

10-DAY PROGRAM



GLA GROUP TRAVEL SAMPLE ITINERARY

EXAMPLE ITINERARY ONLY: DURATION, DATES, COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES ARE CUSTOMIZABLE



GREECE: Mythical Cities & Island Expedition

Explore Greece, from the ancient wonders of the world's most influential civilization, to the complexities of modern life and the impressive coastline of Crete and Santorini.

OVERVIEW

On this program you will travel to some of Greece's most influential and picturesque cities. Your adventure begins in Athens, a treasure trove of ancient civilization that has been incredibly memorialized in the form of ruins, museums and iconic spaces that are still in use. Ferry to Crete, Greece's largest island and, according to Greek mythology, the birthplace of Zeus himself. Stay and explore Heraklion and Rethymno, as well as several other colorful villages on the island. Finally, sail through the Aegean Sea to the dreamy island of Santorini, known for its whitewashed cube dwellings.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

- ★ Check out the ancient Acropolis of Athens citadel, a UNESCO World Heritage Site
- ★ Sail along the caldera of Santorini in a traditional wooden boat
- ★ Experience life on a Cretian farm and eat food grown from the land
- ★ Dive deep into Greek mythology through site visits, guest speakers, and local lore

THIS ITINERARY INCLUDES

- **10 days / 9 nights of accommodation**
- 1 free chaperone per 10 students
- 2 expert GLA staff members
- Medical & evacuation insurance
- 12-24 students (price is per student)
- Optional 2-night Extension: Extra day on Crete and extra day in Athens for an additional price

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY SERVICE

On our programs throughout Europe, you have the option of incorporating service hours into the itinerary. Your group can choose from a variety of ongoing service projects designed by local leaders in partnership with Global Leadership Adventures. Projects could focus on community development, environmental initiatives, or social welfare projects; of course, the exact projects will vary based on the current needs of the community at the time of your visit.

GLA will provide more details about your projects closer to the date of travel; typically you will contribute to a few community-led projects over the course of a few days. This allows students to experience varied sides of community service. Your group will also participate in a post service reflection where students will discuss their participation in the project, what they learned through hands-on work in the community they are visiting, and how they can continue to foster their own leadership skills once they return home from the program.

SAMPLE ITINERARY: DAILY BREAKDOWN

Actual schedule of activities can be tailored to your group's needs. The information detailed here is typical for what you can expect to experience; however, service work and activities vary depending upon the needs of our local community partners, various celebrations and customs, as well as the weather.



DAY 1: WELCOME TO GREECE!

Welcome to Greece! GLA staff will meet you when you land in the Athens airport (ATH) and we'll travel together to your new home away from home. Get settled into your room and relax. GLA staff will lead a brief orientation to get you ready for this new experience. Enjoy your first Greek meal with your friends and get plenty of rest as we have an exciting full day of activities tomorrow!

DAY 2: ATHENS AND THE ACROPOLIS

After breakfast at the hotel, step outside into Athens proper to meet our guide. We'll spend the day visiting the modern city and exploring the ancient architecture that Athens has to offer, including the Acropolis, Panathinaiko Stadium, and the Temple of Olympian Zeus.

DAY 3: BIKE TOUR, COMMUNITY SERVICE, AND OVERNIGHT FERRY TO CRETE

It's almost time to move on to the next location! But first, we'll explore the city by bike. A bicycle tour is the perfect speed at which to view the city; fast enough to get to new places, but slow enough to enjoy what you're seeing. After the tour, we'll spend a few hours volunteering in the community. Our project will depend on what the community needs most when we arrive. After a full day of activities we'll take an overnight ferry to Crete. The boat will serve as our Home Base for the night, as we will have dinner on board and lodge in the ferry's passenger cabins.

DAY 4: CHANIA, RETHYMNON, POTTERY, AND CRETE





TRADITIONAL DANCES

We'll arrive in Chania bright and early, where we'll get our bearings and tour the city's venetian-style downtown. We'll then travel by bus to Margarites village, where we'll participate in a pottery workshop. Our hotel for the night is in Rethymnon, where we'll have dinner at a local taverna and participate in a Cretan traditional dance.

DAY 5-6: ZAROS, HIKING, COOKING CLASS, HERAKLION

We'll start the day with a morning food tour around the narrow streets of Rethymnon. Once our tummies are full, we'll embark on a drive through the Cretan mountains to Zaros.

In Zaros we'll have the opportunity to slow down a bit and reflect on our journey so far. We'll be able to go on a hike, admire a mountain lake, and chill at our hotel's pool and enjoy this calm and laid back location. We'll also go on a farm and cooking experience, where we'll pick our own food from the garden and learn to make delicious Cretan dishes. For our last night on Crete, we'll drive to the coastal city of Heraklion, where we'll explore the lively and pedestrian-friendly downtown area.



