Graduation Trip * 19 days / 8 countries
plus optional 5-day extension to Greece

England - France - Belgium - Holland - Germany - Austria - Italy - Vatican City - Greece

May 29 - June 16, 2015
extended tour ends June 21

Essential EUROPE

MARYLAND ALUMNI
DAY 1 TRAVEL TO LONDON  
The Essential Europe begins with an overnight flight to “Merry Old England.”  
Meals: In-flight

DAY 2 LONDON  
Enjoy a free afternoon to relax and unwind. In the evening we’ll have our welcome orientation followed by a fun London pub crawl.  
Meals: In-flight

DAY 3 LONDON  
Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and Piccadilly Circus: these familiar names become familiar places on our morning tour. Afternoon at leisure, see in the city’s monuments, embark on a Harrods’ shopping spree, or explore the British Museum, the National Gallery and the London Dungeons. After dusk, you may want to take-in some Shakespeare at the Globe theater by the Thames River or attend a West End theater show.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4 LONDON * ENGLISH CHANNEL * PARIS  
Travel to southeast England today and board our ship to the continent. Motor through northern France and arrive in Paris, “City of Lights.” We’ll dine together at our French bistro dinner, and then enjoy a romantic Seine River cruise.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5 PARIS  
Morning tour of Paris, see the hunchback “Quasimodo’s” Notre Dame Cathedral, Place de la Concorde, where the guillotine once stood, and the Eiffel Tower’s steel lacework. Free time in the afternoon – visit Left Bank bookstalls, or shop the chic boutiques of Paris. Consider joining our optional can-can Cabaret Show tonight.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner  
Optional activity: Cabaret Show

DAY 6 PARIS  
Free day in Paris: included Paris 2-day Museum Pass allows access to over 70 museums and monuments in and around Paris including the world famous Louvre, housing the Mona Lisa, Musée d’Orsay, Musée National Picasso, and the Château de Versailles. Have your portrait done by Place du Tertre artists or sample sinful French pastries. Your free evening may find you watching the world go by from a sidewalk café on the Champs Elysées.  
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 PARIS * BRUSSELS * AMSTERDAM  
Motor to Belgium and Brussels, and see the Grand Place, a perfect medieval square, and the statue of naughty Mennekijn-Pis. Continue to Amsterdam and enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure.  
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 DUTCH COUNTRYSIDE  
Go biking through 13th-century Dutch fishing villages along the Ijssel Lake beaches today, watch wooden shoes being carved and sample Edam cheese at a cheese farm. Free time this afternoon in Amsterdam to tour the Van Gogh or Rijksmuseum, or visit Anne Frank’s house. This evening we invite you on a boat cruise on the canals of Amsterdam followed by our Dutch-Indonesian “Rice Table” dinner.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 9 COLOGNE * RHINE RIVER CRUISE * HEIDELBERG  
Cross the German border into Cologne, famous for the world’s largest Gothic cathedral. Embark on a cruise along the fabled Rhine River, passing steeply sloped vineyards, ancient castles, and the legendary Lorelei Rock. Continue to Heidelberg, the “City of the Student Prince” and climb to the ruins of the Castle of the Palatine Elector for a bird’s-eye view of the city and the Neckar River.  
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 HEIDELBERG * ROTHENBURG * MUNICH  
Germany’s Romantic Road takes us to Rothenburg ob der Tauber. This medieval city is celebrated not only for its well-preserved Gothic and Baroque buildings and walls, but also for its unspoiled picturesque setting. Enjoy lunch at a local Gasthaus before continuing our journey to the fun-filled Oktoberfest city of Munich. Free evening to check out the oompah-pah bands at the famous Hofbräuhaus.  
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 11 MUNICH  
Enjoy a full day at your leisure. Consider visiting the BMW museum, seeing the Glockenspiel Chimes at the market square, the 1972 Olympic Village or shopping for Bavarian beer steins and leiderhosen on Maximilianstrasse. Consider an optional excursion to the Dachau concentration camp this afternoon. We’ll dine on authentic Bavarian fare tonight.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner  
Optional activity: Dachau Excursion

DAY 12 MUNICH * BERCHTESGADEN SALT MINES * SALZBURG * ALPINE CENTER  
This morning, we continue to Berchtesgaden. Dressed in miner’s clothing, enjoy a ride on a funicular and down slides through the salt mine. Our next stop is Salzburg, Mozart’s birthplace and site where the classic movie, “Sound of Music” was filmed. Explore the narrow streets lined with colorful wrought iron signs and shops before we continue our journey to Europe’s largest alpine sports region. Be our pampered guest for two nights of fitness and fun while nestled in the snow-capped Austrian mountains at our Alpine Center.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 13 ALPINE CENTER  
All day today is at our leisure; go for a hike in the Alps and join the fun and excitement of whitewater rafting. A hearty Austrian dinner awaits after all that activity.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner  
Optional activity: Whitewater Rafting

