THE ANCIENT STONES OF ATHENS
A Comprehensive Exploration of Europe’s Oldest City
From Antiquity to the Present
May 29 - June 6, 2021
Dear Alumni and Friends,

We invite you to experience the enduring legacy and contemporary vitality of Athens on this unusual W&L Traveller visit to Greece. We are privileged to have leading our trip Professor Kevin Crotty, Chairman of the Classics department, whose vast knowledge, warmth and gentle humor contribute to his stature among students and alumni alike.

The oldest city in Europe, Athens has been inhabited since the Neolithic period, c. 5000 BC. Named after Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, Athens has had a profound and lasting effect on the development of the history of the Western world. Concepts that formed the foundation of the Western tradition were formulated here. Democracy was born in Athens, as was philosophy, historiography and the theater. The Golden Age of Athens (5th to mid-4th centuries BC) witnessed an astounding flowering of creativity. Athens 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.

The ancient monuments that have survived through the centuries attest to Athens’ glorious past. Our program provides a rare opportunity to study Athens’ history and her contributions to Western civilization. We will explore all of her major ancient sites and monuments - those that are well known, such as the temples on the Acropolis, and those that are hidden away, such as Plato’s Academy. We’ll 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. We’ll also sail across the Saronic Gulf to visit the island of Aegina with its impressive Temple of Aphaia.

One of Europe’s friendliest and safest cities, Athens today is a dynamic city with a vibrant culture. Despite Greece’s recent economic challenges, the arts are flourishing and spirits high. Through our meetings with civic and other leaders, we’ll discuss current affairs and Greece’s vital role in the Eastern Mediterranean. It has been said that the Athenians thought deeply about the meaning of life. We invite you to join us in discovering also how that life is lived deeply today.

Best regards,

Rob Fure
Director of Lifelong Learning

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Kevin Crotty is the J. Donald Childress Professor of Foreign Languages and Chair of the Classics Department at Washington and Lee University, where he has taught since 1999. A specialist in ancient Greek literature, he has published book-length studies of the ancient Greek poets Homer and Pindar as well as a study of the philosopher Plato, and has published a book on legal theory. He has led Washington and Lee students to Greece for the spring term on several occasions and has also escorted a previous cruise in the Aegean for the W&L Traveller. Professor Crotty also serves on the managing committee of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.
**ITINERARY**

**Saturday, May 29, 2020**
**DEPART THE USA**
Depart the United States for Athens.

**Sunday, 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

**Monday, 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. 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

Meals: B, L

**Tuesday, 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 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

Meals: B, L
collection of sculpture and other artifacts. Enjoy dinner at a restaurant overlooking the Acropolis.
Meals: B, D

Wednesday, 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

Thursday, 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

Friday, 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.
Meals: B, L

Saturday, 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

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

OPTIONAL EXTENSION TO CRETE & SANTORINI
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
**R A T E**

$4,580 per person, double occupancy.
Single supplement: $980

**P R O G R A M  I N C L U S I O N S**

- Seven nights in Athens at the Athens Plaza Hotel.
- American breakfast each morning at the hotel.
- Four lunches and three dinners, with wine or beer.
- Lectures by Professor Kevin Crotty.
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers and handling of luggage abroad at specified transfer times.
- All tours and excursions as per the itinerary with qualified English-speaking guide.
- Entrance fees to ancient sites and museums.
- The services of an experienced Thalassa Journeys trip director.
- All local taxes and service charges associated with the program.
- Gratuities to porters, drivers and guides.
- Pre-departure material.

**N O T  I N C L U D E D:** Airfare; travel insurance; items of personal nature; any items not specified in the itinerary and in Program Inclusions.

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**R E G I S T R A T I O N**

I (we) wish to reserve __ place(s) on The Ancient Stones of Athens, May 29 - June 6, 2021, with Washington & Lee University. I/We understand that a deposit is $1000.00 per person is required. Enclosed is my check for $___.

Alternatively, indicate below if you prefer to make your deposit via credit card.

- I/We wish to pay the deposit by credit card and authorize Thalassa Journeys to contact us for credit card details. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure and is payable by check or credit card.

Mail this registration form (including your deposit check, if applicable) to:
Office of Lifelong Learning, Washington and Lee University
204 West Washington St., Lexington, VA 24450

For further info, contact W&L Office of Lifelong Learning at 540.458.8723

- AmEx
- Discover
- Visa
- MasterCard

No. ________________________________
Exp. ________________________________
3- or 4-Digit Security Code ______________

Preference at hotels:

- Double accommodation
- Single accommodation

**M A P**

Street scene in Plaka

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**G E N E R A L  I N F O R M A T I O N**

**PAYMENT SCHEDULE:** A deposit of $1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

**CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS:** All cancellations 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.

**responsibility:** Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Thalassa Journeys and the tour’s sponsoring organization. Thalassa Journeys and the tour’s sponsoring organization act solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler’s safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler’s behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour’s itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding your deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person’s health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler’s risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in the City of New York, pursuant to applicable New York law.

**rate:** Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.
Join Kevin Crotty, Chair of the Classics Department at Washington and Lee University on our educational journey exploring the legacy of classical Greece, “The Ancient Stones of Athens,” May 29 to June 6, 2021

For reservations and information, please call W&L Office of Lifelong Learning at 540.458.8723