

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

GREEK ISLAND HOPPER

2022 YOUNG ALUMNI ADVENTURE

US DEPARTURE DATE: JUNE 11, 2022 | LAND TOUR START DATE: JUNE 12, 2022

RETURN DATE: JUNE 19, 2022

LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$1,975



START YOUR ADVENTURE.

Dear Young Alumni and Friends!

Can you think of a better way to travel than with fellow University of Minnesota Young Alumni?

The UMN Alumni Association young alumni travel program, designed for 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 the University of Minnesota. Our journeys are of great quality and value, operated by a travel company with over 45 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/umn and select this tour to be directed to the tour web site.

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

Sincerely,



Audra Gerlach Ferrall
Director of International Alumni and Travel
University of Minnesota Alumni Association
umnalumni.org



GREEK ISLAND HOPPER

9 DAYS



CITIES VISITED:
ATHENS | MYKONOS | SANTORINI



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
- Ground transportation by private motor coach
- Ferries or ships from Santorini to Mykonos to Athens
- Airport transfers with purchased AESU group airfare

Meals

- 12 meals: 7 breakfasts, 4 specialty dinners, 1 specialty lunch

Activities & Admissions

- Santorini walking tour
- Admission and guided tour of the pre-historic settlement and archaeological excavations at Akrotiri
- Hill-top town of Pyrgos

- Tour and 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 dancing

Optional Excursions (not included in land package price):

- Optional excursion from Santorini to Nea Kameni & Palea Kameni hot springs
- 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 foods. 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

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. 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. Later this afternoon, 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.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



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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 a walk to the top of the volcanic island and enjoy this surreal landscape as your guide narrates the creation and history of the volcano and the last eruption leading to the destruction of the island of Santorini. Take time to swim in the warm waters heated by the hot springs on the sea floor. At tonight's sunset dinner, try some of the island's delicious food including flavorful ingredients grown in the nutrient-rich volcanic soil.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



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 Mykonos welcome dinner at the old harbor, our tour director takes us to the perfect spot to sit back and enjoy another magnificent Aegean sunset.

Meals: Breakfast, 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



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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



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



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



PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

TOUR DIRECTORS

Your tour includes the services of a professional tour director throughout the land package. We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major European universities. They are eager to show the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime and will share their 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.



HOTELS

Our hotels are superior tourist-class or better, with private bathrooms. They are centrally located and many offer great extra amenities such as pools, gyms or rooftop bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$575 applies. If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will attempt to arrange a share with a same-gender traveler. If a share cannot be arranged the single supplement will apply.



ACTIVITY LEVEL: 2 (EASY)

This is a one-country, multi-city trip by boat. This tour requires light physical activity combined with short travel days. Activities may include an occasional city or nature walking tour, stopping along the way. Guests should be able to climb a set of stairs, walk up or down slight slopes and navigate some uneven terrain or cobblestone. Optional excursions may be offered at a higher activity level. This journey is appropriate for travelers who are physically fit, lead active lives and are comfortable participating in the itinerary activities, able to handle their own luggage.

Travel to and from the tour is not factored into our activity level ratings. You should take into account your stamina when traveling long distances and/or with multiple flight changes. Also, you must be able to handle your luggage independently throughout the itinerary.



"NOT ONLY WAS THIS AN AMAZING TRIP, IT WAS A WAKE UP CALL TO SEE THE WORLD."

- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; any vaccinations, pre/post trip testing/screening, airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. Cancellation from time of booking until 120 days prior to departure will result in a \$300 cancellation fee. Cancellation between 119-90 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 25% of tour cost; between 89-60 days 35% of tour cost; between 59-30 days 50% of tour cost. Cancellation within 30 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip. Processing of cancellation refunds takes approximately 6-8 weeks.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Travel insurance, including medical health and accident coverage, is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS AND BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the land tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, epidemic health risk, any force majeure event, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond the Operator's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. **TRAVEL INSURANCE** is compulsory in the event of tour cancellation for any reason, medical expenses, personal accident, baggage and other personal items, liability and 24-hr emergency assistance. Trip insurance may be offered directly by your Alumni Association. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, the Operator's liability shall be limited to a refund of land payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. If the change or cancellation is due to force majeure or other similar events beyond Operator's control, a refund of land payments received from applicants will be made less reasonable expenses incurred by Operator in respect to applicant's land booking. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. The Operator reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/ or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.