W&L Traveller

presents

THE ANCIENT STONES OF ATHENS
A Comprehensive Exploration of Europe’s Oldest City
From Antiquity to the Present

May 29 - June 6, 2020

The Parthenon on the Athenian Acropolis

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY
We invite you to experience the enduring legacy and contemporary vitality of Athens on this special W&L Traveller journey. The oldest city in Europe, Athens has been inhabited since the Neolithic period, c. 5000 BC, and was named after Athena, the goddess of wisdom, who became the city’s patron. More than any other city, Athens had a profound and lasting effect on the development of the history of the Western world. The ideas and concepts at the heart of the Western tradition were formulated here. Democracy was born in Athens, as was philosophy, historiography and the theater, among others. The Classical period (5th to mid-4th centuries BC) witnessed an astounding flowering of creativity, when the city became a magnet of artists, poets and thinkers from all over the Greek world, especially during the leadership of Pericles (495 – 429 BC), when most of the temples on the Acropolis were built. This was the Golden Age of Athens.

The ancient monuments that have survived through the centuries attest to Athens’ glorious past. Our program provides a unique opportunity to study Athens’ history and its incredible contributions to Western civilization, as well as explore practically all its ancient sites and monuments - those that are well known, such as the temples on the Acropolis, and those that are hidden away, as for example, Plato’s Academy. We will also venture into Attica, the countryside of Athens, to explore sites that played a crucial role in the city’s history including Marathon, site of the great battle between the Athenians and Persians, and Eleusis, home of the great Sanctuary of Demeter and of the Eleusian Mysteries. And we will sail across the Saronic Gulf to visit the island of Aegina with its impressive Temple of Aphaia.

Athens today is a dynamic city with a vibrant culture. It is also one of Europe’s friendliest and safest cities. Despite Greece’s recent economic challenges, the arts are flourishing and spirits are high. Through our meetings with civic and other leaders, we will discuss current affairs and Greece’s vital role in the Eastern Mediterranean. We invite you to explore the many facets of Athenian history, culture and contemporary life on this unique Washington and Lee educational journey.

“Look once more e’re we leave this specular mount, Westward, much nearer by south-west, behold
Where on the Aegean shore a City stands
Built nobly, pure the air, and light the soil,
Athens, the eye of Greece, mother of arts
and eloquence, native to famous wits.”

John Milton
Paradise Regained
**Friday, May 29 ~ DEPART THE USA**
Depart the United States for Athens.

**Saturday, May 30 ~ ATHENS, GREECE**

Arrive in Athens and transfer to the Hotel Athens Plaza, our home for the next seven nights, located on Constitution Square, the center of the city. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

Meals: D

**Sunday, May 31 ~ ATHENS– A walk through the ancient monuments, the Agora, the Kerameikos & Plato’s Academy**

One of the world’s most venerable cities, Athens is the capital of Greece and the oldest city in Europe. Its ancient monuments are testimonials to its glorious past that gave birth to democracy and many other ideas and institutions that form an integral part of the Western tradition. After a morning at the hotel, drive to the entrance of the pedestrian street for a walk on this historic route that connects most of the city’s main ancient monuments.

Included is the Theater of Dionysos, built on the slope of the Acropolis and dating from the 6th century BC, the Asklepieion, originally built in the late 5th century BC and dedicated to Asklepios, the god of healing, and the Odeion of Herodes Atticus, a magnificent theater built in 161 AD and still used today for performances. Continue to the hill of the Pnyx, the meeting place of the Assembly under the Athenian democracy, and the hill of the Areopagus, the meeting place of the ancient Council of Athens, and the place where St. Paul spoke to the Athenians in 51 AD.

