



Xavier University Honors Program to Greece June 15-July 16, 2008

Join faculty of Xavier University for an illuminating journey to Greece. Cradle of Western Civilization and land of rich archaeological treasures, Greece is an amazing place for uncovering the religious, philosophical, political, artistic and historical roots of the major cultural dynamics at work in our own civilization. This month-long interdisciplinary study tour enables participants to have a comprehensive and in-depth experience of Greece, traveling to ancient sanctuaries such as Delphi, Olympia, and Epidauros, sailing across the Aegean to Greek isles, and climbing the ever enchanting Acropolis in Athens.

This program is designed to help students bridge disciplines, cross borders, and inspire new learning as they return to the USA with insights and perspectives that have transformed the way they see themselves and their world.

We are all members of a global community that is increasingly interdependent. The future of our world depends on our cultivating a spirit of hospitality, respect, understanding and compassion for one another.

Enlightenment comes in many forms, but we believe that there are few life experiences more moving than exploring other cultures, meeting people of diverse backgrounds, and becoming a citizen of the world – *leading and inspiring respectful and compassionate ways of life.*

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PROGRAM SYNOPSIS

Our Program

Sunday, June 15

This afternoon, we depart Cincinnati airport on our overseas flight to Greece. On board, we will enjoy dinner and breakfast.

Monday, June 16

We arrive in Athens this morning. We will be met at the airport by our local contact person in Greece who will assist us with our transfer to our hotel in central Athens. After checking in and having chance to freshen up and adjust to new time zone, we will have free time to explore the neighborhood and get oriented to Athens. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

Tuesday, June 17

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Wednesday, June 18

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Thursday, June 19

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Friday, June 20

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Saturday, June 21

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Sunday, June 22

After breakfast, we transfer by private deluxe motorcoach to Piraeus, the port for Athens. We will board a ferry for the island of Santorini.

This is one of the most beautiful Greek isles, formed by a volcano that has left a land of great contrasts with steep cliffs plunging into the deep blue waters and white washed villages clinging to the hillsides.

On arrival, we will transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Monday, June 23

After breakfast, we will enjoy a full day guided visit of the Museum, Profitis Ilias (a high point on the island with great views and an ancient monastery), Pyrgos winery, Fira (the beautiful harbor town of steep walkways and historic quaint streets and chapels) and Oia (with its unique troglodytic dwellings). We will return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Tuesday, June 24

After breakfast, we enjoy a boat trip around the island to view the volcano, the hot springs and the archaeological site of Therassia (Thira). Later, we board a ferry for Heraklion (on the island of Crete). On arrival in Heraklion, we transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Crete was an extremely early crossroads of great civilizations due to its unique geography, situated in the Mediterranean. There has been an active and vibrant civilization here from at least 2000 BCE, making this a fantastic site to explore ancient history.

Wednesday, June 25

After breakfast, we enjoy a guided visit to Gortys, Festos and Matala. Gortys reached its zenith around the third century BCE and became an important center during the Byzantine era. There are important ancient and Byzantine ruins here. Festos (Phaistos) was one of the most important Minoan cities on Crete. We will visit the extensive archaeological site here. Finally, we will visit Matala, the site where Zeus swam ashore after having abducted Europa. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Thursday, June 26

After breakfast, we enjoy a guided visit to sites in the Lassithi area – including the impressive ruins of Kato Zakros with ancient Minoan burial caves and the impressive Minoan-era palace. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

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Friday, June 27

After breakfast, We will visit the ancient city of Knossos and the Museum. The museum here in Heraklion is one of the most impressive in Greece, with a wealth of treasures gathered on Crete. We will visit the vast archaeological site of Knossos – the oldest city in Greece. The site was found, in part, due to Schlieman's literal and historic interpretation of the the Homeric epic and the identification of the place with the Minotaur.

The afternoon is free. This evening we will board an overnight ferry for Piraeus.

Saturday, June 28

Arrival in Piraeus with transfer to our hotel in Athens. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Sunday, June 29

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Monday, June 30

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Tuesday, July 1

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Wednesday, July 2

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Thursday, July 3

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Friday, July 4

After breakfast, we shall commence our journey to the Peloponnese. We begin with a visit to Corinth – an ancient Greek town situated on an important trade route that passed over the Isthmus of Corinth between the Ionian and Aegean Seas. The

town was not only an important Greek and Roman site, but also was made famous by the visit St. Paul made there during the 1st century.

We continue to Mycenae. According to legend, the city was founded by Perseus, son of Zeus and Danae. This is the famous city of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra. There are important excavations here including royal tombs, the palace and the acropolis.

We will travel to Tolo (near Nauplion) for dinner and overnight.

Saturday, July 5

After breakfast, we travel to Epidaurus. This is the important sanctuary of Asklepios, the son of Apollo and Koronis. Asklepios was revered for his healing powers and physicians throughout Greece treated the ill through a combination of physiological and spiritual treatments. Theatre and sport were considered part of the cure – thus the existence of a spectacular theatre at the site.

We continue with a visit to Nauplion with overnight and dinner in Tolo.

Sunday, July 6

After breakfast, we travel to Mystras. This is a beautiful site overlooking ancient Sparta. It was built in the 13th century as a fortress and played an important role in conflicts between the Franks and Constantinople and then later between the Turks and Byzantium and the Venetians. It was an important cultural center and boasts beautiful monasteries and churches of Byzantine influence. Dinner and overnight in Sparta.

