

PROJECT NAME: Greece

LOCATION: Nausa, Greece

Tread the paths once walked by Aristotle and Alexander the Great in the ancient Greek city of Mieza. This project offers students an unparalleled opportunity to investigate a site largely untouched for over fifty years. Over the course of this two-week project, students will study the location believed to be Aristotle's school, a large ancient amphitheater, and villas which housed prominent citizens during the Macedonian Kingdom.

Nausa (Ancient Mieza) History

At the foot of Mount Vermio, excavations have unearthed the remains of the ancient city of Mieza. During the height of the Macedonian Kingdom from the 4th to 2nd century BC, Mieza was a major city and where several major historical figures connected. Today, the architectural remains include a number of public buildings and other disconnected ruins. The prosperity of Mieza is reflected in the luxurious villas of the Hellenistic and Roman times. Among the best-preserved examples are the two Roman villas at Tsifliki of Lefkadia and Baltaneto of Naoussa. These villas contain splendid mosaic floors dating to the 2nd century AD.

The center of the ancient city, its agora, is situated next to the present day city of Kopanos. Here an ancient theater sits on a hillside with a panoramic view of the valley. With a capacity estimated at 1500 spectators, this theater dates to the Late Hellenistic period, though its current form is Roman. One restored, it is hoped this monument will be able to be reused and become a center for cultural activities in the region.

Just outside the perimeter of the city, alongside the contemporary road between Kopanos and Naoussa, lies the idyllic site of Isvorvia. The lush landscape, plentiful waters and natural caves of this area characterize Dionysian scenery. Scattered remnants of a rock-hewn Ionic stoa, dated after the mid-4th century BC, identify the site as Aristotle's school. During this period, Aristotle was the most learned and celebrated philosopher. Wanting the best for his son, Philip the II of Macedon, hired Aristotle to teach the young prince, Alexander. In return, Phillip the II restored Aristotle's hometown – the city of Stagira. In a prior conquest, the city had been razed its citizens sold into slavery and pushed into exile. Phillip rebuilt the city and restored its citizens to their habitations.

As a place for the teaching of his son, Phillip II assigned the temple of the Nymphs, near Mieza to Aristotle. It is here where the young prince, Alexander, studied with his peers from Macedonian aristocratic families. To this very day, the stone seats and the shady walks, which Aristotle was known to frequent remain.

Archaeological History

The antiquities of the region were first mentioned in the middle of 19th century by foreign travellers, W. M. Leake and A. Delacoulonche. The first excavation was conducted by the Danish architect K.F.Kinch, who excavated the Macedonian tomb of Lyson and Kallikles.

The archaeological finds indicate that the region has a long history of habitation, which began around the second millennium BC and lasted until the end of antiquity. Discoveries during excavations gradually led to the image of a rural community that transformed into an urban center to become a prosperous and wealthy city during the Hellenistic period. The site has been untouched since the 1960's.

Archaeological Focus for 2018

Our team will collaborate with Greek archaeologists that are launching a project that is vital for the region. Mieza exists today as a collection of disparate monuments strewn across the landscape. This project aims to fully connect the monuments across the site including areas currently inaccessible to the public. The intent is to understand the site from a more complete historical context and allow for its protection. This work will not only ensure their survival, but will also lead to an influx of visitors to the area.

Our goal for 2018 will be to continue the excavation of the Roman baths and to investigate its connection with the rest of the villa and between the villa and the city. We will continue investigating Mieza early stages and excavating the construction excavated in the bedrock East of the site. We will also attempt the first steps to consolidate the mosaics discovered last summer.

Key Information:

DATES:

First Session – July 1 - July 14 (DDS) first day onsite is July 2

Second Session – July 15 – July 28

Civilization: Ancient Greece

Eligibility

This project will be available for up to 18 students per session who are currently enrolled in 10th through 12th grade.

Fees

Total fees for this project are \$3950.

Fees Include:

- Full Room and Board
- Fieldwork training
- Seminars and workshops
- Excursions and other activities
- Medical Insurance
- Transportation to and from airport
- Application fee
- Administrative, site preservation, and artifact analysis costs

Fees DO NOT include

- Airfare
- Airport meals
- Any spending on snacks or souvenirs

Expectations Schedule Registration

To reserve a space, students must pay a \$100 application fee. (Included in the price of the program). The remainder of the program cost will be due by May 15. Application fees will be refunded if the applicant is not selected.

Applications will be accepted until all spaces are filled. Participants will be notified of their acceptance within two weeks of the submission of their application and will receive an information packet shortly thereafter with further details.

Cancellation and Refund Policy:

- Before May 15: All payments, except for the \$100 application fee, are refundable.
- After May 15: All payments are non-refundable unless your application is rejected by the program director.

Right of Refusal:

AFAR reserves the right to refuse an applicant's selection. This is a rare occurrence and is most likely due to a person's inability to meet health requirements or in the interest of group compatibility. Once in the field, the program directors and AFAR reserve the right to send a student away from the program should that person's behavior compromise the safety, research objectives and general performance of the group, or violate Greek laws, regulations or customs.

