

The Alumni Association Travel Program LLC

*Presents*

# *Classical Greece*

**June 5 – 16, 2024**

**\$7,150 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Chicago**



*This is an exclusive travel program presented by the Alumni Association Travel Program LLC*

# Day by Day Itinerary

## Wednesday, June 5 – CHICAGO / EN ROUTE (I)

We depart Chicago's O'Hare International Airport this afternoon by scheduled service of American Airlines on the non-stop overnight transatlantic flight to Athens, Greece.

## Thursday, June 6 – ATHENS / DELPHI (I,HD)

As the sun begins to rise on the Greek coast we arrive in Athens and meet our Tour Guide who will accompany us on tour. Leaving the airport, we'll travel through the fertile Beotia Plain to Delphi, a spiritual focal point for all Greeks and home to the most prestigious oracle in all ancient Greece.

## Friday, June 7 – DELPHI (Ancient Delphi) (B)

Today we explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, one of the most important sacred sites in the Greek world. Our day begins with a walk along the Sacred Way that was followed by ancient pilgrims, in its heyday every available space was filled with treasury buildings, statues and votive offerings, most notably the Treasury of the Athenians. The focus of Delphi, both in ancient times and today, is the Temple of Apollo, dating from the 4th century BC. The temple was destroyed by an earthquake in 373 BC and was replaced by the building whose remains can be seen today. It was here that the famous oracles of Delphi were given in a small chamber in the Temple of Apollo. In addition, we'll see the Sanctuary of Apollo, also known as the Sacred Precinct, which is the heart of the complex. Our tour will come to an end with a visit to the Delphi Museum. Full of archaeological treasures, the museum displays one of the greatest classical sculptures: The Charioteer, a life size bronze figure of compelling presence and beauty.

## Saturday, June 8 – DELPHI / KALAMBAKA (B,HD)

This morning we depart Delphi and travel north to Kalambaka to visit the Byzantine splendor of the monasteries of Meteora. The word Meteora means literally 'suspended in air.' What created this rare geological phenomenon is one of the mysteries of nature. But as amazing a marvel of nature as these giant rocks are, the buildings on the top of these are a marvel of man, seem just as miraculous and make Meteora one of the most spectacular places to visit in Greece. We'll visit St. Stephen's Monastery, the most accessible of the Meteora Monasteries, where instead of steps you simply cross a small bridge to reach the entrance. St. Stephen's Monastery includes two cathedrals; the old 16th century chapel which was severely damaged during WWII and the Greek Civil War, and the 18th century main cathedral that is dedicated to Saint Charalambos.

## Sunday, June 9 – KALAMBAKA

### (Meteora Monasteries)

(B,L)

This morning we'll visit Megalo Meteoro, the first church of the Transfiguration is the best known of the Monasteries and is built upon the highest rock. Because the Serbian Emperor Symeon Uros gave the monastery all his wealth and became a monk it became the richest and most powerful of all the monasteries. The main cathedral in the central courtyard is embellished with beautiful 16th century frescoes, featuring



some of the best samples of Greek Byzantine art. We'll also see the old refectory of the monks, where part of an original 16th century table is preserved, and the monastery's old kitchen with the original bread oven and soup hearth. This afternoon we'll visit the Holy Monastery of Roussanou, the most spectacularly located of all monasteries, first established in the 14th century. It received the name "Roussanou" probably from the first hermit-monk who settled on the rock around that period. The monastery is one single building occupying the entire available surface of the cliff. It creates the impression that the building was carved out from the cliff as the extension of the rock itself!

## Monday, June 10 – KALAMBAKA / MYKONOS (B,HD)

Today we depart Kalambaka and return to Athens where we'll take to the skies for the Cyclades Island of Mykonos. Although one of the smallest islands of the Cyclades, Mykonos is definitely the most famous, thanks to its treasure of natural beauty, rich history and cosmopolitan character.

## Tuesday, June 11 – MYKONOS (Mykonos Town) (B)

Once a quiet island known for its architecture and beautiful beaches, today Mykonos has become the home-away-from-home for many artists and fashion designers. White and glistening, scattered with windmills and 365 churches, Mykonos is made up of flower-decked alleyways, chic boutiques and picturesque fishing harbors. A morning walking tour of Mykonos Town will showcase its lifestyle, both past and present. We'll see lovely churches, tiny shops, the traditional windmills and Peter the Pelican, the mascot of Mykonos, as well as visit the Little Venice district. Afterward, free time will be set aside to explore the town's narrow whitewashed streets, whose labyrinthine layout was designed to confuse attacking pirates.

**Wednesday, June 12 – MYKONOS/SANTORINI (B,HD)**

Today we hop aboard Seajets high-speed ferry bound for Santorini, regarded as the most spectacular of all the Greek islands. With postcard images of whitewashed churches and bougainvillea-clad houses set against the blue sea and sky, this is a true island paradise. Santorini's spectacular caldera is a vestige of what was probably the biggest volcanic eruption in recorded history and is the reason for the island's crescent shape. The island's violent volcanic past is visible everywhere in black-sand beaches, earthquake damaged dwellings and raw cliffs of lava plunging into the sea.

