

CVEN/EVEN 311: FLUID DYNAMICS

Thessaloniki & Athens Study Abroad

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One of the first group activities: Touring Thessaloniki with each other and a tour guide. This photo was taken from the top of the old walls. Behind us is the city and port of Thessaloniki. Pictured is Dr. Rogers, Alex, Elijah, Allen, Neal, me, Bella, Ephraim, Kate, & Francisco. Brayden was missing because he slept in and Kaden was still stuck in an airport I believe.

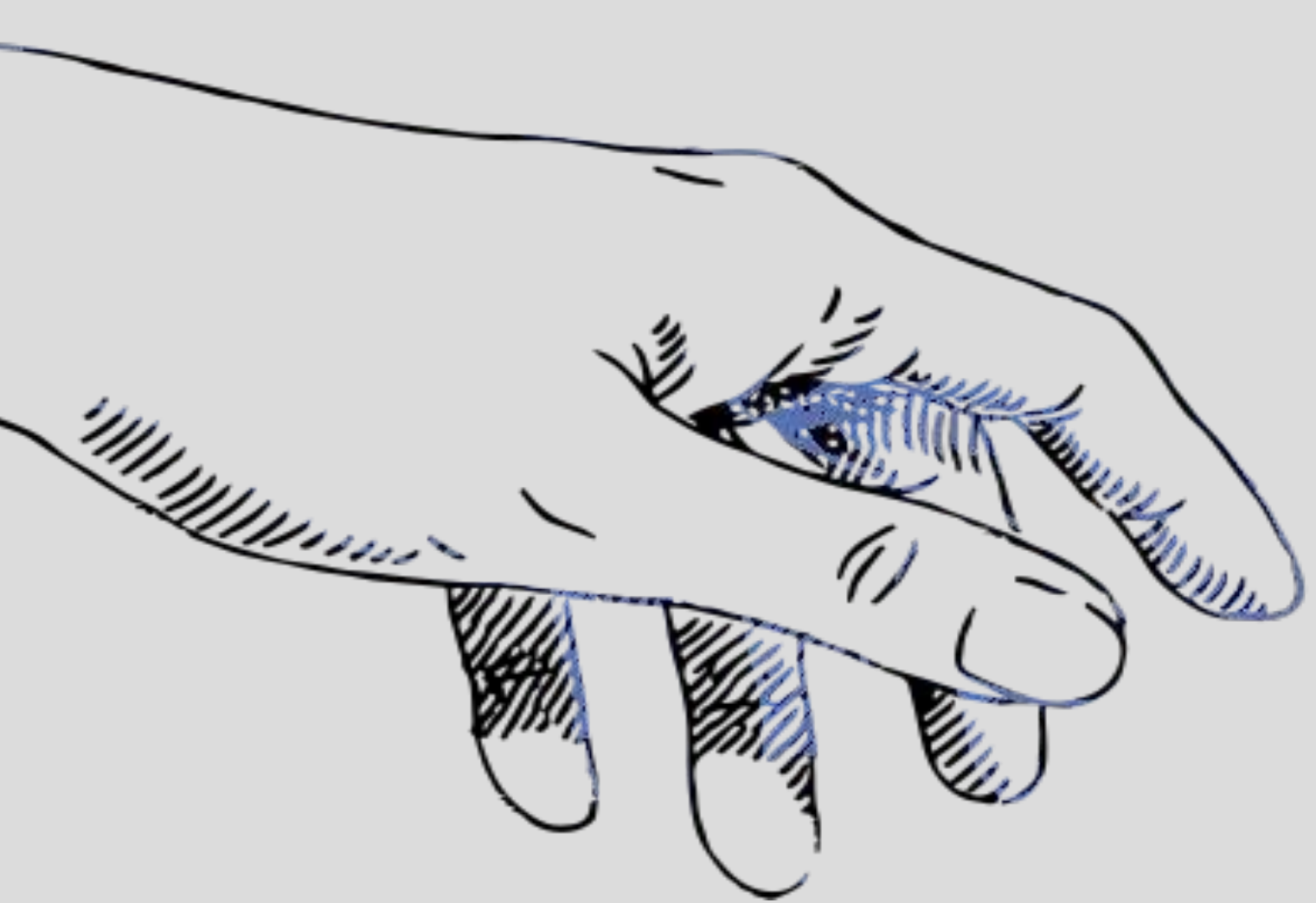




The whole group eating at Favela together.



