

WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

GREECE

Eat - Live - Love

Athens - Peloponnese - Naxos - Santorini

with Women of the Midwest

May 1-14, 2025



Dear Women of the Midwest,

If you have ever dreamt about a "foodie" tour to Greece, here it is! Athens, Peloponnese, Naxos, and Santorini ...it doesn't get any better than this!

A silk-weaving monastery, golden honey, the world's finest olive oil, the best of the Mediterranean cuisine ...ordinary ingredients creating extraordinary experiences, and foods reflecting the celebration of life. And where there is a connection to real food, there is a connection to real life; let's live it up in Greece!

We follow the local pace, sampling the cuisine, the regional brews, and the daily customs. We learn of their colorful history and the people who made it so. From farm to table, we will savor the unique marriage of fresh ingredients and imagination, magically giving birth to delicious mouthfuls to eat and drink.

We will wander amongst the vineyards and wine barrels to sip and taste the exciting wines of ancient varieties. We will explore the myths and lore of legendary rulers, great warriors, and lost civilizations. We will discover unique products like nowhere else in the world, bursting with flavors from lava-rich soil and plentiful sun. We will recreate the recipes of years gone by as we head behind the kitchen door to chop, cook, and indulge.

Relax and unwind as you learn to appreciate an exceptional way of life ...the Greek way of life! THIS is the way travel should taste!

Reserve your spot now on this fabulous trip to Greece. Come, join me, solo or two-by-two.

Joyfully,
Rhonda Wagner, Ambassador
Women of the Midwest



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

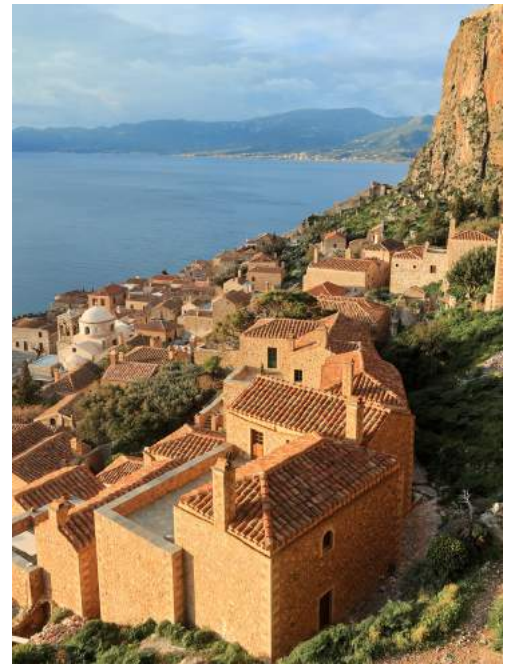
Acropolis



Lunch in the Olive Grove



Monemvasia



May 1, 2025 - Thursday

Traveling to Athens

Our charming adventure begins as we take an overnight flight to Athens. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your Greek dream "foodie" vacation.

May 2, 2025 - Friday

Athens

Welcome to Athens! Upon arrival, we will meet our private tour guide, who will accompany us during the entire trip. We are off to experience some of the most incredible sights in history. On our way to Athens, we will stop at Cape Sounion, where the impressive Temple of Poseidon rises above the Aegean Sea. A seaside lunch is served before we reach our hotel. Athens is one of the oldest cities in the world, full of myths, mysteries, and legends. The city is home to many sacred ancient sites, monuments, and landmarks - a fusion of old and new and a buzzing cosmopolitan metropolis. It is one of the most glorious cities in the world and the cradle of Western civilization as we know it today. Founded seven thousand years ago, the city flourished in the fifth century BC when Athenian democracy was practiced in the Bouleterion (council chamber) and open discussion was encouraged in the Agora (marketplace). Check in to our hotel for an evening at leisure to relax and unwind. If you are still awake, take an evening stroll by the Acropolis; it's right next door. B | L

May 3, 2025 - Saturday

Athens

After a delightful breakfast, we head out to discover Athens. A short distance by foot takes us to the Acropolis, dominated by the Parthenon and built as a temple to Athena in the 5th century BC. From the top of the hill, you will see the Agora, where Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle strolled. Next, we will visit the stunning Acropolis Museum, where lunch is served. We will continue by

motor coach through the city to see the House of Parliament at Syntagma Square, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Public Library, the University, and the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first Olympics of the modern era were held. The late afternoon and evening are yours to enjoy the city. Don't miss old town "Plaka" with its numerous shops (open till late!), enjoy people-watching and a local "meze" (plate with small bites) - the best way to taste the local delicacies. B | L

