BOOK
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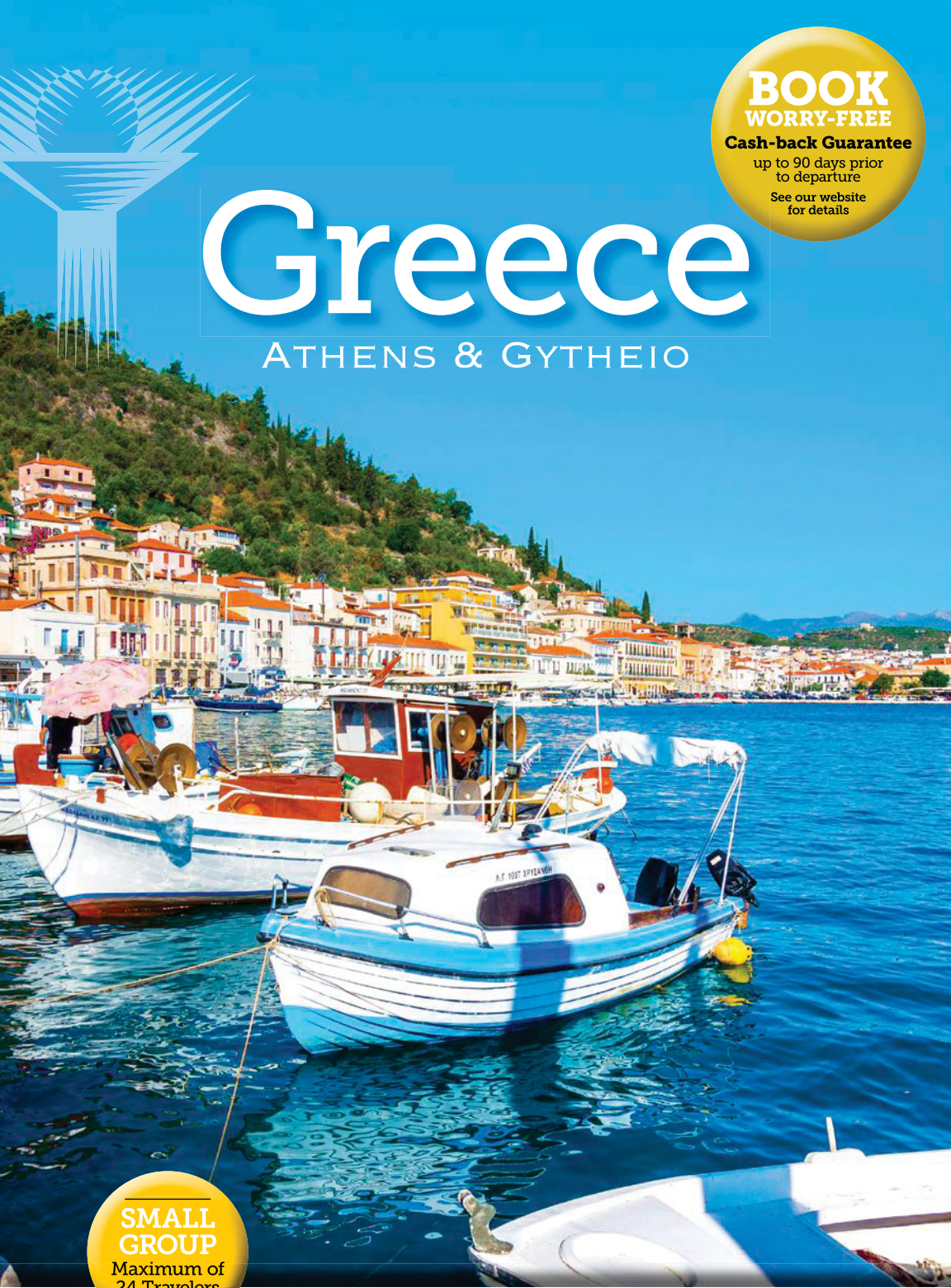
up to 90 days prior to departure
See our website for details

