

# Brandeis

TRAVELERS

## ISLAND LIFE® Greek Isles & Ephesus



Featuring Brandeis Faculty Leader  
EÓIN O'DONOGHUE

**October 7 – 15, 2026**

See the classical world come to life on this Aegean voyage to the ancient sites where Western civilization as we know it was founded. Cruise round-trip Athens for seven nights to experience the mythical landscapes of Greece and Turkey, where you will be immersed in epic stories from antiquity. Traverse the streets of UNESCO-inscribed Delos — legendary birthplace of Artemis and Apollo — and enjoy time at leisure on Mykonos, famous for its whitewashed houses, iconic windmills and cosmopolitan verve. Visit the Terrace Houses of Ephesus, explore ancient Pátmos and opt to climb to the clifftop acropolis at Lindos on the island of Rhodes. Discover the mysteries of Santorini, an island featuring a spectacular caldera shaped by a volcanic explosion — potentially burying what some believe was the lost city of Atlantis. Conclude your tour on the rarely visited island of Milos, where pieces of the world-famous Venus de Milo were discovered more than 2,000 years after the statue was created.

## Exclusive Highlights

- Cruise for 7 nights to historic Greek islands and Turkey's Turquoise Coast aboard the *Wind Spirit*, a three-masted sailing yacht.
- Be immersed in local culture during a culinary demonstration, a dance performance and a Greek folklore show.
- Four UNESCO World Heritage sites: Greek ruins in Delos; ancient Ephesus, Turkey; the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian and Cave of the Apocalypse on the island of Pátmos; and the medieval city of Rhodes.



Above: Three Bells of Fira, Santorini, Greece  
Cover: Mykonos, Greece

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# Brandeis

## TRAVELERS

### Dear Alumni and Friends,

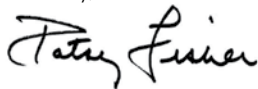
Sail the deep blue Aegean Sea on a seven-night journey from Athens to the fabled Halcyon Islands during the glorious fall! Explore the treasures of ancient Greece and Turkey on an exclusively chartered cruise aboard the intimate Wind Spirit, a beautiful, three-masted yacht that can moor in small ports of call that are inaccessible to larger vessels.

Our epic tour calls at Delos, Mykonos, Patmos, Rhodes, Santorini and Milos —ancient destinations steeped in myth and history. Sail Turkey's sun-drenched coast to visit Ephesus, the most spectacularly preserved Greco-Roman city in the world. Explore wonders from antiquity, from the Monastery of Saint John in Pátmos to the majestic Sacred Way in Delos — the legendary birthplace of Artemis and Apollo. Enjoy time on your own to explore the enchanting island of Mykonos. Your journey concludes in Milos, where the famous Venus de Milo statue was discovered.

In partnership with local guides and experts, our tour will be led by Eoin O'Donoghue, assistant professor of Classical and Early Mediterranean Studies. Professor O'Donoghue will enrich and inform the journey by sharing his expertise in archaeology and the material culture of the ancient Mediterranean.

Join Brandeis Travelers and experience camaraderie and connection with other intellectually curious alumni and friends. Space is limited, and we expect this popular Greek Isles tour to fill quickly. To reserve your space or for more information, call our tour operator, Gohagan & Company, at 800-922-3088.

Sincerely,



F. Patricia Fisher  
Vice President, Alumni Relations  
Brandeis University

### Travel Insurance:

Brandeis Travelers partners exclusively with Meyer and Associates to offer trip insurance for our tours. Please inquire about trip insurance options once you've made your reservation to meet any time-sensitive requirements. For more information, please call Meyer and Associates at 800-635-7801 or email [info@meyerandassoc.com](mailto:info@meyerandassoc.com).

### Disclaimer:

Brandeis University is not responsible for any tour operator policies or for any refunds. Gohagan & Company is the operator of this program and solely responsible for carrying out the responsibilities associated with it. Additionally, Brandeis University, as a sponsor, has no financial or legal responsibility for the program. For applicable Terms & Conditions associated with your participation in this program, please see (link to the T&C's).

### Faculty Leader:



Eoin O'Donoghue is an assistant professor of Classical and Early Mediterranean Studies at Brandeis. His research includes the archaeology and material culture of the ancient Mediterranean, with a focus on the Central Mediterranean and island archaeology.

Professor O'Donoghue is interested in questions of social and gender identities in the past and how we can use material evidence to better understand ancient societies. Professor O'Donoghue is also a field archaeologist. Since 2009, he has worked on the Poggio Civitate Excavation Project, an investigation of an Etruscan settlement south of Siena. In 2015, he started working with the Pantelleria Project on the excavation of a Punic and Roman sanctuary site on the island of Pantelleria. He is also a book review editor for the *Ancient West & East* journal, devoted to the study of the periphery of the ancient world.

**For reservations, call Gohagan & Company at 800-922-3088  
or visit [brande.gohagantravel.com](http://brande.gohagantravel.com)**



**Day 1 | October 7**

Depart for an overnight flight to Athens, Greece.

