Price: Experiencing Italy tour: $4,595, Amalfi Coast extension: $2,150. Authentic Greece tour: $3,795, Santorini Extension: $2,095. Prices are per participant in double occupancy, land only.

Included in price: Shared double room accommodations, meals as indicated in the itinerary, including house wine with dinner; transportation and entrance fees to all sights, museums, and activities as indicated on the itinerary; all airport-hotel transfers for participants taking Sofia Travel arranged group flights; daily accommodation and on-site instruction from Sofia Travel staff; hotel portage for one suitcase per person, air, sea, and ground;

Not included in Price: Flights and all associated costs; airport transfers for travelers making their own air arrangements; single room supplements; (Experiencing Italy tour: $500, Amalfi Coast extension: $2,250, Authentic Greece tour: $750, Santorini Extension: $1,400), meals not listed in the itinerary; optional activities, additions and changes to the listed program; travel insurance; excess baggage; individual transfers; internet or telephone fees at hotels; laundry; snacks, soft drinks, telephone, tips, sightseeing, souvenirs, and any other expense of a personal nature.

Activity Level: Travelers should be able to walk comfortably over an extended period of time without resting; be sure-footed on uneven surfaces, enter a moored boat, and walk up and down stairs and multiple flights of stairs safely and without assistance. Travelers are responsible for carrying their own carry-on luggage at all times.


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We invite you to TRAVEL AS OUR GUESTS

When Elizabeth Iliadou Sparks, a native of Verea, Greece, and her husband, Dr. David Sparks, a former professor of Aegean Studies, ran their first tour to Greece, Elizabeth’s grandmother was with them to welcome the travelers off the plane. Thirty-three years later, our unique brand of family travel still revolves around welcoming you to an authentic travel experience based on quality, personal attention, and a love and passion for the remarkable culture and history of Greece and Italy.

Joined by their son Adam and his wife Blake, the Sparks family of Sofia Travel has led hundreds of tours to Greece and Italy. Let us share with you our favorite restaurants, introduce you to our friends and family, and lead you to the most Memorable, Beautiful and Unforgettable places that we know. We’re delighted to travel with you!

TRAVEL AS OUR GUESTS

The Sofia Travel Difference

• Personal attention instead of planning your tour and passing you off to another company, we personally accompany every single tour we offer. That means from start to finish, you will see Elizabeth Sparks-Iliadou, a former professor of Aegean Studies, ran their first tour to Greece, Elizabeth’s grandmother was with them to welcome the travelers, and her husband, Dr. David Sparks, a former professor of Aegean Studies, ran their first tour to Greece. Elizabeth’s grandmother was with them to welcome the travelers off the plane. Thirty-three years later, our unique brand of family travel still revolves around welcoming you to an authentic travel experience based on quality, personal attention, and a love and passion for the remarkable culture and history of Greece and Italy.

• Expert instruction: We personally guide you through every site and museum, creating an awe-inspiring experience to detail made this the best vacation we’ve ever had AND sold us on traveling with them again in the near future.

• Specialized expertise: Elizabeth’s unique knowledge and experience as a student, researcher, and author of numerous books and articles on ancient Greece will reveal Greece in an entirely new light. We have an intimate knowledge of places that few tourists ever visit, and you will be the first of your group to arrive with us.

• Perfect pace: We create each day to ensure a perfect mix of sightseeing, cultural and relaxation

• Small groups: These exclusive Texas Exes groups are capped to ensure an intimate experience

We invite you to go off the tourist track and experience the best of Greece as our guests. From Renaissance harbor towns to a car-free island to the heart of Athens, you’ll see 4,000 year old golden treasures and medieval castles, sip wine at a countryside vineyard and coffee with nuns at a mountaintop convent, stand in the birthplace of democracy, and hear the words of Socrates, Pericles, and the Apostle Paul in their original context. Let us introduce you to our friends and take you to our favorite restaurants on this uniquely personalized journey to the heart of Authentic Greece.

THE SPARKS-ILIADOU FAMILY

We invite you to travel with us to spend three nights in Greece’s most beautiful mainland town, built by the Venetians in the 1600s. Marvel at the grandioso ancient theater of Epidaurus, explore the bronze-age citadel of King Agamemnon of the Trojan War at Mycenae, sample wine at a countryside vineyard, hike through the stunning Palamidi Fortress, and enjoy the stunning sea views from your 5-star hotel room.

