# GREECE: MIDDLE SCHOOL MARINE CONSERVATION

**12-DAY PROGRAM**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the Acropolis in Athens and embark on a food tour around the city.
- Explore the coasts of the Peloponnese and learn about Loggerhead sea turtles in the area.
- Learn how to conduct snorkeling surveys Leave a positive footprint by participating in a beach clean-up.
- Explore Epidaurus and kayak to the Sunken City.
- Take a cooking class and participate in a Greek traditional dance celebration.

## ACTIVITY LEVEL

- Heavy

## 2025 PROGRAM DATES

- July 7 – July 18

## GET IN TOUCH!

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*Learn about marine conservation while you explore the coastlines of the Peloponnese and historical sites of Athens and Epidaurus.*

## OVERVIEW

Set sail for Greece, where we will explore one of the world's oldest cultures and learn about important marine conservation work. Due to climate change and human impact on this ancient land, marine ecosystems are being damaged and multiple species are at risk of extinction.

Begin your adventure by getting to know Athens and discovering its ancient and modern sites. Visit the Acropolis and take a food tour around the city. Travel to the Peloponnese and dive deep into the world of marine conservation. Learn about the importance of the Loggerhead sea turtle and their unique role in marine ecosystems. Learn to conduct snorkeling surveys to collect valuable data on seafloor coverage on coastal regions. Leave a positive footprint by participating in a beach clean-up and learn from conservation experts about the impact of microplastics on marine life at a global scale. Wrap up your adventure with a visit to Epidaurus; kayak in search of the Sunken City and visit an ancient amphitheater. Meet with warm locals, taste incredible Mediterranean cuisine and immerse yourself in the sights and sounds of this vibrant and warm culture!









# ITINERARY

*Actual schedule of activities will vary by program session. 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 and specific needs of the student group.*

## DAY 1: WELCOME TO GREECE!

Welcome to Greece! GLA staff will meet you when you land in the Athens airport and we'll travel together to your new home away from home. Get settled into your room and relax.

Enjoy your first Greek meal with your new friends and get plenty of rest as we have an exciting full day of activities tomorrow!

## DAY 2: ATHENS: ACROPOLIS & FOOD TOUR

After breakfast at the hotel, GLA staff will guide you through an orientation session. As a group you'll learn about local cultural norms, safety and behavioral guidelines, and you'll start to get to know your fellow team members through fun icebreakers and games.

After that we'll step outside into Athens proper to meet our guide for the food tour. We'll spend a couple of hours walking around the city tasting some of the most representative dishes and desserts that make Greek cuisine so famous around the world. To close our day, we'll partake on a guided tour around the Acropolis; Athens most visited and well known site.

## DAY 3: TURTLE VISITOR CENTER & TRAVEL TO THE PELOPONNESE

We'll start the day by visiting a turtle visitor center in Athens. We'll learn about the conservation needs and challenges that organizations face around the country when trying to preserve these magnificent creatures. We'll then embark on a beautiful drive through the Peloponnese peninsula towards Pylos, our home for the next few days.

## DAYS 4-7: MARINE CONSERVATION AND SERVICE

For the next 4 days we'll immerse ourselves in the world of marine conservation. You'll learn from local experts on how to rescue an injured sea turtle: this includes learning a series of knots as well as how to carry a turtle safely (using a dummy!). You'll practice these skills both on land and in the sea. You'll also have a few opportunities to snorkel in the area where turtles are seen most often - and while there's no guarantee that you'll see one, your chances are good!

For service, you'll participate in beach cleanups in the area in order to keep nesting sites as healthy as possible. You'll also learn how to conduct snorkeling surveys - a very interesting (and fun!) technique that's commonly used by marine scientists around the world to monitor the health of marine ecosystems.