**Day 2 | October 8** **L-D**

Athens, Greece | Embark

Arrive in Athens, transfer and embark the comfortable and intimate *Wind Spirit*.

**Day 3 | October 9** **B-L-R-D**

Delos | Mykonos

Your journey begins at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Delos — the legendary birthplace of Artemis and Apollo. Walk along the Sacred Way to the Sanctuary of Apollo, a spectacularly rich archaeological site with remains of three separate temples from the fifth and sixth centuries B.C. See the legendary Terrace of the Lions, dedicated to Apollo, where hand-carved marble statues guarded the island for nearly 2,600 years. After lunch on the ship, set off to explore Mykonos at your own pace. According to ancient legend, its craggy hills and clefts were formed from the

petrified bodies of giants defeated by Hercules.

Join friends for the Captain's Welcome Reception tonight.

**Day 4 | October 10** **B-L-D**

Kusadasi, Turkey | Ephesus

Arrive in Kusadasi and drive to Ephesus, an archaeological site of Greek, Roman and Byzantine ruins, including the restored and reconstructed Celsus Library and the Great Theater. Visit the Terrace Houses and the Ephesus Archaeological Museum, which showcases artifacts that were retrieved from Ephesus during excavations in the late

19th and early 20th centuries. Continue to the Nakkas Weaving Center to witness a cocoon silk demonstration.

Later, at the Caravansera, enjoy a Sema ceremony where dervishes perform a symbolic whirling dance.

**Day 5 | October 11** **B-L-D**

Pátmos, Greece

On the island of Pátmos, tour the Greek Orthodox Monastery of Saint John the Theologian, a UNESCO World Heritage site. See the Cave of the Apocalypse, where Saint John the Apostle most likely wrote the Book of Revelation in A.D. 95.



Ephesus, Turkey



Return to the ship for lunch and a culinary demonstration. This afternoon, learn about life on the island during a discussion with residents.

**Day 6 | October 12    B-L-D**

Rhodes | Lindos

Begin in the UNESCO-listed city of Rhodes at its ancient port where the mighty Colossus of Rhodes statue stood before an earthquake in the third century B.C destroyed it. Explore the medieval old town, built by the Order of St. John, which occupied Rhodes from the early 14th century through

the 16th century. Visit the Palace of the Grand Masters, a formidable Gothic castle that houses a treasure trove of art, furniture and icons from that era.

Return to the ship for lunch, followed by an afternoon at leisure. Those looking for an active afternoon may join a walking tour to the Acropolis of Lindos, an iconic site with breathtaking views.

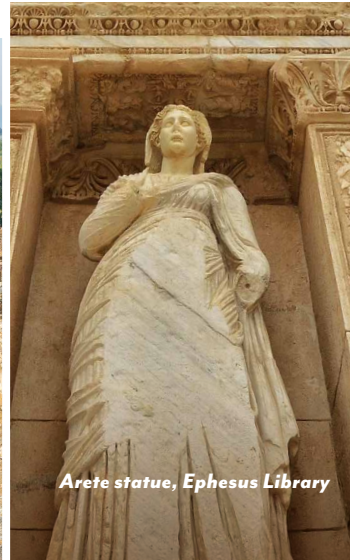
Enjoy a traditional Greek folklore show with local musicians and dancers, followed by dinner tonight.

**Day 7 | October 13    B-L-D**

Santorini

Be on deck as your ship glides to breathtaking Santorini, one of the most iconic islands in the Aegean Sea. You'll be greeted by stunning whitewashed buildings perched above the sea and a caldera rising dramatically from the water. Some believe this location was the inspiration for the legendary lost city of Atlantis. From the port, drive to the southern end of the island to explore the prehistoric settlement of Akrotiri. Tour these

*Great Theater, Ephesus, Turkey*



*Arete statue, Ephesus Library*





Akrotiri excavation site,  
Santorini, Greece

spectacular Minoan ruins, held intact by layers of pumice and ash for over 3,500 years.

Continue to Fira, renowned for its whitewashed buildings, stunning views and vibrant energy. During time at leisure in Fira, take a look at the famous Three Bells of Fira with its iconic blue dome.

#### **Day 8 | October 14 B-L-R-D**

##### Milos

This largely undeveloped volcanic island in the East



Cyclades is known for its abundant sandy beaches and stunning topography. It was here that the world-famous Venus de Milo marble statue was found in pieces in 1820. Though most of it was reassembled and presented to King Louis XVIII, the arms of the ancient female figure believed to represent Aphrodite were never found. Visit the Archaeological Museum of Milos, which features exhibits from the Neolithic period through late antiquity. Return to the ship for lunch.

After, take advantage of your final afternoon at leisure to spend time on the beach or enjoy a refreshing swim.

Attend a Captain's Farewell Reception and Dinner this evening. Raise a toast to celebrate your adventure!

#### **Day 9 | October 15 B**

Athens | Disembark |  
Return to Home City

Arrive in Athens. Disembark and transfer to the airport for your return flight home.

