2019 Yale Alumni Chorus
Odyssey of Song Tour to Greece
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HIGHLIGHTS

- 6 nights in Athens, 3 nights in Rhodes
- See the sights, rehearse, and perform in three concerts, in Athens, Nafplion, and Rhodes
- Sing the Brahms Nänie and more under the direction of Maestro Jeff Douma, the Musical Director of the acclaimed Yale Glee Club
- Rehearse, perform, and mingle with local music groups
- Add optional Pre Tour: Delphi and Meteora, June 21-June 24, 2019 3 days 2 nights
- Add optional Post Tour: Cruise sailing to Mykoros, Crete, and Santorini July 4-8, 2019
- Connect and re-connect with an inspiring, fun, multi-generational community of Yale singing graduates and their families and friends

Day by Day (Note: Preliminary Itinerary is Subject to Change)

Optional Pre-tour excursion — Delphi and Meteora
Arrive in Athens June 22
Before joining the main tour, get a jump on overcoming jet lag! Spend 3 days, 2 nights in Delphi and Meteora.

Main Tour
Day 1 — On the way!
Monday 24 June
If you’re coming from the USA you’ll need to depart for Athens on Monday, June 24th, since it will be an overnight flight. Book your flights on your own or register for our group flight out of Newark Airport.

Day 2 — Arrive Athens, Greece
Tuesday 25 June
Arrive in Athens. Meet with English-speaking guide. Enjoy some free time, then check-in and settle into your room before a rehearsal and Welcome Dinner.

Day 3 — Athens, Greece
Wednesday 26 June
We start the day with a morning tour of the Acropolis and Parthenon, followed by a rehearsal, and then a free evening with an optional tour to local archaeological sites.

Day 4 — Athens, Greece
Thursday 27 June
Rehearsals & Community Engagement! Morning and afternoon rehearsals, including one with the orchestra, followed by an evening visit to a Refugee Camp and a planned exchange with the Music program there.
Day 5 — Athens, Greece  
Friday 28 June  
Cruising the islands. We will enjoy a full day cruise to two or three beautiful Peloponnese islands on the Saronic Gulf.

Day 6 — Athens, Greece  
Saturday 29 June  
The day begins with a Dress Rehearsal for our main orchestral concert; followed by a free afternoon, and then an Evening Concert at the Nostos Festival at the Opera House of the Niarchos Cultural Foundation.

Day 7 — Athens-Epidaurus-Corinth, Nafplion Greece  
Sunday 30 June  
We will visit the ruins of Ancient Corinth, and then visit the unique and famous Epidaurus Theater. We then arrive in Nafplion where there will be an acoustic rehearsal with the orchestra, dinner with concert participants and an Evening Concert as part of the Nafplion Festival.

Day 8 — Athens-Rhodes, Greece  
Monday 1 July  
We will fly from Athens to Rhodes. There will be a morning flight and afternoon flight, as the group will not all fit on one flight. After our arrival in Rhodes we will have a City Tour including a tour of the Palace of the Knights, and an evening dinner in the Old City.

Day 9 — Rhodes, Greece  
Tuesday 2 July  
Free time in the morning followed by a rehearsal with a local choir; and then an evening concert presented by the City of Rhodes as part of their Summer Festival.

Day 10 — Rhodes-Lindos-Acropolis, Greece  
Wednesday 3 July  
Morning tour to the quaint white - washed town of Lindos, then visit the Acropolis and enjoy a Farewell Dinner.

Day 11 — Rhodes-Athens-Home  
Wednesday 4 July  
We enjoy our last breakfast together, then fly back to Athens and say farewell to Greece.
Optional Pre-tour: Delphi and Meteora/Kalambaka

Arrive on your own or take the group flight out of Newark by June 21. You will spend 3 days, 2 nights in Delphi and Meteora, to visit museums and archaeological sites, and famous monastaries. The tour package includes 4-star hotel accommodations including 1 night in Delphi, and 1 night in Kalambaka, daily breakfast buffet, dinners, and sightseeing with English-speaking guide. A group flight is being offered through Newark airport, or you can make your own arrangements to depart the US on June 21, to ensure arrival on June 22. Price: $934.00 per person (based on minimum 20 participants); single supplement $203.00; Flight from Newark $1,050.00 + $101.00 fuel and tax surcharges (Surcharges may fluctuate).

