

Allison Westropp
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Just imagine walking with fifteen other Saint Mary's girls up a mountain listening to Professor Fotopoulos talk about the acropolis. Professor Fotopoulos, who is from Greece, makes a great tour guide and historian. The day is spent sight-seeing, learning the history of Greece and the opportunity to see some of the oldest architecture in the world. After a full day of sight seeing we return to our hotel where we freshen up and get ready to enjoy authentic Greek Food. We go to a little restaurant down in the middle of Athens well known for their fabulous food. The restaurant does not disappoint, the food is amazing. After dinner the girls all go out together to explore Greece on their own. This is just your first day of fourteen days in Greece.

Studying Aboard in Greece was the first time I had ever been to Europe. It opened my eyes to a different culture. In America if we went out to eat and it took more than a half an hour for us to get our food we would complain; however, the Greeks enjoy food and are not in a hurry. They take the opportunity to talk and laugh and enjoy each other's company while they are waiting on their food. They know how to enjoy life. They like to party and will stay out late into the night. In Thessaloniki a group of us girls went out for a late night drink and we ended up staying out until 3:00 in the morning. This seemed very late to us, however the Greeks were still out enjoying the night.

During the fifteen days in Greece, our mornings were spent together with a guided sight-seeing tour and then lunch. After the guided tour we would return to the hotel, where the girls would split up into random groups and take the opportunity to explore

other parts of the city we were in. One cultural difference that was very notable was the shops in the cities closed from about two to four o'clock during the day so the employees could go home and enjoy a nice lunch with their families.

Greece has made we want to explore other European countries. Everything I saw in Greece had so much tradition and history. Learning about things that dated all the way back to the bible was a fascinating experience. Two weeks in another country more than met my expectations; it was so exciting, educational, yet fun. The opportunity to really bond with the other Saint Mary's girls; exploring a new culture is truly an opportunity of a life time. I highly recommend the Greece trip and would love to have an opportunity to visit Greece in the future.