*Note: This itinerary is subject to change due to local conditions.*

## Legends of Ephesus

Ancient Ephesus is a city of stories, ones that trace from as far back as 1050 B.C. through the Roman Imperial era to the age of early Christian evangelism. A port city and center of trade on the Mediterranean for millennia, its first settlers were Anatolian people who were later captured by Ionian tribes, who were unseated by the Persians, who were then conquered by legendary Greek leader Alexander the Great. However, most of the well-preserved ruins you will see today in this UNESCO-inscribed Turkish city are remnants of an age of extreme wealth and prosperity enjoyed under the first-century reign of Caesar Augustus. As the new capital city of the Roman Empire, the Hellenistic Great Theatre was renovated with lavish Roman aesthetics; the grand, two-story Library of Celsus was constructed; and elaborate villas known as the Terrace Houses were built for its most elite residents. Very close to Ephesus, you may also see what remains of the Temple of Artemis, one of the "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World." This temple to the goddess Artemis, built in the sixth century B.C., was set on fire, then rebuilt several times, only to be destroyed by a Christian mob around A.D. 401. Believing that the Virgin Mary lived here after the death of Jesus, Ephesus has since become a site of Christian pilgrimages that continue to this day.





*Milos, Greece*



*Cave of the Apocalypse, Pátmos, Greece*

## PRE-TOUR EXTENSION



## Athens, Greece

**October 5 to 8** (Program Begins: October 6)

Begin your journey with an enriching experience in ancient Athens. Explore the monumental Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and its perfectly proportioned Parthenon, a graceful example of Doric architecture. Browse the displays and archaeological treasures of the Acropolis Museum, home to incredible artifacts from the Acropolis. After, enjoy free time in the colorful neighborhood of Plaka, the oldest section of Athens. Accommodations are for two nights at the *Athens Capital Hotel*.

**Price per person, based on double occupancy: \$1,195**

**Price per person, based on single occupancy: \$1,495**

*Further details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.*

## INCLUDED FEATURES



- 7-night, round-trip cruise from Athens, Greece, aboard the exclusively chartered *Wind Spirit*.
- Included Meals | 7 breakfasts, 7 lunches and 7 dinners.
- Complimentary alcoholic and nonalcoholic beverages are available throughout the cruise.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions.
- Experienced Gohagan & Company Travel Director accompanies you throughout the program. (1 for every 40 guests).
- Expert lecturers and local guides enrich your experience with their knowledge and insight.
- Specially arranged visit to Milos, one of Greece's most beautiful, yet least-visited, islands and the site where the ancient Venus de Milo statue was discovered.
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions and transfers.
- Complimentary water is available in your room and on excursions.
- Our extensive pre-departure materials better prepare you for your travel experience.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

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*Advantages of booking your air with Gohagan include:*

- Our experts know the best flight itineraries that work with your travel program's start and end times, and they will work to find the best rates comparable to those available to the public.
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- Flexibility to change or cancel reservations up to 60 days prior to departure with minimal penalties on applicable tickets.

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**TERMS** **\*The Special Savings Rate is valid if booked by 12/31/25 and paid in full at booking.**

**These Special Savings consist of \$500 Early Booking and \$500 Pay-in-Full Savings.**

- Single supplements apply in select categories at 160% of the per person cabin fare, plus taxes, with limited availability. Single rates for all other categories are at 200%. Special Savings still apply. (Cabin fare is the standard rate less taxes.)
- Deposit amount is \$1,500 per person. Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure.
- Full ship information and deck plans are available on our website at [gohagantravel.com](http://gohagantravel.com).
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# WIND SPIRIT



The comfortable, intimate *Wind Spirit* offers a unique sailing experience. This small ship is designed to sail from deep seas into ports inaccessible to larger vessels. The *Wind Spirit's* gourmet dining and wide teak deck with unobscured views make this voyage one to remember.

**2026 DEPARTURE DATE | October 7 to 15 | Tour Begins: October 8**

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Special Savings Rate*
B	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. Some rooms have fixed queen beds. 188 sq ft   Deck 1, aft.	\$7,995	\$6,995
BX	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. 188 sq ft   Deck 1, mid.	\$9,195	\$8,195
A	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. 188 sq ft   Deck 2, aft.	\$10,095	\$9,095
AX	Stateroom with ocean view via two side-by-side portholes; shower. 188 sq ft   Deck 2, mid.	\$11,095	\$10,095
OS	Suite with ocean view via four portholes; fixed queen bed; sitting/dining area; shower. 220 sq ft   Deck 1, aft.	\$12,295	\$11,295

All suites and staterooms are ocean-view and feature: two twin beds or one queen bed (a few have a fixed queen bed, see above); elegant granite-finished private bathroom with L'occitane products and a magnifying mirror; flat-screen TV; robes and slippers; luxurious linens; private climate control; personal safe and hair dryer.

All rates are in U.S. dollars, per person, based on double occupancy, including taxes (unless otherwise stated)

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For your comfort and convenience, our fares are comprehensive. We offer incredible inclusions not typical of all providers.

### Included in your Rate:

- Shore Excursions
- Wi-Fi/Internet
- Beverage Package
- Port Charges & Gratuities
- Travel Director(s)

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of up to  
**\$2,740**

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*Ephesus Library, Turkey*