



## European Odyssey 2007

### TJ 07/10-2

**Tuesday, July 10****Depart for Greece****Day 1**

Greet your fellow Ambassadors in your departure city before boarding your international flight to Athens, Greece.

**Wednesday, July 11****Athens, Greece****Day 2**

ΚΑΛΩΣ ΗΡΘΑΤΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ ! - Welcome to Greece! Upon arrival in Athens, your People to People delegation manager and coach driver will greet you. Enjoy your dinner and have the chance to journal your first impressions of Greece.

**Thursday, July 12****Athens, Greece****Day 3**

Named for Athena, the goddess of wisdom, Athens has been inhabited for 7,000 years and is considered the birthplace of European civilization. Begin your time in Athens with a guided city walk, taking in the majestic Acropolis. Most of the buildings gracing this site date back to the Golden Age of Greece, in the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC. The *Parthenon*, which dominates the Acropolis, symbolizes the glory of ancient Greece. Nearby stands the *Erechtheion*, which built on the site where Poseidon and Athena are said to have competed for possession of Athens. This afternoon, take part in an orientation held in the foundation "Dora Stratou". Learn the first steps of the most popular Greek dances during your dance course at the Dora Stratou Theater. This evening, enjoy the entertainment, while attending the performance of traditional Greek dances at the Dora Stratou Theater.

**Friday, July 13****Athens, Greece****Day 4**

Today you will take part in one of the favorite adventures of people visiting Greece: island hopping! Head out into the Saronic Gulf, and make a stop on Aegina. Enjoy a fabulous day on the Mediterranean Sea!

**Saturday, July 14****Isthmia, Greece****Day 5**

Today you will participate in an environmental project in the area or near Athens. You will participate in the efforts to protect the Careta Careta sea turtles. Afterwards, cross over the Corinth Canal and journey to Epidaurus, which is famous for its well-preserved 4<sup>th</sup> century BC amphitheater. It is said that this theater has near-perfect acoustics, and many modern productions are still performed here. During the Greek period, the theater could hold 13,000 people.

**Sunday, July 15****Overnight Ferry, Greece - Italy****Day 6**

Head off to Olympia, named after the mountain where Zeus was supposed to live (Mt. Olympus). The Olympic Games first took place in this area in 776 BC. Originally, the only event was men's sprinting, but wrestling, boxing and equestrian events were added later. At Ancient Olympia, you can see the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, as well as a 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC athletic stadium. In the evening, go to Patras to catch the overnight ferry that takes you to Italy. ANTIO ΕΛΛΑΔΑ ! (Goodbye Greece).

**Monday, July 16**

**Naples, Italy**

**Day 7**

*Buon Giorno e Benvenuto in Italia!* Upon arrival in Bari, go west to the region of Campania. The region is blessed with some of the most dramatic coastline in the country and a rich heritage set in ancient ruins. Make an excursion to the ancient city of Pompeii, Mount Vesuvius' most famous victim. When the mountain erupted in AD 79, it rained ash and stone, completely destroying and burying the town. In 1748 excavation began, and is still going on today. Some of the ruins are remarkably intact, including the House of the Faun, the House of the Vettii and the House of the Mysteries. Walking among them, you'll feel as though you've stepped back two thousand years.

**Tuesday, July 17**

**Rome, Italy**

**Day 8**

Discover the famous Mount Vesuvius, and experience one of Europe's few active volcanoes. Don't worry, the last eruption was in 1944! After lunch, depart to *Roma!*

**Wednesday, July 18**

**Rome, Italy**

**Day 9**

Discover the sights and sounds of Rome! Go to the capital of Catholicism and the world's smallest state, the Vatican. Marvel at St. Peter's cathedral, which contains hundreds of works of art, including Michelangelo's glorious *Pietà*. Just off the cathedral, you'll find the Sistine chapel, containing what are perhaps the most amazing frescoes in the world. This afternoon, explore the city's center as your delegation is divided into teams to engage in a little friendly competition! With your team, collect information about the *Piazza Navona*, the *Pantheon*, the *Spanish Steps* and the *Trevi Fountain*. Don't forget to bring your coins; tossing a coin in the fountain will grant your wish to return to Rome!

**Remember: There is a strict dress code at the Vatican. Girls must cover their shoulders and knees. Long skirts or pants are appropriate. For boys, short-sleeved shirts are okay, but no shorts, please. Sandals are fine for either. You may be asked to leave or be denied entrance if you don't follow these guidelines.**

**Thursday, July 19**

**Assisi, Italy**

**Day 10**

Have the opportunity to explore the *Forum Romanum* and *Coliseum*. Constructed in 80 AD, the Coliseum had the capacity to seat over 50,000 spectators and was the venue for such entertainment as gladiator combat! Bid *Arrivederci* to Rome and continue your journey to Assisi, the city where the movie, "Brother Sun, Sister Moon," was filmed. Take part in an educational meeting with a priest. He will tell you about life in the monastery, its founder and his personal motives for becoming a priest!

