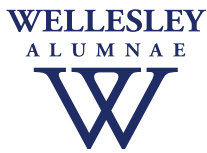


FAMILY LEARNING ADVENTURE TO GREECE AND THE GREEK ISLANDS: Exploring the Land of Myths and Legends

June 29 - July 8, 2025





Dear Wellesley Alumna,

In June 2025, history will come alive for Wellesley Alumnae and their families. Our *Family Learning Adventure to Greece and the Greek Islands* is a learning journey to ancient Greece. The program is designed to go back to the sources of the Western tradition to enlighten the senses and inflame the imagination of children and adults alike.

You will venture out to explore seminal places, including Athens, Epidaurus, Nafplion, Mycenae, Santorini and Heraklion, Crete. Of special interest to children will be a boat ride to Nea Kameni, a volcanic magma dome in the middle of a caldera, pushed up by successive eruptions.

This is an opportunity for families to create lasting memories of shared learning and discovery as you explore this remarkable region of Greece as a family. Grandparents, parents, and children will learn about Greek mythology, history, literature, culture, and contemporary life. Family-friendly solo travelers are also welcome on this journey.

Experienced youth education counselors will lead groups of similarly aged children in the Young Explorers Program, a series of educational and recreational activities developed to enhance their appreciation of the sites you will visit. The itinerary has also been structured to allow free time to enjoy swimming in the crystalline blue waters of the Aegean Sea and the facilities of the hotels.

When it comes to multigenerational educational travel, no destination surpasses Greece. I hope you will join Wellesley on this learning adventure.

Warm regards,

Kathryn Mackintosh '03
Assistant Vice President for Alumnae
Relations and Global Engagement

WELLESLEY LECTURER

Our tour will be accompanied by an expert Wellesley lecturer whose expertise will enhance the learning experience for adults and Young Explorers alike. Through talks and personal interaction, our lecturer will contribute to your understanding of the history and culture that relate to this region. The experience we will provide is not just one of sightseeing, but a complete learning adventure.

Cover photo: The well-preserved 5th-century BC Temple of Hephaestus, ancient Agora, Athens



INTELLIGENT
NORTH PLAZA (MUSEUM)

INTELLIGENT
NORTH PLAZA (MUSEUM)

Palace of Knossos, Crete

ITINERARY



Sunday, June 29, 2025

DEPART THE USA

Depart the United States for Athens, Greece.

Monday, June 30

ATHENS, Greece

Arrive in Athens. Transfer to the *Hotel Athens Capital*. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant. (D)

Tuesday, July 1

ATHENS

The capital of Greece, Athens is Europe's oldest city. Its ancient

monuments stand as testimonials to its glorious past that gave birth to democracy and other concepts and ideas that form an integral part of the Western tradition. Explore in the morning the Agora, the civic, commercial and living heart of ancient Athens. **Young Explorers will participate in a treasure hunt and learning session about ancient Greece.** After lunch at a local taverna, adults and children will tour the Acropolis and its celebrated monuments, including the incomparable Parthenon. Travelers will/may also visit the Acropolis Museum, which houses an outstanding collection of sculptures. (B, L)

Wednesday, July 2

ATHENS/EPIDAUROS/NAFPLION/MYCENAE

Leave the hotel in the morning to explore storied sites in the Peloponnese, the place where many of the ancient myths and legends had their route. After driving over the narrow Corinth Canal. We will continue to Epidaurus, the sanctuary of Asclepius, the god of healing. Epidaurus is famous for its magnificent 4th-century BC theater, which is notable for its perfect acoustics and harmonious proportions. Then on to seaside Nafplion, one of Greece's loveliest old towns, where we will enjoy lunch and time at leisure to explore the town. Returning to Athens, visit Mycenae, the most important center of the Bronze Age Mycenaean Civilization, and home of Agamemnon, who led the Greeks against Troy. (B, L)

Thursday, July 3

ATHENS/VOULIAGMENI/SANTORINI

After a morning at leisure in Athens, drive along the scenic coastal road of the Athenian Riviera to Vouliagmeni, a fashionable seaside resort, famed for its lake of warm water enclosed by limestone rocks. Those who wish may enjoy swimming in the inviting brackish sulphureous waters. After lunch at a lakeside restaurant we will drive



Street scene in Plaka, Athens



Santorini

to the airport for the short flight to Santorini. Spend the next two nights at the lovely *Hotel Orama*, located in Fira, the island's main town. Dinner will be served at a local restaurant. (B, L, D)

Friday, July 4

SANTORINI

In prehistoric times Santorini was a flourishing trading center inhabited by a sophisticated society. In the late 17th century BC, a massive volcanic eruption collapsed half of the island and buried its main town, now called Akrotiri, in a thick layer of ash and pumice, preserving its houses, streets and squares as they existed 3,700 years ago. Some have connected the disappearance of half of the island with the legend of Atlantis. We will return to Fira to visit the superb Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which provides a fine introduction to Santorini's Bronze Age civilization, and whose exhibits include artifacts excavated at Akrotiri. Spend the afternoon

at leisure to enjoy the unique architecture and vistas of the island. In the afternoon, **Young Explorers will take a boat to Nea Kameni, a volcanic magma dome in the middle of the caldera, pushed up by successive eruption. (This activity is subject to a minimum of 12 Young Explorer participants).** (B)

Saturday, July 5

SANTORINI/HERAKLION, Crete

In the morning we will drive to picturesque and photogenic Oia, which commands the northern entry into the caldera, its colorful houses perched on top of the ridge. Explore this incredibly beautiful place, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, and then drive to the small pier below Fira to board the fast boat to Heraklion, the main city and commercial center of Crete. Upon arrival, drive to a local restaurant for dinner, and then check in at the *Hotel Megaron*. (B, L, D)

YOUNG EXPLORERS PROGRAM

Experienced youth education counselors will lead group of similarly aged children in the Young Explorers Program, a series of educational and recreational activities designed from a child's perspective, enhancing their appreciation of the sites visited. This is the perfect opportunity to inspire young minds with the epic poetry of Homer, the legends of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, the ideas of Socrates, and the actual feel of classical architecture.

