

CLASSIC EUROPE

GRADUATION TOUR 2020



GRADUATE THEN CELEBRATE

MAY 8 - U.S. DEPARTURE DATE

MAY 9 - LONDON LAND TOUR START DATE

MAY 19 - ROME RETURN

MAY 24 - ATHENS RETURN

BASE LAND PACKAGE FROM: \$3,099
5-DAY GREECE EXTENSION \$785

 **TRAVELING
WITH THE TIDE**
The Official Tour Program of The University of Alabama National Alumni Association



START YOUR ADVENTURE.

Dear Student:

Congratulations on your anticipated graduation! Have you thought about how you will celebrate this milestone? The University of Alabama Alumni Association is pleased to present a celebratory graduation tour: Classic Europe. It offers the chance to visit Europe's must-see destinations before settling down into a new job or graduate school. This trip is a metropolitan tour of Europe designed for new graduates and friends of the University of Alabama and select peer institutions.

The Classic Europe tour is a great value and offers:

- The opportunity for fun, hassle-free travel with other graduates
- Insights into other people, places and cultures that will be a source of personal enrichment
- Experiences that will broaden your world view and provide an advantage in today's global job market
- A vacation to remember and a reward for all of your hard work

You will travel in comfort and safety, in the company of other University of Alabama grads. In fact, group travel provides increased security, for there are no hardships or uncertainties, no going at it alone!

You will be aided by a private tour director, private motor coach driver and local city historians. Learning is life-long and will not stop when you graduate from the University of Alabama. Travel is an excellent form of education and offers unparalleled opportunities for hands-on learning.

We hope that you will be able to experience this great opportunity, see exciting destinations, learn more about our world, relax and unwind on a great holiday - and continue a strong relationship with the University of Alabama.

For more information, please contact me at alaycock@alumni.ua.edu or call 205-348-1547.

Sincerely,

Amanda Laycock

Amanda Laycock

Assistant Director of Affinity Programs

The University of Alabama



TRAVEL INSURANCE

SHOULD I PURCHASE TRAVEL INSURANCE?

The University of Alabama highly recommends travel insurance.. For more information and to purchase travel insurance visit:

<https://www.travelinsure.com/>

CLASSIC EUROPE

12 DAYS - PLUS AN OPTIONAL 5-DAY EXTENSION TO SOUTHERN ITALY & GREECE

COUNTRIES VISITED:

England - France - Italy - Vatican City - plus Greece

ABOUT THE TRIP:

Reward yourself for all your hard work with the ultimate escape. The Classic Europe tour and extension offer you 17 days of exploration, adventure and insight into many of Europe's most popular and breathtaking countries. The aptly named Classic Europe tour provides something for everyone, whether you're inclined to engage with locals on the London pub crawl, seek adventure parasailing in the Greek Isles, photograph the majesty of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris or follow in historical footsteps in the Roman Forum and Parthenon. The beauty of this journey is the balance of fun excursions, time at leisure and fascinating looks into history. Make the Classic Europe tour your summer getaway and unleash your inner adventurer.



WHAT'S INCLUDED:

The 12-day land package includes:

- 10 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower
- * 10 continental breakfasts * 4 three-course specialty dinners * EUROSTAR train from London to Paris
- * High-speed TGV train from Paris to Nice * Train from the French Riviera to Rome
- * Guided tours in London, Paris, and Rome led by a local historian
- * Seine River cruise * Tour of the Palace of Versailles
- * Tour of Fragonard Museum * 2-day Paris Museum Pass
- * 72-hour Roma Pass (full access to public transport system, reduced admission to museums, music events, theater, etc.; free admission to Colosseum & Forum)

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

The 5-day Southern Italy & Greece extension includes:

- 5 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better, 2-share rooms with private bath/shower including overnight on ship from Italy to Greece (4-share cabins)
- * 5 continental breakfast * 4 three-course specialty dinners
- * Bike rental on the Isle of Poros
- * Toga party * Guided tours in Pompeii and Athens led by a local historian
- * Admission to Pompeii excavations and Acropolis



CLASSIC EUROPE

ITINERARY

DAY 1 - TRAVEL TO LONDON

Embark on your overnight flight to London.

