The Ancient Stones of Athens
A Comprehensive Exploration of Europe’s Oldest City

Jessica Lamont
Assistant Professor of Greek History and Culture
Dear Yale Traveler

I invite you to travel with Yale and experience the vibrancy of Athens and environs—rich in history, the arts, theater, food, drink, and more—do join me in discovering Athens, the oldest city in Europe.

Athens was named after Athena, the goddess of wisdom, who became the city’s patron with her gift of the olive tree. More than any other city, Athens has had a profound and lasting effect on the development of the Western world—from forms of government, to philosophical discourse, to the arts and beyond. It was here that so many ideas and concepts still pivotal within the Western tradition were formulated. Democracy was born in Athens, as was philosophy, historiography and the theater. On the heels of the great Persian Wars—which burned Athens to the ground (we will see traces of this burning on the Acropolis)—the Classical period (roughly 500-300 BC) witnessed a flowering of productive creativity. Indeed, the city became a magnet for artists, poets and thinkers from all over the Greek world. You’ll learn in particular about the so-called “Golden Age” of Athens, which transpired under the leadership of Pericles (495 – 429 BC), when many of the temples on the Acropolis were built, and Athens directed a mighty, sea-based empire.

Our program provides the unique opportunity to study Athens’ history, and its incredible contributions to Western civilization, as well as to explore the region’s ancient sites and monuments—those that are well known and those that are hidden away. This trip has also been designed to give you a glimpse of the Athenian countryside, to explore sites (especially sanctuaries) that played a crucial role in the city’s history and development.

To introduce myself, I am Jessica Lamont, Assistant Professor of Greek History and Culture here at Yale. I finished my Ph.D. in 2016 at The Johns Hopkins University, and have been teaching at Yale ever since. I know Greece quite well—I lived in Athens for two years during graduate school, on fellowships from the Alexander Onassis Public Benefit Foundation and also the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. I have spent every summer here since 2005, having worked on field excavations all across the country. Since coming to Yale, I’ve now been leading Yale undergraduate and graduate student trips here, visiting many of the same sites and museums I hope to show you, as alumni! My own research revolves around Greek history and religion—ancient Greek medicine and magic in particular. At Yale I regularly teach courses in Greek history, culture, and the ancient Greek language (“Greek History,” “Life and Death in Ancient Athens,” “Ancient Greek Medicine”, “Ancient Greek Festivals”, and more), which is why I’m so keen to share Athens with you.

Travel with Yale and explore Athens’ ancient monuments, visit notable new landmarks of the city and meet today’s civic and other leaders to discuss current affairs issues such as migration, economic development and Greece’s vital role in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Register now at yaleetravel.org/Athens19, as the trip will surely fill quickly. If you have questions or need more information, please call (203) 432-1952 or email edtravel@yale.edu

Sincerely yours,

Jessica Lamont
Assistant Professor of Greek History and Culture

www.yaleedtravel.org/athens19

Highlights

Explore Athens’ all major ancient landmarks as well as hidden corners few travelers see.

Discover the attractive countryside around Athens to visit superb sites that were tightly connected to the city’s history.

Visit the new Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center, home of the Greek National Library and the Greek National Opera, whose magnificent buildings and landscaped surrounding park has become a center of Athenian life.
Jessica Lamont, Assistant Professor of Greek History and Culture at Yale, studied at The College of William & Mary (BA, Classics; BA, Anthropology, 2008) and The Johns Hopkins University (PhD, Classics 2016; Certificate, Classical Archaeology & Art, 2016). She joined the Yale faculty in 2016. She spent two years living, researching, and teaching in Athens on fellowships from the Alexander Onassis Foundation and the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, and has had the pleasure of working on archaeological projects all across Greece—including those at the Athenian Agora, Korinth, Pylos/Iklaina, and Molyvoti (northern Greece).

Professor Lamont works at the intersection of Greek social history, epigraphy, religion, and material culture. With a 2018-19 NEH Fellowship, she is writing a book about ancient medical pluralism—the multiple medical “systems” that evolved to manage health, disease, and illness—in Classical Athens. Additional interests and publications concern the concept of “magic” in Classical antiquity—curse tablets, spells, voodoo dolls, and incantations. Outside of Yale, her interests include hiking, reading novels, skiing and, most recently, scuba diving (in the Greek islands!) She is sure to add a great deal to your family’s Mediterranean experience.
Itinerary
MAY 11-19, 2019

WELCOME PHONE CALL
Monday, April 22, 2019 (tentative)
Join the group at 4pm Eastern for a pre-trip welcome call with Professor Lamont to learn more about what to expect and to ask questions.

DEPART THE USA
Saturday, May 11
Depart the United States for Athens.

ATHENS, GREECE
Sunday, May 12
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.
Meals: D

ATHENS - A walk through the ancient monuments, the Agora, the Kerameikos & Plato’s Academy
Monday, May 13
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. In the morning 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 in the 6th century BC. 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. 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 Hephaestos, known as the Theseion. Continue to the Kerameikos, the principal cemetery of ancient Athens, where most of the city’s notable figures were buried. Nearby is the ground where the world’s most famous school of philosophy stood, Plato’s Academy.
Meals: B, L

More than 2,550 years ago, the Greeks laid the foundations for the now celebrated Mediterranean diet. The gastronomic traditions they established continue to this day.