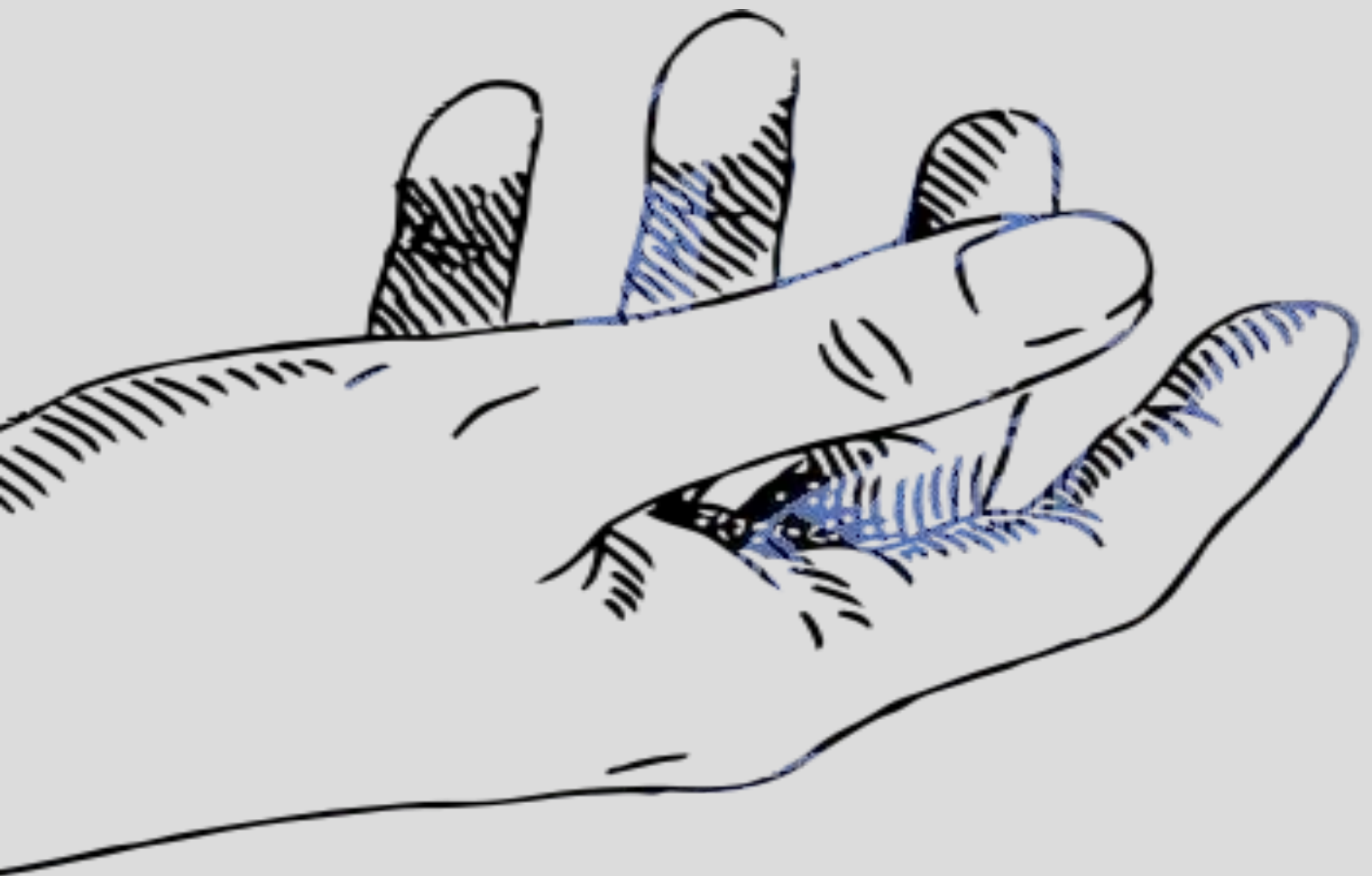
Us w/ our Thessaloniki guide - Alex



EXPERIENCING A TIGHT KNIT GROUP

Our group of eleven & a professor:

This study abroad faced me with the new task of being around the same eleven people nearly every single day for almost every single meal. While some people I immediately clicked with, others took more time and thought to truly appreciate and grow close with. It was an experience like no other and taught me how to grow close with people that I wouldn't initially find commonalities with. In many cases, these people grew to be my closest and dearest members of the group. I am truly grateful for this opportunity in self-discovery.



A SERIES OF TRIPS PLANNED BY ME!

- Visiting Perea & surrounding beaches
- Hiking Mount Chortiatis
- Edessa Waterfalls & Pozar Thermal Baths
- Meteora Sunset Rock & Hermit Caves





Perea & other nearby beaches



2 left images: The 1st time visiting Perea with Bella & two girls from a UT abroad program. We took the public bus to the beach together.

The 2nd time, Bella, Brayden, Kaden & I took the water taxi & visited two other nearby beaches. We made friends with local Greek people and some Polish people.

Mount Chortiatis

A group of us hiked up Mount Chortiatis, a mountain we could see from our hotel which lies on the outskirts of Thessaloniki. For those of us who went, it was about 1.5-2 hrs. to the peak and it lingers as our favorite memory in Thessaloniki.



After the hike, we got snacks at a market & drinks at a rooftop bar which overlooked the town of Chortiatis



Edessa Waterfalls & Pozzar Thermal Baths

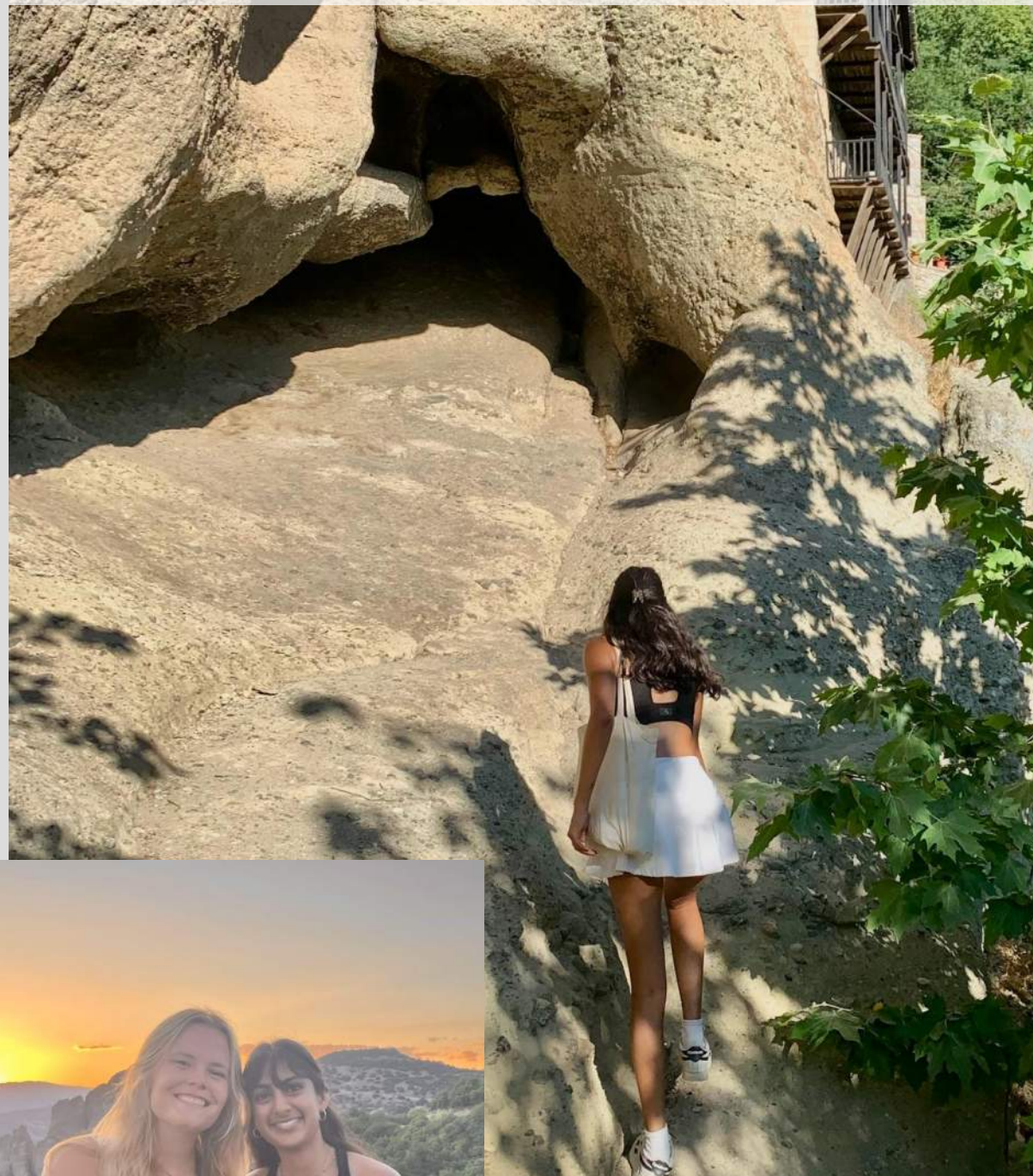


Bella, Brayden, Kaden & I took a train to Edessa right after our final exam. There we walked through some beautiful waterfalls. Then we got a quick, cheap taxi to Pozzar Thermal Baths. This was another amazing memory for all of us.



Meteora Sunset Rock & Hermit Caves

Hike through hermit caves & to Sunset Rock for the sunset in Meteora.



We stayed for stargazing and had a fun walk down as a group

MY EXPERIENCE AS A GROUP PLANNER

Planning excursions for the group was slightly exhausting, but extremely rewarding. It started off as small trips for me and the group members I was closest to - but eventually I was planning large group visits to surrounding areas. I got to explore the depths of my leadership and patience in my journey as a group planner. Though at times I felt frustrated, the joy of the trip and the company I was with always made it worth it. These group journeys were the highlights of my trip and I would double any feelings of annoyance or impatience if it meant I could experience it all over again. I learned so much about myself, my group, and my environment on these group trips. I also planned some other small trips including a hike for sunrise on Lycabettus Hill with Elijah.