Meals: [In-flight](#)

DAY 2 - LAND TOUR START DAY: LONDON

Enjoy a free afternoon to relax and unwind. In the evening, we'll have our welcome orientation followed by a fun London pub crawl.

Meals: [In-flight](#)

Inclusions: [Transfer from airport to hotel incl. with purchased AESU group airfare; Welcome orientation; Pub crawl](#)

DAY 3 - LONDON

Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and Piccadilly Circus: These familiar names become familiar places on our morning tour of London. During an afternoon at leisure, browse the many food, craft and clothing stalls at popular Camden Market, walk in the footsteps of Harry Potter at Leadenhall Market aka Diagon Alley or take a ride on the London Eye for a birds-eye view of the city and the opportunity to take great photographs. After dusk, consider taking in some Shakespeare at the Globe Theater by the Thames River or attending a West End show.

Meals: [Breakfast](#)

Inclusions: [1-day group Tube pass; Tour of London guided by a local historian; Personal audio headset](#)

DAY 4 - LONDON - PARIS

Travel through the "Chunnel" below the English Channel, to Paris. Our local art historian shows us the Arc de Triomphe, the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame Cathedral and Place de la Concorde, where the guillotine once stood. Tonight, dine on French specialties at our bistro dinner. Afterward, we take a romantic cruise down the river Seine.

Meals: [Breakfast, Dinner](#)

Inclusions: [English Channel Eurostar train; Tour of Paris guided by a local historian; Seine River cruise](#)

DAY 5 - PARIS

France has been a world center of the perfume industry since Louis XIV's court at Versailles was known as "le cour parfume." Join us this morning for a visit to the Fragonard Perfume Museum, located in a 19th century mansion from the era of Napoleon III and learn about the art of perfume manufacturing from ancient times. We then travel to the Palace of Versailles, well known as France's famed Sun King, Louis XIV's, residence. Our museum pass gives us access to the Hall of Mirrors, the King's Grand Chambers and more. Marvel at the sheer size of the palace, one of the most beautiful castles in the world with an astonishing 700 rooms. The afternoon is free to explore the "City of Lights" and our tour director is happy to offer free-time suggestions. Consider an optional can-can cabaret show this evening.

Meals: [Breakfast](#)

Inclusions: [2-day Paris Visite Pass with unlimited public transport; 2-day Paris Museum Pass; Palace of Versailles; Fragonard perfumery](#)
Optional activity: [French cabaret show](#)



CLASSIC EUROPE

ITINERARY

DAY 6 - PARIS

Enjoy a free day in Paris. Your included museum pass allows access to over 70 museums and monuments in and around Paris including the world famous Louvre, housing the Mona Lisa, Musée d'Orsay and Musée National Picasso.

Meals: [Breakfast](#)

Inclusions: [2-day Paris Visité Pass with unlimited public transport](#); [2-day Paris Museum Pass](#)

DAY 7 - PARIS - FRENCH RIVIERA

This morning, the TGV high-speed train takes us from Paris to Nice, Queen Resort of the Côte d'Azur. Enjoy your free afternoon on picturesque beaches along the rugged Mediterranean coastline, stroll promenades lined with chic boutiques, or unwind at a sidewalk café. The thriving local art scene and buzzing nightlife is yours to discover after tonight's brasserie dinner.

Meals: [Breakfast](#), [Dinner](#)

Inclusions: [High-speed train to Nice](#)

DAY 8 - FRENCH RIVIERA

Enjoy a free day on the dazzling French Riviera. Relax on the beach, paddle in the azure sea, or sip on a smooth cocktail beneath swaying palms. Consider exploring Nice to visit the magnificent Palais Lascaris, the Cathédrale de Sainte Réparate and harbors filled with opulent yachts. Or, you may opt to join our excursion to Monaco, where Prince Rainier married Hollywood actress Grace Kelly, and glitzy Cannes, known for its famous International Film Festival.