Optional Post Tour: Athens and Aegean Celestyal Cruise

Following the main tour you depart by coach to the Athens Port for your cruise embarkation. Once aboard you will enjoy travelling to several islands, enjoying their history and architectural splendors, as well as breathtaking views. Price: Starting at $1,092.00 per person (based on minimum 20 participants); single supplement $230.00; Flight from Newark $1,050.00 + $101.00 fuel and tax surcharges (Surcharges may fluctuate).

Music, Musicians and Venues

Our tour includes three performances: two formal concerts with orchestra in which we’ll sing the Brahms Nänie, the finale of the Academic Festival Orchestra, as well as modern pieces composed by Yale-based composer, Christopher Theofanidis. Our orchestra will be composed of members of the Greece El Systema youth orchestra as well as professional musicians. One final concert in Rhodes will feature an a capella repertoire of Yale favorites and songs selected with our local audiences in mind. A truly special feature of YAC tours is the opportunity to rehearse, mingle, and perform with various professional and student ensembles in our host countries, and to perform from some of the world’s great performance stages.

The Musical Director for the Yale Alumni Chorus is our beloved Maestro Jeff Douma. He who has served as Director of the Yale Glee Club since 2003, and as Professor of Conducting at the Yale School of Music, where he teaches in the graduate choral program.

As the Yale Alumni Chorus, we are not merely tourists; we’re traveling performers, and “Ambassadors of Song” for Yale. The Yale Alumni Chorus aspires to, and achieves, a high standard of musical performance with very limited on-tour rehearsal time. For some of us that’s a challenge as the years pass, but we know you can do it! Music for the tour (its cost is included in your tour fee) will be sent to you well before we leave so you can practice and learn the notes ahead of time. Although we don’t sing from memory onstage, Jeff needs your eyes and our audiences are counting on us for confident and well-prepared performances.
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There will be an opportunity to rehearse and perform some of the music that will be performed on tour during the Milton Choral Festival weekend, March 22-24, 2019 at Milton, Massachusetts. Also, if you are able, please plan to join in an all-day rehearsal in New York City on Saturday, May 4, 2019. See the Yale Alumni Chorus website for more news to come about music and music preparation as the tour approaches.

We also aspire to look great onstage during the tour, so singers will need to bring appropriate performance attire. Concert attire is uniform black shirts/blouses and your own long black pants/skirt/shoes. The women’s dresses and men’s and women’s shirts/blouses will be the same ones used for recent trips, and can be ordered online. More on this later.

Community Engagement

In Greece, as in other overseas destinations, we seek to have a positive impact with members of the local communities not only through our performances and collaborations with local musicians, but through selected activities with and for young people and/or people with special challenges in their lives. YAC’s Community Engagement Committee is in the process of setting up opportunities for you, if you choose, to interact with and support additional people and organizations while we are on tour, including a trip to a local Refugee Camp housing refugees from Syria, Iraq, and other countries in the Middle East. More to come in future communications.

Travel and Accommodations

Group travel arrangements are available to and from Newark for flights at the start and end of the main tour, as well as the pre and post tours; you may sign up for these flights if you wish. If you prefer to come from a different city, or if you choose to use airline miles, you should make your airline travel arrangements on your own. You’ll need a passport with an expiration date of October 30, 2019 or later, so please check now to make sure yours is current. At this point in time, US Citizens do not need a visa to enter Greece; those traveling from another country can check their visa requirements here: https://www.mfa.gr/en/visas/visas-for-foreigners-traveling-to-greece/countries-requiring-or-not-requiring-visa.html

Airfare costs are not included in the basic tour fee. However, from the time you join the tour in Athens on June 24th and until we depart together July 4th, your transportation needs are taken care of by the tour and included in the tour price. Air travel between Athens and Rhodes will be coach class, and “deluxe coach” bus travel during the tour will be, well, bus travel.

Our accommodations will be hotels in Athens and Rhodes. A few specifics:

- The tour price is based on double occupancy for the hotels; if you are a single traveler and choose not to have a roommate, there will be an additional single supplement charge.
- The tour price includes all breakfasts. Over the course of the tour, budget for some lunches and dinners on your own.
Tour Costs

Your producers have worked hard to arrange a terrific tour while keeping the price as reasonable as possible. Customize the perfect trip for you!