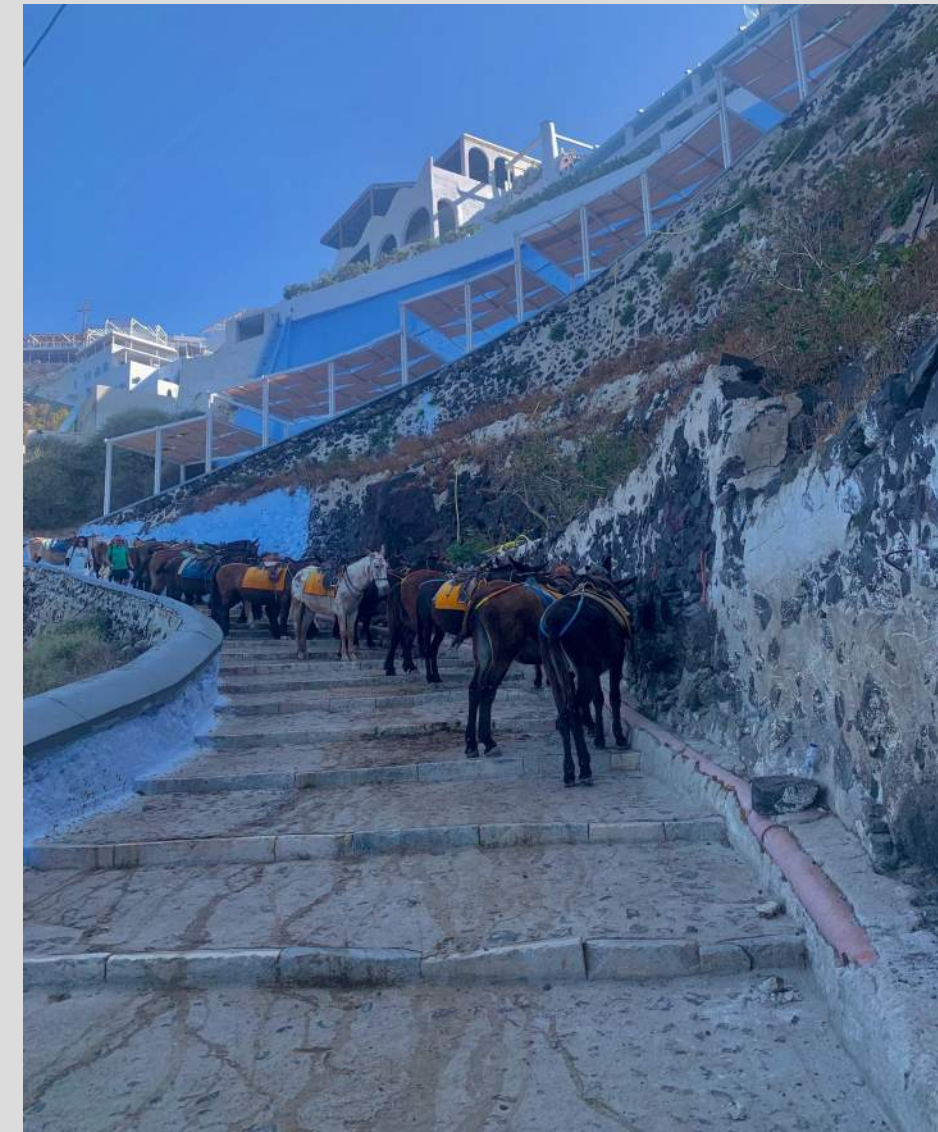
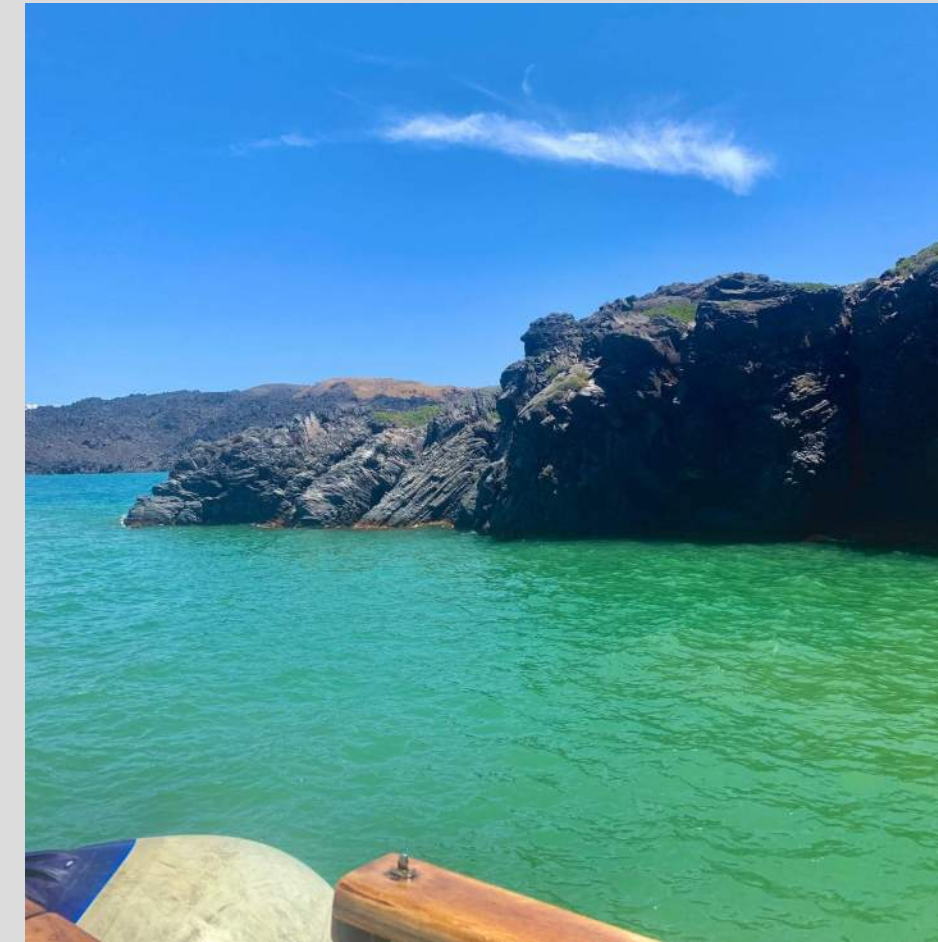
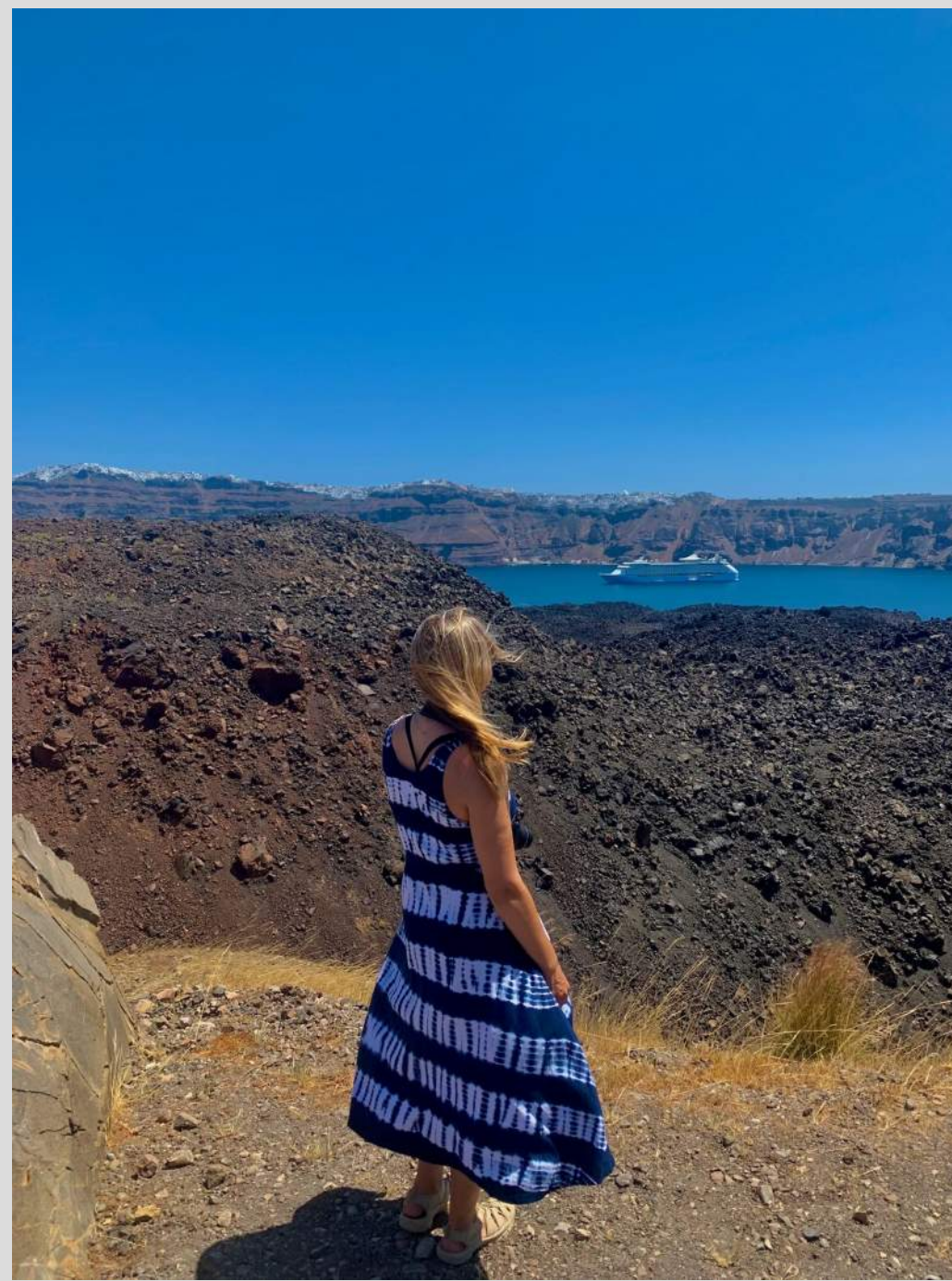
MY SOLO(ish) TRIPS.