Greece

Athens & Gytheio



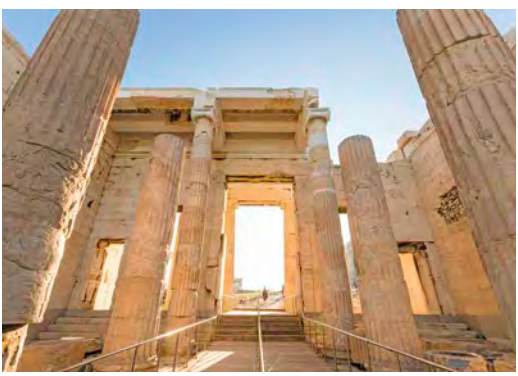
SMALL GROUP
Maximum of 24 Travelers

Sponsored By

Michigan State University Alumni Office
June 23 – July 2, 2023

Featuring MSU Professor Dr. Jon Frey

A World of Discovery



Top: Monemvasia | Above: Acropolis, Athens

Discover Greece's cultural riches, from the sublime remnants of ancient civilizations to an abundance of delectable food and wine, on this amazing, eight-night journey based in Athens and Gytheio! Join expert guides for explorations within the remarkable ruins of the Acropolis, Mycenae and Mystras, and be charmed by the Mani Peninsula's sensational coastal scenery! You'll also gain new insights on classical and modern Greece during thought-provoking lectures. Throughout it all, revel in the very best of Greece's tantalizing cuisine, fresh from the farm and sea. The enduring beauty and historic gems of this storied land await you!

Cover: Harbor, Gytheio
Mail panel: Greek musicians | Parthenon, Acropolis

Inspiring Moments

- Enjoy coastal life in charming, seaside **Gytheio.**
- Stand in the glorious **Acropolis** and relish spectacular views of Athens.
- Wander through the ruins of **Mycenae,** the mighty Bronze Age kingdom.
- Journey to **Monemvasia,** a stunning medieval town tucked away on a rocky island.
- Get to know the **Mani,** a region known for its independent spirit, stone tower houses and beautiful beaches.
- Savor Greece's palate-pleasing bounty of **wine, olives, seafood and olive oil.**
- Discover a one-of-a-kind treasure, breathtaking, mountainside **Mystras,** an important center of Byzantine culture.
- Experience three **UNESCO World Heritage sites.**

ALUMNI CAMPUS ABROAD®

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Jon Frey is a classical archaeologist specializing in Greek and Roman architecture, with an interest in construction processes and the phenomenon of material reuse in post-classical antiquity. While the majority of his fieldwork experience is in the area of Greece known as the Corinthia, over the past two decades he has also worked in Egypt and on the islands of Crete and Kythera. As the Director of the Michigan State University Excavations at Isthmia, he led a team of researchers engaged in the use of digital tools to explore and publish the evidence about the ancient world contained in archaeological archives. Jon received his BA in Ancient History and Classics from Ohio State University and his MA and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. He has been an Assistant Professor jointly appointed in the Department of Art and Art History and the Department of French Classics and Italian at MSU since 2007 where he teaches courses on the Classical World, Classical Mythology, Ancient Art and Greek and Roman Art and Archaeology. He is excited to share his knowledge of Greece and the research he has conducted in the region.

Dear Spartan Alumni and Friends,

Join Michigan State University Professor Dr. Jon Frey, director of the MSU Excavations at Isthmia in Greece, on an exploration of Greek culture and history focused on the Peloponnese, one of the most beautiful and fabled areas of Greece. While learning about post-classical antiquity and ancient Greek and Roman archaeology from Dr. Frey, spend five nights in the small port town of Gytheio on the enchanting Mani'Peninsula, a pristine, remote region less frequented by tourists, where you'll delight in a more authentic experience of Greek life.

Spend your days exploring the ancient cities of Mycenae and Sparta and marveling at Mystras, a Byzantine cultural capital. Soak up the medieval ambience of romantic Monemvasia, and take in the untamed grandeur along the Mani's coast. Toast to your adventure while trying Greek wines, and watch the sun slowly set over the sparkling Laconian Gulf. You'll also learn about the importance of olives in Greek daily life and visit an olive oil mill. Plus, three nights in Athens allows you to see the Acropolis and other highlights of the Greek capital.

