

**Exhibit A—Request for Trip Approval**

Date of request: April 27, 2023

Date/time of departure: June 14, 2023 a.m. or p.m. (circle one)

Date/time of return: June 24, 2023 a.m. or p.m. (circle one)

Destination of trip: Athens, Greece

Purpose of trip, i.e., event to be attended, instructional value of the trip:

Studying Culinary Arts helps improve student's lives in many ways by allowing students to learn to cook, and create new dishes. Students who integrate travel into their culinary education enhance the instructional value by stepping beyond the local culture and cuisine. Please see attached itinerary.

Estimate of any permissible fees associated with the trip: No expense to the district

District employee sponsor and organization: Christina Acosta, Culinary Arts

Number of students participating: 4 from ECISD, but joining 2 other student groups with other

Number of chaperones participating: chaperones for a total of 30 students and 6 chaperones, 1 chaperone from ECISD

Name of Chaperone	Criminal History Check Requested (circle one)
	Yes No
	Yes No
	Yes No

Signature of District employee sponsor

Christina Acosta





Meet your Tour Director at the airport

Take a guided tour of Athens

DAY 1 Fly overnight to Greece

With your expert local guide you will see:

- Ancient Olympic Stadium
- Syntagma Square, the central square of
- Acropolis



#### Cooking class

No other country blends land a mouth-watering essentials. Fro will surely please. And when your class is cor

hat

Visit the Acropolis Museum, home to ancient ruins and prehistoric artifacts

Take a walking tour of Athens

With your Tour Director you will see:

- Plaka district
- Athenian Trilogy

Take a day trip to the Amfissa Valley and Delphi

Visit an olive farm in the Amfissa Valley

Visit the Delphi Museum

Take a guided tour of Delphi

With your expert local guide you will see:

- Temple of Apollo
- Delphi Archaeological Museum

Set sail on your cruise ship for a four-day adventure filled with on-board activities and a three-island shore excursion package. Experience how Turkish, Roman, and Greek influences helped shape the unique blend of cultures you'll encounter as you explore each coastal town.

Included excursion to Mykonos Town

Included excursion to Oia Village in Santorini

Explore Rhodes island on your own

Included excursion to Ancient Ephesus

Take a day trip to Cape Sounion

Visit the Temple of Poseidon

Tour Cape Sounion with an expert local guide



#### **Greek evening**

Friends, feta, and fresh Mediterranean flavors—*opal* Stuff yourself like an olive during a traditional Greek dinner. Then, link arms for a night of music, dancing, and smashing plates. This time-honored tradition brings Greece's theatrical culture to life in all the best ways.



# Educational Tours

## 2023 SAMPLE TOUR SCHEDULE: ATHENS AND THE ISLANDS

**\*\*Note: The below is an example of how this tour may run. All times and durations are subject to change, and the order of activities may be switched or substituted as needed based on availability.\*\***

### **Day 1: Overnight flight to Europe**

Depart North America on an overnight flight to Europe.

### **Day 2: Arrive in Athens | Walking Tour Athens**

Upon arrival at the airport the group should be prepared to wait up to 2 hours for consolidated groups to arrive.

- Afternoon: The Tour Director will take the group into the central area of Athens for a walking tour (1hr) followed by time to further explore, admire the views or take in the ambience of a local café.
- Evening: Transfer by bus to the hotel for check-in and dinner.

### **Day 3: Sightseeing Athens | *Optional Greek Cooking Class***

- Morning: Depart hotel with local guide on bus for guided tour of Athens (3hrs30mins). Includes photo stop at 1896 Olympic Stadium and drive by major sites. Final hour is on foot at the Acropolis hill to visit the Parthenon. The tour ends either at the Parthenon or in the Plaka.
- Afternoon: Free time for lunch in the Plaka neighborhood (2hr). Take a self-guided tour of the Acropolis Museum (1hrs30mins).

*Add this in-depth excursion: Greek Cooking Class*

The group will learn how to make tzatziki, spanakopita and chicken souvlaki, and will get the opportunity to taste all of the dishes along with having a salad and a dessert as part of the lunch (2.5-3hrs).