ROMAN ATHENS & THE NATIONAL GREEK LIBRARY
Tuesday, May 14
In the morning, explore the monuments that were built when Athens was ruled...
by Rome. The magnificent edifices built during this period represent the last flowering of Greek architecture before the decline of Greco-Roman civilization. Start at the Temple Olympian Zeus, which was started in the Archaic period, but it was finished 700 years later. Nearby stands the Arch of Hadrian. Continue to the Roman Agora, where inscriptions record the building of monuments contributed by Julius Caesar and Augustus. Nearby is the Tower of the Winds, which served as a sundial, water clock and weather vane. In the afternoon, 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 discussion that will cover contemporary issues.

Meals: B, L

ATHENS/CLASSICAL ATTICA – "THE MARATHON" AND THE SOUTHERN COAST

The Marathon Marathon Marathon Marathon Marathon Marathon

ATHENS/CLASSICAL ATTICA – "THE MARATHON" AND THE SOUTHERN COAST

ATHENS – The Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum

Wednesday, May 15

Morning at leisure for independent activities. 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 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. Also visit the Acropolis Museum which houses an outstanding collection of sculpture and other artifacts. Enjoy dinner at a rooftop restaurant.

Meals: B, D

ATHENS/CLASSICAL ATTICA – "THE MARATHON" AND THE SOUTHERN COAST

Thursday, May 16

Drive in the morning 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 and then drive to nearby Daphni to visit its splendid 11th-century Monastery, which has some of the finest Byzantine mosaics in Greece.

Meals: B, L

ATHENS/CLASSICAL ATTICA – "THE MARATHON" AND THE SOUTHERN COAST

Friday, May 17

Drive to Attica, the countryside of Athens, to explore 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. 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 of the Athenian Riviera.

Meals: B, L

ATHENS – The National Archaeological Museum & the Hellenic-American Union

Saturday, May 18

In the morning visit the National Archaeological Museum, home to outstanding collections that represent Greece’s long history and cultures.

Meals: B, L
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. Enjoy dinner at an Athenian restaurant. Meals: B, D

ATHENS/USA  
Sunday, May 19
Transfer to the airport for the return flight home.

PROGRAM COST
$5,650 per person, double occupancy.  
Single supplement: $790

WHAT IS INCLUDED
- Educational program of lectures and discussion with Yale Professor Jessica Lamont
- Seven nights in Athens at the Hotel Plaza
- American breakfast each morning at the hotel
- Four lunches and three dinners, with wine or beer served
- Airport/hotel/airport transfers and handling of luggage in Athens
- All tours and excursions as per the itinerary with qualified English-speaking guide
- Entrance fees to ancient sites and museums
- The services of a Trip Manager
- All local taxes and service charges associated with the program
- Gratuities to porters, drivers and guides
- Pre-departure material

WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED
Airfare; travel insurance; items of personal nature; any items not mentioned in What is Included.

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. During our three-nights and two nights in Crete and Santorini respectively, we will explore Minoan palaces and towns, visit museums where exquisite artifacts from the period are housed, meet with locals and taste the food for which both islands are justifiably famed.

Additional details and pricing for the optional extension will be sent to confirmed participants.

Reserve Your Trip To Fabled Athens Today
Book online: www.yaleedtravel.org/athens19
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To register, return this form with your deposit of $1,000 per person to YET. Final payment is due February 11, 2019.

Accommodations
Bed preference at hotels (not guaranteed):
☐ Two beds  ☐ One bed

I wish to have a single accommodation
☐ I will share accommodations with _______________

Contact Information

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PRIMARY PHONE

SECONDARY PHONE

E-MAIL

Payment Options
☐ Pay by check made out to “Thalassa Journeys”

Please charge the deposit of $1,000 per person to:
☐ AMEX  ☐ Visa  ☐ MasterCard

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

SECURITY CODE

To reserve, return the above form with credit card authorization or check payable to “Thalassa Journeys” to Yale Educational Travel, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010. Phone: (203) 432-1952. Fax: (203) 432-0587.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

RESERVATIONS, DEPOSITS, AND FINAL PAYMENT: To reserve a space on this tour, please mail a deposit of $1,000 per person payable to “Thalassa Journeys,” along with the completed reservation form, to: Yale Educational Travel, Association of Yale Alumni, P.O. Box 209010, New Haven, CT 06520-9010 or fax the completed form to (203) 432-0587. Deposits may be charged to a credit card. Reservations are acknowledged in order of receipt. Final payment is due February 11, 2019.

CANCELATIONS AND REFUNDS: All cancellations must be in writing to Yale Educational Travel. Deposits are refundable (less a $300 per person administration fee) if written notice of cancellation is received before February 11, 2019. Cancellations received between February 11 and March 12, 2019 are subject to a cancellation penalty equal to 50% of the program cost. Cancellations received after March 12, 2019 will be assessed a penalty equal to 100% of the program cost.

WHAT TO EXPECT: We consider this a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Daily excursions involve walking, often on uneven terrain. In some instances, elevators are unavailable and stairs may not have handrails. Participants must be physically fit, active, and in good health.

INSURANCE: Yale Educational Travel highly recommends the purchase of trip cancellation insurance. If participants purchase trip insurance, and we hope that they do, participants are free to purchase the insurance of their choice. Most travel insurance must be purchased within 7-10 days of paying a deposit in order to include certain provisions including pre-existing conditions.
Yale Educational Travel

Association of Yale Alumni
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New Haven, Connecticut
06520-9010

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Assistant Professor of Greek History and Culture

The Ancient Stones of Athens

From the Athenian Acropolis to Marathon and beyond, explore fabled Athens and its countryside, and learn of the city’s contributions to the development of the Western tradition.

Mosaic with Christ Pantokrator, Daphni Monastery

Experience the glorious ancient legacy and contemporary vibrant culture of Athens.

May 11-19, 2019

A Comprehensive Exploration of Europe’s Oldest City