Meals: B, L

**Monday, June 1 ~ The National Greek Library and the Acropolis**

In the morning, drive to the new Stavros Niarchos Cultural Center, a magnificent complex, designed by the celebrated Italian architect Renzo Piano, that houses the Greek National Opera and the Greek National Library. Visit the Library and attend a lecture that will cover contemporary issues. In the afternoon tour the Acropolis and its celebrated monuments. Occupied since prehistoric times, the rocky plateau of the Acropolis (the word “acropolis” means “upper city”) rises dramatically out of the plain and dominates the modern city as it did in ancient times. The incomparable

**Street scene in Plaka**

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Meals: D

**Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center**

After lunch at a local taverna, explore the Agora, the civic and commercial center of ancient Athens and the living heart of its democracy. The Agora was the favorite ground of Socrates, who could be seen daily questioning the assumptions of his fellow citizens. See the remains of the civic buildings and visit the Agora Museum, housed in the reconstructed Stoa of Attalus, originally built in the 2nd century AD, as well as the well-preserved 5th-century BC Temple of Hephaistos, known as the Theseion, after Athens’ legendary hero Theseus. Continue to the Kerameikos, the principal cemetery of ancient Athens, where most of the notable figures of Athens were buried. The Sacred Way, the road taken to Eleusis by the celebrants to the famous Mysteries started here. Nearby is the ground where the world’s most famous school of philosophy stood, Plato’s Academy.

Meals: B, L
Parthenon, the Temple of Athena Polias, and the other temples and structures built in the 5th century BC under the leadership of Pericles, represent the highest achievement of architecture and art of the Classical period. After exploring the Acropolis visit the Acropolis Museum. Built at the foot of the Acropolis, it houses an outstanding collection of sculpture and other artifacts. Enjoy dinner at a restaurant overlooking the Acropolis. Meals: B, D

**Tuesday, June 2 ~ ATHENS/ELEUSIS/DAPHNI/ATHENS**

Drive in the morning to Daphni to visit its splendid 11th-century Monastery, which has some of the finest Byzantine mosaics in Greece. Continue to Eleusis, home of the great Sanctuary of Demeter, the goddess of crops, and of the Eleusinian Mysteries. The dramatist Aeschylus was born here. Famous throughout antiquity, the Mysteries began and ended in Athens and lasted for nine days. For the duration of the Mysteries a truce was declared throughout Greece. Initiates walked in procession along the Sacred Way, which led directly from Athens to the sanctuary. Large sections of the road have survived. After exploring the site enjoy lunch at a local taverna then return to Athens with the balance of the afternoon at leisure. Meals: B, L

**Wednesday, June 3 ~ ATHENS/AEGINA ISLAND/ATHENS**

In the morning, drive to the port of Piraeus to board the boat for the island of Aegina. Situated near the Athenian coast, in the center of the Saronic Gulf, Aegina has a rich history that goes back to the Bronze Age. Starting in the 7th century BC, its navy was among the most powerful in the Greek world, raising the jealousy of Athens. Upon arrival, we will explore the remains of Aegina’s ancient city, sited at a promontory called Kolona, which was inhabited continuously from the Bronze Age (3rd and 2nd millennia BC) to the Byzantine period. Then, drive through the island’s interior to the Temple of Aphaia. Built in 490 BC in a beautiful spot, the temple is considered to be among the most magnificent and important ancient monuments in Greece. Enjoy lunch at a taverna and free time to explore on your own the main town of Aegina, with its picturesque harbor lined with neoclassical mansions, before returning to Athens. Meals: B, L

**Thursday, June 4 ~ ATHENS/MARATHON/BRAURON/SOUNION/ATHENS**

Today we drive to Attica, the countryside of Athens, to explore two sites connected to the history of Athens. Start at Marathon, the site of the great battle fought in 490 BC between the large invading Persian army and a much smaller force of mostly Athenian citizen-soldiers. The victory of the Athenians enabled Greek democracy to flourish and set the example for the rest of the world. A runner was sent to Athens, 26 miles away, to announce the victory, initiating the race known today as the “marathon.” Continue to Brauron, an important sanctuary dedicated to Artemis. Explore the site and visit the museum, which houses objects from the excavations of the site. Enjoy lunch at the seaside town of Lavrion and then drive to nearby Sounion, where on a headland high above the sea stands the majestic 5th-century BC Temple of Poseidon. Return to the hotel in the afternoon, driving along the scenic coastal road of the Athenian Riviera. Meals: B, L

