



SPARTAN
PATHWAYS TRAVEL
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI



GREEK ISLAND HOPPER

2025 YOUNG ALUMNI JOURNEY

US DEPARTURE DATE: **JUNE 7, 2025**

SANTORINI LAND TOUR START DATE: **JUNE 8, 2025**

ATHENS RETURN DATE: **JUNE 15, 2025**

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$2,665

Visit our website www.aesu.com/msu for more details and to book.

START YOUR ADVENTURE

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow Michigan State young alumni?

The Michigan State Alumni Office young alumni travel program, designed for recent grads ages 22 – 35, offers you this opportunity by bringing you together with individuals in the same age range, with similar backgrounds and experiences, while enriching you on well-designed, hassle-free tours of the world.

These programs provide social, cultural, and recreational activities and many opportunities for learning enrichment and enjoying a connection back to MSU. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 48 years of experience in the young travel market.

In this brochure you will find a detailed itinerary, travel dates and pricing.

If you have any questions about this tour, please contact our tour operator, AESU Alumni World Travel, by calling 800-638-7640 or email alumni@aesu.com.

To make an online booking, please visit our young alumni tour landing page www.aesu.com/msu and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

We are looking forward to traveling with you this coming season.

Sincerely,



Regina Cross
Director, Spartan Pathways Travel Program
MSU Alumni Office

Travel insurance is compulsory. The MSU Alumni Office offers travel insurance. Please visit this website for information or to purchase insurance: <https://my.travelinsure.com/spartans>

“ OUR TOUR GUIDE WAS AWESOME, THE PLACES WERE AWESOME, AND I MADE SOME AMAZING FRIENDS ALONG THE WAY. ”

FORMER TRAVELER



GREEK ISLAND HOPPER

9 DAY TOUR OF GREECE VIA SANTORINI, MYKONOS, AND ATHENS FOR THE "BUCKET LIST" TRAVELER

PLACES VISITED



PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

This trip has been carefully designed to feature these fantastic inclusions and highlights:



For a glossary of these experiences, visit:
www.aesu.com/aspects-awt



ACTIVITY LEVEL: ACTIVE

For more details, please visit:
<https://www.aesu.com/activity-levels-awt/>

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

9-Day Land Package Transportation and Lodging

- 7 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- All ground transportation by private motor coach as per itinerary
- Airport transfers with purchased AESU group airfare
- Ferries or ships from Santorini to Mykonos and Mykonos to Athens

Meals

- 11 meals: 7 continental breakfasts, 1 lunch | 3 dinners

Tour Highlights

Welcome dinner & orientation * Famous beaches of Santorini and Mykonos islands* Azure waters of Aegean Sea * Mount Profitis Ilias mountaintop views * Greek cuisine * Hillside village of Pyrgos * Whitewashed, blue-domed typical Greek villages * Greek wine tasting *Amazing sunsets * Mykonos windmills * Greek dancing * Little Venice (Alekandra) *Santorini caldera *Athens Acropolis * Temple of Zeus *Plaka District *Parliament Square * Olympic Stadium...and much more!

Activities & Admissions

- Santorini walking tour
- Pre-historic settlement and archaeological excavations at Akrotiri
- Admission and guided tour of Akrotiri
- Hill-top town of Pyrgos
- Tour and wine tasting at Venetsanos winery
- Guided tour of Mykonos town
- Guided tour of Athens, led by a local historian
- Admission to Acropolis and Acropolis Museum
- Greek music and dancing

Optional Excursions

(not included in land package price):

- Santorini Catamaran sailing cruise
- Optional excursion from Mykonos to Delos



GREEK ISLAND HOPPER ITINERARY

About the Trip!

Catch the sun and set your course for an extraordinary journey. The Greek Islands of Mykonos and Santorini, known for their amazing beaches and dramatic landscapes overlooking azure waters, are also filled with archaeological treasures, history and culture – not to forget, delicious food. Discover the myths and legends of ancient Athens, visit the magnificent Acropolis, wander the paths of Plato, Socrates and Sophocles and test your bargaining skills at the markets of Monastiraki.

