $4-5 per day for tour director, $2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY EUROPE All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. All cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a $300 per person cancellation fee. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. In addition to $300, cancellation between 60-31 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 30-16 days 40%. Cancellation within 16 days of departure or a “no-show” at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Medical health and accident insurance is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION. AIRPORT TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 2:00 p.m. on program start date. FLIGHT DELAYS – ALL AIRPORTS: In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline’s website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract. RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond AESU’s control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. Trip cancellation insurance should be purchased by the individual traveler in the event cancellation of the tour is compelled by circumstances beyond our control. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, AESU’s liability shall be limited to a FULL REFUND of all payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. Baggage and personal injury are at owner’s risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. AESU reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.