- Evening: Dinner at a local restaurant before returning to the hotel.

### **Day 4: Excursion to Delphi**

- Morning: Depart hotel and transfer to an olive oil farm in Amfissa Valley (2hrs30mins). The group will stop at an olive grove of more than 1.5 million olive trees where they will tour with a local specialist from the Agriculture Cooperative of Delphi. They will learn about the history of the olive grove, the species of olive trees, and the types of olives and olive oil produced in the region (20 mins). [The olive oil farm is a seasonal business so there is less to see during the colder months, and will be cancelled in case of rain or bad weather.] Transfer to Delphi (30mins).
- Afternoon: Free time for lunch in Delphi (1hr). Meet the guided walking tour of site at Delphi (2hrs). Groups have some free time afterwards to explore the nearby Delphi Museum on their own (30mins). [Please note that there is a steep uphill walk and uneven grounds at Delphi]. Depart Delphi and transfer back to Athens (4hrs).
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

### **Day 5: 4-Day Greek island cruise | First Port of Call: Mykonos**

**\*\*Please make sure to ask your Tour Consultant for a detailed Cruise Info Sheet\*\***

**\*\*Shore excursions to Mykonos, Santorini, and Cesme are included for all travelers.\*\***

- Morning: Depart hotel for Piraeus port (30mins). The group has to be at the port at least 2 hours prior for embarkation procedures. All participants will board the ship and open their individual shipboard accounts upon embarkation (the cards they receive also function as their cabin keys). There will be a brief mandatory fire drill as the ship gets ready to depart from Piraeus (20mins).
- Evening: Arrive in Mykonos in the evening. Ship will dock at Tourlos Port.



*Included shore excursion: Mykonos Walking Tour*

Guests will be transferred from the port to the town center (also known as Hora) for a walking tour of Mykonos. The tour will pass by the Church of St. Nicholas on the way to visit the Paraportiani Church, a famous example of Cycladic architecture and one of the most photographed spots in the Mediterranean. From here, continue onwards to the picturesque area of Alefkandra, known as the "Little Venice." By the harbor, Mykonos's iconic windmills are a beautiful photo opportunity, and offer a scenic vista over the old port (3hrs for excursion, approx. 2hrs of walking).

**Day 6: Port of call: Santorini**

- Morning: Arrive in Santorini in the morning. All arrivals to Santorini are by tender boat. The Port of Santorini is at the base of a very steep hill. Taxis are extremely limited.

*Included shore excursion: Oia Village and Fira*

Explore Santorini on this guided bus and walking tour. Admire the panoramic view of the Aegean Sea and the neighboring islands on your way to Oia Village. First you will head up to the monastery of Prophet Ilias for a breathtaking view before continuing north. Built on the Caldera rim, Oia Village is an excellent example of Cycladic architecture. Walk along the cobblestone streets and explore the village, known for its white-washed houses with blue shutters. You will have free time to walk along the marble-paved alleys and poke around in the cute shops. After an orientation by your guide in Fira, the group will have free time to explore the island's capital on foot. Later, you will take the scenic cable car down to the Port of Fira to return to the cruise ship via tender boats. Please note that a wait of more than a half hour can sometimes be expected at the cable cars (4hrs for excursion, approx. 2hrs of walking).

- Evening: Return to the cruise ship for dinner.

**Day 7: Port of call: Rhodes**

- Morning: Arrive in Rhodes in the early morning for a full day of exploration. Guests disembark at the Port of Rhodes.
- Evening: Return to the cruise ship for dinner.

**Day 8: Port of call: Cesme**

- Morning: Arrive in Cesme in the morning. Travel by bus to ancient Ephesus (2hr15min) for a guided visit.