- DAY 1 TRAVEL TO GREECE**
Sparkling azure seas and endless golden skies appear on the horizon as our overnight flight transports us back to the origins of civilization, Ancient Greece.
Meals: In-flight
- DAY 2 SANTORINI: LAND TOUR START DATE**
Kalimera – Welcome to Santorini, “Black Pearl of the Aegean” with its towering red cliffs rising steeply out of the water. Archaeologists have speculated the surrounding waters hold the secret of the lost continent of Atlantis. Meet your tour director and join fellow travelers on a walking tour of the town before our welcome to the Greek Isles dinner. Don’t miss the breathtaking caldera sunset before returning to your hotel.
Meals: In-flight | Dinner
Inclusions: Transfer from airport to hotel included with purchased AESU group airfare | Welcome orientation | Welcome to the Greek Isles dinner
- DAY 3 SANTORINI**
Renowned for its amazing natural beauty, Santorini is one of Europe’s must-experience hotspots. It embodies the iconic image of the Greek islands with whitewashed, blue-domed villages clinging to the cliff face surrounded by the sparkling Aegean Sea.
Today we visit the archaeological site of Akrotiri, a Minoan Bronze Age settlement that came to an abrupt end in approximately 1613 BC with a catastrophic volcanic eruption. Beginning in 1967, excavations of the Minoan town revealed buildings, drainage systems, and pottery, but no human remains or gold valuables, indicating locals had time to flee before disaster hit.
We visit Venetsanos winery, carved into the cliffs just above the port of Athinios. After a tour of the winery, we get to taste some of their crisp whites, such as Santorini and Nychteri, Mandilaria red or try a rosé Anagallis then finish off with a dessert wine called Liastos.
Before we return to Oia, we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant and ride to the top of Mount Profitis Ilias for panoramic views followed by a visit to Pyrgos, a picturesque hillside village set on a volcanic crater at the highest point of the island, offering more stunning vistas to drink in.
Meals: Breakfast | Lunch
Inclusions: Akrotiri excursion | Admission to Akrotiri | Guided tour of Akrotiri | Island lunch at a local restaurant | Mountain top views from Mount Profitis Ilias | Visit to the hillside village of Pyrgos | Tour and tasting at Venetsanos winery

DAY 4 SANTORINI

In 1500 BC a volcanic eruption sank the center of Santorini, forming one of the most significant geological formations on the planet – the awe-inspiring caldera.

Today is free for you to just relax on a beach or explore. Consider a walking tour along the caldera crater rim, starting in Thira town and continuing through little villages all the way to Oia. Pass steep cliff faces and experience breathtaking views along the way.

Alternatively, join an excursion around the active crater of Nea Kameni, and sail along the rugged volcanic shores, where black lava rocks and white pumice combine with deep red lava. Take time to swim in the warm waters heated by the hot springs on the sea floor.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Multi-colored beaches of Santorini

Optional activity: Catamaran sailing cruise

DAY 5 SANTORINI - MYKONOS

We board our ship for an approx. 3-hour trip to Mykonos, a beautiful island named for Apollo's grandson. Mykonos is legendary, known in ancient Greek mythology as the battlefield where Zeus fought the Giants. Join our local expert for a walk through the maze-like old town and explore Little Venice aka Alefkandra, one of the most romantic neighborhoods.

This is a perfect spot for selfies with elegant old houses situated precariously on the edge of the sea and the famous Mykonos windmills as your backdrop. After our Mediterranean welcome dinner, our tour director takes us to the perfect spot to sit back and enjoy another magnificent Aegean sunset.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Ship from Santorini to Mykonos | Walking tour of Mykonos with local expert | Little Venice/Alefkandra | Mykonos windmills | Mediterranean dinner

DAY 6 MYKONOS

Today you are on your own to comb the sands or bronze your body on Paradise Beach where there are exciting opportunities for all types of fun water sports. Feed the friendly pelicans or lose yourself in the maze of alleys and villas that were built to confuse invading pirates.

If you are up to exploring the surrounding area you may consider joining our optional excursion: sail to Delos, the uninhabited island of Apollo's birth, where carved lions dating from the 5th century stand on cliffs overlooking the sea. Various teams of French archaeologists have been excavating here for more than 100 years.

Back in Mykonos tonight "go native" and learn Greek dancing at a lively harbor taverna.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Mykonos beach time

Optional activity: Excursion to the island of Delos

DAY 7 MYKONOS - ATHENS

With seagulls following our wake we sun ourselves on deck as our ship glides through fabled cobalt blue waters to Athens, leaving behind the international jet setter's favorite island.

Enjoy a free evening to explore the narrow winding paths of the Plaka District – Athens' oldest neighborhood at the foot of the Acropolis. Perhaps enjoy some gyros and ouzo in a charming square, then stroll with friends past the myriad of jewelry shops, art galleries, tavernas, cafes and lively clubs – Opa!

