



Greece

Athens & Gytheio

Inspiring Moments

- ▶ Enjoy coastal life in charming, seaside **Gytheio**.
- ▶ Stand in the glorious **Acropolis** and relish magnificent 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®



Ruins of the 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 fresh insights on classical and modern Greece during engaging lectures. Throughout it all, revel in alluring landscapes and tantalizing cuisine fresh from the farm and sea. The enduring beauty and magic of this storied land awaits you!

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1 | In Transit

Depart for Athens, Greece. 🌐

Day 2 | Athens, Greece

Transfer 🚗 to the NJV Athens Plaza Hotel.

Free Time: Explore Athens on your own this afternoon. This evening, enjoy a Welcome Reception and 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 top sites on a panoramic tour. Then head up to the resplendent Acropolis 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 splendid artifacts and see 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

Depart Athens and travel toward seaside Gytheio on the Peloponnese's ruggedly beautiful Mani Peninsula.

Discovery: Mycenae and Greek Wines. On a guided visit, explore the impressive ruins of Mycenae, one of the great centers of the Mycenaean civilization. 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! Later, sample fine Greek wines with lunch at a winery. *(Active)* Check in to the Las Hotel & Spa in Gytheio.

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

Day 5 | Gytheio | Areopoli | Limeni | Thalames

Discovery: The Mani Peninsula. Begin with a short



walk in Gytheio to learn more about its history. Then embark on a scenic drive along winding, coastal roads to soak up the wild, remote splendor of the Mani. Your first stop is Areopoli, famous 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. Afterward, travel to Limeni, one of the Mani's prettiest seaside villages, for fabulous views of the crystal-clear turquoise bay, and pause for lunch along your route. Cap off your travels with a tour of a working olive mill in Thalames with a rare stone mill.

Enrichment: Greek History.

Free Time: Choose a cozy place in Gytheio for dinner.

Day 6 | **Mystras | Sparta**

Enrichment: Classical Greece.

Discovery: Mystras, Sparta and the Greek Olive.

Set off this morning to tour the spectacular 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)

Free Time: Spend your evening in Gytheio at leisure.

Day 7 | **Monemvasia**

Discovery: Monemvasia. Gazing 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 famous church, and Agia Sofia, a Byzantine church that sits atop a cliff.



Free Time: Have lunch on your own in Monemvasia. In Gytheio tonight, watch the sun set over the Laconian Gulf from a special spot, then savor dinner in town.

Day 8 | **Gytheio**

Enrichment: Contemporary Greece.

Free Time: Relax on nearby beaches like Mavrovouni or Ageranos and enjoy lunch at a taverna by the water!

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 way back.

Discovery: Corinth Canal. Opened in 1893, this deep channel separates the Peloponnese from the mainland. See it up close on a cruise and have lunch in the area.

Continue to Athens and 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.

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 24 guests.
- **AHI Travel Assurance** plan covers Accident and Sickness Medical Expense, Trip Delay and Emergency Evacuation for U.S. residents.
- **Discovery excursions** highlight the local culture, heritage and history.
- Expert-led **Enrichment programs** enhance your insight into the region.
- **AHI Sustainability Promise:** We strive to make a positive impact wherever we travel.
- **AHI Connects:** Local immersion.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions to mingle with fellow travelers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- Complimentary travel mementos.



2023 Departures & Pricing

June 16-25, 2023

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

*Special price available for a limited time. Call for details.

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).

Program-specific terms and conditions are available at <https://umich.ahitravel.com/destinations/1747A?schoold=95>. You can also request a copy from our travel experts.

Note: Itinerary sequence and/or scheduled events may change. Walking is required on many excursions.

Flights and transfers provided for AHI FlexAir participants.

Electives available at an additional cost.