Estimate your total cost by adding together the base cost (Option 1 or 2), your cost for whatever you’ll spend for airfare to and from Greece, the cost for a pre-tour excursion you choose to add, and finally whatever allowance you choose for the limited number of meals or sightseeing you’ll do on your own. Here’s the deal per person, double occupancy:

**Option 1 base cost: $4,550.00.** Includes hotels (double occupancy) in all cities. Single supplement is an additional $649.00.

**Add-ons available through YAC include:**
- Group air travel to Greece: A block of seats have been reserved on Emirates flights for round-trip air travel to Athens out of Newark for the Main Tour, Pre-Tour, and Post-Tour.
  - Main Tour Flight: Departs June 24, 2019 at 11:55pm, Newark to Athens, and returns July 4, 2019, 5:35pm, Athens to Newark ($1,050.00 + $101.00 Taxes).
  - Pre-Tour Flight: Departs June 21, 2019 at 11:55pm, Newark to Athens, and returns July 4, 2019 at 5:35pm ($1,050.00 + $101.00 Taxes)
  - Post-Tour Flight: Departs June 24, 2019 at 11:55pm, Newark to Athens, and returns July 8, 2019 at 5:35pm, Athens to Newark ($1,050.00 + $101.00 Taxes)
- Athens Only: $3,279.00. This is a shorter tour package, offering just the first part of the tour in Athens, from June 24 – July 1, 2019. There are no group flights available for this package. Single Supplement is an additional $370.00.
- Pre-Tour Excursion: Three days in Delphi & Meteora/Kalambaka $934.00 per person (based on minimum 20 participants); single supplement $203.
- Post-Tour Excursion: Athens and Iconic Aegean Celestyal Cruise $1,092.00 per person (based on minimum 20 participants); single supplement $230. This is a starting price. There are different prices based on inside or outside cabin choice. All detailed pricing is available in the registration.

*Please note current pricing cannot be guaranteed after 12/14/2018.*

*All of the group flights are limited and will be accommodated on a first-come first-served basis.*
Financial Assistance

The Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation’s generous donors (yes, that’s all of you!) have made it possible for a limited number of singers who are financially challenged to pay the tour’s full cost to apply for need-based financial assistance to offset some or most of the cost of the tour. This program improves the musical quality of our group, and brings more recent graduates into the Yale Alumni Chorus community. The application process is conducted confidentially by a committee of YAC members, and includes a brief written application and possibly a telephone interview. If you are interested in applying for financial aid, a $500 deposit is required along with your application. You can find the application within the online registration, or by clicking here.

If you would like to support these singers who will make such a wonderful addition to our chorus and our traveling community, please include a tax-deductible contribution to the Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation along with your tour payments and designate it for Financial Assistance. Your contribution will supplement other resources from the YAC Foundation’s reserves to make more scholarship dollars available for this tour.

How to Apply

Yale Alumni Chorus international tours are open to anyone who sang at Yale, plus their accompanying family and friends. If that doesn’t describe you but you have participated in a past Yale Alumni Chorus tour, you are also welcome.

The Application for the tour is online, and all communications related to the tour will come to you via email. You will also need to access the internet to visit the Yale Alumni Chorus website, yalealumnichorus.org, to view and download information such as links to rehearsal recordings, PDF scans of some of the music, etc.

Click HERE to get started! Please submit one application per person.

*Please note that we accept credit cards and online checks. If you choose to pay by credit card there is an option to pay a processing fee to help offset YAC’s credit card transaction costs.
Some Frequently Asked Questions:

What’s the Cabaret Night?
This is a fun night for the tour participants to perform on their own or with groups, in a relaxed setting.

My spouse/partner doesn’t sing. Is that OK?
Yes, non-singing participants are welcome.

Can you set me up with a roommate if I’m traveling on my own?
Yes, we usually have quite a few people who are travelling on their own and need a roommate.

Do I need special visas to travel to these locations?
No, if you are a US Citizen you only need a passport. Those travelling from other countries can visit the following website to see what their requirements are:

Do you offer trip cancellation insurance?
The Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation does not offer Trip Insurance, but it strongly urges all participants to purchase it individually for their own protection. Click here for more information.

I’m not travelling on the group flight, will there be someone at the airport to pick me up?
No, there will not be a bus waiting for you at the airport. It is very easy to get taxis – show drivers or dispatchers details of the Titania Hotel in Athens, in English and arrive safely at the hotel. Hotel details will be given as we get closer to the tour.