- Santorini
- Skopelos & Skiathos
- Family Trip to Hydra,
Milos, Sifnos, & Acropolis
- Agistri w/ Bella



Santorini

I went on a boat tour to see Nea Kameni (the volcano of Santorini) and experienced the Oia sunset in Ammoudi Bay.



Santorini



There were 588 steps down to the boat. During the boat tour, I met a couple from Arkansas and I ran into them again on the steps back up. I mentioned my love for hiking to them and they invited me on their 4 hour hike from Fira to Oia. It was an amazing hike and we ended it in Oia at sunset.



Santorini



I went to a Catholic church and Dominican monastery of cloistered nuns. This was special to me because in high school I was taught by Dominican sisters. I also went to a winery where I made friends with two Irish girls who I did a wine tasting with later.

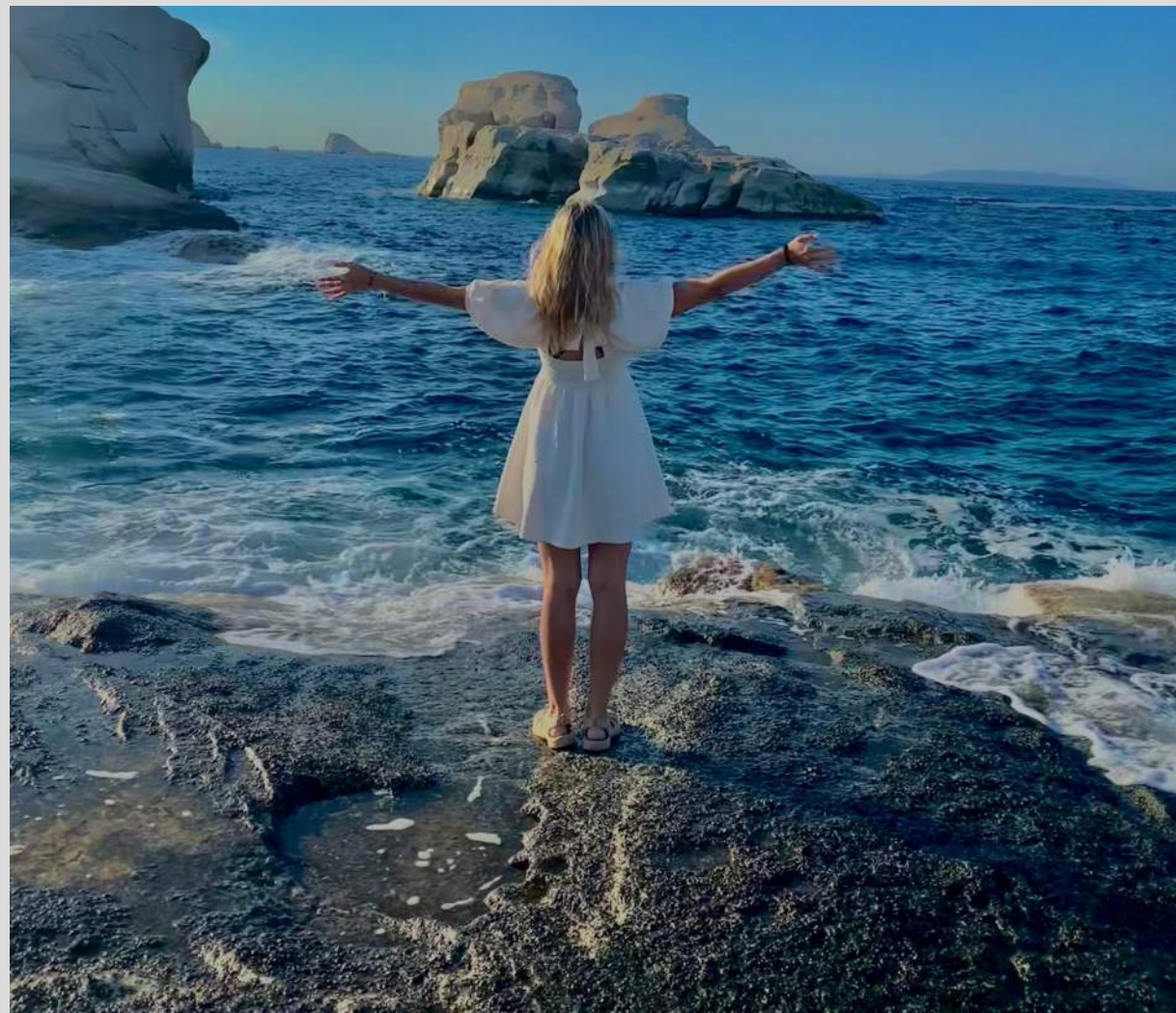
Skopelos & Skiathos



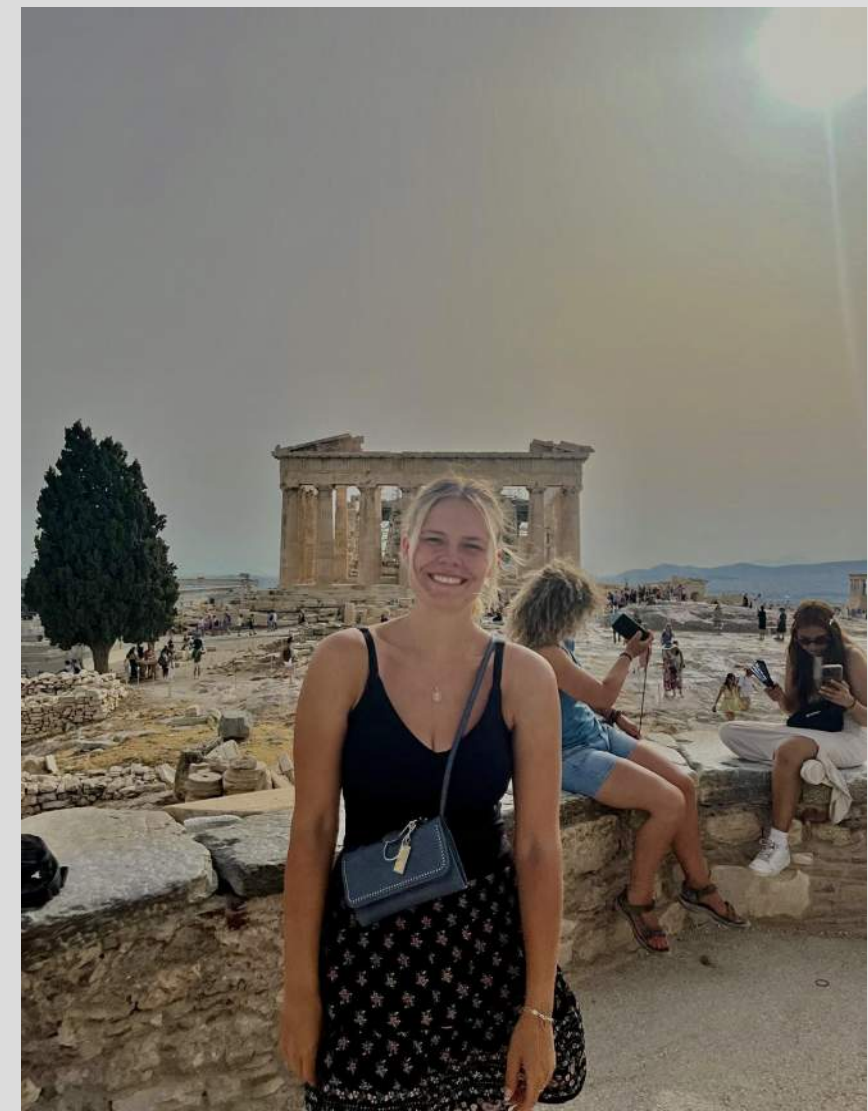
On Skopelos, I went to the Mamma Mia Chapel (Agios Ioannis). Mamma Mia is one of my mom's favorite movies and we watched it at least once a year. On Skiathos I went to a beach for the entire day.

Family Trip

For our long weekend I met my family in Athens. We went to Hydra, Milos, and Sifnos islands. We snorkeled and explored as much of the island as we could at each spot.

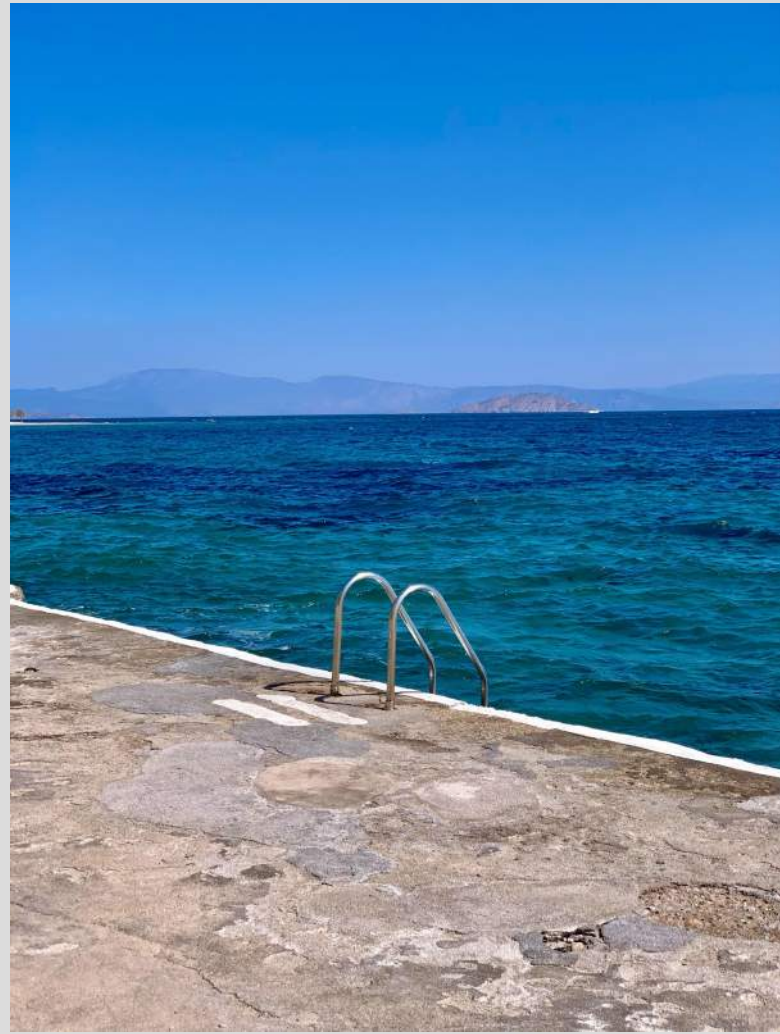
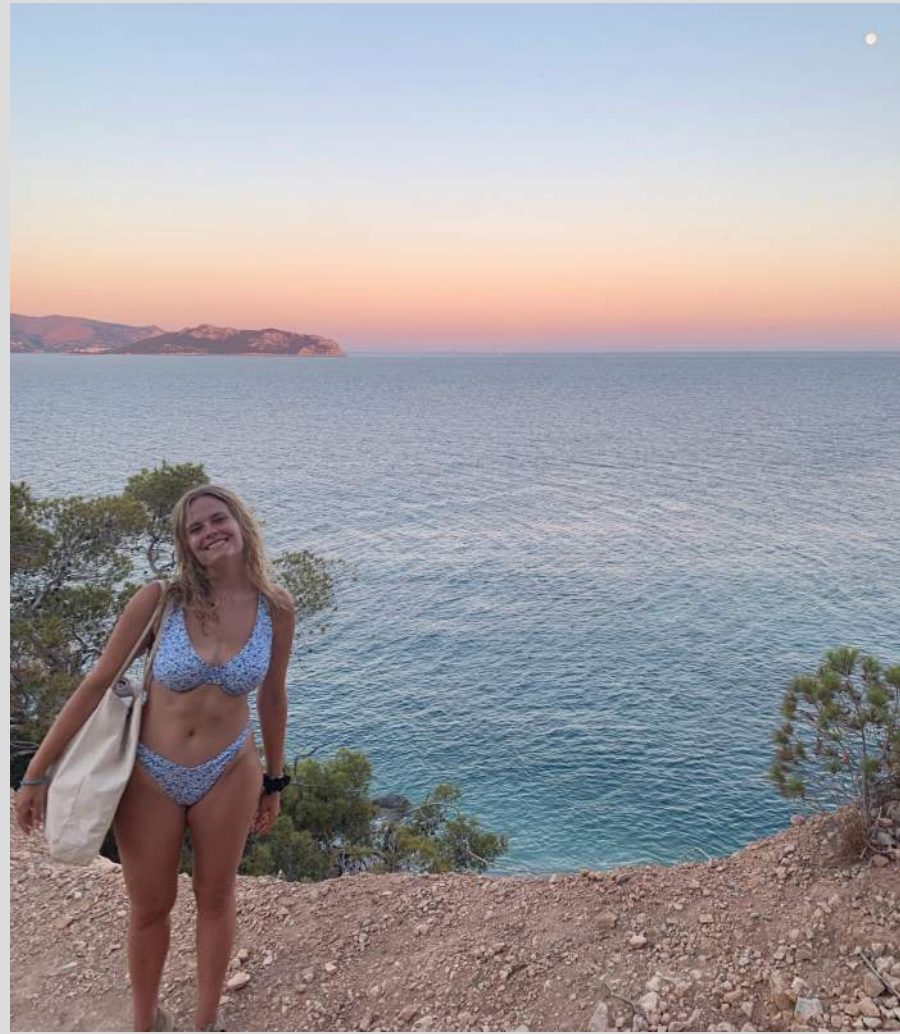