**Friday, July 20**

**Assisi, Italy**

**Day 11**

Today is all about challenge, excitement, and energy! Get ready for a day packed with adventure and personal growth. Through interactive and challenging workshops led by the Full On team, you will have the opportunity to learn leadership skills, set personal goals, and step outside your comfort zone. Later, take some time to reflect upon today's activities and your personal achievements.

**Saturday, July 21**

**Montecatini, Italy**

**Day 12**

This morning, you will travel to one of the most culturally rich cities in the world: *Firenze* (Florence). Meet your Italian guide for an initial look at the city. You'll get an overview of the colorful history of Florence and take a walk through the city center. The *Duomo*, the famous symbol of Florence, is the tallest building in the city and the fourth largest cathedral in Europe. Look for the bronze doors to the Baptistery, known as the "Gate of Paradise." Visit the *Accademia* Gallery, which houses Michelangelo's colossal statue, *David*. In the afternoon, see one of the most famous buildings in Europe when you travel to Pisa, whose powerful navy once dominated the Mediterranean. Stop at the Square of Miracles, where you'll view some of the best examples of Romanesque architecture in Italy, including the Leaning Tower. Begun in 1173, the Tower started to tilt even before the third level was finished in 1274; it was finally completed in 1350.

**Sunday, July 22**

**Vicenza, Italy**

**Day 13**

This morning pay tribute to the 4,402 interred servicemen and women who fought for the liberation of Italy at the Florence American Cemetery, one of 14 permanent American World War II military cemetery memorials on foreign soil. Continue your journey through the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy to Vicenza. This region is the heartland of central Italy, a rich agricultural area—one of the most prosperous in the country. On the way, visit the town of Brescello for an Official Welcome and tour of the Museum Peppone e Don Camillo.

**Monday, July 23**

**Overnight Train, Italy - France**

**Day 14**

If there is one city in this world that can be described as unique, it's Venice, the one-time gateway to the Orient. Winding through the heart of the city is the Grand Canal, which remains, in the words of a French Ambassador of 1495, "the most beautiful street in the world". During a guided orientation, you will explore the bustling alleys, quaint bridges and narrow canals of Venice. Of particular interest is *Basilica di San Marco*, the splendid cathedral crowned with five huge domes. In front of the cathedral is *Piazza San Marco*, a large meeting place for Venetians and pigeons. Behind the nearby *Palazzo Ducale*, see the Bridge of Sighs. If there's one thing Venice is famous for—besides gondolas—it's glass. Watch a demonstration of Venetian glass blowing in the glass factory, *Veccia Murano*. Why not enjoy one of life's great pleasures and take a ride in a gondola? In the evening, catch the overnight train to continue your travel to Paris. *Arrivederci, Italia!*

**Tuesday, July 24**

**Guesthouse, France**

**Day 15**

*Bonjour et Bienvenue en France!* Start your day with a French language course, where you will learn a few phrases in preparation for your guesthouse stay. In the afternoon, explore the magnificent *Château de Versailles*. Built during the reign of Louis XIV, the Sun King, it was the seat of the royal court from 1682 to 1789, when the French Revolution put an end to the monarchy. In the evening, you will arrive at your guesthouse to experience life in Europe. Be ready to try new things!

**Wednesday, July 25**

**Guesthouse, France**

**Day 16**

You will have the chance to try out your newly learned French words when you meet French students for a sports tournament (It might be basketball, volleyball, soccer....) or a cultural activity.

***Don't forget to exchange address information so you can keep in touch!***

**Thursday, July 26**

**Guesthouse, France**

**Day 17**

In the form of a Riddle Rally in the city, you will have the possibility to raise money for a non-profit association.

**Friday, July 27**

**Paris, France**

**Day 18**

Say goodbye to your guesthouse and rejoin your delegation. For a dazzling view of Paris, the best place to go is up! Take the elevator to the top of the Eiffel Tower (899 feet), built for the 1889 World's Fair to commemorate the French Revolution.

**Saturday, July 28**

**Paris, France**

**Day 19**

Set out and enjoy a guided exploration of one of the most important art collections in the world, the famous *Musée du Louvre*. Since it would take at least three weeks to see all the wonderful treasures held inside, you will visit only the principal parts of the museum—including a look at Leonardo's masterpiece, *Mona Lisa*! Later, your French guide will give you an orientation of the city Ernest Hemingway called "a moveable feast," because "wherever you go for the rest of your life, Paris stays with you". Get to know the famous Latin Quarter, so called because before the Revolution, students and professors in this area only spoke Latin. *Notre Dame* Cathedral took two centuries to complete. Point Zéro, the spot from which all road distances are measured in France, is found in the courtyard in front of Notre Dame. Visit the historic *Montmartre* area, a haven for artists and writers before WWI. Marvel at the white *Basilique du Sacré Coeur*. Take time to discover this area's hidden treasures in small groups.

**Sunday, July 29**

**Depart for United States**

**Day 20**

Pack up your suitcase for the last time and board the coach for the airport. Remember to complete your program evaluations and exchange friendship cards with your fellow Ambassadors. *Au revoir La France!* Goodbye Europe!

**NOTE: This itinerary may change at any time without prior notice.**

**Revised Schedule of activities will be posted on your student's On Board web site.**