Accompanied by their parents and/or grandparents, children will take guided tours specifically created to bring alive legend and history. Or, flexibility being the key, they may also enjoy independent time to relax or explore together as a family. In addition, while adults attend lectures or enjoy free time, Young Explorers may:

- Participate in their own archaeological "excavation."
- Learn about the heroes and other stories of Greek mythology.
- Participate in a "treasure hunt."
- Learn about the ancient Panhellenic games that gave rise to the modern Olympics, and the story behind the Marathon race.
- Run a race in the ancient stadium of Nemea.
- Learn the secrets of the Corinth Canal.
- Produce a play in the ancient Greek style of presentation at the end of the trip.



Young Explorers engaging with their Greek guide.



Nafplion, one of Greece's loveliest old towns.

Sunday, July 6

CRETE

The largest of the Greek islands, Crete is home to Europe's first civilization, the Minoan, which rose about 4,000 years ago. With an incredibly beautiful and varied landscape that harbors over 2,000 plant species, outstanding archaeological sites and museums, historic old towns, and a cuisine that gave birth to the Mediterranean Diet, Crete is a magnificent place to visit. Many of the ancient Greek myths took place here, and Zeus, the supreme ancient Greek god, was reared at one of the island's caves. We will drive in the morning to the south of the island to visit the Minoan palace of Phaestos (2nd millennium BC), which is located in a beautiful plain. Continue to the superb Preveli Beach, where swimming can be enjoyed, and after lunch at a local restaurant, drive to Rethymno, one of Crete's most attractive towns, known for its well-preserved architecture dating from the Venetian and Ottoman periods. Return to the hotel late in the afternoon. (B, L)



Vouliagmeni lake, Athens

Monday, July 7

CRETE

Spend the morning at leisure for independent activities. Crete has been known for its curative herbs since antiquity. You may wish to visit Heraklion's herb market, where shops sell a wide variety of the island's herbs. In the afternoon, tour the palace of Knossos, the largest and most magnificent Minoan palace in Crete. Clustered around a spacious courtyard, the palace contains a maze of rooms, passages and stairways that probably generated the concept of the labyrinth. More than any other palace, Knossos reveals the brilliance and refinement of the Minoan civilization. Also visit the superlative Archaeological Museum, home to the world's finest Minoan artifacts. **Young Explorers will tour Knossos with a specially-trained children's guide.** Farewell dinner will be served at a local restaurant that specializes in Cretan cuisine. (B, D)



In the old town of Rethymno, Crete

Tuesday, July 8

HERAKLION/USA

Transfer to the airport for the return flight home. (B)

RATES

Adults: \$ 6,890 per person, double occupancy.

Single room supplement: \$ 1,490

Child's rate sharing room with 2 adults: \$ 3,990

Child's rate sharing room with 1 adult: \$ 5,190

2 children sharing room:
\$ 5,990 per child

3 children sharing room:
\$ 4,990 per child

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations at deluxe hotels: Three nights at the *Hotel Athens Capital* in Athens; two nights at the *Hotel Orama* in Santorini; and three nights at the *Hotel Megaron* in Heraklion, Crete.
- Buffet breakfast each morning at the hotel.
- Five lunches and four dinners with wine or beer (for adults), juices or soft drinks (for children).
- Group airport/hotel/pier transfers overseas at designated times on the indicated arrival and return dates, and handling of luggage.
- Comprehensive program of tours, excursions and other activities as described in the itinerary, with a professional English-speaking guide.
- Educational program of lectures and discussions by accompanying Wellesley Guest Lecturer.
- Young Explorers Program, a series of educational and recreational activities for children, led by youth education counselors.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys Trip Director.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Gratuities to porters, drivers and guides.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare, travel insurance, items and expenses of a personal nature, and any items not mentioned in the Itinerary and Program Inclusions.

REGISTRATION

WELL 25L-0629

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ _____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on **FAMILY LEARNING ADVENTURE TO GREECE AND THE GREEK ISLANDS**, June 29 - July 8, 2025, with Wellesley College. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611 or email: reservations@thalassajourneys.com

or make a check payable and mail with this registration form to:

Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

AmEx Discover Visa Master Card

No. _____

Exp. _____ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code _____

Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation Double Bed Single Bed

Single accommodation *Bed configuration cannot be guaranteed.*

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT) CLASS OF

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT) CLASS OF

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____

(CELL) _____

EMAIL _____

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys. Thalassa Journeys acts solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and our rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Florida, pursuant to applicable Florida law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

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Wellesley College Alumnae Association
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Join Wellesley Alumnae on a Family Learning Adventure to Greece and the Greek Islands: Exploring the Land of Myths and Legends | June 29 - July 8, 2025



For Reservations and Information,
Please Call **866-633-3611** or Email:
reservations@thalassajourneys.com

The 4th-century BC
theater of Epidaurus.

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Exploring the Land of Myths and Legends | June 29 - July 8, 2025