Enjoy deluxe accommodations, ample meals, engaging insights from expert local guides and speakers, along with worry-free travel, thanks to a dedicated Travel Director. With all these fantastic elements, this trip is sure to be popular. Act now to be a part of this incredible journey!

Go Green!

Regina Cross

Regina Cross BS '91
Director of Alumni Travel
Michigan State University Alumni Office
888-697-2863

We strongly suggest purchasing travel insurance. Travel insurance information will be sent to you with your email confirmation from the MSU Alumni Office.

**A minimum number of participants is necessary to send the faculty host.*

833-303-1333 **michst.ahitravel.com**

Ruins of Mycenae

Acropolis overlooking Athens

Day 1 | **In Transit**

Depart your gateway city for Athens, Greece.

Day 2 | **Athens, Greece**

Arrive and transfer to the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.

Free Time: Spend the remainder of the day exploring Athens on your own.

This evening, meet and get to know your fellow travelers at a Welcome Dinner.

Day 3 | **Athens**

Discovery: ***Athens City Tour.*** Get acquainted with legendary Athens, the birthplace of democracy and Western philosophy, theater and architecture. See the Academy of Athens, University of Athens, the National Library and other landmarks on a panoramic tour. Then head up to the resplendent Acropolis, adorned with monuments built by ancient Greece's finest architects, sculptors and artists in the fifth century B.C. Take in the Parthenon's classical lines and sweeping city views. At the Acropolis Museum, view exquisite artifacts and study the ruins of an ancient neighborhood through the glass floor. (*Active*)

Free Time: The rest of the day is yours to plan.

Day 4 | **Mycenae | Gytheio**

After breakfast, check out of the hotel. Depart Athens and journey toward Gytheio, a seaside city on the ruggedly majestic Mani Peninsula.

Discovery: ***Mycenae and Greek Wines.*** On your route, take a fascinating, guided tour of the hilltop ruins of Mycenae, one of the oldest archaeological sites on the Peloponnese and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Mycenaean civilization developed and flourished here during the Bronze Age from roughly 1600–1200 B.C., and their culture would later profoundly inspire the Greeks of the Classical period. Imagine this fortified citadel in all its glory as you walk under the imposing Lion's Gate! Afterward, travel to a winery for an excellent introduction to Greek winemaking that includes a tasting and lunch. (*Active*)

Check in to the Las Hotel & Spa in Gytheio.

As a special welcome to Gytheio, enjoy a cocktail and an appetizing buffet dinner with your group this evening.

Lion's Gate, Mycenae

The Peloponnese

Surrounded by the Aegean and Ionian seas, the Peloponnese is a mythic land, home to Greece's most magnificent and celebrated cities of antiquity. From these shores, King Agamemnon of Mycenae rallied troops to sail for Troy to rescue Helen, daughter of Zeus and the Spartan queen Leda. Its alluring, mountainous landscape, connected to the mainland by the Isthmus of Corinth, stretches south across four smaller peninsulas, including the marvelous Mani. In this quieter, timeless region, visitors are rewarded with dramatic coastal vistas, peaceful beaches beside the bright blue sea, the freshest culinary delights and a true appreciation for what makes traditional Greek life so captivating.

Peloponnese pottery

Day 5 | **Gytheio | Areopoli | Limeni | Thalames**

Discovery: ***The Mani Peninsula.*** Begin your day with a short walk in Gytheio to learn more about its history. Then embark on a panoramic drive along winding, coastal roads to soak up the wild, remote splendor of the Mani. Your first stop is Areopoli, known for the role it played in the Greek Revolution, when local Maniots defiantly declared war against the Ottoman Empire in 1821. On a stroll in the lovely old town, delight in its warm ambience and traditional stone houses. Later, travel to Limeni, one of the Mani's prettiest coastal villages, for fabulous views of the crystal-clear turquoise bay, and pause for lunch on your route. Cap off your travels with a tour of a working olive mill in Thalames featuring a rare stone mill.

Enrichment: ***Greek History.***

Free Time: Find a cozy spot in Gytheio for dinner.