Family Trip



The afternoon before our morning flights out, we had enough time to see the Acropolis together. This time with my family was so special to me.

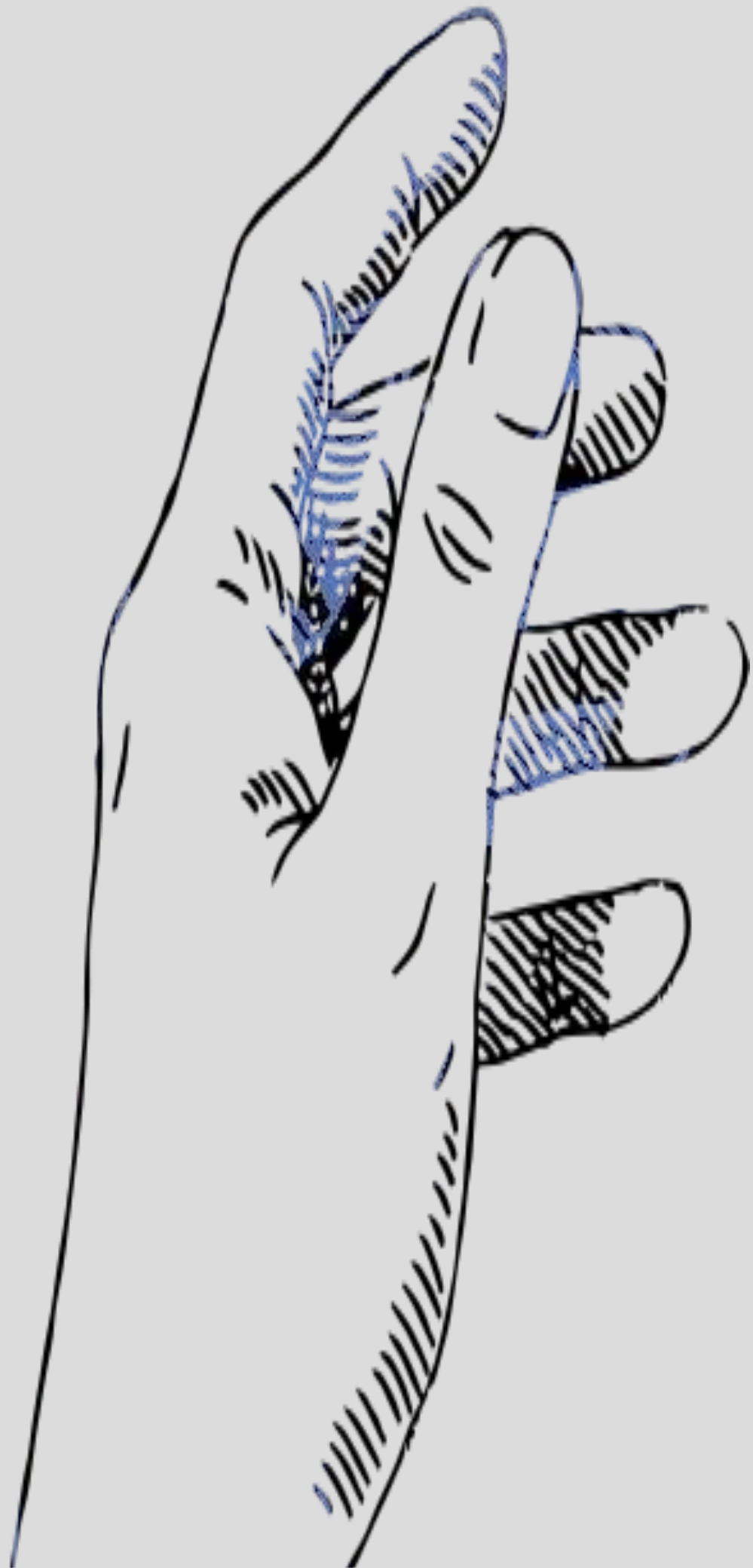
Agistri w/ Bella



Between the class Acropolis visit & farewell dinner, Bella & I took a ferry to Agistri for the

night & between time. It was one of my favorite trips & I'm glad I had a new friend to experience it with.





MY EXPERIENCE AS A SOLO(ish) PLANNER

The process of planning a trip for myself and close family and friends was exciting and empowering. Though there was an occasional mishap, everything went smoothly on all of my trips and everyone had a fantastic time. On my completely solo trips, I was always able to make friends who I briefly traveled with. This experience showed me that I could thrive even when alone. And, because I was alone, it was a great time for some self-discovery. I found what I was really good at doing by myself, and what I was very poor at doing alone. I am glad I took the chance on traveling alone because the memories I made were truly special, and I made several new friends along the way.

