



Classical Greece with Meteora.

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GREECE | 8DAYS / 7NIGHTS

Route: From and to Athens

Type of tour: Culture

TOUR OVERVIEW

This popular eight-day tour offers you a fascinating introduction to the history and beauty of the “Cradle of Civilization.” See and experience the richness and heritage of Greece as you visit its major monuments and historical sites. Highlights of the tour include the visit of the Acropolis, the sanctuary of Zeus and its stadium, the archaeological site and museum of Delphi and the strikingly beautiful monasteries of Meteora.

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 | ARRIVAL ATHENS

Meet at Athens airport and transfer to the hotel. Remainder of day at leisure. Athens is an amazing city to discover on your own with its numerous museums, archaeological sites, parks, hills and the shopping areas of Kolonaki, Ermou, Voukourestiou Street, Monastiraki and Plaka.

- **Overnight stay in Athens. Dinner included.**

DAY 2 | ATHENS SIGHTSEEING

After breakfast, pick up from the hotel for your half-day morning tour. Our expert guide will take you on a short stop to see the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first Olympic Games of modern times were held in 1896. Continue and pass by the Presidential residence (ex Royal Palace) guarded by the Evzones in their colourful uniform, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Hadrian’s Arch, the Parliament and the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the University, the National Library, the Constitution Square (Syntagma). On the Acropolis, visit the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens. The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally “the harmony between material and spirit”, the monument that “puts order in the mind”, the Parthenon. Continue and visit the New Acropolis Museum, the place where at last the statues found their home and admire the wonders of the classical era, and the replica of Parthenon. Remainder of the day at leisure. You will have the opportunity to book a half-day trip to Cape Sounion.

- **Overnight stay in Athens on a half-board basis.**

DAY 3 | ATHENS - CORINTH CANAL - EPIDAUROS - MYCENAE - OLYMPIA

Driving over the Corinth Canal you cross to the east side of the Peloponnese and continue to Epidaurus. Here you will visit the most famous and well-preserved Ancient Theatre, which is well known for its acoustics. You will also visit the ruins of the Asclepeion temple and the museum. You will continue your drive to Mycenae where you will visit the Lion’s Gate, the Cyclopean Walls, and the Royal Tombs of Agamemnon, the leader of the Greeks during the Troy war. Then depart for Olympia through Central Peloponnese. Arrive in Olympia, the cradle of the Olympic Games. You will also have the opportunity to participate at a Greek evening with folk dances and Greek music (optional).

- **Overnight stay in Olympia on a half-board basis.**

DAY 4 | OLYMPIA - DELPHI

In the morning, visit the archaeological site at the cradle of the Olympic Games with the Sanctuary of Olympian Zeus, where there used to be the statue of Zeus, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Ancient Stadium and the Archaeological Museum. Then drive on through the plains of Ilia and Achaia until the magnificent bridge which is crossing the Corinthian Bay from Rion to Antirion. Pass by the picturesque Town of Nafpaktos and Itea, arrive in Delphi.

- **Overnight stay in Delphi on a half-board basis.**

DAY 5 | DELPHI - KALAMBAKA - METEORA

After breakfast, in the morning you will visit Delphi - the centre of the Ancient world. See the Temple of Apollo, the Treasury of the Athenians, Kastalia Spring and the museum. You will continue your trip to Kalambaka, a small town set at the foot of the astonishing complex of Meteora gigantic rocks.

- **Overnight stay in Kalambaka on a half-board basis.**

DAY 6 | KALAMBAKA (METEORA) - ATHENS

After breakfast, visit Meteora. Among striking scenery, perched on top of huge rocks which seem to be suspended in mid-air, stand ageless Monasteries, where you can see exquisite specimens of Byzantine art. Return to Athens via Trikala, Lamia, Thermopylae. Short stop to see across the road the Leonida’s Monument, the king of Spartans. Arrive in Athens in the early evening.

- **Overnight stay in Athens on a half-board basis.**

DAY 7 | OPTIONAL DAY CRUISE - HYDRA, POROS, AEGINA

After breakfast, we take you from your hotel by bus, from Athens to the Port of Piraeus to embark the boat. The ship sails to the three beautiful islands of the Saronic Gulf. First stop at Hydra, the beauty will conquer you forever! You will have about two hours to enjoy the unique charms of Hydra. Embarkment and sail for Poros, lunch will be served during the voyage, the smallest of the three islands, separated from the Peloponnese by a narrow strait and offering a most enchanting view of Poros Town. Your time at leisure in Poros will be about 60 minutes. Time will fly quickly... Arrive to your last port of call, the island of Aegina. Aegina is the largest of the three islands. Apart from its harbour, there are numerous interesting sites to discover on the island and therefore we propose an optional excursion by bus to the well-preserved Temple of Aphaia Athena. But if you stay in Aegina you can enjoy a walk or horse-carriage ride around the town or relax in one of the harbour's charming waterfront coffee shops. At 18:00, embark for the return voyage to the port of Piraeus. Arrive late in the afternoon and transfer to Athens.

- **Overnight stay in Athens on a full-board basis.**

DAY 8 | DEPARTURE ATHENS

Transfer to the airport for departure, or at your selected hotel.

END OF SERVICES

INCLUDED

TOUR GUIDE:

- Local experiences and licensed guide & excursions

ACCOMMODATION:

- Hotel Accommodation

TRANSPORT:

- Airport transfers & ground transportation in a/c vehicle

ENTRANCE FEES AND ACTIVITIES:

- All entrance fees for the archaeological sites and museum

NOT INCLUDED

- Tips
- Visa fees
- Personal expenses
- No drinks during dinner included
- Optional excursions mentioned in the program
- Meals and drinks not listed
- Flights: Arrival and departure