



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
Traveling Bulldogs™

August 29 to September 6, 2025

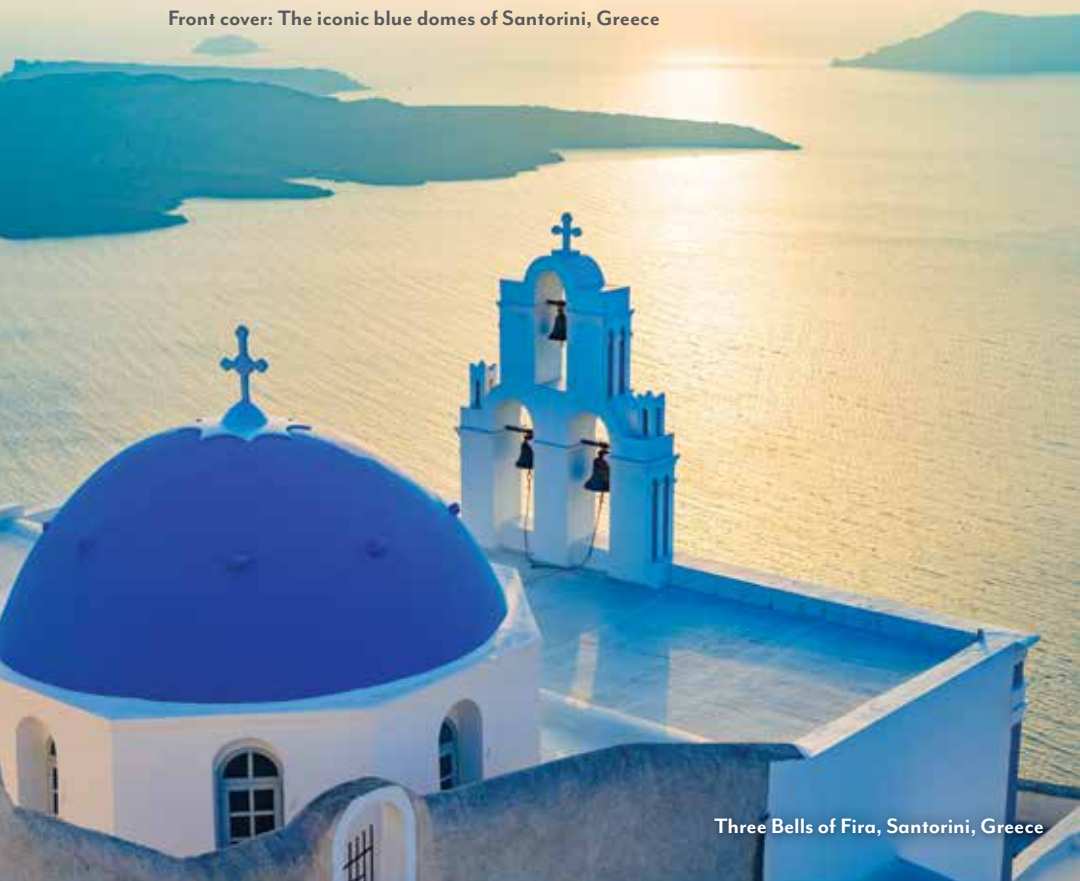
Island Life® Greek Isles & Ephesus



Wonders of Antiquity

See the classical world come to life on this Aegean voyage to the ancient sites where Western civilization as we know it was founded. Cruise round-trip Athens for seven nights to experience the mythical landscapes of Greece and Turkey, where you will be immersed in epic stories from antiquity. Traverse the streets of UNESCO-inscribed Delos — legendary birthplace of Artemis and Apollo — and enjoy time at leisure on the island of Mykonos, famous for its whitewashed houses, iconic windmills and cosmopolitan verve. Visit the Terrace Houses of Ephesus, explore the ancient wonder of Pátmos and climb to the clifftop acropolis at Lindos on the island of Rhodes. Discover the mysteries of Santorini, a crescent-shaped island featuring a spectacular caldera shaped by a volcanic explosion about 3,600 years ago — potentially burying what some believe was the lost city of Atlantis. Conclude your tour in the rarely visited island of Milos, where pieces of the world-famous Venus de Milo were discovered and reassembled more than 2,000 years after the Hellenistic statue was created.