Monday, July 7

After breakfast, we travel to Mt. Taigetos and stop at Nestor's Palace (a building similar to those in Crete and belonging to King Nestor mentioned by Homer in recounting the siege of Troy). In nearby Chora, we will stop and visit the museum that contains important finds from the region. Dinner and overnight in Pylos.

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Tuesday, July 8

After breakfast, we travel to Olympia. On arrival, we will visit the museum and part of the archaeological site.

Around a sacred grove, the Altis, a sanctuary grew up dedicated to Pelops, Zeus and Hera where games were organized perhaps as early as the 8th century BCE. This is a site that genuinely evokes the spirit of the Olympian games and ancient Greek culture.

Dinner and overnight in Olympia.

Wednesday, July 9

After breakfast, we shall visit some additional sites in Olympia before we begin our journey to Delphi.

This was the site of the important sanctuary of Apollo that was later joined with the cults of Dionysius and Athena. This was an important center for Greek pilgrims and festivals. The oracle at Delphi was consulted by important men and women from around the world and was finally closed in 381 CE. This is a beautiful site with an important intact theatre overlooking the valley and ruins covering the hillside outlining the Sacred Way of pilgrims approaching the Temple of Apollo.

Dinner and overnight in Delphi.

Thursday, July 10

After breakfast, we visit the archaeological site and museum at Delphi. Later, we drive via Lamia, Larissa and Valley of Tempi to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight.

Friday, July 11

After breakfast, we visit Pella (a site of recent excavations and discoveries – and ancient city mentioned by Herodotos, Thucydides and other great writers). We continue with a visit to the Byzantine Churches in Thessaloniki including St. Dimitrios with the crypt and St. Sophia. In addition to Thessaloniki's importance as a Greco-Roman site and large Byzantine center, it is a very modern and vibrant city undergoing a rebirth and development. Dinner and overnight in Thessaloniki.

Saturday, July 12

After breakfast, we travel to Veria (an important city associated with St. Paul) and then continue to Vergina where the treasures of Ancient Macedonia and the Royal tombs were found. After visiting the site, we continue to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight.

Sunday, July 13

After breakfast, we will visit two monasteries in this region of Meteora. This is a spectacular setting where monasteries situated on impregnable rocky heights have survived over the centuries and preserve important artistic and spiritual treasures from Byzantine times. We then return to Athens for dinner and overnight.

Monday, July 14

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Tuesday, July 15

Breakfast. Guided visits (TBA) organized by Xavier faculty. Dinner and overnight Athens.

Wednesday, July 16

After breakfast, we transfer to the Athens airport for our return flight to Cincinnati. We arrive later this day in Cincinnati.

Program Travel Features

Air transportation via regularly scheduled flights between:

- Cincinnati and Athens
- Heraklion to Athens
- Athens and Cincinnati

Ferry tickets from:

- (Piraeus) Athens to Santorini
- Santorini to Heraklion
- Heraklion to (Piraeus) Athens

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From Pireaus to Santorini and from Santorini to Heraklion, ferry tickets include pullman type (economy class) seats.

Overnight ferry from Heraklion to Pireaus in 4-berth inside cabins.

Motorcoach transportation between airport/port and hotels by private air-conditioned motorcoach, accompanied by English-speaking assistant and Greek-speaking driver.

Motorcoach transportation for excursions by private air-conditioned motorcoach with Greek-speaking driver.

Luggage, portorage, road and local taxes.

Accommodations in 3-star hotels in twin bedded rooms with private bath for a total of 29 nights

- Athens – 14 nights
- Santorini – 2 nights
- Heraklion – 4 nights
- Tolo/Nauplion – 2 nights
- Sparta – 1 night
- Pylos – 1 night
- Olympia – 1 night
- Delphi – 1 night
- Thessaloniki – 2 nights
- Kambala – 1 night

Hotel in Athens is located near a metro station and has a swimming pool and rooftop garden. Rooms are air-conditioned.

Use of a meeting room in hotel in Athens one hour each day

Hotel tax and service charge

Continental breakfast and dinner daily

English speaking tour manager/government licensed expert guide for excursions and visits.

Entrance fees to archaeological sites and museums and visits mentioned in excursions.

English speaking assistance in Athens.

Porterage of luggage at hotels.

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Program Prices

\$4950.00 per person based on double occupancy

\$ 350.00 additional - airline taxes, airport fees, security fees, fuel surcharges (estimate as of October 2007)

Land Only Program Prices:

(excludes all air transportation and airport transfers)

\$3600.00 per person based on double occupancy

\$ 900.00 supplement for single room occupancy

The prices are based on availability of services at the time registration material is received; currency exchange rates in effect and on 2007 land and air tariffs and are subject to change. All services are provided subject to Illume's Conditions and Clauses.

Airline taxes, airport fees, security fees and fuel surcharges for all flights are not included in the program price.

(Currently, these are \$350). Entrance fees to the archaeological sites and museums are not included. Entrance is free for Students of Classical Studies of Fine Arts from countries outside the European Union. Gratuities to the guides, driver and hotel staff are not included.

Program Registration:

Complete the Registration Application. Forward with your \$1000.00 deposit per person no later than December 15, 2007 to:

Professor Edmund Cueva
Xavier University
3800 Victoria Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45207
cueva@xavier.edu

Balance of payment due not later than March 1, 2008.

Program No. 9202.08

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