Meals: [Breakfast](#)

Inclusions: [French Riviera beaches and promenades](#)
Optional activity: [Excursion to Monte Carlo & Cannes](#)

DAY 9 - FRENCH RIVIERA - ROME

Our journey takes us along the scenic Côte d'Azur's sun-splashed beaches. We cross the border into Italy at Ventimiglia and continue along the coast to Genoa, where we switch to the high speed "Le Freccie" train whisking us to Rome this afternoon. Check in to our hotel and enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure exploring Rome. Tonight, join us for our pasta party. Following dinner, perhaps walk to Piazza Navona, one of the city's most beautiful baroque squares and try the local gelati.

Meals: [Breakfast](#), [Dinner](#)

Inclusions: [Train from Nice to Rome](#); [72-hour Roma Pass with unlimited public transport, special access and discounts](#)



CLASSIC EUROPE

ITINERARY

DAY 10 - ROME - VATICAN CITY

This morning, we explore Capitoline Hill with the most spectacular view of Caesar's Roman Forum, center of political and social activity, with ancient ruins dating from the 8th century BC. Also see Nero's Circus Maximus where chariot races were held. A trip across the Tiber River takes us to Vatican City - the world's smallest state. Visit St. Peter's Basilica housing Michelangelo's magnificent "Pieta." During afternoon free time you may want to use your Roma Pass to visit the Colosseum, where gladiators fought to the death.

Meals: Breakfast

Inclusions: Tour of Rome and Vatican City guided by a local historian; Personal audio headset; St. Peter's Basilica; Roman Forum; Colosseum; 72-hour Roma Pass with unlimited public transport, special access and discounts

DAY 11 - ROME

The entire day is free for exploring the Eternal City. Shop on Via Condotti, or visit more of the historical and artistic sights in the city. Have fun tonight at our tasty "Viva Italia" pizza party in Trastevere, the perfect spot to get a glimpse of the old world while still enjoying the lifestyle of today's Romans.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: 72-hour Roma Pass with unlimited public transport, special access and discounts

Optional activity: Frascati wine tasting tour

DAY 12 - ROME - TRAVEL HOME - OR CONTINUE TO POMPEII & OVERNIGHT SHIP TO GREECE

For some of us the celebratory tour of Europe ends in Rome this morning. Bid farewell to friends and "arrivederci" to Italy before jetting back home with memories to last a lifetime. For the rest of us: sunny olive groves line the way south to Pompeii. Under the shadow of Vesuvius, the volcano that buried this ancient city in 79 A.D., explore the excavated wonders including homes, markets and temples that remain intact, and streets that still bear the marks of chariot wheels from 2,000 years ago. Afterwards, we cross the Italian "boot" and board our overnight ship to Greece.

Meals: Breakfast

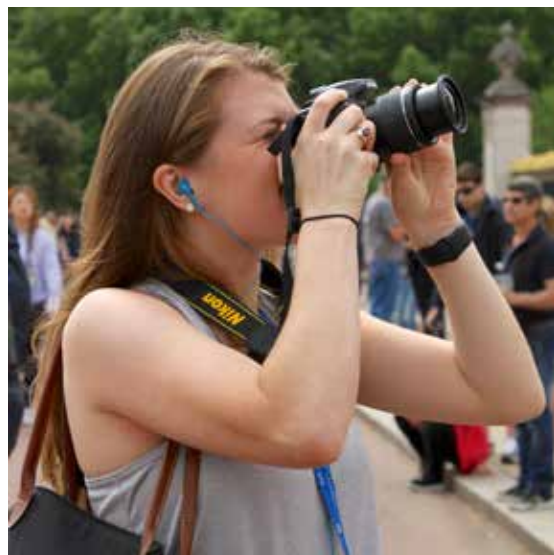
Inclusions: Tour of the Pompeii excavations guided by a local historian; Personal audio headset; Overnight ship from Italy to Greece; Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare

DAY 13 - ISLE OF POROS

After cruising through aquamarine waters, our ship docks at Patras. Motor along the Corinthian Sea across the Peloponnese to Galatas and the island of Poros. Relax and unwind with three days of living like a Greek god or goddess. Enjoy a welcome drink at the pool bar before exploring this idyllic island.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Relaxing pool and beach time



