

May 2025

Greek Landscape and Literature

A 19-Day Trip

Led by Dr. Wendy Larson-Harris
and Dr. Marit Berntson

Temple of Apollo at Delphi



Harbor and Hills: The Peloponnese

The story of the play *The Oresteia* starts in the central Peloponnese, at the palace of King Agamemnon in Mycenae, near the city of Argos.

The play follows the story of Agamemnon's son Orestes as he travels through Greece, trying to resolve his family's tragic conflict.

We use the city of Nafplio as a base and do a series of day trips in the area.



Mycenae: Palace of Agamemnon



Theater at Argos



The Hellenistic Theatre at Argos, Greece - Photo: T. Hines 4/10/2004
The orchestra features an underground passage (Charonian stairway or Charon's steps) for use by the chthonic deities. It is one of only two verifiable sets of such steps (the other at Eretria), and the lack of verifiable sets in other surviving theaters seriously calls into question Pollux's assertion that these steps were "a standard feature of Greek theatre rather than occasional oddities" (Ashby 11).

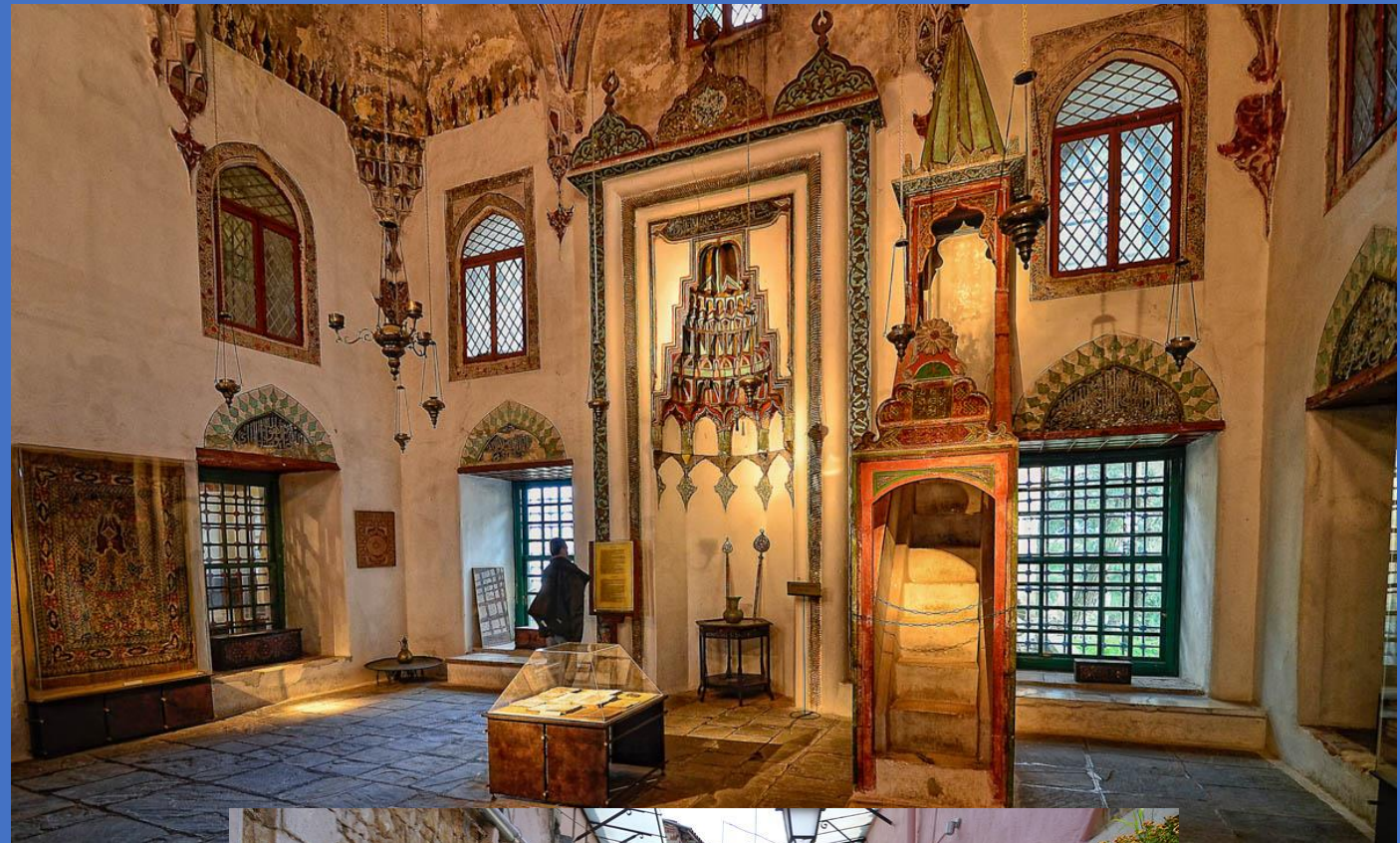
Epidaurus : a fully restored Classical theater and site of the healing complex for the God Asclepius



Ioannina: northern Greece

Orestes is exiled from Argos, and goes to northern Greece.

