



Lifelong  
Learning

# TREASURES OF GREECE:

## A Cultural and Culinary Journey

**April 28 - May 8, 2025**



Santorini



## Lifelong Learning

Dear Washington & Lee Travelers,

We invite you to join W&L alumni and friends on a custom-designed exploration of Greece in the spring – one of the most glorious times of year when the islands are carpeted with a profusion of wildflowers and aromatic herbs and the tourist season has not yet emerged full force. We will be visiting three of the most appealing islands in the Aegean Sea— Naxos, Santorini, and Crete—on a journey exploring amazing archaeological sites and monuments that speak to Greece's enduring influence on Western culture, while at the same time immersing ourselves in discovery of another Greek gift to the world—the cuisine that forms the basis of the celebrated Mediterranean Diet.

We begin in Athens, where we combine tours of the iconic Parthenon and ancient Agora with visits to the city's main food markets and meals in award-winning restaurants serving traditional Greek fare. On Naxos, we explore the main town's Venetian heritage, visit the island's impressive Byzantine churches and quaint villages, and tour ancient sites. And we also enjoy the fruits of Naxos's flourishing agriculture in meals at restaurants dedicated to locally sourced organic produce. On Santorini we focus our attention on the remarkable Bronze Age site of Akrotiri, preserved in volcanic ash and pumice some 3,700 years ago, and spend time in the village of Fira with its whitewashed cubic houses.

The island of Crete, which gave birth to Europe's first civilization—the Minoan—is also one of the world's great garden spots, home to an abundance of fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Here we explore the Minoan Palace at Knossos, the excellent Heraklion Museum, and the delightful town of Rethymno, while visiting local markets and learning about the production of olive oil, for which Crete is famous.

We hope that you can join this very special tour of Greece, custom-designed for Washington & Lee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary'.

Gary Kirk,  
Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth'.

Ruth Candler,  
Associate Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa'.

Lisa D'Amelio,  
Program Coordinator



The well-preserved 5th-century BC Temple of Hephaestus, ancient Agora, Athens

# ITINERARY



Monday, April 28, 2025

## DEPART THE UNITED STATES

Depart the United States for Athens, Greece.

Tuesday, April 29

## ATHENS, Greece

Arrive in Athens and transfer to the *Athens Capital Hotel* located steps from Syntagma Square in the city center. Europe's oldest city, Athens's ancient monuments are testimonials to a glorious past that gave birth to democracy and to much of the artistic and



Samples of the ages-old Cretan cuisine.

philosophical culture that we recognize as the Western tradition. Today, Athens is an exciting and dynamic city with a vibrant contemporary culture. Enjoy a welcome dinner this evening served at a local restaurant. (D)

Wednesday, April 30

## ATHENS

This morning, a leisurely walking tour explores the bustling main market of Athens, surrounded by a neighborhood of specialty shops selling herbs and other Greek produce and small food stands serving some of the most compelling food in the city. Lunch is at a neighborhood restaurant that serves authentic Athenian fare in traditional Greek style. In the afternoon, explore the Agora, the civic and commercial center of ancient Athens where Socrates could be seen daily questioning the assumptions of his fellow citizens. Visit the well-preserved 5th-century BC Temple of Hephaestus and the carefully restored Stoa of Attalos, which houses the Agora Museum. (B, L)

Thursday, May 1

## ATHENS

This morning is devoted to exploration of the Acropolis and its fabled monuments. Occupied since prehistoric times, the rocky plateau of the Acropolis rises dramatically out of the plain and dominates the modern city as it did in ancient times. The incomparable Parthenon and its neighboring temples represent the highest achievement of the art and architecture of the Classical period, and the nearby Acropolis Museum displays a remarkable collection of artifacts and sculptures from the site. The balance of the day is at leisure. (B, L)

Friday, May 2

## ATHENS/NAXOS

Depart Athens this morning and sail to Naxos, the birthplace of Dionysus and one of the loveliest of the Cycladic islands. Naxos is notable for its distinctive old villages and churches and for the lush interior that supports a flourishing agriculture and the production of artisanal foods, especially cheeses. Tour Chora, the island's main town, including the atmospheric old residential area below the citadel, the Della Rocca-Barozzi Venetian Museum, the archaeological area of Metropolis, and the interesting Archaeological Museum. After lunch at the Axiotissa restaurant, known for its use of locally sourced organic ingredients, check-in at the *Nissaki Beach Hotel*. The afternoon is at leisure. (B, L)

Saturday, May 3

## NAXOS

Spend the day exploring the interior of Naxos, its ancient sites, monasteries, and quaint villages. Begin with a visit to the 6th-century BC Temple of Demeter, and then continue to the village of Chalki and the church of Protothronos, one of the island's most important religious centers, dating to the 6th-century AD. At Apiranthos, perhaps Naxos's most picturesque village, we enjoy lunch at the Amorgino restaurant, specializing in the traditional cuisine of the island, before we visit one of the oldest and most



Palace of Knossos, Crete

revered religious centers in Greece—the church of Drosiani, with its series of cave-like chapels and fresco paintings. On our way back to the hotel, we pause at the site of an ancient marble quarry, where we see two unfinished monumental statues from about 570 BC. Dinner this evening is at the award-winning Doukato restaurant in the heart of old Chora. (B, L, D)

Sunday, May 4

**NAXOS/SANTORINI**

Naxos is famed for its cheeses, and this morning we will visit an artisanal dairy farm that produces some of these cheeses. We will have the opportunity to learn about the traditional and sustainable method of their production and taste them as well. Later, we board the fast *Seajet* boat to Santorini, where we will spend the night at the *Orama Hotel & Spa* (or similar). Dinner will be at a restaurant notable for its home-cooked Greek dishes. (B, L, D)