Expectations of Students

Working on an archaeological site is hard work. Students need to be in good health and capable of using picks, shovels, trowels, and detailed instruments to excavate in

a hot environment. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a professional manner, be eager to learn, and capable of taking direction.

Daily Work Schedule

6:00 – Rise and eat breakfast

6:30 – Arrive at site and begin investigations at the direction of archaeologists

10:00 – Break for snack

13:00 – Wrap up at the site for the day, clean up before lunch

2:00 – Lunch

3:00 – 5:00 Siesta/Rest

5:00 – Lecture/Class/Artifact Preservation

7:30 – Dinner and free time

10:30 - Bedtime

ITINERARY & ACCOMMODATIONS

Students will be sharing rooms, each with en- suite bathrooms and air conditioning. Students will have access to a laundry machine. Towels are provided. The hotel includes a general room with a television and a dining area where meals will be served. Wifi is also available.

Meals will be eaten at the hotel, and an arrangement will be made to provide us with a mid- workday snack. Lunch in Greece is the main meal, with breakfast and dinner being lighter. Please let us know if you are a vegetarian or if you require a special diet so that we may discuss the best way to accommodate your needs.

While in Noussa, the students will stay at The Villa Anthemia Hotel – Naoussa, Greece. Depending on the session, the students will also have an overnight stay at the following hotel.

Rachoni Bay Hotel, Skala Rachoni, Thassos, 64010, Greece

Travel will be provided by a charter company for the majority of the trips throughout the program. Any trips without a charter company will be limited but will be provided by supervisors who will be pre-qualified through the AFAR International Travel Programs procedures.

For this program, the students will generally be at the archaeological site during the weekdays and on excursions during the weekend. On occasion, we may choose to deviate from the schedule in reaction to unforeseen circumstances and unique opportunities.

First Session Itinerary

Day 0 (Sunday) – Fly to Thessaloniki (SKG) from outside Europe

Day 1 (Monday) - Arrive in Thessaloniki at airport in the morning. Once the participants are assembled, we will board a charter bus and travel to Naoussa. Upon arrival, we will check into the Villa Anthemia Hotel, where we will stay for the two-week program. After we are settled, the participants will receive a site briefing and tour of the nearby site.

Day 2 (Tuesday) – We will begin studies at Mieza. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and begin creating our journals at Aristotle's school.

Day 3 (Wednesday) – After breakfast at the hotel, we will take a shuttle to the site to continue our investigations. We will shuttle to downtown Naoussa for lunch. Later in the day, the team will visit the Macedonians Tombs of Mieza.

Day 4 (Thursday) – We will continue studies at Mieza. We will begin our day with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and on the afternoon work with finds/ceramics at the facilities of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Hemathia.

Day 5 (Friday) – We will wrap up our studies at Mieza for the week. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and evening activities at the hotel.

Day 6 (Saturday) – Following breakfast at the hotel, we will take a charter bus to the ancient city of Dion. After an exclusive site tour, we will take the bus to the modern city located on the coast, where we will have lunch and spend the afternoon on the beach. We will take the bus back to the Villa Anthemia in time to be home for dinner.

Day 7 (Sunday) – Following breakfast at the hotel, we will take a charter bus to the ancient site of Aegae, which is located in the modern village of Vergina. Here our team will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the Ancient Cemetery of Aegai, which includes the royal tombs of Phillip the Second and Alexander the Fourth. We will have lunch in Vergina and then take a charter bus back to the Villa Anthemia hotel in the evening. Dinner will be provided at the hotel.

Day 8 (Monday) – We will continue studies at Mieza. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and after concluding our work at the site return for evening activities at the hotel.

Day 9 (Tuesday) – We will continue studies at Mieza. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and after concluding our work at the site return for evening activities at the hotel.

Day 10 (Wednesday) – After breakfast at the hotel, we will take a shuttle to the site to continue our investigation. Naoussa park and pastry shop and back to the hotel for dinner.

Day 11 (Thursday) – We will continue studies at Mieza. After breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel, we will take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and after concluding our work at the site return for evening activities at the hotel. This will be the last day for the students to keep their journals at the site of Aristotle's school. The day will conclude with a closing party.

Day 12 (Friday)– We will wrap up our studies at Mieza for the week. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. Following lunch at the hotel, we will take a charter bus to Keramoti, following the coast. In Keramoty port we will take a ferry to the island of Thassos. Check in and dinner at Rachoni Bay Hotel.

Day 13 (Saturday) – Day at the island: Rachony beach, boat trip to visiting the coast and beautiful beaches. BBQ on board. Dinner at the hotel.

Day 14 (Sunday) – Following breakfast at the hotel, Thasos tour and ferry to Keramoti, bus to Thessaloniki airport where we will depart for home.

Second Session Itinerary:

Day 1 (Sunday) - Arrive in Thessaloniki at airport in the morning. Once the participants are assembled, we will board a charter bus and travel to Naoussa. Upon arrival, we will check into the Villa Anthemia Hotel, where we will stay for the two-week program. After we are settled, the participants will receive a site briefing and tour of the nearby site.

Day 2 (Monday) – We will begin studies at Mieza. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and begin creating our journals at Aristotle's school.