DAY 14 AUSTRIAN LAKE DISTRICT * VENICE, ITALY  
The picturesque landscape of the Austrian Lake District brings us to sunny Italy’s Venice—“Sinking City in the Sea.” Walk to St. Mark’s Square, stop at a Murano glass-blowing workshop and watch famous Venetian glass being made. Consider a romantic gondola ride this evening gliding through the intricate maze of canals beneath arched bridges passing 12th and 18th-century marble palaces.  
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 15 VENICE * FLORENCE  
Through the fertile Po Valley we approach Florence, Golden City of the Renaissance and birthplace of Michelangelo. Our Florence art tour includes the Gates of Paradise, the marble Santa Maria del Fiore Cathedral and Giotto’s bell tower, then there’s free time for shopping and museums. Get ready for an optional dinner of pure Italian delights at “Il Latini” tonight.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner  
Optional activity: Tuscan Feast

DAY 16 FLORENCE  
A free day to explore the Uffizi Gallery and see the collections of Giotto, Botticelli, Raphael and da Vinci. The Galleria dell’Accademia houses several sculptures by Michelangelo including his famous David. Enjoy our dinner of traditional Florentine fare.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner  
Optional activity: Chianti Excursion

DAY 17 FLORENCE * ROME  
Travel past Chianti vineyards along the Highway of the Sun to the Eternal City of Rome. After check in we have time to relax or explore baroque Rome: Stop to toss three coins in Trevi Fountain, see the Pantheon and sample the famous “gelati” ice cream at Piazza Navona.  
Meals: Breakfast

DAY 18 ROME * VATICAN CITY  
This morning we explore Capitol Hill with the most spectacular view of Caesar’s Roman Forum, center of political and social activity, with ancient ruins dating back from the 8th century BC. Also see Nero’s Circus Maximus where chariot races were held. A trip across the Tiber River takes us to Vatican City - the world’s smallest state. Visit St. Peter’s Basilica housing Michelangelo’s magnificent “Pieta.” During afternoon free time you may want to use your Roma Pass to visit the Colosseum, where gladiators fought to the death. Our dinner tonight is a mouth-watering Roman banquet complete with Italian specialties.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 19 ROME * TRAVEL HOME – or continue on to POMPEII * OVERTIME SHIP TO GREECE  
For some of us the celebratory tour of Europe ends in Rome this morning. Bid farewell to friends and “arrivederci” to Italy before jetting back home with memories to last a lifetime. For the rest of us: motor through sunny olive groves along the Corinthian Sea coastline, across the Peloponnese peninsula to Galatas and the island of Poros. Relax with three days of living like a Greek god - swim, sunbathe, or take part in optional activities such as waterskiing, wakeboarding, parasailing, banana-boatting or tubing. We invite everyone to our Toga Party on the last night.  
Meals: Breakfast and Dinner daily  
Optional activity: Aquatic Adventure

DAY 20, 21, 22 GREEK ISLAND CENTER  
After cruising through aquamarine waters, our ship docks at Patras. Motor along the Corinthian Sea coastline, across the Peloponnese peninsula to Galatas and the island of Poros. Relax with three days of living like a Greek god - swim, sunbathe, or take part in optional activities such as waterskiing, wakeboarding, parasailing, banana-boatting or tubing. We invite everyone to our Toga Party on the last night.  
Meals: Breakfast and Dinner daily  
Optional activity: Aquatic Adventure

DAY 23 ATHENS  
In the morning we board our ferry to Athens. See the 2,400-year-old Parthenon, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and Constitution Square. A free afternoon may find us wandering the paths of Plato, Socrates and Sophocles or trying our bargaining skills at the markets of Monastiraki. This evening follow the sounds of traditional bouzouki music and join our farewell taverna dinner in the Plaka District – Athens’ oldest neighborhood at the foot of the Acropolis.  
Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 24 TRAVEL HOME  
Reluctantly we say farewell to Europe and new-found friends. Jet back home with thoughts of planning the next European Adventure!  
Meals: Breakfast, In-flight
Dear Student:

Congratulations on your approaching graduation!

Have you thought about how you will celebrate this milestone? The University of Maryland Alumni Association is pleased to announce, for our fifteenth year, a very special travel opportunity: The Essential Europe Tour. Both fun and fascinating, this trip is a wonderful reward for your years of hard work.

Angela Dimopoulas, Assistant Director of Events and Marketing, in conjunction with AESU, a tour operator specializing in travel for 21-35 year olds, invite you on a comprehensive tour of Europe open exclusively to graduating seniors of the University of Maryland and select peer institutions.

The 19-day, 8-country trip, with an optional 5-day extension to Greece, includes all of Europe’s “must-see” sites, such as Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, and the Parthenon. Past travelers have commented “this trip was amazing…I saw the most beautiful sites,” and “Thank you for a great summer. Not only was this a vacation, it was a wake-up call for me to see the world!”

Education does not stop at graduation; rather, it is a lifelong process and travel provides unparalleled opportunities for hands-on learning. On the Essential Europe tour, you will be able to visit exciting destinations, learn more about our world, relax and unwind on a great holiday, and renew ties to the University of Maryland while celebrating with fellow graduates.