Front cover: The iconic blue domes of Santorini, Greece



Three Bells of Fira, Santorini, Greece



Palace of the Grand Master, Rhodes, Greece



Dear Alumni and Friends:

Journey to the cradle of civilization as you explore the preserved treasures of ancient Greece and Turkey. Cruise round-trip Athens for seven nights to fabled halcyon islands aboard the exclusively chartered, first class **Wind Spirit**. This four-masted sailing yacht is able to moor in small ports of call inaccessible to larger vessels.

Our epic tour calls at Delos; Mykonos; Pátmos; Rhodes; Santorini; and Milos — ancient destinations steeped in myth and history. Sail Turkey’s sun-drenched coast to visit Ephesus, the most spectacularly preserved Greco-Roman city in the world. Behold wonders from antiquity, from the Monastery of St. John in Pátmos to the majestic Sacred Way in Delos — the legendary birthplace of Artemis and Apollo.

Enjoy time on your own to explore the island of Mykonos, where according to Greek mythology, Hercules lured giants into battle and the large rock formations that remain are evidence of their defeat. Your journey concludes on the remote island of Milos, where the famous Venus de Milo statue was found.

An excellent value at the best time of year where all accommodations, meals, and an excursion every day are included, and you only need to unpack once! Make your reservations while space and early booking savings are still available!

Sincerely,

Jeff Davis
Executive Director
MSU Alumni Association

Leanna Smith, '09, '16
Assistant Director
MSU Alumni Association

Travel Insurance: An application for trip cancellation, baggage and medical insurance will be sent to you by the MSU Alumni Association’s travel program once you are registered for the tour. Travel insurance is strongly recommended. Contact Leanna Smith at 662-325-3360 or lsmith@alumni.msstate.edu for further information.

**To secure your spot, call Gohagan and Company at 800-922-3088
or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve**



Arete Kelsou statue at Celsus Library, Ephesus, Turkey

Legends of Ephesus

Ancient Ephesus is a city of stories, ones that trace from as far back as 1050 B.C. through the Roman Imperial era to the age of early Christian evangelism. A port city and center of trade on the Mediterranean for millennia, its first settlers were Anatolian people who would later be captured by Ionian tribes, who were unseated by the Persians, who were then conquered by legendary Greek leader Alexander the Great. However, most of the well-preserved ruins you will see today in this UNESCO-inscribed Turkish city are remnants of an age of extreme wealth and prosperity enjoyed under the first century reign of Caesar Augustus. As the new capital city of the Roman Empire, the Hellenistic Great Theatre was renovated with lavish Roman aesthetics; the grand, two-story Library of Celsus was constructed; and elaborate villas known as the Terrace Houses were built for its most elite residents. Very close to Ephesus you may also see what remains of the Temple of Artemis, one of the “Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.” This temple to the goddess Artemis, built in the sixth century B.C., was set on fire, then rebuilt several times only to be destroyed by a Christian mob around 401 A.D. Believing that the Virgin Mary lived here after the death of Jesus, Ephesus has since become a site of Christian pilgrimages that continue to this day.



Ephesus, Turkey

Journey Through Time



Lions Terrace, Delos, Greece

The Roman writer Cicero observed of Athens that “wherever you set your foot, you encounter some memory of the past.” In Greece and Turkey, the stories of antiquity come to life. St. John the Apostle is believed to have penned the Book of Revelation on Patmos; the legend of the lost utopian city of Atlantis lives on in Santorini; and it is on these mythological islands that Odysseus sought redemption in the Underworld and where Orpheus retrieved his first love. Walk the Sacred Way of Delos and discover ancient Akrotiri — the “Minoan Pompeii.” Enjoy exclusive cultural enrichments, including a classical concert at the historical Caravanserai building in Kusadasi and a traditional Greek folklore performance on this immersive itinerary.



Grand Theater, Ephesus, Turkey

INCLUDED FEATURES

- ◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if you purchased air through Gohagan & Company and your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
- ◆ Experienced, English-speaking local guides for included excursions.
- ◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- ◆ Complimentary water in your suite or stateroom and on excursions.
- ◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Directors at your service.
- ◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
- ◆ Automatic \$250,000 flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
- ◆ Hospitality desk aboard the ship.
- ◆ Meals included as noted in the itinerary (B,L,R,D).



GOHAGAN & COMPANY



2025 | 9-DAY/8-NIGHT ITINERARY

Depart Home City

Day 1 | August 29

Depart your home city.