Areopoli

Day 6 | **Mystras | Sparta**

Enrichment: ***Classical Greece.***

Discovery: ***Mystras, Sparta and the Greek Olive.*** Set off this morning to tour the grand ruins of Mystras, a medieval Byzantine city on a mountainside over the Laconian plain. Learn about its significance in Byzantine culture from your guide and admire the monasteries, chapels and churches adorned with frescoes. Next, travel to Sparta for a guided walk through the ruins of one of Greece's greatest city-states. Finally, visit Sparta's informative Museum of the Olive and Greek Olive Oil, which details why the olive is so prized by the Greeks. During your travels today, take a break for a delicious lunch. (*Active*)

Sparta monument

Fortified medieval town of Monemvasia

UNESCO World Heritage

1. **Acropolis, Athens**
2. **Archaeological Site of Mycenae**
3. **Archaeological Site of Mystras**

Free Time: Create your own agenda in Gytheio.

Day 7 | **Monemvasia**

Discovery: ***Monemvasia.*** As you gaze from the mainland at the rocky island before you, you wouldn't suspect that a fortified medieval town lies on it. To avoid enemy attacks, Monemvasia was built on the opposite side, facing the sea, with only one entrance via a narrow causeway. Enter this picturesque, hidden gem today through the castle gate, and meander on the labyrinth of cobblestone streets lined by honey-colored stone mansions, churches and mosques that reflect its Byzantine, Venetian and Ottoman past. See Christos Elkomenos, the Lower Town's most prominent church, and Agia Sofia, a Byzantine church atop a cliff.

Free Time: Relax over lunch in Monemvasia.

In Gytheio tonight, watch the sun set over the Laconian Gulf from a wonderful vantage point, then dine with your group in town.

Day 8 | **Gytheio**

Enrichment: ***Contemporary Greece.***

Free Time: Savor your gorgeous surroundings today! Maybe you'll set up a chair in the sand and unwind on nearby beaches like Mavrovouni or Ageranos, and follow up with a leisurely lunch at a taverna by the water.

Mountainside city of Mystras

Corinth Canal

AHI Connects: ***Greek Night.*** Join hands for a joyful folk dance at a fun farewell celebration featuring scrumptious food, wine and music!

Day 9 | **Corinth | Athens**

This morning, check out of the hotel and depart for Athens with a stop in Corinth on your return.

Discovery: ***Corinth Canal.*** This deep channel, built in 1893, separates the Peloponnese from the mainland. Get an up-close glimpse during a boat ride and break for lunch after your cruise.

Continue to Athens and check in to the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.

Free Time: Take advantage of your final afternoon and evening in Athens for more sightseeing or shopping.

Day 10 | **In Transit**

Transfer to the airport for the return flight to your gateway city.

Note: *Itinerary may change due to local conditions.*

Flights and transfers included for AHI FlexAir participants.

Greek folk dancers

Note About Activity Levels

We have rated the activity levels of our excursions to help you assess this program's physical expectations. Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available. Please call or visit our website for more specific details.

Excursions on this program require:

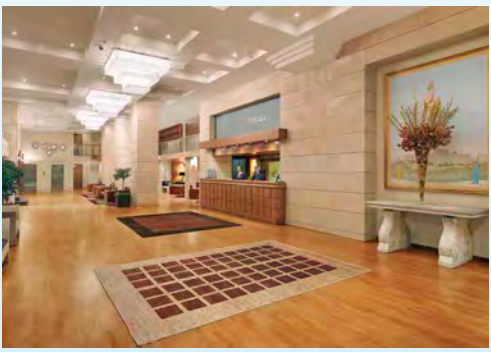
– walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths and/or uneven surfaces

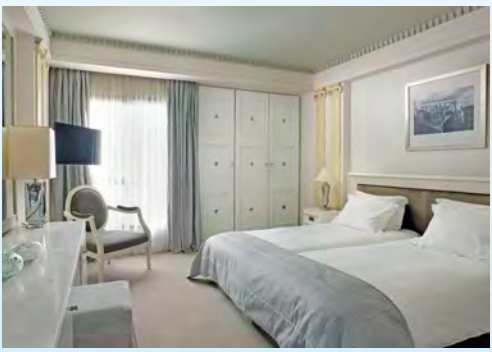
– getting on/off motor coaches and boats