CLASS ACTIVITIES:

- Greek Cooking Lesson
- Chalkidiki
- Mount Olympus
- Meteora
- Delphi & Acropolis

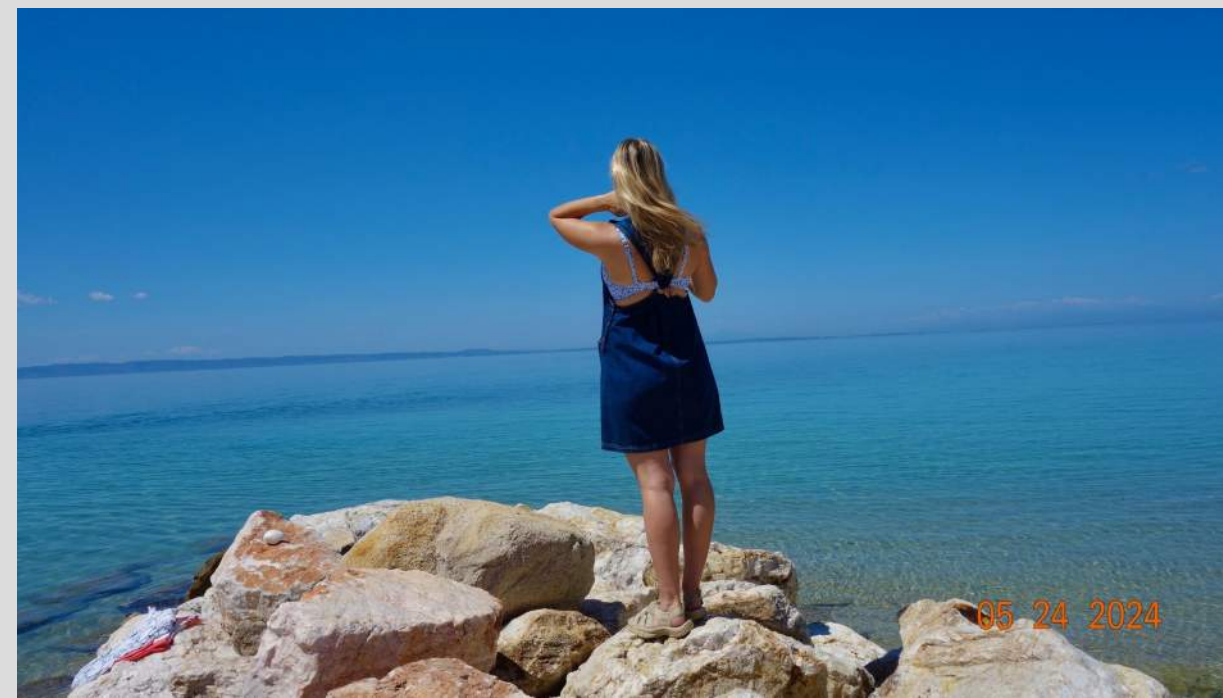


Cooking Lesson



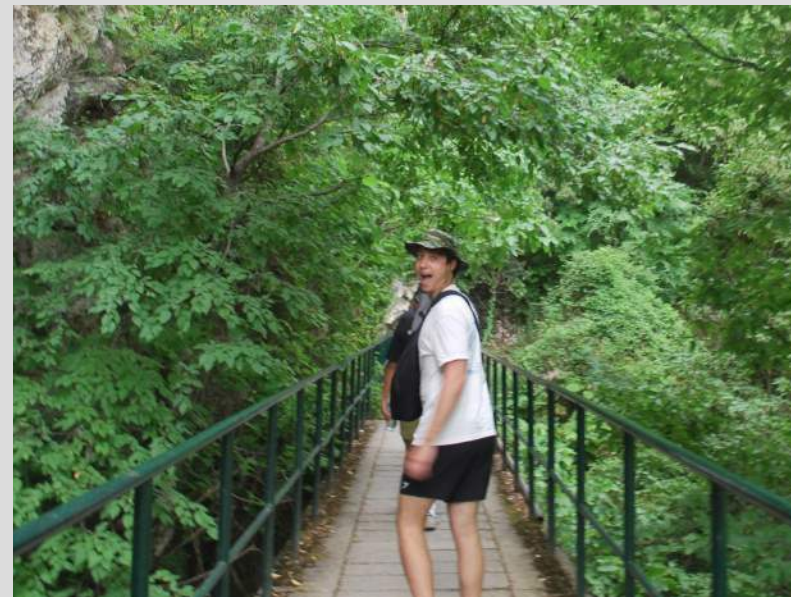
Our cooking lesson was super fun and I learned so much! In fact, since I have been back in Houston for a couple of days, I have already made tzatziki three times!

Chalkidiki



Chalkidiki was absolutely gorgeous. Despite going to several islands, I'm tempted to say that this was the most beautiful beach I was at during my entire time in Greece. The town was also very charming

Mount Olympus



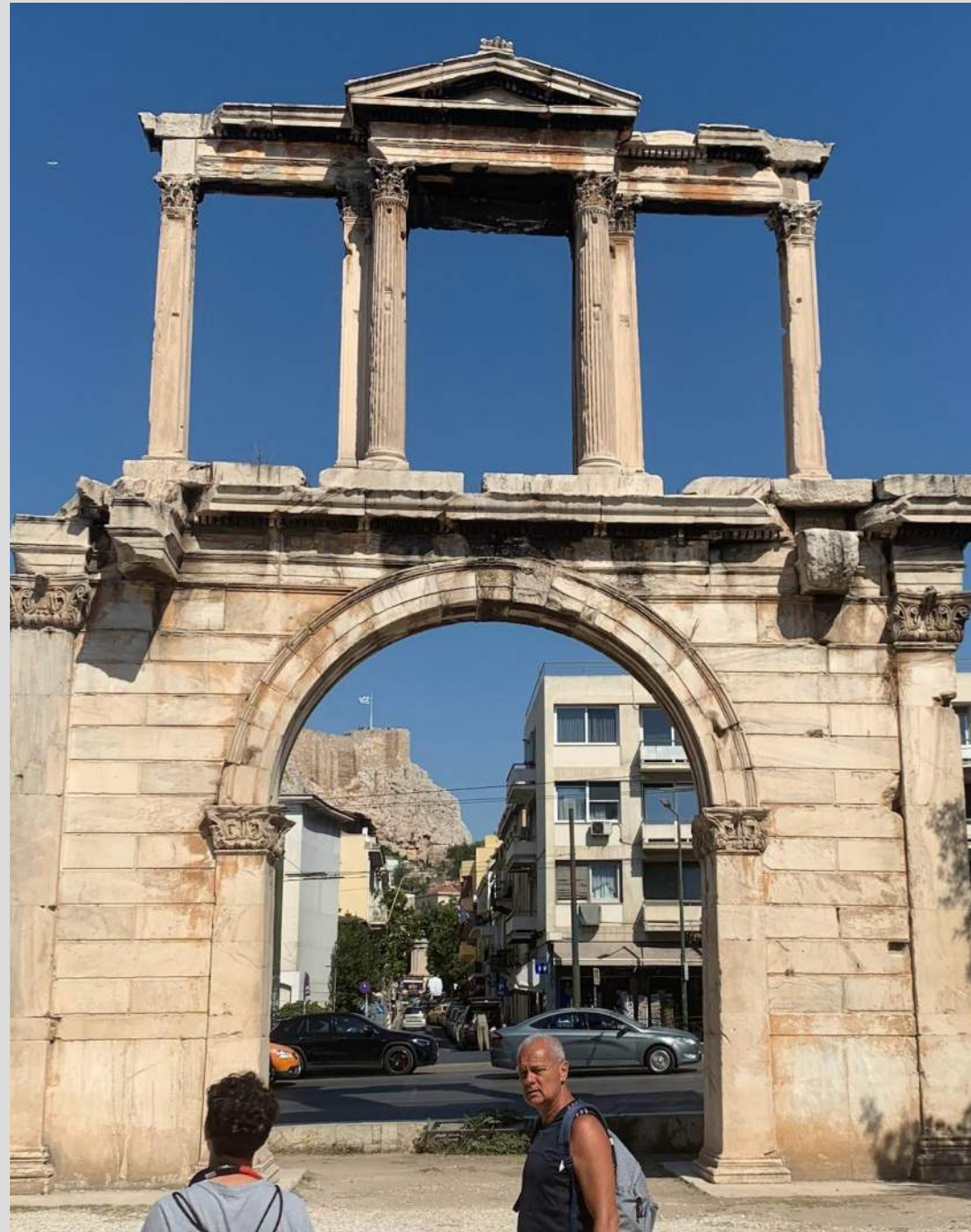
Mount Olympus was a very impressive group of peaks and mountains. I really enjoyed the landscape. However, I expected to hike the whole day which we did not do - this was very disappointing to me and several of my classmates.