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to Maryland’s family of alumni.

Sincerely,

Angela Dimopoulos '07
Assistant Director of Events and Marketing
University of Maryland Alumni Association

For more information, please contact:
Angela Dimopoulos
University of Maryland Alumni Association
Samuel Riggs IV Alumni Center
College Park, MD 20742-1521
301-405-7938 or 800-336-8627
FAX: 301-314-6807
Email: adimop@umd.edu

Base Land Package:
19 days - 8 countries
$3,725*

ADD $725 for optional 5-day extension

*Special Alumni Land price per person. Airfare priced separately for greater flexibility. Please call AESU Alumni World Travel for great low airfares from most U.S. cities. Airport/Departure taxes are additional and subject to change.

Single Supplement $975/$325

London pre-tour package available:
Arrive early, transfer to your hotel via hotel shuttle, relax and explore London town on your own with your 24-hour hop-on hop-off bus ticket.
Cost per person/partner:
Shared double or twin room: $225 - Single travelers: $325
Availability is very limited and rates are subject to change.

YOUR 19-DAY BASE LAND PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- 17 nights in superior tourist class hotels or better with private bath/shower, double occupancy
- Daily continental breakfast
- Seven three-course specialty dinners
- One lunch
- Guided tours led by a local historian in •London •Paris •Florence •Rome
- Seine River cruise
- Rhine River cruise
- Amsterdam Canal cruise
- Two-day Paris Museum Pass
- ROMA-PASS (full access to public transport system, reduced admission to museums, music events, theater, etc.)
- Admission to •Berchtesgaden Salt Mines •Colosseum & Forum (as part of ROMA pass)

YOUR 5-DAY SOUTHERN ITALY & GREECE EXTENSION INCLUDES:

- Five nights in superior tourist class hotels or better with private bath/shower, double occupancy
- incl. overnight ship from Italy to Greece in 4-share cabin
- Daily continental breakfast
- Four three-course specialty dinners
- Guided tours led by a local historian in •Pompeii •Athens
- Admission to •Pompeii •Acropolis

PLUS:
- Private tour director for the duration of the land tour
- All scheduled sightseeing
- Intra-European transportation by air-conditioned motor coach as per itinerary
- All service charges and local taxes
- Luggage tag and travel guides

The following OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS are available at an additional charge and can be booked with your tour director overseas:

- Paris Cabaret Show
- Austrian Alps Whitewater Rafting
- Florence Chianti Excursion
- Tuscan Feast
- Poros (24-day tour only) Aquatic Adventure

Request your 2015 options brochure for details.

For specific tour-related questions, please contact:
AESU Alumni World Travel
3922 Hickory Avenue * Baltimore, MD 21211
Phone: 800-638-7640 or 410-366-5494
Fax: 410-366-6999
E-mail: alumni@aesu.com
Passenger’s Legal Name (as it appears on passport):  
Title:  
First name:  
Middle name:  
Last name:  
Home ( )  
Work ( )  
Cell ( )  
e-mail:  
Passport #:  
Passport/Place of Issue:  
Emergency contact/Name:  
Emergency contact/Phone:  
Reservations must be paid in full 90 days prior to departure. Reservations received after this date will be subject to availability and must be accompanied by payment in full. A late booking fee of $50 per person will apply if booking/payment is received less than 90 days prior to departure. All prices reflect a cash discount. Payment of balance with credit card will result in a 4% processing fee. Airfare priced separately for greater flexibility. Please call AESU Alumni World Travel for great airfares from most US cities.

Land arrangements:  
☐ I want to book the 19-day land package (leaving tour in Rome) for $3,725  
☐ I want to book the 19-day land package for $3,725 PLUS the 5-DAY OPTION for $725  
☐ I will room with  
☐ I will pay the single supplement of $975 for the 19-day tour  
☐ I will pay the single supplement of $1,300 for the 24-day tour  
☐ If traveling as a single and not paying single supplement, AESU will arrange same-gender shared accommodation.

Pre-tour package in London:  
☐ I want to book the one-night pre-tour package for $225 (includes one 24-hour hop-on-hop-off bus ticket) -- I am sharing a room with  
☐ I am a single traveler and will pay $325 for the pre-tour package

Air arrangements:  
☐ Please make round-trip flight reservations for me. I am departing from (city)  
☐ I am paying by check.  
☐ Enclosed is my deposit of US $500 to secure my reservation.  
☐ Enclosed is my full payment of $ per person.  
(Use deposit payable to AESU Alumni World Travel.)

Airfares are highly restrictive, NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-ENDORSABLE and NON-TRANSFERABLE once ticketed. Once reservation is booked and paid for AESU Alumni World Travel reserves the right to issue tickets. Once ticketed, airfare in forfeiture of the entire cost of the trip.

Pre-tour package in London:  
☐ I want to book the one-night pre-tour package for $225 (includes one 24-hour hop-on-hop-off bus ticket) -- I am sharing a room with  
☐ I am a single traveler and will pay $325 for the pre-tour package