Accommodations

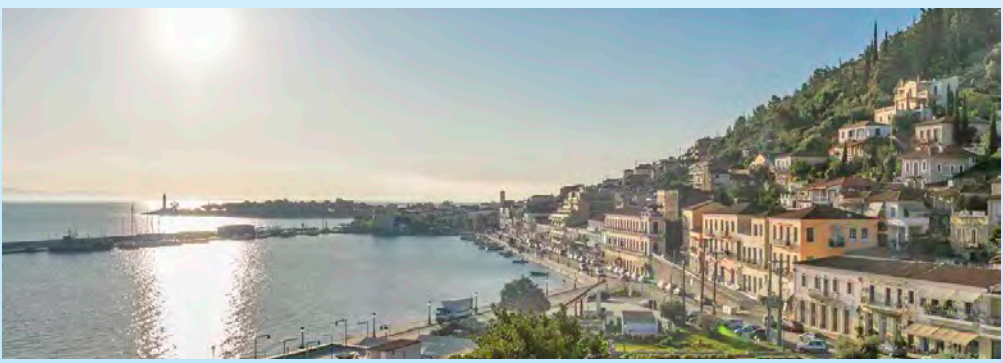
Our travel experts have carefully selected these deluxe hotels for their prime locations near renowned sites. Ideally situated on Athens' famous Syntagma Square, the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel features spacious, elegant rooms, personalized attention and convenient access to top attractions. At the sophisticated Las Hotel & Spa Gytheio overlooking the Laconic Gulf, delight in sleek, comfortable rooms, a splendid rooftop pool and rejuvenating spa services. Of utmost importance is the superior quality of each property's services, amenities and accommodations, allowing you to enjoy your stay fully.

Tripadvisor





NJV Athens Plaza Hotel | Athens



Las Hotel & Spa | Gytheio

Greece ~ Athens & Gytheio

Trip #:6-28060W

Call AHI Travel at 833-303-1333 to reserve your place (preferred registration method).

Please have the information outlined below available to share with our AHI Travel Experts.

If you prefer, you may also complete this Reservation Request and submit it to AHI Travel. Once this request is receive an AHI Travel Expert will contact you within one business day to discuss deposit payment. Your reservation is not confirmed until your deposit is paid and processed.

Send to MSU Alumni Office
c/o AHI Travel
International Tower-Suite 600
8550 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631

I/we would like to request _____ place(s).
Deposit amount is $600 per person.

Full Legal Name (exactly as it appears on passport)

1) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

_____
Email Name you would like on your name badge Class Year

2) _____
Title First Middle Last Date of Birth

_____
Email Name you would like on your name badge Class Year

Street Address _____

City _____ State_____ ZIP_____

Home (_____)_____Cell (_____) _____

Sharing with_____
Name (Reservation Request sent separately)

Single Accommodations

❒ I prefer single accommodations at an additional $850 (limited availability).

❒ I request assistance in securing a roommate but will accept a single, if one is available at this time, and pay the single supplement. Should a roommate be found, I understand the supplement will no longer apply.

Flights

❒ Yes, I/we are requesting the round-trip AHI FlexAir to Athens, Greece, to depart from:

_____
Departure City

I/we are interested in upgrading my/our international flight to the following:

❒ First Class ❒ Business Class ❒ Premium Economy

❒ No thanks! I/we will book my/our own air travel and transfers.

Reservations are subject to availability and processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Reservations to be paid in full by **April 9, 2023** (75 days prior to departure). Reservations received after this date must be accompanied by payment in full. Final payment may be made by Bank Transfer, MasterCard, Visa, Discover or Amex. If paying by check, please call for details before submitting.

Please note: Program-specific terms and conditions are available at https://michst.ahitravel.com/destinations/1747A?schoolId=100. You can also request a copy from our travel experts. Any payment to AHI Travel constitutes your acceptance of the terms and conditions set out therein, including but not limited to the cancellation terms.