Ioannina was the capital of the Muslim ruler Ali Pasha during the 400 years that Greece was under Turkish rule. The architecture is dramatically different from Nafplio, which was ruled by Venetians.



Metsovo
mountain town
we'll stop for
the afternoon



Meteora: Orestes is in exile near here



Delphi: Temple of Apollo

Orestes visits Apollo's
temple to ask for help.

Apollo sends him to
Athens to ask Athena's
assistance.



Athens

Orestes visits the **Parthenon**, temple of Athena, to ask for the goddess's help.



Theater of Dionysus at the foot of the Acropolis.

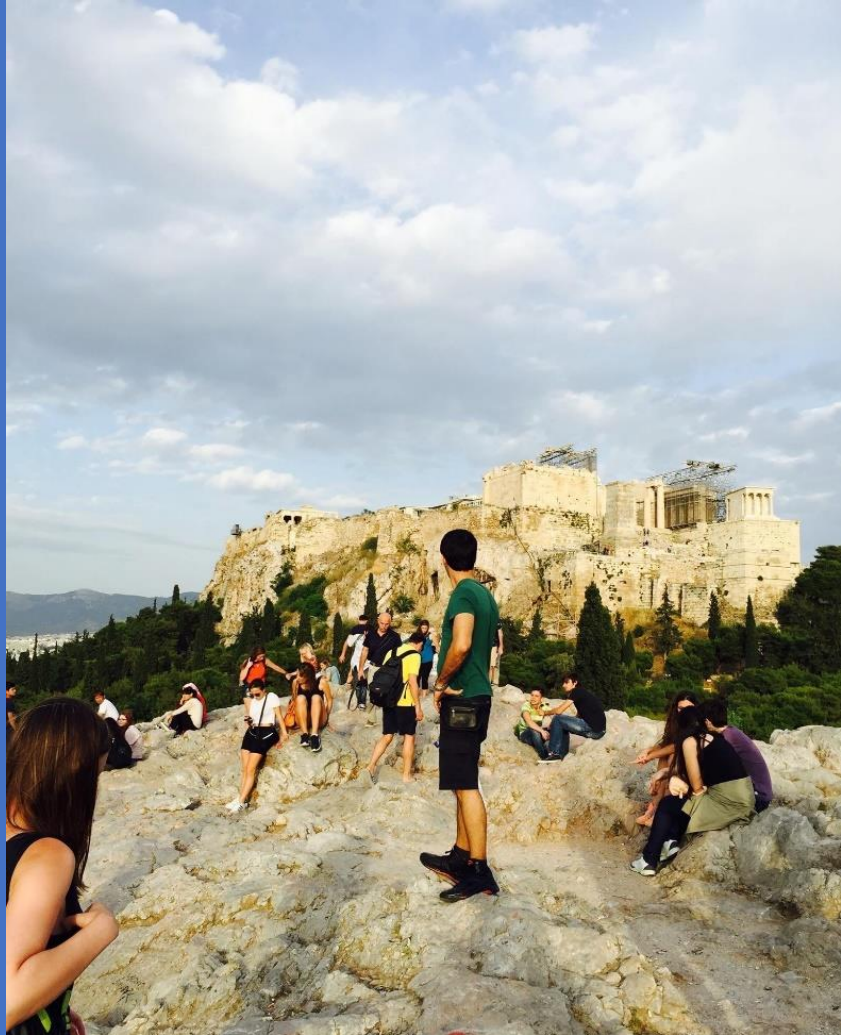
Where *The Oresteia*
was first performed
in 458 BC.



Aeropagus

Where the Athenian army fought the invading Amazons

Site of the first jury trial, depicted in *The Oresteia*



Athens

Christian, Muslim, and Classical Greek religious buildings all visible – thousands of years of tradition.

Or just sit in a taverna and relax!



Island: Aegina

We wrap up the trip with several days on an island, including a day cruise to other nearby islands.



Cost: \$5,300

19 days

(including 2 travel days)

Approximately May 8-26 (subject to slight shift in dates)

Includes

- Airfare to Athens from Dulles Airport (Washington, D.C.)
- Ground transportation in Greece, including private bus, ferry, and metro passes in Athens
- All hotels
- All breakfasts and 4 dinners
- Admission/fares for all museums and historical sites, 1-day island cruise from Aegina
- Textbook: *The Oresteia* by Aeschylus

Additional Expenses (Out-of-Pocket \$500)

- All lunches on your own (figure \$10 per lunch, \$20 dinner)
- Passport (no visa required for US citizens)
- Personal expenses – souvenirs, etc.

Dates

September 1-October 1: Submit Course Applications Online

Application form:

https://roanoke.edu/inside/intensive_learning/2025_travel_courses
*Scholarship form is embedded in the course application form

Questions? Ask Dr. Wendy Larson-Harris larson@roanoke.edu