## DAYS 8-9: EPIDAURUS; KAYAK SUNKEN CITY AND VISIT ANCIENT THEATER

It's time to say goodbye to our home in Pylos. Today we'll travel back through the Peloponnese peninsula towards Epidaurus. Once there, we'll get a chance to kayak to the Sunken City; a set of ancient ruins underwater that can be seen from the surface thanks to the crystal-clear waters of the Mediterranean.

We'll also learn more about ancient Greece by taking a tour at the Epidaurus Theater. We'll make sure to enjoy our last afternoon at the beach before heading back into the city tomorrow.

## DAYS 10-11: ATHENS; SERVICE AND FAREWELL DINNER

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll embark on our last drive through the beautiful Greek countryside back to Athens. Once there, we'll participate in a walking tour around the city led by members of an organization that works to improve the lives of the homeless population in Athens.

Next day we'll do our final session of community service at a local soup kitchen. In the afternoon we'll have time to buy our last souvenirs, pack, and have a closing activity as a group. At night we'll dress up and go out for a farewell dinner at a special location.

## DAY 12: DEPARTURES

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

**NOTICE ON PROGRAM UPDATES**

While this program is being planned for this season, some activities or details may change between now and the program start date. Please note that references from past participants and previously published information may not accurately reflect every aspect of this program. Refer to the sample itinerary above or to the GLA website for the most up-to-date version of program activities, and please note that further updates may be made between now and the program start date.

## PROGRAM SPECIFICS

- **Tuition:** $5,899
- **Service Hours:** 10
- **Ages:** 11 - 14
- **Student-to-Staff Ratio:** 6-to-1
- **Accommodations:** Exclusive Hotel Block
- **Arrival and Departure Airport**
  - ATH Arrival (anytime), ATH departure (anytime)

## GLA HOME BASE

This is a travel-focused program, where you'll stay at three different hotels across Greece.

Accommodations will be in shared double or triple rooms, each with private bathrooms and air conditioning.

## GLA HOME BASE OVERVIEW

- Pool
  - Home Base 1: Athens - Yes
  - Home Base 2: Santorini - Yes
- Air conditioning
  - Home Base 1: Athens - Yes
  - Home Base 2: Santorini - Yes
- Remote
  - Home Base 1: Athens - No
  - Home Base 2: Santorini - No

## 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.



## 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.

## 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.

### GLA HAS BEEN FEATURED IN:

The New York Times
USA TODAY
NBC NEWS
The Boston Globe
seventeen

## 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.

## ESSENTIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

At Global Leadership Adventures, we welcome age-eligible teens who are excited about the opportunity to travel to apply for our programs. To ensure a safe and meaningful experience for everyone in the group, we follow essential eligibility criteria. While out intent is not to be exclusionary, it's important to note that GLA programs are not therapeutic programs and are not able to support struggling teens seeking behavior or mental health outcomes.

Applications are carefully considered and screened to align with these criteria. It is not uncommon for GLA to require supporting documentation or information in the application screening process to confirm eligibility or suitability for program participation. Failure to disclose full medical history may also result in the application not being accepted, additional fees, and/or removal from the program. Please discuss with our team for any further clarification or concerns and visit **https://www.experiencegla.com/policies/essential-eligibility-criteria/** to view the full essential eligibility criteria list.

## WE'RE HERE TO HELP

**CONTACT US |** Want to learn more about Global Leadership Adventures and our available programs? Our Admissions Team has expertise and insights into our slate of program offerings, and we're happy to answer any questions you might have. We have collectively visited or staffed many of our GLA programs around the world, and we have advice to share on everything from getting your travel documents together to what a typical day on a program is like. Call us at 1-858-771-0645 any time during office hours for assistance.

**ENROLL NOW |** We encourage you to enroll on your 1st choice program as early as you can! In fact, our most popular programs fill up early every year, and many students end up putting off the quick and easy application process only to end up on the waiting list. The best way to ensure that you save your spot is to place your deposit and apply early. You can easily enroll online at **www.experiencegla.com/enroll.**