

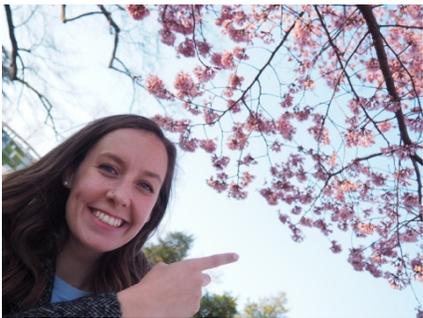


GREECE: CHURCHES, ISLANDS, AND THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME



I have always wanted to see the world. I grew up in a small town and a poor school district where people rarely got the chance to see another state, much less another country. My first experience flying on an airplane didn't happen until I was eighteen and I spent most of my childhood reading books about far-away places that I thought I would never see. My favorite movies were always about people who got the chance to go on an adventure and finally find themselves. I have always dreamed of doing just that.

My sophomore year of college, I had the opportunity to go on a trip to Washington D.C. over spring break. I remember the exhilarating feeling of buying my own plane ticket. I remember that it was exactly \$311 because it hurt to spend all of that money in one place. I remember making



Seeing the cherry blossoms for the first time in Washington, D.C.

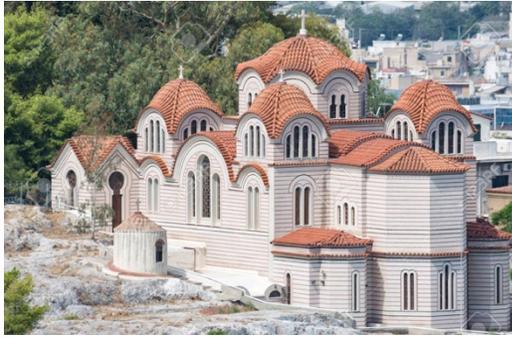
a picture of the Potomac Tidal Basin the background picture on my cell phone for months before we went because I just couldn't believe my luck - that I would get to see the cherry blossoms around the Thomas Jefferson memorial with my own eyes. And I remember our first night there, standing in front of the warm glow of the Lincoln Memorial at night, when I promised myself that I would do all I could to see the world. Since that week, I have taken every opportunity to travel, from a nine-day road trip to Arizona to see a saguaro for the first time to smaller day trips around Texas. All the while I have been saving money little by little to one day take the trip of a lifetime. According to the website description, the Globetrotter Grant is designed to "encourage international understanding through travel". Receiving this grant will allow me to finally get outside of my comfort zone and learn about people and places that are different from what I have always known.

My love for travel is closely tied up in my love for history. As a history minor, I have spent years studying European history, and I want to finally see for myself the places I have been reading and writing about in my classes. Specifically, I have wanted to see Greece since the fifth grade, when my class did a unit on Greek mythology. It was then that I realized how prevalent the Greek influence is on all of Western civilization. The Romans adopted their gods, we adopted their system of government, and everyone

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Spotting a saguaro on a road trip to Tucson, Arizona



***Agia Marina Church on
Philopappos Hill in Athens***

the National Cathedral in D.C. and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York are my current favorites. Greece is covered with ancient temples, churches, and cathedrals! My trip would take me to Athens for a lesson in history, to Nafplio for immersion in authentic Greek culture, and to two Greek islands for natural beauty unlike anything I've seen in the states. A trip to Greece for me would mean the chance to get out of my comfort zone and to combine my love for history, Greek culture, and exploring places of worship for the experience of a lifetime.

ITINERARY

Tentative Dates: May 25th – June 2nd

Day 1: Fly into Athens. Check into my Airbnb, have an authentic Greek dinner, and watch the sun set over the Acropolis.

Day 2: First full day in Athens! Buy a combination ticket and go to the Acropolis to see the Parthenon, Erechtheion, Temple of Athena Nike, and the Acropolis Museum. Watch a live archeological excavation through the glass floor of the museum and grab lunch in the Varvakeios market. After lunch, go to the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Ancient Agora, and the Temple of Hephaestus (the best-preserved ancient Greek temple!)

Day 3: Second full day in Athens! Go to Philopappos Hill to experience the best views of the city of Athens, the Acropolis, and the Aegean Sea. Tour the *Agia Marina Church*, which dates back to

adopted their architecture. I used to drive my parents crazy pointing out Doric columns on houses and images of the caduceus on medical buildings and became obsessed with the idea that Greek influence was everywhere. When I travelled to D.C., I couldn't help but notice that all of the monuments reminded me of famous Greek buildings. I also discovered that my favorite things to explore are places of worship –



***The National Cathedral in
Washington, D.C.***



The Parthenon and Acropolis

the 11th century. Take lots of pictures. Take the bus to Panathenaic Stadium, the site for the first modern Olympics and the home of the Olympic torch.

Day 4: Take a day trip to the city of Nafplio, the first capital of modern Greece. Wander the streets and enjoy the escape from the tourism of Athens. See the Church of Saint George, where Greece's first king, Otto, attended mass. Take a bus to Palamidi Fortress to bypass the 999 steps to the top and explore the preserved citadel and the nearby Castle of Acronafplia.



City Street in Nafplio

Day 5: Travel to the island of Hydra, a 2 hour ferry ride from Athens. Hydra is widely regarded as the most beautiful Greek island and isn't quite as popular with tourists, so it would be a shift in culture from the more urbanized places I will be visiting. There are no vehicles on the island, so I could ride a donkey into town, explore some of the 300+



churches and monasteries, and conquer my fear of heights by jumping off of a cliff into the water on Spilia Beach. Travel back on the ferry for the night.

Day 6: Take a ferry to the island of Mykonos, a 6 hour journey from Athens. Spend the evening getting settled in the hostel and watch the sunset on the beach.

Church of Paraportiani in Mykonos **Day 7:** Check out a few of the 600 churches and monasteries on Mykonos, specifically the Church of Paraportiani. Explore the famous Mykonos windmills and end the day in Little Venice.

Day 8: Spend a day relaxing at the beach before travelling home.

Day 9: Take a ferry back to Athens and start the long journey back home.

BUDGET

International Flights	\$1200
Ferry Travel (4 trips at \$30)	\$120
Bus/Taxi/Donkey Fares	\$150
Lodging (8 nights at \$30)	\$240
Food (9 days at \$25/day)	\$225
Museum and Ticket Fees	\$300
Emergencies / Unforeseen Expenses	\$250
(Personal Savings)	(\$500)
TOTAL NEEDED	\$1985



Palamidi Fortress in Nafplio