Meteora

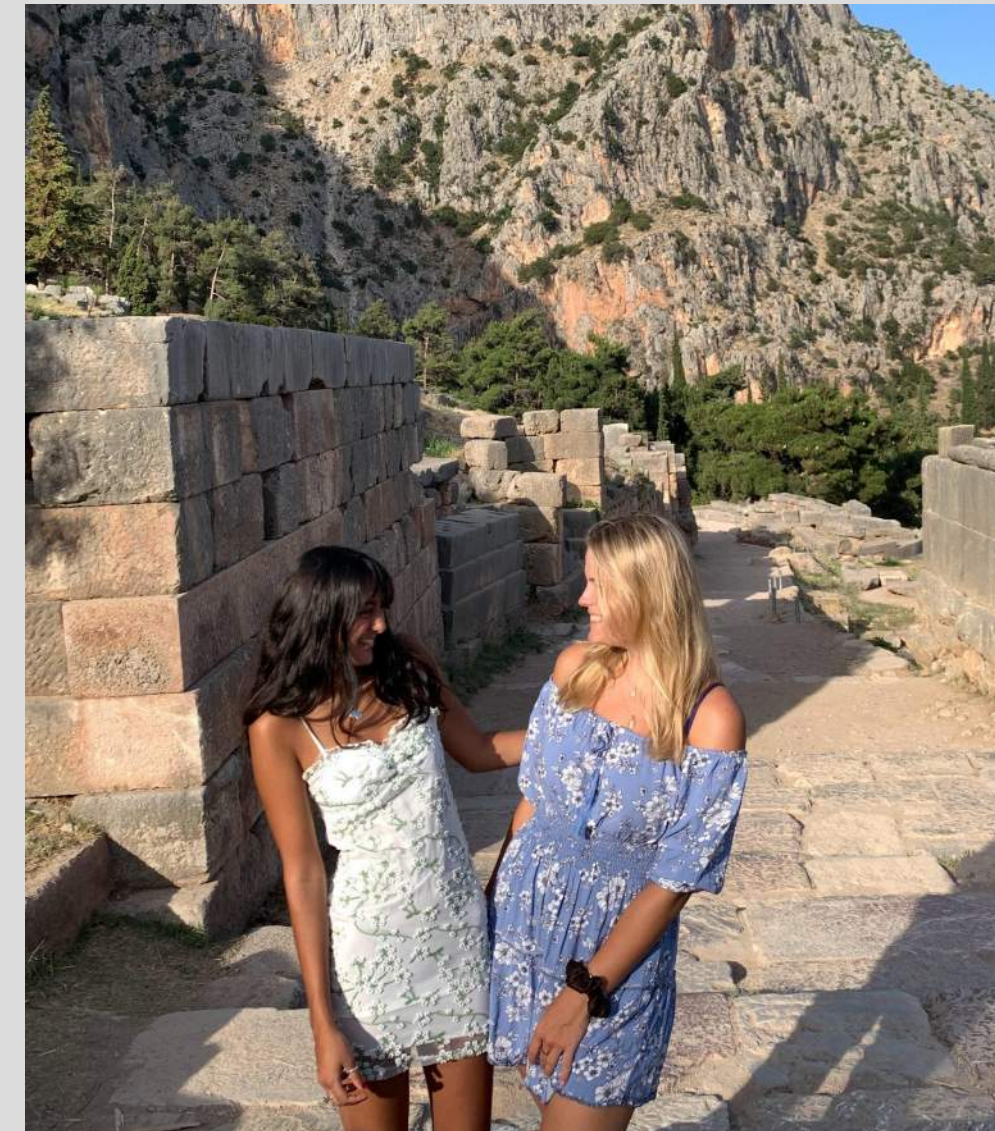


The Meteora monasteries were breathtaking and like nothing I have ever experienced before.

Delphi & Acropolis



The Oracle of Delphi visit was a fun time to explore ancient archaeological sites at our own pace. The hotel for that night was the best one out of the trip. The Acropolis visit was my second time being there in one week so I was not overly excited, but exploring the surrounding area was great.





GROUP ACTIVITIES & CULTURAL IQ

Every group activity we did contributed to my understanding of Greece, as well as the contrast between Greek and American culture.

Being immersed in this new culture helped me think a different way and be more open to new perspectives. From the very first day, when

I saw that the elevator did not have a “quick close” option, I realized this trip would test my patience and ability to wait and listen. I quickly

realized my role was to listen to those around me. Because truly, I had no knowledge of anything I was participating in. I always had to

find a local or listen to one of our guides to find out what to do.

Random Activities & People!

Kate, Bella, and I made friends watching the sunset in Delphi



I got sandals from Melissinos!



He is a world-class sandal maker and has made them for many celebrities including the Beatles.



And I ordered my Aggie Ring! WHOOP!



I met his dog Poy Poy (the barbarian)



GLOBAL CITIZEN & INTERNATIONAL ENGINEER

This program helped me grow as a global citizen by raising my awareness to how little I truly know about this world. It taught me to listen first, and to seek out the person in the room who is the most knowledgeable rather than always assuming it to be myself. This will help me as an engineer because it prompts me to interact with others rather than assuming I am always correct. It will ensure my projects always have several eyes checking them and it will give me a greater base of support and knowledge in my career.

