



WCU Study Travel

May 2024

Italy + Greece



Join professors and students from Western Carolina on a travel-study adventure to two beautiful European countries shaped by their proximity to the Mediterranean: Italy and Greece. We'll spend multiple nights in each locale, immersing ourselves in rich design and architecture that spans thousands of years, from the Parthenon of Ancient Greece to the modern heartbeat of Rome, juxtaposed against the ancient world.

Estimated Trip Dates:

May 14 – 25, 2024 – dates pending and will be confirmed in late Summer 2023

Trip Itinerary

Day 1: Depart the US. Europe, here we come!

Day 2: Arrive in Rome this morning. We'll head to our hostel to drop off our luggage. Then, enjoy a relaxing orientation to the city with a walking tour, taking in the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, and the beautiful Trevi Fountain. Later, we'll check into our hostel, and relax after our travels. Overnight, Rome.



Day 3: Visit the Vatican City today – with a visit to the monumental Baroque style St. Peter's Basilica, and the extensive Vatican Museums. See the beautiful Sistine Chapel in its restored glory, just as Michelangelo painted it, as well as a wealth of art and design that ranges from ancient Rome to the modern. Overnight, Rome.

Day 4: Today, we'll tour the Colosseum this morning, then have a free day in Rome to relax and explore in small groups. Overnight, Rome.

Day 5: We'll depart for Florence by train today! After arriving and dropping off our luggage at our lodging, enjoy a walking tour to learn about this fascinating city. Of course, we'll visit the famous Duomo, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, beloved for its striking architecture and impressive dome designed by Filippo Brunelleschi – the largest masonry vault in the world, built between 1420 and 1436! Overnight, Florence.

Day 6: Tour the Uffizi Gallery and admire the 16th century architecture designed by Vasari himself, and great masterworks from the 14th century and Italian Renaissance, from paintings by Botticelli to ancient sculptures. Overnight, Florence.

Day 7: Depart Florence by train and return to Rome airport for our flight to Greece. Fly to Athens, then to Santorini. Overnight, Santorini.



Day 8: Explore the whitewashed hilltop city of Oia today. We'll also visit the Akrotiri Archaeological Site and learn more about this volcanic island's ancient settlements. Overnight, Santorini.

Day 9: Today, we'll continue to discover traditional villages, including a tasting of fresh-pressed olive oil, and discover the wealth of flavors of the island. Finally, enjoy a boat excursion to take in the dramatic rocky landscapes from the sea, surrounded by sparkling turquoise waters. Overnight, Santorini.

Day 10: Finally, we'll make the short flight to Athens, where we'll spend our last two nights. In Athens, experience the rich architectural legacy of the ancient Greeks – from the remains of the Acropolis to the Agora marketplace and the Parthenon. See the fantastic artifacts on display at the Acropolis Museum, a collaboration between Swiss architect Bernard Tschumi and Greek architect Michael Photiadis, where the building's clean lines and airy spaces are inspired by ancient Greek mathematical principles. Overnight, Athens.



Day 11: For our last morning in Greece, let's visit the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center! The newly opened, Renzo Piano Workshop-designed Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre is home to the Greek National Opera and the National Library. The cultural campus is a kind of privately-funded agora (public space). We'll enjoy a private tour that introduces us to the architecture, the roof garden and gallery, soaking in the 360-degree views. The complex earned Greece's first LEED platinum certification and boasts the world's thinnest concrete roof (less than an inch), plus expanses of wood, marble, glass, and steel. Overnight, Athens.

Day 12: Return home to the US.



Trip Pricing:

This trip is priced on a sliding scale, to make it more affordable based on the number of students who register. When you sign up, you will see the lower price of \$4,050 / student, and you will be notified if the trip price must increase based on student sign-up numbers.

\$4,650 / student, for a group of less than 16 students

\$4,050 / student, for a group of 16+ students

What's included? International airfare & airfare within Europe; 10 nights accommodation (twin, triple, quad, and family room style) with breakfast in hostels; 4 group meals; all activities, guided touring, admissions per the itinerary; all group ground transportation, including metro, bus, train, and boat; trip insurance.

What's not included? Other lunches & dinners outside of the group meals, and spending money for optional expenses / activities.