Arrive in Athens, Greece

Day 2 | August 30

Arrive in Athens, Greece, where you will embark the first class *Wind Spirit*. (D)

Delos/Mykonos, Greece

Day 3 | August 31

This morning, visit the UNESCO World Heritage site of Delos — the legendary birthplace of Artemis and Apollo. Walk along the Sacred Way to the Sanctuary of Apollo, a spectacularly rich archaeological site with remains of three separate temples from the fifth and sixth centuries B.C. See the legendary Terrace of the Lions, dedicated to Apollo, where hand-carved marble statues guarded the island for nearly 2,600 years. After lunch on board the ship, explore the island of Mykonos, where

according to ancient legend, its craggy hills and clefts were formed from the petrified bodies of giants defeated by Hercules. Join fellow travelers for the Captain's Welcome Reception this evening. (B,L,R, D)

Kusadasi, Turkey, for Ephesus

Day 4 | September 1

Arrive in Kusadasi and drive to Ephesus, a vast archaeological site of Greek, Roman and Byzantine ruins including the restored and reconstructed Celsus Library and the Great Theater. Visit the Terrace Houses and the Ephesus Archaeological Museum, which showcases artifacts that were retrieved from Ephesus during excavations in the late 19th and early 20th centuries — including the famous statue of Artemis. Later this evening, enjoy a classical concert at the historical Caravanserai building. (B,L,D)

Pátmos

Day 5 | September 2

On the island of Pátmos, tour the Greek Orthodox Monastery of St. John, a UNESCO World Heritage site. See the Cave of the Apocalypse, where St. John the Apostle most likely wrote the Book of Revelation in 95 A.D. Return to the ship for lunch on board and a culinary demonstration. (B,L,D)

Rhodes/Lindos

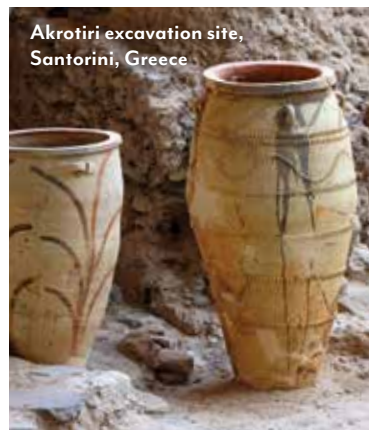
Day 6 | September 3

Dock in Rhodes at the wall of Rhodes Town, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with a stop at its ancient port — where the mighty Colossus of Rhodes statue stood before it was destroyed by an earthquake in the third century B.C.

Explore the medieval old town as it was built by the Order of St. John, which occupied Rhodes from the early 14th century through the 16th century.



Cave of the Apocalypse, Pátmos, Greece



Akrotiri excavation site, Santorini, Greece



Village of Lindos and the Acropolis, Rhodes, Greece

Visit the Palace of the Grand Masters, a formidable Gothic castle that houses a treasure trove of art, furniture and icons from that era.

You will be able to choose from two activities this afternoon. One is an excursion to the ancient village of Lindos to see its Church of Panagia and cliff-top Acropolis. At a height of 535 feet, this iconic site offers breathtaking views and photo opportunities of the village. Alternatively, you may opt to indulge in an afternoon at leisure in Rhodes. Enjoy a traditional Greek folklore show with local musicians and dancers, followed by dinner on board the ship this evening. (B,L,D)

Santorini

Day 7 | September 4

Be on deck as the ship cruises into the port of Santorini, beneath which some believe

to be the legendary lost city of Atlantis. From the port we will drive to the southern end of the island for a tour of Akrotiri — a unique archeological site that dates to prehistoric times. Tour these spectacular Minoan ruins, held intact by layers of pumice and ash for over 3,500 years.

Visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which houses finds excavated from Akrotiri. Continue to the town of Fira, renowned for its whitewashed buildings, stunning views and vibrant energy. Enjoy an afternoon with time to explore Santorini at your own pace. (B,L,D)

Milos, Greece

Day 8 | September 5

Today the ship arrives in Milos, a largely undeveloped volcanic island in the East Cyclades known for its abundance of sandy beaches and stunning topography.