All prices listed are in USD. Special offers, promotions and discounts cannot be combined.
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Program Dates

Air Program dates: June 23 – July 2, 2023
Land Program dates: June 24 – July 2, 2023

Land Program

Full Price	Special Savings	Special Price*
$4,145	$250	$3,895

*Special Price valid if booked by the date found on the address panel.
VAT is an additional $295 per person.
All prices quoted are in USD, per person, based on double occupancy and do not include air transportation costs (unless otherwise stated).

Single accommodations are an additional $850 (limited availability).

Let us arrange your flights

AHI FlexAir

Our experts are ready to assist you in booking flights. Our personalized air program offers the following advantages:

- **Price guarantee** to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase
- Arrival and departure **transfers** on group dates
- **Flexibility** to change or cancel your reservations without penalty up to 60 days before departure on most flights
- **Assistance** in the event of schedule changes or delays

Byzantine monastery, Mystras

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

For more than six decades, our dedicated team has helped travelers explore the world safely and securely.

To offer you added peace of mind, we've fine-tuned all facets of your travel experience:

- **Included AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers travel- and health-related contingencies; available for U.S. residents only
- Increased booking **flexibility** and relaxed cancellation penalties
- Home support staff and ground team communicating 24/7 to ensure a seamless and safe journey
- **Travel Directors** specially trained to the highest standard in accordance with AHI's health and safety protocols
- A global network of partners rigorously following enhanced procedures and protocols
- Rigorous sanitization practices for river ships, hotels, trains and motor coaches
- Tour operations modified for smaller groups
- Hand sanitizer available for guest use

Harvested olives at olive mill

Included Features

Accommodations {with baggage handling}

- **3 nights** in Athens, Greece, at the deluxe NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.
- **5 nights** in Gytheio at the deluxe Las Hotel & Spa.

Transfers {with baggage handling}

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program.

Extensive Meal Program

- 8 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners; including Welcome and Farewell Dinners; tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.
- Opportunities to sample authentic, local cuisine.

Your One-of-a-Kind Journey

- **Small group:** Sized just right at a maximum of 24 travelers.
- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
  - Admire ancient sites in modern Athens.
  - Wander among the ruins of Mycenae.
  - Sip Greek wines at a tasting.
  - Revel in the Mani's coastal beauty, scenic towns and time-honored traditions.
  - Roam through Byzantine Mystras.
  - Discover the ruins of ancient Sparta.
  - Visit an olive-oil museum.
  - Marvel at the idyllic scenery of Monemvasia.
  - Celebrate at a festive farewell event.
  - Cruise through the historic Corinth Canal.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Farewell Reception to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

AHI Travel Expertise

From your reservation to your return home, we are here to ensure you have the adventure of a lifetime.

Before you go:

Travel Consultants | These experts stand ready to answer your questions about activities, meals, accommodations and more as they guide you through the reservation process.

Passenger Service Representative | After reserving your spot, enjoy personalized assistance from this specialist, your one point of contact who helps with everything from arranging flights to booking elective activities to fulfilling special requests.

Travel Information | Before your journey, our team closely monitors travel conditions, shares pre-departure details and provides information and enrichment about your destination.

Once you arrive:

On the ground, three layers of top-quality professionals offer their insiders' perspective. Our dedicated team takes your adventure to the next level.

Travel Director | Our multilingual Travel Director manages all the details so that you can simply relax and soak up the ambience. In the care of this seasoned travel professional who is attuned to your personal safety, you'll enjoy a seamless, unforgettable travel experience.

Expert Guides | Who better to show you around than the people who live there? We've specially selected informed, enthusiastic local guides who understand the needs of our educated and curious travelers. Warm and genuine, they're ready to share their passion for their country with you.

Lecturers | Coming from all walks of life, our engaging local lecturers open your eyes to history, culture and current events. The breadth of their knowledge deepens your appreciation for the region and its heritage.

Left: Greek wine and cuisine ©GNTB | K. Kouzouni
Above: Plaka, Athens

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See pricing panel for details

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Please call or refer to our website for the most current program information, discounts and pricing.

AHI Travel's mission is to deliver inspirational educational and cultural programs that delight travelers.

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- Unique access to local sites.
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- Safety and security.

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