**Note: The visit to the dairy farm will operate only if the present**



Prehistoric Akrotiri, Santorini

**boat schedule from Naxos to Santorini will also be in effect in 2025.**

Monday, May 5

**SANTORINI/HERAKLION, Crete**

Known in classical antiquity as Thera, during the Bronze Age Santorini was a flourishing trading center inhabited by a prosperous society. In the late 17th century BC, a massive volcanic eruption collapsed half of the island and buried its main town in a thick layer of ash and pumice, thus preserving its houses, streets and squares as they existed 3,700 years ago. In the morning, tour the excavated ancient town, now called Akrotiri, and then enjoy time to explore the village of Fira on your own, or join our guided tour of the Museum of Prehistory, which houses an amazing collection of artifacts excavated at Akrotiri. After lunch at a local restaurant, board the *Seajet* for Heraklion, Crete. Upon arrival, check-in to the *Hotel Megaron*, our home for the next three nights. (B, L, D)



Taverna Axiotissa, Naxos



The picturesque town of Naxos.

Tuesday, May 6

**HERAKLION/ELEFThERNA/REThYMN0/HERAKLION**

Drive in the morning through impressive country to Eleftherna, situated at the foothills of Mount Ida, the island's highest and most imposing mountain range. An important ancient city, Eleftherna was occupied from prehistoric times to the medieval period. After exploring the site and visiting the interesting museum, continue to Rethymno, one of Crete's most characteristic and charming towns that is known for its well-preserved old architecture, where lunch will be served at a local restaurant, followed by time at leisure. Among other attractions, Crete is known for its extensive olive groves that produce high quality olive oil. Before we return to the hotel, we will enjoy an olive oil tasting session. (B, L)

Wednesday, May 7

**KNOSSOS & THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM**

This morning, tour the Palace of Knossos, the largest and

most magnificent Minoan palace in Crete. Clustered around a spacious courtyard, the palace contains a maze of rooms, passages and stairways that may have inspired the concept of the labyrinth. More than any other palace, Knossos reveals the brilliance and refinement of Minoan civilization. After our tour of Knossos, visit the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion, whose eye-opening exhibits reinforce the impression gained at Knossos of the remarkable achievements of Minoan culture. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure in Heraklion, during which you may wish to visit the market to browse among the stalls that sell a variety of Cretan products, including its famed herbs. Enjoy a farewell dinner at Peskesi restaurant, one of Crete's finest, which specializes in the centuries-old cuisine of the island. (B, D)

Thursday, May 8

**HERAKLION/USA**

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for flights homeward. (B)



In the old town of Rethymno, Crete



Olive oil, a staple of the Greek and Mediterranean diets.

## RATE PER PERSON

\$6,980 per person, double occupancy  
Single room supplement: \$1,590

## PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations at fine hotels: Three nights at the *Athens Capital Hotel*, Athens (or similar); two nights at the *Nissaki Beach Hotel*, Naxos (or similar); one night at the *Orama Hotel & Spa*, Santorini (or similar); three nights at the *Hotel Megaron*, Heraklion, Crete (or similar).
- Complete buffet breakfast each morning at the hotels, with several Greek dishes included.
- Seven lunches and five dinners, including wine or beer and soft drinks, at local restaurants and special venues, specially arranged for this program.
- Fares for the passage from Piraeus (Athens) to Naxos and on to Santorini and Crete on the fast *Seajet* boat.
- All tours and excursions as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Expert English-speaking Guide/Tour Manager to accompany the tour throughout.
- Lectures and discussions by accompanying Washington & Lee faculty member.
- Transportation within Greece by air conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach.
- Group transfers and handling of luggage overseas at designated times from the airport to the hotel and hotel to the airport.
- Entrance fees to museums and historic sites.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Tips to drivers, guides, porters and restaurant personnel.
- Complete pre-departure material.

**NOT INCLUDED:** International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.



Octopus vase, Archaeological  
Museum of Heraklion, Crete

## REGISTRATION

W&L 25L-0428

I (we) wish to reserve \_\_\_\_\_ place(s) on **TREASURES OF GREECE**, April 28 - May 8, 2025, with Washington & Lee University. I/We understand that a deposit of \$1,000.00 per person is required.

**For the ease of registering online, please visit: <https://go.wlu.edu/treasuresofgreece>**

I/We wish to pay the deposit by credit card and authorize Thalassa Journeys to contact us for credit card details. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

Alternatively, you can make your deposit by check.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$1,000 per person) made payable to **Thalassa Journeys**.

Please email your reservation to [lifelong@wlu.edu](mailto:lifelong@wlu.edu) and mail check to:

**Thalassa Journeys:** 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

### Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation  Double Bed  Single Bed

Single accommodation *Bed configuration cannot be guaranteed.*

DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST (As it appears on your passport)

DR./MR./MRS./MS. FIRST LAST (As it appears on your passport)

ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

GUEST ONE MOBILE GUEST ONE E-MAIL

GUEST TWO MOBILE GUEST TWO E-MAIL

GUEST ONE W&L AFFILIATION (CLASS YEAR, PARENT YEAR, FRIEND)

GUEST TWO W&L AFFILIATION (CLASS YEAR, PARENT YEAR, FRIEND)

GUEST ONE NAME FOR NAME BADGE SIGNATURE DATE

GUEST TWO NAME FOR NAME BADGE SIGNATURE DATE

**Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

**INSURANCE:** We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

**ITINERARY:** The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

**RATES:** Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE W&L OFFICE OF LIFELONG LEARNING AT 540.458.8723**

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The Acropolis looms over Plaka, Athens' oldest residential quarter.

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