May 4, 2025 - Sunday

Corinth Canal - Ancient Olympia

After a hearty breakfast, we board our motorcoach and drive towards pretty Peloponnese. We will stop to admire the canal that connects the Gulf of Corinth with the Saronic Gulf in the Aegean Sea. A local mountain village is the backdrop for lunch, followed by Greek coffee with the best baklava you have ever tasted! Arriving in Ancient Olympia in the early afternoon. Visit the birthplace of the Olympic Games. The Athletes met here for the first time in 776 BC, and this is where the Olympic Torch is lit every 4th year. Indulge in the exceptional aura of Ancient Olympia; it feels like the games are still on. The evening is yours to enjoy and relax. B | L

May 5, 2025 - Monday

Honey & Silk - Saint Theodora - Sparta

After a rich breakfast, we will take a short drive to a traditional honey farm. Klio will meet us, introduce us to her agricultural activities, and tell stories about her grandparents, who made their living from the delicious local honey. We will walk the garden and be guided through Klio's private collection, learn about the secrets of honey production, and taste traditional sweets with honey prepared in front of us. We will continue our journey to experience a unique phenomenon: the church of Saint Theodora. An architectural paradox with seventeen large trees growing

out of the roof. Still today, it is quite a mystery how this little 10th-century church, apparently without foundation, manages to withstand the weight of the trees. The locals mainly visit this place; you will not see many tourists here. Lunch is served at the local watermill. Our last stop is in Kalamata, at a special monastery, the Abbey of the Nuns. Founded in 1796, it has been a local space for charity, a safe place during German and Italian occupation, and a shelter for those displaced during the Greek Civil War. A central courtyard filled with orange trees houses the nuns' living areas and a church. The monastery is famous for its silk production. We will visit the room where the nuns used to work and cultivate silk back in the day and the weaving room where you can see unfinished pieces on the looms. Silk products are still made, including silk headscarves known to be among the finest in the world, embroideries, small icons, and more, which you can purchase from the monastery shop. The next two nights are spent in Sparta. In ancient times, a powerful town-state known for its brave soldiers and set amongst vineyards and citrus-olive groves. "This is Sparta!" B | L

May 6, 2025 - Tuesday

Monemvasia - Mystras

At the tip of the Peloponnese's first leg is the unspoiled town of Monemvasia, a Byzantine castle citadel strategically perched on a massive rock protruding from the sea. The history of the town of Monemvasia starts with its name; it derives from the words "moni" and "emvasia," which mean "single passage." The Venetians discovered that the only passage to the castle town of Monemvasia was through a paved walkway. Before this walkway was constructed, the only way to enter the town was by boat. Monemvasia is one of the most romantic places in Greece. A Medieval Harry Potter town, exclusively carved on the slopes of a rock. We will have

Portara (Gate of Naxos)



time to explore on our own before lunch is served inside the citadel. Our last visit today is to the abandoned fortress of Mystras, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Once the last stronghold of the Byzantine Empire, today, the stones of its monumental gates, medieval houses, palaces, and churches lay silent. We will relax and enjoy our evening at leisure. B | L

May 7, 2025 - Wednesday

Epidaurus - Nafplion

After a hearty breakfast, we board our motorcoach and drive towards Nafplion. Our first stop today is at a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, the Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus, a 2,300-year-old stage with legendary acoustics from ancient times. This place will make a special impression as it also hosts the roots of all medicine and the cult of the God of Medicine, Asclepius. If you recall, the snake wrapped around the physician staff is today's symbol of the medical profession. This is where it all began. Lunch is special and served in the shade of hundred-year-old olive trees. Enjoy the best local cuisine while learning about the "golden liquid" and the importance of olive oil. We will arrive at Nafplion, one of the prettiest cities in Greece. You will love the small shops and narrow streets full of life. B | L | T

May 8, 2025 - Thursday

Naxos

A special "food walk" of Nafplion is arranged this morning, prior to driving to Piraeus, the port of Athens, for our afternoon ferry crossing to the island of Naxos. The namesake capital (also called Hora) is a port town filled with whitewashed, cube-shaped houses and medieval Venetian mansions. The island offers everything from delicious food, local liquors, beautiful white marble, incredible Cycladic scenery, local crafts, and some of the best beaches in Greece. We will experience it all! Our three-night

Santorini



stay in Naxos will be something you will never forget! B | T

May 9, 2025 - Friday

Taste of Naxos Tour

We will enjoy a laid-back breakfast. Later, we will take a walking tour of Naxos Town (Hora) with tastings of the local delicacies: cheeses, citrus liquor (kitron), and sweet pastries. You will fall in love with the picturesque narrow streets and local shops. Enjoy swimming in the crystal-clear waters this afternoon. Tonight, we have a special dinner arranged ...dance lessons included! B | T | D