**Thursday, June 13 – SANTORINI****(Oia, Megalochori & Fira)****(B)**

A tour of the island will begin with a visit to the village of Oia on the rim of the Caldera, famous for its spectacular views and blue shuttered, white-washed houses with red pebble walls that cling to the cliff-face with the famous skafra cave houses and blue-domed churches. Afterward, we'll travel to the peaceful little village of Megalochori for a guided tour of a local winery followed by an opportunity to sample a selection of their award-winning wines. This afternoon we'll visit the town of Fira where you can stroll along the winding lanes, relax over an espresso while gazing at the truly amazing views.

**Friday, June 14 – SANTORINI / ATHENS****(B,HD)**

This morning we depart Santorini and take to the skies on the short flight to Athens. As we'll soon learn, Athens is the oldest surviving capital of the modern world and is built around the Acropolis and the pinnacled crag of Mt. Lycabettus, which the goddess Athena was said to have dropped from the heavens as a bulwark to defend the city. On arrival, we'll enjoy a sightseeing tour of Athens that will show us the city's major attractions. Featured is our visit to the Acropolis, the sacred hill of Athens and home to the ruins of the Parthenon, considered the world's most perfectly proportioned building. We'll also

see the Propylaea, the Temple of the Wingless Victory, the Erectheum, as well as the Agora.

**Saturday, June 15 – ATHENS****(B,RD)**

A day at leisure will allow us to explore Athens' rich cultural heritage that can be appreciated by visiting its magnificent museums. You may also want to visit Athens' commercial triangle comprised of three main squares, Omonia, Syntagma and Monastiraki. The central shopping area lies between Omonia and Syntagma Squares and extends along Ermou Street on the way to historic Monastiraki, home to the famous flea market where the Athenian butchers often sleep on their marble slabs during the heat of the afternoon siesta. You'll also want to set aside time to explore the Plaka, where you'll discover the old-fashioned tavernas and antique shops while enjoying the atmosphere of a traditional neighborhood.

**Sunday, June 16 – ATHENS / CHICAGO****(B,I)**

This morning we return to Athens International Airport in preparation for the journey home. No better time to reflect on memories of our *Classical Greece* to last a lifetime and to celebrate the beginning of new friendships made along the way!

**\* \* \* Welcome Home \* \* \***

**Visit [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) to make your reservation.**

**The Tour Price Includes:**

- Pre-trip assistance.
- Informational packet.
- Alumni staff assistance for a worry-free travel experience.
- Economy-class air transportation by scheduled service of American Airlines and Aegean Airlines.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Greek Tour Guide.
- Accommodation in a first-class hotels.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at the hotels.
- Airline taxes and fuel surcharge, and all taxes for included ground services.

**The Tour Price Does Not Include:**

Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; luggage handling at the airports and piers; gratuities to the Motor Coach Drivers, Tour Guide, and Step-on Guides; meals other than those stated above; and Travel Protection.

## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TRAVEL PROGRAM LLC PROGRAM TOUR CONDITIONS

**Tour Deposit and Payment:** Reservation deposits and payments may be made by check. Tour prices increase every year. Therefore, please note that price increases could occur after the printing of this brochure and in advance of your tour's departure

**Tour Pricing:** This is a package tour in which land tour costs and special group airfares have been combined in the most advantageous way. Should you wish to make any deviation from the package tour by changing your departure and/or return dates, the advantages of the package tour price may be eliminated, and additional charges may be assessed.

**Travel Insurance:** Travel insurance is very important and can be purchased through USI Travel Insurance Services. This insurance is designed to cover you and your tour investment from tour cancellation/interruption penalties and to provide medical expense, medical evacuation, baggage and personal effects loss, and accidental death coverage, as well as emergency assistance. There is an advantage to early enrollment in this travel insurance program. Purchasing coverage within 21 days (Plus and Elite Options) of your initial tour deposit can make you eligible for (1) Pre-existing Medical Condition Exclusion Waiver, and (2) Optional Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (Plus and Elite Options). If you wish to take advantage of these special options, you must enroll within 21 days of the date your initial tour deposit is received. Contact Travel Insurance Services at 1-800-937-1387 or [my.travelinsure.com/niu](http://my.travelinsure.com/niu). Considering recent global events, including without limitation, the global pandemic, it is strongly recommended that all travelers purchase additional insurance to protect their travel purchase.

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The Tour Operator reserves the right to:

1. Substitute the airline to be used; the type of aircraft; and to alter the dates of the tour; the tour routing; or to cancel the trip if a minimum number of bookings is not reached for either the air or land portion of this itinerary.
2. Substitute hotels for other hotels in available categories.
3. Decline to accept or to retain at any time any person as a participant on any tour or to cancel any tour.

**No Refunds.** No refund will be made for voluntary absence from the tour unless arrangements are made at the time of booking. The schedules contained herein are subject to change without notice. All rates are based on current Tariff and Exchange rates in effect at the time of the printing of this itinerary and are subject to adjustment without prior notification in the event of changes therein or in changes in the number of participants on which the rates are based.

**No Travel Carrier Liability.** The travel carriers involved in this Program are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their plane or other conveyance. The passage contract in use by any travel carrier, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the travel carrier and the purchaser of this Program tour.

**For more information, contact our office at 815-753-2586 or visit the Travel section at [myniu.com](http://myniu.com) to make your reservation.**

**Alumni Association Travel Program LLC  
Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center  
231 N. Annie Glidden Road  
DeKalb, IL 60115**