



## GREECE

**THE TREASURES OF GREECE** (TOUR CODE: 12006)

## STARTS AND ENDS

in Athens

## TRAVEL PERIODS

14 Apr 23 - 05 Oct 23

## EXPERIENCE

Cultural

## TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

An itinerary to discover Athens with its typical products, the ancient temples of Delphi & Meteora and the scenic views in Santorini.

**Highlights**

- Discover **Athens** boasting many modern and ancient monuments like the Temple of Zeus, the Old Stadium, Syntagma Square, the Parliament and the Tomb to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the Library, and the National Gardens.
- The modern small town of **Delphi** is situated on the slopes of mountain Parnassus and preserves some of the most interesting archaeological treasures in the world such as **The Temple of Apollo, The Athena Pronea Sanctuary**.
- Visit **Meteora**, a Unesco World Heritage site and one of the most spectacular sceneries in the world! It is a region of sandstone peaks where monks built monasteries from the 11th century onwards.
- Enjoy a dramatic sunset along the magnificent **coastal scenery of Santorini** while dining on board your Semi-Private Catamaran.
- Cross the **suspended bridge connecting to Antirion**. Spanning a 3 km-wide straight across the Gulf of Corinth, the bridge is considered to have the **longest continuous, cable-stayed, fully suspended deck** in the world!

Enjoy the diverse atmosphere of Athens combining the remarkable archaeological sites of Acropolis and House of Parliament and the Panathenaic Stadium, the place from where the Olympic Flame starts its journey to the cities of the Olympic Games.

Stroll around the oldest neighborhood of Athens, Plaka, with lots of picturesque taverns, and shops offering traditional Greek products. Tour the archeological sites of Delphi, which was considered the center of the ancient world and Meteora with its monasteries.

Prepare to be enchanted in Santorini with stunning views and snow white washed houses perched on the edge of the cliff overlooking the Aegean sea.



- ✓ ENTIRE Cooling-Off Period
- ✓ ENTIRE Change of Mind
- ✓ ENTIRE On Ground Support
- ✓ ENTIRE AUD Prices
- ✓ ENTIRE Industry Accredited
- ✓ ENTIRE Australian Owned

## INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights in Athens at the Acropolian Spirit Hotel - 4 \*
- 1 night in Olympia at Europa Hotel - 4\*
- 1 night in Delphi at Amalia Hotel Delphi - 4\*
- 1 night at Kalambaka at Amalia Hotel Kalambaka - 4\*
- 3 nights in Santorini at Cliff Side Suites - 4\*
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Piraeus Port to Santorini Island
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Santorini to Piraeus Port
- Private transfers in Athens and Santorini Island
- Daily Breakfast
- 3 Dinners at the hotel in Delphi, Kalambaka & Olympia
- Full-Day Private Tour of Athens including the Acropolis & the Acropolis Museum followed by Walking Food Tour
- Semi-Private Catamaran Sunset Cruise in Santorini Island (5hrs) with dinner included
- Olympia-Delphi-Kalambaka Land Tour, with English-Speaking Licensed Guide
- Entrance fees Athens: Acropolis, Acropolis Museum
- Entrance fees Delphi site & Museum, Meteora 2 Monasteries
- Entrance fees Epidaurus & Mycenae and Olympia

## ITINERARY

Day **1**

### Athens International Airport Athens

Welcome to Athens the birthplace of Western Civilization, the Capital of Greece!

Upon arrival at Athens International Airport meet with your English-speaking escort and transfer to your hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Acropolian Spirit Boutique Hotel**.



## Day 2

### Athens

After breakfast, wander **the landmarks of Historic Athens including the Acropolis and the New Acropolis Museum** focused on the findings from the Acropolis.

Ancient yet modern, classic yet creative, traditional yet constantly changing... Athens is a city of memorable contrasts. The past and the present of Athens unfolds before your eyes while we drive around the city's highlight spots and monuments like the Temple of Zeus, the Old Stadium, Syntagma Square, the Parliament and the Tomb to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the Library, and the National Gardens.