CLASSIC EUROPE

ITINERARY

DAY 14 - ISLE OF POROS

Today is free to enjoy at your leisure. Go for a swim, bask in the golden sun, or take part in optional watersports such as waterskiing, wakeboarding, parasailing, banana-boating or tubing. Dancing like Zorba at a local tavern is always a must-do evening activity.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: White-washed village center of Poros; Beach and pool

Optional activities: Water sports activities

DAY 15 - ISLE OF POROS

Poros old town center has great shopping or the more adventurous can venture to the 6th-century BC ruins of Poseidon's Temple on the island's highest peak. Bicycles will be provided today, which offer an opportunity to further explore the island. Tonight, we invite everyone to our fun toga party.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Isle of Poros bike rental; Beach and pool; Toga party

DAY 16 - ISLE OF POROS - ATHENS

In the morning we board our ferry to Athens. See the 2,400-year-old Parthenon, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and Constitution Square. A free afternoon may find us wandering the paths of Plato, Socrates and Sophocles or trying our bargaining skills at the markets of Monastiraki. This evening follow the sounds of traditional bouzouki music and join our farewell taverna dinner in the Plaka District - Athens' oldest neighborhood at the foot of the Acropolis.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Inclusions: Tour of Athens guided by a local historian; Acropolis admission; Greek music and dancing

DAY 17 - TRAVEL HOME

Reluctantly we say farewell to Europe and new-found friends. Jet back home with thoughts of planning your next alumni adventure!

Meals: Breakfast, In-flight

Inclusions: Transfer from hotel to airport included with purchased AESU group airfare



Your trip includes the services of a private tour director for the duration of the land tour. All services charges and local taxes are included. Thank your tour director with a gratuity at the end of the tour (suggested amount \$4-5 per day.) He or she will do their very best to make this trip the most memorable and best time of your life.

PROGRAM ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTELS

Our hotels are superior tourist-class or better, with private bathrooms. They are centrally located or have easy access to public transportation. Many have great extra amenities such as pools, gyms and roof-top bars. All land package rates are based on two people sharing a room. If a single room is desired, a supplement of \$795 for the 12-day or \$1,120 for the 17-day tour applies. (no single cabins on overnight ship.) If traveling solo and not wanting to pay the single supplement, AESU will arrange a share with a same-gender traveler.



ACTIVITY LEVEL 2: MODERATE

This multi-country trip features some long touring days by motor coach and train. It is a full and active itinerary at a fast pace with long distance travel. Excursions are at a higher activity rate and may require standing and walking for extended periods of time over more difficult terrain (e.g. cobblestones, city hills, stairs without handrails, limited or no access to elevators, muddy/slippery walking), and walking to city centers where coaches are prohibited, as well as climbing aboard buses or trains with high steps. This itinerary includes use of local transportation, and overnight ship travel (17-day tour only) Some early morning departures and later evening returns are scheduled.

Appropriate for travelers who are physically fit, lead active lives and are comfortable participating in long days of activities and able to handle their own luggage.

Travel to and from the tour is not factored into our activity level ratings. You should take into account your stamina when traveling long distances and/or with multiple flight changes. Also, you must be able to handle your luggage independently throughout the itinerary.

TOUR DIRECTORS

We are very proud of our tour directors. They are young professionals; multi-lingual and carefully selected graduates from major European universities. They are eager to show the world through the eyes of an adventurer. Our tour directors know this is a trip of a lifetime and will share their knowledge as well as interesting little-known facts. Our qualified tour directors and staff of local experts mean a trouble-free journey with the added security of group travel.



“NOT ONLY WAS THIS AN AMAZING TRIP, IT WAS A WAKE UP CALL TO SEE THE WORLD.”

- past traveler

BOOKING TERMS & CONDITIONS

EXCLUSIONS: These prices do not include passport and, if applicable, visa fees (Depending on your nationality, you may require visas in addition to a passport to enter certain countries. You must contact appropriate consulates for details on how to obtain on your own.); airport and government taxes; tipping of tour guide and driver (suggested \$4-5 per day for tour director, \$2-3 per day for driver); beverages with meals unless indicated otherwise; laundry; personal insurance; room service; telephone charges; all items of a personal nature; airport transfers when a participant deviates from scheduled flights or travel dates; private transportation; and all items not specifically stated in the itinerary.