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Ship from Mykonos to Athens | Transfer from Mykonos hotel to harbor | Transfer from Athens Piraeus harbor to hotel



DAY 8 ATHENS

Our local expert will show us the highlights of Athens, including the famous changing of the guard at Parliament Square ‘Syntagma,’ the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the original Olympic Stadium, and of course, the Acropolis.

Explore the Parthenon and enjoy fabulous views over the city from the rocky citadel. We then visit the famous Acropolis Museum, consistently rated as one of the best museums in the world. It is devoted to the Parthenon and its surrounding temples—the perfect sanctuary for the ancient artifacts found in and around the Acropolis site.

A free afternoon may find us wandering the paths of Plato, Socrates and Sophocles or trying our bargaining skills at the markets of Monastiraki. This evening follow the sounds of traditional bouzouki music and join our farewell taverna dinner in the Plaka District.

Meals: Breakfast | Dinner

Inclusions: Guided tour of Athens Admission to the Parthenon | Admission to the Acropolis Museum | Greek Farewell taverna dinner

DAY 9 FLIGHT HOME

Our Grecian Odyssey ends with breakfast this morning.

Even Ulysses had to come home eventually, so wrap up your memories of sun-filled Greek Isles and make plans to return again soon.

Meals: Breakfast | In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to Athens airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your land package tour includes the services of a professional tour director, who knows this is a trip of a lifetime for you. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major universities. They are eager to show you the world through the eyes of an adventurer, sharing with you their vast knowledge, as well as interesting little-known facts.

Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel. We are very proud of our tour directors, therefore it is customary to include gratuity.

Show the tour director and driver your appreciation with a tip. We suggest \$6-7 per person/per day for your tour director and \$4 per person/per day for your driver.

HOTELS

We stay in superior tourist-class hotels or better, all with private bathrooms in 2-share rooms. Our hotels have been specially selected for their atmosphere, friendly hospitality, and cleanliness. They are centrally located or within a short walk of public transportation. They have great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or roof-top bars.

All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room.

You can book a single-room by paying an additional single supplement of \$645. The total single tour package for the 9 day trip is \$3,310.

If you are a solo traveler and don't want to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If we are unable to arrange a share, the single supplement of \$645 will be added to your invoice.

By booking your trip with AESU, you are agreeing to all the terms and conditions as outlined on our website: <https://www.aesu.com/terms-conditions-awt/> | For details on our payment plan, please visit: <https://www.aesu.com/payment-plan-awt/>

University Disclaimer

Michigan State University Alumni Office Disclaimer Spartan Pathways Travel Program:

The Michigan State University Alumni Office (the MSU Alumni Office or MSUAO) and the Spartan Pathways Travel Program is not the Tour Operator. The MSUAO is not responsible for the changes of flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or motor coach transportation and car rental reservations, delays, losses, injuries, inconveniences, cessation of operations, airline or tour operator bankruptcies, acts of God, or any other event beyond our control.

The MSUAO acts only as a sponsor with respect to the travel services, and it shall not be responsible for changes to flight times, fare changes, dishonor of airline, hotel or other reservations, injury, damage, loss of baggage, accidents or for the acts or defaults of any person or entity engaged in providing services to participants or in carrying out other arrangements of the tour.

Further, the MSUAO shall not be responsible for losses or additional expenses of the participant due to sickness, weather, strike, civil unrest, acts of terrorism, pandemic, epidemic, quarantine, acts of God, governmental intervention, or other causes beyond its control. The MSUAO shall not be responsible for alteration in the itinerary as deemed necessary for carrying out the tour and the Tour Operator may substitute hotels of similar quality. The Tour Operator may postpone or cancel any tour prior to departure.

The MSUAO or the Tour Operator may decline to accept or to retain any person as a member of the tour should such person's physical or mental health, actions or general deportment impede the operation of the tour or the rights or welfare of the other participants. No refund will be made for the unused portion of any tour. By embarking upon travel, the participant voluntarily assumes all risk involved in such travel, whether expected or unexpected.

Participant is hereby warned of the above risks as well as possible travel industry force majeure, bankruptcies and medical and climatic disruptions, and the possibility participant may be unable to travel as scheduled because of personal emergency. Participant is advised to consider obtaining appropriate insurance coverage against these risks. Applicants for participation on this tour accept in full all the conditions set forth above.

The MSUAO partners with other universities and alumni from other universities will be on many departures. While some of the Spartan Pathway's tours are exclusive to just MSU alumni, on many of the tours we partner with other universities/organizations that have travel programs. Space allotments for these tours are given to each university and after a guaranteed time allotted for reservations, available space is opened to all universities/organizations. Therefore, some departures may have universities with greater numbers of alumni on the tour than MSU.