

GREECE Experience



January 2019

**A Travel Abroad Program for Gatton Academy
Students during Winter-Term 2019**

Expense

The program cost for Greece 2019 is estimated at **\$4,200** which includes roundtrip airfare from Louisville, hotel accommodations in 3-star hotels or better in all destinations, breakfast and dinner daily while in Greece, admission to historic sites and museums listed in the itinerary, all ground and sea transportation while in Greece, tips for the provided meals/tour guides/drivers, and international travel insurance.

Any student who has never used their one-time \$1,000 Gattton Academy Study Abroad Scholarship will only pay an estimated \$3,200 for the program cost.

Itinerary

Day 1 – Departure to Greece

Depart U.S. for Greece (arrival next day)

Day 2 – Arrival in Athens

Arrive in Athens in the afternoon and transfer to hotel by private motor coach. Take a city drive to see the main points of interest in Athens including the famous Presidential Guard and the stadium where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896.

Day 3 - Athens

In the morning, climb the **Acropolis** to see the majestic **Parthenon** and the **Temple of Nike Athena** and visit the new **Acropolis Museum**. In the afternoon, visit the **National Archaeological Museum**. This museum houses the world's most extensive collection of Greek art and artifacts, representing all the cultures that have flourished in Greece.

Free Time for Exploration in Athens

In the evening, consider visiting the Plaka district. The Plaka district is the oldest section of Athens, famous for its restaurants and shops located on narrow, winding streets. It is a great time to shop for local crafts and souvenirs.

Day 4 – Meteora and Kalampaka

Depart Athens for Kalampaka. Outside Athens, visit the **Monastery of Dafni**, famous for its gold-leaf Byzantine mosaics and elegant cloister. Continue on toward Kalampaka stopping to see the bronze statue of King Leonidas, commander of the Greek forces at the Battle of Thermopylae in 480 B.C. Arrive in Kalampaka in the Meteora, a region of immense monolithic sandstone pillars and huge rounded boulders. Spend the night in Kalampaka

Day 5 – Meteora and Kalampaka

Spend the day visiting Meteora. This region is famous for the complex of Eastern Orthodox monasteries precipitously built on the rocky pillars. Visit one of these monasteries to see the beautiful Byzantine religious frescos. Spend the night in Kalampaka.

Day 6 - Delphi and Olympia

Depart Kalampaka for Delphi. After lunch, have a guided visit of **Ancient Delphi**. Located on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, Delphi was the home of the mystical Oracle whom ancient Greeks consulted to get advice from the gods. Delphi was not only the center for the worship of Apollo, it was considered to be the center of the world. Visit the **Delphi Museum** which houses artifacts dating back to 550 B.C. Travel on to Olympia to spend the night.

Day 7 – Olympia and Nafplio

Start the day with a visit to **Archimedes' Museum**.

Archimedes (287-212 B.C.) is considered to be the greatest mathematician and scientist of antiquity. His writings and inventions influenced inventors and scientists such as Da Vinci, Galileo, and Newton. Take a guided visit of **Ancient Olympia**, site of the first Olympic Games established to honor the god Zeus almost 2,800 years ago. After the visit, tour the **Archaeological Museum of Olympia**. After lunch, travel to Nafplio, a seaport town on the Argolic Gulf. Have leisure time and spend the night in Nafplio.

Day 8 - Nafplio

In the morning, visit **Palamidi**, a massive Venetian fortress overlooking the city of Nafplio. Enjoy the unparalleled view of the countryside from the fortifications. Continue on to tour ancient **Epidauros**, famous for its open-air theater dating from 4th century B.C. The best-preserved theater in Greece, its acoustics are world renowned. In the afternoon, visit **Ancient Tiryns**. This 13th century BC citadel is noted for its Cyclopean walls constructed of blocks of stone so enormous that people believed that they were built by giants. Spend the night in Nafplio.

Day 9 – Nafplio and Athens

In the morning, visit the **Nafplio Archaeological Museum**. Then leave Nafplio to tour **Mycenae**, in ancient times one of Greece's greatest cities. It was from Mycenae that Agamemnon launched the campaign against Troy. After lunch, travel to ancient **Corinth**. A visit to the remains of this ancient city will allow you to walk in the footsteps of St. Paul. In the late afternoon, travel on to Athens.

Day 10 – Cruise to Saronic Islands of Hydra, Poros, and Aegina

Leave Athens for a full-day cruise to visit three of the most beautiful islands in the region: **Hydra, Poros, and Aegina**. Return to Athens.

Day 11 – Cape Sounion and Athens

In the morning, leave Athens for a half-day trip to **Cape Sounion** on the southern tip of the Attic Peninsula to see one of the most-imposing sites of the ancient world, the **Temple of Poseidon**. Return to Athens and spend the final evening with free time to soak in Greece. For a chance to absorb the whole city, take a funicular up the Lycabettus hill for spectacular views.

Day 12 - Return to the USA

Depart Greece for the USA