

Cultural Pilgrimages in Athens, Crete, & London



Honors Cultural Pilgrimages will consider travel as an expression of pilgrimage. While pilgrims have typically been imagined as those who journey to religious sites, this program will imagine pilgrimage in a broader sense—as the act of seeking transcendence, connection with the past or with cultural memory and artefacts, and other forms of personal meaning-making, all through reading and writing about as well as traveling to a particular location.

Students will visit the historically and culturally significant capitals of Athens, Greece; Heraklion, Crete; and London, England. They will embark on excursions to pilgrimage spots outside these cities, such as the Palace of Knossos, Rethymno, Chania, Samaria Gorge, Greenwich, Neasden, and Cambridge. The sites we visit will explore pilgrimage in relation to nature and history, food and sports, science and mythology, and popular and high culture. Time will be given for each student to reflect on, construct, and enact his or her own pilgrimage.

Program Fee: To be announced

Included in Program Fee:

- Housing in 3-Star hotels each night
- Continental breakfast daily
- 5 lunches; 10 dinners; 1 afternoon high tea
- Transportation within and between cities
- Daily cultural activities

Not Included in Program Fee:

- Airfare
- Passport
- Spending money and personal expenses
- At least one daily meal, when a meal is not scheduled

Requirements:

- Attendance at March 18, 2018 orientation
- Completion of reading assignments prior to departure and personal pilgrimage narrative after return
- Full participation in itinerary, journal, discussions, and excursions while we travel

*"The world is a book,
and those who do not travel read only one
page."
St. Augustine, 354-450*



See what past Cultural Pilgrimages participants have to say:

I recommend Cultural Pilgrimage because it was a life changing trip! By far the best parts were the encouragement of independence and the guiding principle that experiencing a culture as a pilgrim is infinitely more valuable than experiencing it as a tourist.

Cultural Pilgrimage provides great camaraderie as well as an intensely personal journey, and that combination of qualities makes it a truly wonderful experience. It's something I'll never forget.

It's amazing to share new traveling experiences with peers who are each on their own individual journey as well. You will perhaps unearth parts of yourself you haven't seen in a while or discover something very new about yourself.

Traveling Europe with Drs. Middleton and Flowers was enlightening and empowering because of their wisdom and ability to engage with students.

The best aspect of Cultural Pilgrimage was the self discovery as result of the freedom to explore and engage with students, professors, and culture of each of the locations.

I recommend Cultural Pilgrimage because the experience of traveling across Europe with honors students and honors professors truly cannot compare to any other study abroad opportunity (Trust me, I've done both!). Cultural Pilgrimage is not only exciting and loads of fun, it also challenges your perspectives as you immerse yourself into new cultures and approach the unfamiliar.

Drs. Flowers and Middleton ensured we had an experience that was both educational and tailored to our individual interests. I feel much more confident about future travel, on my own, thanks to this trip.

An entry from my trip journal begins: "This is what a pilgrimage is about. Finding something you can't find within an hour of your home. Finding new meaning in something you love, in an entirely different setting." After the trip of the lifetime, I've learned not just about sport, but about the way humans behave in relation to them.

Following Ernest Hemingway's words in The Sun Also Rises, "You can't get away from yourself by moving from one place to another," I learned that traveling allows me to see an- other piece of myself and uncover hidden fragments of my hopes and dreams, but I will always carry with me my memories and experiences of the past.

"Not all those who wander are lost" (J.R.R. Tolkien). As I wandered from city to city, meeting new people, engaging in novel experiences, I've come to realize I was far from lost...my ultimate pilgrimage of discovery and mystery gave me an identity.



JOHN V. ROACH
HONORS COLLEGE



The John V. Roach Honors College presents **CULTURAL PILGRIMAGES**

Athens, Greece

Crete, Greece

London, England



June 10—June 28, 2018

Dr. Elizabeth Flowers

Dr. Darren Middleton