CANCELLATION POLICY: All cancellations must be received by AESU in writing. All cancellations for any reason whatsoever will be subject to a \$300 per person cancellation fee. Date of receipt will determine penalties assessed. In addition to \$300, cancellation between 60-31 days of departure will result in forfeiture of 35% of tour cost; between 30-16 days 50%. Cancellation within 15 days of departure or a "no-show" at the time of departure will result in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip.

AIRFARES are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare portion is non-refundable. Cancellation of airfare reservations is subject to restrictions, regulations and additional penalties of the airlines used. Reservation changes are also subject to penalties. Medical health and accident insurance is compulsory. PLEASE SEE WEBSITE FOR POSSIBLE ADDITIONS TO CANCELLATION POLICIES LISTED ABOVE DEPENDING ON TRIP DESTINATION.

AIRPORT TRANSFERS & BAGGAGE: All participants using AESU flights on regular group departure days and flights receive airport transfers (between airport & tour hotel) overseas. Land-Only participants (providing own flight overseas) do NOT receive airport transfers and must meet group at the first hotel after 3:00 p.m. on program start date. **FLIGHT DELAYS - ALL AIRPORTS:** In the event that airline schedule changes or delays force you to miss your airport transfer, just make your way to the first hotel listed on your hotel list. Many shuttle services are available as well as taxi or train options. As airline delays are beyond the control of AESU, additional expenses, if incurred, will be borne by the tour participant. (Save receipts for possible reimbursement by airline.) AESU is not responsible if an airline cancels, reschedules, or delays a flight for any reason. If you miss your departure flight, it is your responsibility to work with the airline on which you are ticketed to reach your destination. AESU is not responsible for any additional expenses you may incur prior to joining your trip. AESU is not responsible for and will not provide any refund for portions of trips missed due to canceled, rescheduled, or delayed flights. If you purchase your own airfare, book your overnight flight from the USA one day earlier than the tour start date listed on our website. Participants should limit themselves to one checked bag per person and one carry-on per person. Check your airline's website for any additional luggage restrictions. Liability is clearly stated on the passenger contract.

RESPONSIBILITY: The responsibility of AESU as a tour operator, their agents, and any sponsoring association is limited. They act only in the capacity of agents for the passenger in all matters pertaining to accommodations, sightseeing and transportation whether by railroad, motorboat, motorcar, steamship or plane, and as such they shall not be liable for any personal injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned, whether by reason of any defect in any vehicle, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger, or in carrying out the arrangement of the tour. They can accept no responsibility for strike, war, quarantine, weather and any other natural or unnatural causes. Additional expenses, if incurred under any of these circumstances, will be borne by the tour participant. By forwarding the deposit, the passenger certifies that he/she has no physical, mental or other condition or disability that would create a hazard for himself/ herself or other passengers & accepts the terms of this contract. The right is reserved to decline, to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to cancel or alter the tour as required. If improvements in the itinerary can be made, or unforeseen conditions beyond AESU's control make changes necessary, they reserve the right to alter itineraries without penalty. Trip cancellation insurance should be purchased by the individual traveler in the event cancellation of the tour is compelled by circumstances beyond our control. In the event of cancellation due to insufficient number of participants, AESU's liability shall be limited to a FULL REFUND of all payments received from applicants, except non-refundable airfare and insurance. Baggage and personal injury are at owner's risk entirely. The issuance or acceptance of vouchers or tickets shall be considered consent of the above conditions. AESU reserves the right to increase the program price in the event of cost increases due to changes in airfares, currency fluctuations or fuel surcharges. The airlines concerned and their affiliates and agents are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board the aircrafts. The passenger ticket in use by said airlines, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of these tickets and/or the passenger. All services are subject to the laws of the country in which these services are rendered. No refund or allowance will be made for absence during the tour, or for activities missed, even if for causes beyond the control of the participant. For complete terms & conditions, please refer to our web site at www.aesu.com.