**Friday, June 5 ~ ATHENS – the National Archaeological Museum & the Hellenic-American Union**

In the morning visit the National Archaeological Museum, home to outstanding collections that represent Greece’s long history and cultures. Among other exhibits, we find here the most important finds from the Mycenaean period, including the artifacts excavated by Heinrich Schliemann in Mycenae, and the world’s finest collection
of ancient sculpture from the 7th century BC to the 5th century AD. End the morning at the headquarters of the Hellenic American Union for a lecture on the current state of immigration to Greece, and the country’s geopolitical importance in the Eastern Mediterranean. Spend the afternoon at leisure with a farewell dinner this evening. Meals: B, D

Saturday, June 6 ~ ATHENS/USA
Transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

PRICING
$4,580 per person, double occupancy; Single room supplement: $980

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

- Seven nights in Athens at the Athens Plaza Hotel, centrally located overlooking Syntagma Square.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotel
- Four lunches and three dinners, with wine or beer served
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers and handling of luggage abroad
- All tours and excursions as per the itinerary with qualified English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees to ancient sites and museums
- Program of lectures by the accompanying Washington & Lee Lecturer and local guest speakers
- The services of a Trip Manager
- All local taxes and service charges associated with the program
- Gratuities to porters, drivers and guides
- Pre-departure material

NOT INCLUDED: Airfare; travel insurance; items of personal nature; any items not mentioned in the Program Inclusions.

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO CRETE & SANTORINI, June 6-11, 2020
Explore the achievements and the incredible creations of the Bronze Age Minoan culture, Europe’s first civilization, in Crete and Santorini on a five-day post-Athens extension. We will explore Minoan palaces and towns including Knossos and Akrotiri, visit museums where exquisite artifacts from the period are housed, meet with local citizens and taste the food for which both islands are justifiably famed.

Complete details are available on request. Price includes airfare from Athens to Heraklion and from Santorini to Athens; ship passage from Heraklion to Santorini; three nights in Heraklion and two nights in Santorini; breakfast daily, two lunches and three dinners, with wine; transfers, and all tours. Price per person, double occupancy: $1,890; Single supplement: $490

Mycenaean funerary mask, National Archaeological Museum
GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of $500 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour which is fully refundable until 9 months prior to departure, August 29, 2019, at which time an additional $500 deposit is due and the cancellation policy described below applies. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by credit card or personal check.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations within nine months of departure 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. Complete General Information is available upon request.

REGISTRATION

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for $_______ ($500 per person) as a deposit to hold_____ place(s) on The Ancient Stones of Athens, May 29 - June 6, 2020.
I understand that an incremental deposit of $500 is due on August 29, 2019 and final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure, payable by check or credit card.

Please make check payable to and mail with this registration form to:

Thalassa Journeys
8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835
Phone Toll-Free: (866) 633-3611

☐ AmEx       ☐ Discover       ☐ Visa        ☐ MasterCard

No. ____________________ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code ____________________

Exp. ____________________

Double accommodation ☐ Single accommodation ☐

Bed preference at hotels: Two beds ☐ One bed ☐

I/we wish to reserve space on the Crete-Santorini extension ☐

DR./MR./MRS./MS.             FIRST                    LAST

DR./MR./MRS./MS.             FIRST                    LAST

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

TELEPHONE (DAY)              (EVENING)

E-MAIL

SIGNATURE DATE

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

SIGNATURE DATE

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL OUR TOUR OPERATOR
TOLL-FREE
866-633-3611

THALASSA JOURNEYS
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Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835