ISLAND VILLAGES & ANCIENT TREASURES

Nafplio

The tiny island of Hydra is like a dream. With no motorized vehicles on the island, enjoy three nights in this Unbelievably serene setting relaxing along the quiet harbor and sailing to the unforgettable island of Spetses. Ride horses to a convent high above town for coffee with the nuns and enjoy your quaint accommodations in the mansion of an 18th c. shipping magnate.

Athens

As in ancient times, Athens is the greatest city of Greece. Enjoy the stunning, up-close Parthenon views from our hotel roof garden, sit in the Theater of Dionysus where ancient drama was born, stand in awe at the foot of the Parthenon, marvel at the grandiose ancient theater of Epidaurus, and immerse yourself in the matchless culture and cuisine of Italy. Stay in medieval Tuscan hill towns and a family-run Umbrian villa, make fresh pasta with a Tuscan chef, marvel at the awe-inspiring buildings of ancient Rome, and witness the flowering of modern culture in Florence on this expertly curated journey. From romantic dinners at fresco in a Roman pizza to a rustic feast from a Tuscan farmer, this is the Italian experience of a lifetime.

Optional Post Tour Extension

Santerini Island

$2,950 Per Person + $1,400 Single Supplement

$2,150 Per Person + $1,200 Single Supplement

$2,750 Per Person + $1,200 Single Supplement

Enjoy the full Italian experience on this intimate tour of Italy. Soak up the beauty of Tuscan, be inspired by the grandeur of the Renaissance, and get lost in the matchless culture and cuisine of Italy. Stay in medieval Tuscan hill towns and a family-run Umbrian villa, make fresh pasta with a Tuscan chef, marvel at the awe-inspiring buildings of ancient Rome, and witness the flowering of modern culture in Florence on this expertly curated journey. From romantic dinners at fresco in a Roman pizza to a rustic feast from a Tuscan farmer, this is the Italian experience of a lifetime.

We’re delighted to travel with you!

“Their depth of knowledge and attention to detail made this the best vacation we’ve ever had AND sold us on traveling with them again in the near future.”

Shelley Norton
Director of Travel, Flying Longhorns

Best regards,

The Texas Exes are proud to once again partner with the Sparks-Iliadou family of Sofia Travel to offer two unique tours custom designed just for you. Our travelers so appreciate Sofia Travel’s authentic experiences and family connections that the majority of their past travelers have travelled on another Sofia Travel tour within two years! The Sparks-Iliadou family goes above and beyond to give every detail from directly answering your questions before the tour to personally guiding you through every site to specially selecting every menu. With over thirty years experience and with personal attention as their hallmark, Sofia Travel offers boutique tours to Greece and Italy unlike any other. We expect these limited group tours to fill up quickly, so we encourage you to register today!

Every traveler’s participation in the Texas Exes Flying Longhorns travel program helps to further the Mission of the University of Texas at Austin. We do this by advocating on the university’s behalf, enriching the student experience, connecting and engaging alumni everywhere, and communicating the value the university brings to the world. When you combine all this with the opportunity to continue lifelong learning in the company of fellow Longhorns, you have the ingredients for a very special experience abroad.

Please contact Blake Sparks of Sofia Travel at 214-493-3027 or Blake@SofiaTravel.org with questions or to make a reservation. Space is limited, so your early reservation is essential!

Best regards,

Shelley Norton
Director of Travel, Flying Longhorns

5,000 YEARS OF THE INSPIRATIONAL GREEK SPIRIT

Details + complete itinerary: www.SofiaTravel.org/texasgreece2018

SEE, TASTE & EXPERIENCE THE GOOD ITALIAN LIFE

Enjoying the full Italian experience on this intimate tour of Italy. Soak up the beauty of Tuscan, be inspired by the grandeur of the Renaissance, and get lost in the matchless culture and cuisine of Italy. Stay in medieval Tuscan hill towns and a family-run Umbrian villa, make fresh pasta with a Tuscan chef, marvel at the awe-inspiring buildings of ancient Rome, and witness the flowering of modern culture in Florence on this expertly curated journey. From romantic dinners at fresco in a Roman pizza to a rustic feast from a Tuscan farmer, this is the Italian experience of a lifetime.

See, taste & experience the good Italian life.

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