



**HARVARD**  
Alumni Association



CENTER FOR  
HELLENIC STUDIES  
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

**JOURNEY IN GREECE**  
**WRITING HISTORY FROM NAFPLIO TO THESSALONIKI**  
**FOR STUDENTS & ALUMNI**  
**JANUARY 10–19, 2020**

Starting in the picturesque seaside town of Nafplio, where the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies has its headquarters in Greece (CHS Greece), and ending in the great metropolis of Thessaloniki, this travel-study tour takes as its theme the development of scripts and of writing technologies, with a focus on their eventual employment, throughout the ages, in reproducing the sacred texts of the Bible. At museums and historical sites along the way, get up-close views of clay tablets, scrolls, illuminated manuscripts, printing presses, early printed Bibles, and more. While the historical survey will take a generally chronological approach, exceptions will be made in order to take advantage of each city's offerings. Enjoy Greece's stunning landscapes, its long history, and its mild winter season in the company of Harvard students and alumni.

**Trip highlights**

- Enjoy exclusive access to the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies and join the director for a reception.
- At the site of ancient Mycenae, learn about Linear B and the beginnings of writing.
- Stop at Thebes, where myth places the Phoenicians who first brought the alphabet to Greece.
- In Messolonghi, where the first newspaper to be published in Greece was printed, visit the graves of Lord Byron and other heroes of the Greek War of Independence.
- In Ioannina, learn about the development of the printing press.
- In Thessaloniki, see early Bibles and learn about the development of Christianity in Greece, about the unique Jewish history of Greece and of Thessaloniki in particular, and about the production of Bibles and other religious texts in the early era of printing.

**Study leader:**

Keith Stone is a 2013 graduate of Harvard University's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and a current Fellow at Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Washington, DC, as well as a member of the Board of Directors of Harvard's Center for Hellenic Studies in Greece.

For over a decade Keith has worked closely with Gregory Nagy (Francis Jones Professor of Classical Greek Literature and Professor of Comparative Literature & Director of the Center for Hellenic Studies) on the long-running, popular Harvard College course, "The Ancient Greek Hero." Keith is also an integral part of the "HeroesX" project and the Kosmos Society community group, two of the most important outreach initiatives of the Center.

Keith earned his PhD in Hebrew Bible in the Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations department, and he has spent time tracing the development of early editions of the Bible in Greece. He is especially excited about returning to Thessaloniki, a city he has fallen in love with.

At home, Keith enjoys growing wildflowers and creating a habitat that is hospitable to native bees.

## SCHEDULE BY DAY

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception*

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 10 DEPART USA

The program officially begins in Nafplio on Saturday, January 11. Most participants will need to depart on January 10 in order to arrive in time for the group transfer to Nafplio. Please make your own arrangements for the flight to Athens. Several overnight flight options are available (Eleftherios Venizelos Athens International Airport). There are pre-trip or post-trip hotel reservations available upon request.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 ATHENS / NAFPLIO

Arrive at Athens International Airport where you will be welcomed by the program coordinator at 3pm.

Please make sure your flight arrives by 2pm local time to allow enough time to clear passport control and customs.

Once the group is together, transfer to Nafplio by motor coach (about 2 hours).

In the evening, meet at the hotel to walk to a nearby tavern for a welcome dinner.

Overnight: *Grand Sarai* or similar / D

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 NAFPLIO

In the morning, drive into the countryside through fields of orange trees to visit the Acropolis of Mycenae and the local museum. Learn about the earliest attested form of Greek, Linear B, and other ancient Mediterranean writing.

After a walking tour of Nafplio and lunch in the town, there will be time for an optional excursion up the 999 steps to the unique Palamidi Fortress for a spectacular view of Nafplio and the bay.

Later, enjoy exclusive access to the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies for this evening's preview session with the travel-study leader, for an introduction to the Center's interdisciplinary programs and activities, and finally for a reception hosted by the director of the Harvard Center for Hellenic Studies in Greece and kindly provided by the Center.

Overnight: *Grand Sarai* or similar / B, L, R

### MONDAY, JANUARY 13 NAFPLIO / ATHENS

In the morning, return to Athens by motor coach. Upon arrival visit the renowned National Archaeological Museum for an overview of ancient Greek archaeology and history.

After lunch, visit the National Library, focusing on the manuscript section and the "rare and precious" section.

In the afternoon and evening, enjoy free time in Athens.

Overnight: *Athens Gate* or similar / B, L

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 14 ATHENS

In the morning, visit the Jewish Museum of Greece, viewing objects in the Artefacts and Photographs sections.

Later, visit the Byzantine & Christian Museum, focusing on the manuscript section.

In the afternoon, enjoy free time in Athens. Before dinner with live music, meet at the hotel for a preview meeting.

Overnight: *Athens Gate* or similar / B, D

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 ATHENS / THEBES / MESSOLONGHI

In the morning, travel from Athens to Thebes (about 1 hour and 20 minutes).

Upon arrival visit the Thebes Archaeological Museum, with a special focus on the invention of the alphabet, and then have lunch in town.

Drive to Messolonghi (3.5 hours). After check-in, walk to dinner near the hotel.

Overnight: Messolonghi / B, L, D

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 16 MESSOLONGHI / IOANNINA

In the morning, visit the Municipal Museum of History and Art (which houses parts of the printing press that produced the first Greek newspaper, as well as original issues; special focus: the rise of the printing press and newspapers). Then walk to the Garden of Heroes where Lord Byron is buried along with many other heroes of the Greek War of Independence.

Travel from Messolonghi to Ioannina (2 hours).

Upon arrival, have a late lunch in Ioannina. After checking-in to the hotel, gather for a discussion about the next day's activities, and then enjoy a free evening in the city of Ioannina.

Overnight: Ioannina / B, L

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 IOANNINA / THESSALONIKI

In the morning, visit the Museum of Typography and Graphic Arts Technology.

Travel to Thessaloniki (3 hours), and before check-in and free time, walk for a late lunch.

In Thessaloniki, see early Bibles—in both manuscript and printed form—and, against the backdrop of the city's still-visible Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman features, learn about the development of Christianity in Greece, about the unique Jewish history of Greece and of Thessaloniki in particular, and about the production of Bibles and other religious texts in the early era of printing.

Overnight: Thessaloniki City / B, L

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 18 THESSALONIKI

In the morning, visit the Museum of Byzantine Culture's sections on manuscripts & handwritten books and on early printed books.

In the afternoon, enjoy free time in Thessaloniki.

Before the farewell dinner, meet at the hotel for a review session.

Overnight: Thessaloniki City / B, D

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 RETURN HOME

Departures.

### **PROGRAM RATES:**

*Per person double occupancy (excluding airfare):*

**Harvard College Student:** \$1,995

*(Must be currently enrolled as a fulltime Harvard College student)*

**Harvard Graduate Student:** \$2,795

*(This rate also applies to HeroesX students and recent Harvard College graduates from classes 2015–2019)*

**Standard Alumni & Guest:** \$3,195

**Single supplement:** \$550

### **A NOTE ABOUT AIR ARRANGEMENTS**

Please note that all participants are responsible for making their own air arrangements from their home country to Greece.

There will be a group transfer from Athens International Airport on January 11 at 3:00PM local time.

The trip concludes in Thessaloniki the evening of January 18. Travelers are responsible for making their own transfers to the airport for departing flights on January 19. More information will be provided in the preliminary trip information upon confirmation.