Day 3 (Tuesday) – After breakfast at the hotel, we will take a shuttle to the site to continue our investigations. We will shuttle to downtown the hotel for lunch. Later in the day, the team will visit the Macedonians Tombs of Mieza.

Day 4 (Wednesday) – We will continue studies at Mieza. We will begin our day with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and on the afternoon work with finds/ceramics at the facilities of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Hemathia.

Day 5 (Thursday) – We will wrap up our studies at Mieza for the week. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and after concluding our work at the site return for evening activities at the hotel.

Day 6 (Friday) – We will continue studies at Mieza. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and after concluding our work at the site return for evening activities at the hotel.

Day 7 (Saturday) –Following breakfast at the hotel, we will take a charter bus to the ancient city of Dion. After an exclusive site tour, we will take the bus to the modern city located on the coast, where we will have lunch and spend the afternoon on the beach. We will take the bus back to the Villa Anthemia in time to be home for dinner.

Day 8 (Sunday) –Following breakfast at the hotel, we will take a charter bus to the ancient site of Aegae, which is located in the modern village of Vergina. Here our team will get a behind-the-scenes tour of the Ancient Cemetery of Aegai, which includes the royal tombs of Phillip the Second and Alexander the Fourth. We will have lunch in Vergina and then take a charter bus back to the Villa Anthemia hotel in the evening. Dinner will be provided at the hotel.

Day 9 (Monday) – We will continue studies at Mieza. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and after concluding our work at the site return for evening activities at the hotel.

Day 10 (Tuesday) – After breakfast at the hotel, we will take a shuttle to the site to continue our investigation. In the afternoon work with finds/ceramics at the facilities of the Ephorate of Antiquities of Hemathia.

Day 11 (Wednesday) – We will continue studies at Mieza. After breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel, we will take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and after concluding our work at the site return for evening activities at the hotel.

Day 12 (Thursday)– We will continue studies at Mieza. After breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel, we will take a shuttle to the site. We will shuttle back for lunch and after concluding our work at the site return for evening activities at the hotel.

Day 13 (Friday)– We will wrap up our studies at Mieza for the week. We will start with breakfast at the Villa Anthemia Hotel and take a shuttle to the site. This will be the last day for the students to keep their journals at the site of Aristotle's school.

Day 14 (Saturday) –Following breakfast at the hotel, we will take a charter bus to the ancient site of Pella, the capital and the greatest of the Macedonian cities. We will be back at the hotel for dinner. The day will conclude with a closing party.

Day 15 (Sunday) – Following breakfast at the hotel, we will take a charter bus to Thessaloniki airport where we will depart for home.

Workshops & Excursions

Every afternoon the program directors will prepare classroom sessions that will include seminars and workshops concerning the fieldwork and the Greek history.

Topics include the following:

- History of Greece
- Introduction into Archaeology including Stratigraphy, Artifact Collection and Archaeological Recording
- Keeping an Archaeological Journal
- Introduction to life in the time of Alexander the Great

An archaeologist's work is incomplete unless he or she can sit back and reflect on the day's excavation. Therefore, the group will take time to experience Greece away from the shovels and wheelbarrows, either by relaxing at a café or by visiting nearby sites.

We believe that visiting the region's historical sites is essential to understanding the context of the archaeological work at Mieza. Excursions may change depending on the excavation schedule and unforeseen events. Probable excursions include the following:

Aigai Excursion

Aigai is the first city and cradle of the ancient kingdom of Macedon, located at the modern village of Vergina, roughly 30 minutes away from the hotel. It was here in

336 BC where Philip II was assassinated at the theatre and Alexander the Great was proclaimed king and started his campaign to the East. The site became internationally famous in 1977, when the Greek archaeologist, prof. Manolis Andronikos, excavated the so-called "Great Tumulus" and unearthed the burial cluster of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great, and his family, containing the tomb of Alexander IV, the son of Alexander the Great and Roxanne. Both tombs were unlooted. The looted tomb of a queen, belonging probably to one of Philip's wife, Nicessipolis, contain the extraordinary mural painting of the Rape of Persephone, one of the most exquisite painted works from ancient Greece. The remains of another Macedonian tomb, and a building dedicated to the cult of the hero kings were also under the "Great Tumulus". Philip's burial cluster is now protected under a tumulus shaped shelter, which exhibits the finds of this legendary excavation. Since now two other royal burial clusters have been unearthed, the so-called Temenids' burial cluster and the Queens' cluster, containing the tomb of Eurudice, the mother of Philip II. The palace built by Philip II is the most prominent and extensive public building in classical Greece. A new museum is being constructed and its new exhibitions are under preparation. The archaeological site of Aigai is since 1996 a Unesco Monument of Extraordinary Universal Significance and the most visited site in northern Greece.

Dion Excursion

Dion is an ancient city in Greece with a number of Greek and Roman ruins. In the 5th century BC, Dion was a religious center of the Macedonian kingdom. Onsite are many Greek temples, including the large Temple of Zeus as well as temples to Demeter, Isis and Asclepius.

Pela Excursion

Pela is an ancient city that was formerly the Macedonian Capital.