DAY 7-8: SANTORINI ISLAND

This morning, we'll be catching a ferry from Heraklion to Santorini. On arrival, we'll make a stop at our hotel in Santorini and get a feel for the beautiful, crescent shaped island.

We'll take a tour from Fira to the charming village of Oia, with its white houses and scenic terraces set on the cliffside over the blue waters of the caldera. We'll also visit the towns of Pyrgos and Megalochori.

No trip to Santorini is complete without a caldera boat tour. We'll spend an afternoon sailing around the island, swimming, eating delicious food, and watching the incredible sunset from the boat.

DAY 9: FERRY TO ATHENS, PROGRAM CLOSURE AND FAREWELL DINNER

When our time in Santorini comes to an end, we'll embark on a ferry journey back to Athens, while getting a last chance to admire the beauty of the Mediterranean Sea and the Greek Islands.

Once in Athens, GLA staff will lead a group activity as a way to bring closure to our time in Greece. We'll also have time to buy souvenirs and pack. At night we'll dress up and go out for a farewell dinner at a special location.

DAY 10: DEPARTURE

Too soon, our trip to Greece has come to an end. We'll head to the airport after breakfast, GLA staff will help the group get checked in and see you off on your journey home.



TRAVELING TO GREECE

CLIMATE | Greece has a temperate climate, but there is some fluctuation in temperature and weather throughout the islands. For the most part, the temperature will be quite warm so make sure to pack plenty of light clothes. In the evenings it can cool down, so make sure to bring a layer or two!! Days will usually be in the mid 80's and sometimes up into the 90's. You'll receive a full packing list closer to your program start date.

FOOD | Greece is known for its amazing cuisine around the world. Expect lots of vegetables, olive oil, Greek yogurt, salads, feta cheese, and various types of meats. Greek dishes are delicious and packed with a variety of fresh and dried herbs.

FLIGHTS | Most group travel clients opt to travel together on the same flight, whether that be a group booking or individually-purchased tickets. GLA's partner travel agency, StudentUniverse, can be a helpful resource in finding and booking flights that meet the groups' budget and logistical requirements.

LEADERSHIP

Global Leadership Adventures started as an educational institute, so we continue to think and act like educators—not tour operators—as we deliver life-changing programs. We intentionally weave a leadership curriculum into the daily experience on our programs. Through group discussion, meaningful service, workshops, speakers and excursions, staff guide students to reflect on program events through the lens of leadership, and celebrate outstanding examples of leaders they encounter in the local community. Lending this context to the experience creates opportunities for students to dig deep into their vision, purpose and knowledge of themselves and the world.

ABOUT GLOBAL LEADERSHIP ADVENTURES

Global Leadership Adventures was founded in 2003 by Fred Swaniker, a native of Ghana, TED Fellow and educational entrepreneur whose work has been praised by Barack Obama. Born as a global extension of the revolutionary African Leadership Academy, Global Leadership Adventures now operates programs centered around leadership, sustainable community service projects, and meaningful travel across Africa, Asia, Europe or the Americas. Through life-changing adventures, we strive to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.

Our Expectations

Be present

Our mission at GLA is “to inspire the next generation to realize their potential to transform the world and their role in it.” To that end, we expect GLA students to maintain high standards of personal behavior and to be open-minded. The culture may be different, sometimes shockingly so. GLA will challenge students as they are expected to work hard and be present physically and mentally for all activities. We also ask students to take a step back from regular use of technology - particularly their smartphones - so as to maximize their engagement with the program and their fellow participants. Students may get hot, dirty and bug-bitten along the way, but their contribution can transform the community. The goal is for each student to return home having had a life-changing experience.

No tolerance

GLA has a no-tolerance policy towards drugs, alcohol, tobacco and disruptive behavior. Those who violate or are suspected of violating this policy will be immediately dismissed from the program at the sole discretion of GLA staff.

Community-Led experiences

GLA makes every effort to offer thoughtfully crafted programs for teens and young adults. Detailed planning and exhaustive communications with partners are indispensable parts of our program development process. However, occasionally service and activities are adjusted from session to session, due to weather, changing needs of our local community partners and/or various cultural celebrations and customs. We expect participants to be open-minded and flexible, willing to embrace the experience when plans change. GLA makes every effort to communicate adjustments to students and families with advance notice. We expect you to be open-minded and flexible.

Mentorship

GLA is not a therapy program. Our staff are highly skilled, professional, caring and fun, but they are not licensed therapists. GLA programs can be physically and emotionally demanding, and applicants should be in good physical and mental health.