*Included shore excursion: Ancient Ephesus*

Discover the splendor of Ancient Ephesus, one of the largest Roman archaeological sites in the Mediterranean. Your guided tour will feature exceptionally well-preserved ruins of the city, including the Agora, the Odeon, the Memmius Monument, the Domitian Temple, the Hercules Gate, Curetes Street, the Temple of Hadrian, the Celsus Library, the Marble Road, the Commercial Agora, the Great Theater, the Arcadiane (harbor road) and Pyrtaneum (religious and political center of the city). During the excursion you will also have the opportunity to shop local merchandise such as jewelry, leather goods, and other souvenirs (6hrs, approx. 1hr of walking).

- Evening: Return to the cruise ship for dinner.

**Day 9: Return from Greek cruise and visit Cape Sounion | *Optional Greek Evening***

- Morning: The ship will dock in Piraeus early in the morning. Disembark and travel with bus and local guide to Cape Sounion (1hr15mins). Guided tour of the ruins of the Temple of Poseidon (1hr). Transfer back to Athens (1hr15mins).
- Afternoon: Check-in at the hotel and time to further explore, admire the views or take in the ambience of a local café.
- Evening: Return to the hotel for dinner (for those not participating in the optional).

*Add this in-depth excursion: Greek Evening*

Depart hotel for the 2-hour Greek dinner and traditional show. [Those not participating in the optional will have dinner at the hotel.]

**Day 10: Transfer to Athens airport**

The Athens airport is 1 hour from hotel.

## 3-DAY EXTENSION

### Day 10: Transfer to Argolida via Mycenae Sightseeing and Epidaurus Sightseeing | Photo Stop Corinth Canal

- Morning: Depart hotel and transfer to Mycenae via photo stop at the Corinth Canal (3hrs). The guide will give a walking tour of the Mycenae archeological site (1hr30mins). Participate in a short pottery workshop (45mins). Depart Mycenae for the transfer to Epidaurus (1hr). The group will stop for lunch along the way at a local restaurant (not included).
- Afternoon: Arrive in Epidaurus and the guide will give a walking tour of the Epidaurus Theatre and Museum (1hr30mins). Transfer to Argolida hotel (1hr30mins).
- Evening: Check-in and dinner at the hotel.

### Day 11: Transfer to Olympia via Palamidi Fortress in Nafplio

- Morning: Depart for the Palamidi Fortress in Nafplio for a brief visit (45 mins). Transfer to Olympia (2 hrs.) On the way enjoy some free time in the port time of Nafplio or visit Kyparissia for sightseeing (Please note that the visit to Kyparissia is seasonal and will only be available in the summer months) (2hr30mins).
- Afternoon: Arrive Olympia. Group will have free time for lunch.
- Evening: Check-in and dinner at the hotel.

### Day 12: Olympia Sightseeing | Transfer to Athens

- Morning: Group will meet the local guide for the visit of the Olympia site (2hrs). Visit the Olympia Museum. After the guided tour the group will have some free time for lunch.
- Afternoon: Transfer back to Athens (4hrs).
- Evening: Check-in at the hotel (if group is more than 30 minutes from the city center than they will not see Athens today).

### Day 13: Transfer to Athens airport

The Athens airport is 45 minutes from central Athens.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Schedule

Cruise always departs on a Monday and returns on a Friday

Cruise is seasonal (mid-March to late October)

## TIPPING

Tour Director: 9 days \* \$6-\$8/day = \$54-\$72/traveler (add \$18-\$24 for extension)

Bus Driver: 5 days \* \$3/day = \$15/traveler (\$9 for extension)

Local Guides: 3 guides \* \$2/guide = \$6/traveler (add \$6 for extension)

Total recommended per traveler = \$75-\$93 (\$108-\$132 for extension)

*\*Suggested tipping does not include any optional excursions.*

*FYI: Groups are not required to tip shore excursion local guides and drivers on the cruise. The shore excursion guides and drivers are organized by the cruise company, not EF. There is no expectation that groups should tip shore excursion guides or drivers. If they provide exemplary service, then a small tip is of course appreciated, but never expected. About half the time group leaders carry small bills and tip the staff a couple of dollars to acknowledge their service.*

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