It was on this remote island that the world-famous Venus de Milo marble statue was found in pieces in 1820. Though most of it was reassembled and presented to King Louis XVIII, the arms of the ancient female figure believed to represent Aphrodite were never found. Visit the Archaeological Museum of Milos, which features exhibits that date from the Neolithic period through late antiquity. After lunch on board, enjoy time at leisure at the beach or participating in maritime activities. Attend a Captain's Farewell Reception and dinner this evening. (B,L,R,D)

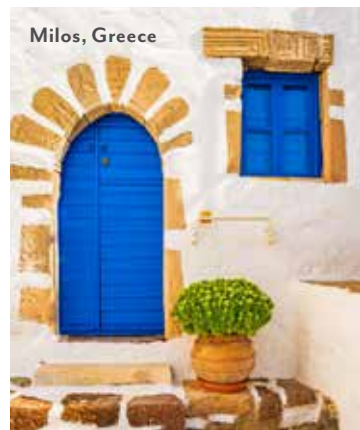
Athens/Return to Home City

Day 9 | September 6

Arrive in Athens this morning. Disembark and continue on the Delphi Post-Tour Extension or transfer to the airport for your return flight home. (B)



Mykonos, Greece



Milos, Greece



Wind Spirit

The intimate, four-masted **Wind Spirit** offers an unforgettable deluxe sailing experience. This small ship is designed to sail from deep seas into ports inaccessible to larger vessels. The **Wind Spirit's** gourmet dining and wide teak deck with unobscured views provides the ultimate sailing experience to each guest. Complimentary alcoholic/nonalcoholic beverages and Wi-Fi access are available throughout the cruise. All meals on board the ship are included. Each of the 74 ocean-view staterooms features one queen bed or two twin beds (Owner's Suite has a queen bed), private bathroom with shower, luxury hotel amenities, individual climate control, flat-screen television with DVD player, safe, minibar, vanity table, hair dryer, plush robes and slippers.



2025 DEPARTURE DATE
August 29 to September 6, 2025
 (Embarkation: August 30)

Category-Description	Standard Rate	Early Booking \$1,000 Savings*
B Stateroom with two portholes. <i>Deck 1, aft and forward.</i>	\$7,190	\$6,190
BX Deluxe Stateroom with two portholes. <i>Deck 1, midship.</i>	\$8,390	\$7,390
A Stateroom with two portholes. <i>Deck 2, aft and forward.</i>	\$9,290	\$8,290
AX Deluxe Stateroom with two portholes. <i>Deck 2, midship.</i>	\$10,290	\$9,290
Owner's Suite Suite with four portholes, queen bed, and sitting/dining area. <i>Deck 1, aft.</i>	\$11,390	\$10,390

***Early Booking Savings of \$1,000 are available when you book by 03/24/25 and pay in full at time of booking. If you pay only your deposit by early booking date, you still save \$500 per person.**

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes. Single accommodations are available in categories 6, 7 & 8 at 160% of the cabin fare, plus taxes, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200%. Early Booking Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)

Port taxes in the amount of \$295 per person are included in the above prices. Deck plans available upon request.

Gohagan & Company reserves the right to correct errors or omissions and to change any and all fares, fees, promotions and surcharges at any time. Terms & Conditions are available at gohagantravel.com/terms/

To secure your spot, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088 or visit gohagantravel.com/reserve



PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

Athens

August 27 to 30, 2025 (Tour Begins: August 28)

Begin your journey with an immersive experience in the ancient city of Athens. Explore the monumental Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and its perfectly proportioned Parthenon, a graceful example of Doric architecture. Tour the archaeological treasures of the Acropolis Museum and enjoy the colorful neighborhood of Plaka, the oldest section of Athens. Discover the idyllic coves and sparkling Aegean waters of Cape Sounion and follow the ancient route of Pericles to the Temple of Poseidon — where 15 of the original 34 Doric columns are remarkably still standing. Accommodations are for two nights in the ideally located **Grand Bretagne Hotel**.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,195

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,495

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.



POST-TOUR EXTENSION

Delphi

September 6 to 8, 2025 (Tour Ends: September 8)

Extend your journey with a two-night itinerary exploring Delphi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and Thiva, or Thebes — featuring a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Thebes, where exhibits span from the Neolithic era to the end of the Ottoman rule. Tour Delphi and visit the Delphi Archaeological Museum. Walk on the Sacred Way to see the Treasury of Athens, the Temple of Apollo, the theater and the impressive stadium. Spend one night in the **Domotel Anemolia Hotel** and one night in the **Sofitel Athens Airport Hotel**.

Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$995

Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,295

Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

Early Booking Savings* available | Save \$2,000 per couple!

Celsus Library, Ephesus, Turkey



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