May 10, 2025 - Saturday

Naxos Island Tour

Breakfast is served before we board our motorcoach to take an island tour. Experience local villages and beautiful scenery. We will also learn the techniques of the local ceramics as we will visit a workshop to be introduced to the history of local art and the different types of clay. We will enjoy lunch at our tour guide's favorite tavern. It doesn't get much better than this. B | L

May 11, 2025 - Sunday

Santorini - Oia Sunset

Enjoy free time in the morning to swim or take a last stroll in Hora. We will take a short two-hour ferry ride to Santorini, a most magical island, a sparkling jewel in the Aegean Sea with its white-washed houses set against the backdrop of the cobalt blue sea and famous for its black sand beaches. Molded by fire and sea, its majestic cliffs are still said to guard the secrets of Atlantis. Cameras out - this island is picture-perfect! We will check in to our hotel, and the afternoon is yours to bask in the golden sunshine, relax, and unwind in one of the most beautiful places in the world. We have arranged a tour of Oia in the evening to enjoy the spectacular sunset, dinner included! B | D

Love Greece!



May 12, 2025 - Monday

Santorini - Food & Wine - Cooking Class

We are off to explore the wines and foods of Santorini. We stroll the ancient vineyards and discover the famous "kouloura," an ancient Phoenician technique of growing grapes in baskets. We will savor four of the island's most remarkable wines and head to the kitchen to broaden our knowledge of Santorini's rich culinary treasures. Using seasonal and locally grown ingredients, our local chef challenges our notions of how certain dishes should look, taste, and smell, before we enjoy the results. B | T | C | L

May 13, 2025 - Tuesday

Santorini - Athens

Enjoy a relaxed morning to soak in the last impressions of Santorini. Take a walk along the caldera (volcano), or do your last souvenir shopping. We will board our flight to Athens in the early afternoon and relax at our airport hotel tonight. A light dinner is served while we reflect on all the wonderful memories of a once-in-a-lifetime journey. Eat, Live, and Love Greece! B | D

May 14, 2025 - Wednesday

Traveling Home

All too soon, your vacation has ended. Depart from Athens airport with plenty of time to check in for our flight and clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying west across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B

Itinerary subject to change.

B = Breakfast

L = Lunch

T = Tasting

D = Dinner

C = Cooking Class



To register contact:

ExecutiveTravel

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www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://womenofthemidwest.com/journeys/>

Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room:	\$5,295
Per person in a single room:	\$6,395

A limited number of single rooms are available.

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer a "Pair & Share" service for solo travelers. Ask us to assist you in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. The deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on January 2, 2025, and can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payments (any payment made after the deposit) will access a 3.5% processing fee.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:

Register at least eight (8) months prior to departure and receive a **\$200 DISCOUNT!**

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 22 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded.

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3+ 4

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking (up to five miles over the course of a day), stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and some steep areas within the places visited. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Portage is not included during ferry crossings (Piraeus-Naxos, Naxos-Santorini).

Group airfare:

Will be available by the end of June 2024.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. We offer a plan provided by Travel Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us. Travel Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

Accommodation (final accommodations 90 days prior to dep.):

Athens - Royal Olympic Hotel & Sofitel Athens Airport

Ancient Olympia - Hotel Europa or similar

Sparti - Hotel Menelaion or similar

Nafplion - Hotel Agamemnon or similar

Naxos - Naxos Resort or similar

Santorini - Hotel El Greco or similar

Included

- 12 nights accommodation at local 4-star hotels
- 12 x breakfast
- 8 x lunch
- 1 x hands-on-cooking
- 3 x dinner
- All tastings (olive oil, wine, honey, cheeses, and more) as per the itinerary
- Private motor coach transportation as per itinerary
- Sightseeing program as per itinerary
- All admissions as per itinerary
- Professional English-speaking tour guide during the entire program in Greece
- Ferry tickets (economy class)
- One-way domestic air, Santorini-Athens, economy class, including taxes, fees, and one checked bag up to 50 lbs
- Portage at hotels (one bag per person)
- All local taxes and fees as of February 22, 2024
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, May 1-14, 2025

Not Included:

- Airfare
- Additional baggage fees (first checked bag is FREE, up to 50 lbs)
- Travel insurance
- Gratuities for local tour manager and driver (estimate \$15 in total per day)
- Personal expenses
- Meals other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than those mentioned
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at the time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



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Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours

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2/24/2024