On the natural fortress of the **Acropolis**, reinforced by the hand of man, stand the Propylaea, the temple of the Winged Victory, **Erechtheion** with the Porch of the Caryatids and, towering overall, and the majestic Parthenon. A winding path leads to the treasure of antiquity. Visible are the relics of the civilization of which we are the proud inheritors. A few meters away from the Acropolis entrance and the Ancient Theatre of Dionysos, the **New Acropolis Museum**, built on pedestrian walkway of Dionysiou Areopagitou Street, looks like hanging between the past and the present of Athens.

Designed by Bernard Tschumi and Mihalis Fotiadis, the **new Acropolis Museum** has a total area of 25,000 square meters, with exhibition space of over 14,000 square meters. Made of stainless steel, glass, marble and concrete, materials typical of the Athenian environment, the new museum has a direct view of the Acropolis. With bioclimatic planning, which gives ideal lighting and heating conditions, the New Museum offers all the amenities expected in an international museum of the 21st century.

Proceed **on foot** to visit different spots taste local products like **olive oil, honey, cheese, wine, vinegar, liquor, and sweets**, all made by small producers from all over Greece. Next, it's a treat from the street, as you sample a **koulouri**, one of the all-time classic snacks on the go and then a cup of authentic Greek coffee in a wonderful old café. After this, get ready to duck into a boisterous visit to the central fish and **meat market**, where butchers and fishmongers compete for the attention of Athens' serious food shoppers. The old **Central Market of Athens (Varvakios Agora)** is located exactly in the heart of the city, and learn from your guide about the city culinary history. You'll next visit **specialty food stores to try local produce cold cuts**, and discover some of the hidden stores to purchase tantalizingly **fresh fruit, Greek olives, cheese, ham** and other alluring deli produce, local wine, aged aromatized vinegar, organic olive oil and honey. Around the corner is the famous **spice street of Athens**, lined with traditional herb shops that also carry amazing specialty meats and other traditional delicacies. After that you will end up having lunch, tasting the **famous Greek souvlaki!** & traditional spinach pie. Finally, a last stop to taste of the Greek specialty **loukoumades (Greek doughnuts with honey syrup and almonds)** and return to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Acropolian Spirit Boutique Hotel**.

Breakfast



### Day 3

## Athens Corinth Olympia

After breakfast, start your journey from Athens till **Corinth** first stop.

Since 1893, it separates Central Greece from Peloponnese, so you will have to cross it to reach the peninsula Peloponnese. Another particularity of **Corinth Canal** is its 2 submersible bridges. Located at each end of the Canal, they must be lowered into the water every time a boat cross. It's quite unique to watch.

Head towards **Epidaurus**, an irreplaceable spectacle of unique beauty with huge cultural heritage. Its monuments are true masterpieces of the ancient Greek art, a genuine testimony of the Greek culture that is still alive. The great **Theater of Epidaurus**, has been characterized as the best preserved and the most beautiful one in the entire country. It was designed from the architect Polycleitus the Younger in 340 BC. The theater is situated close to Asclepius Sanctuary, one of the most sacred temples in ancient Greece dedicated to the god of healing which belonged to the city-state of Epidaurus.

Continue the journey towards **Nafplio**. Nafplio is a lovely seaside town. Continue towards Mycenae, one of the most thriving towns of ancient Greece. It was the most important city of the Mycenaean civilization between 1600 and 1100 BC. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is best known for being the former home of King Agamemnon. Explore the city founded by Perseus, according to Greek mythology, when he discovered a water spring in his exploration and believed it to be a good omen. Discover the Treasury of Atreus or **Tomb of Agamemnon**, the large "tholos" tomb, a marvelous 14th century BC structure and stroll through the Lion Gate, standing strong against the withering of time. Continue towards the birthplace of the Olympic games Olympia.

In the evening, enjoy a dinner at the hotel.

Overnight stay in Olympia at **Europa Hotel**.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **4**

## Olympia Delphi

Enjoy a breakfast at the hotel.

Located in the western Peloponnese, **Ancient Olympia** was one of the most sacred and glorious sanctuaries of the ancient world. And, though only foundations of many of its structures remain, it is still one of the most evocative of Greece's archaeological sites. Capturing all the spirit of the Olympic Games, it's also the place where the Olympic flame is lit in commemoration of the Games that originated and were held here every four years for a staggering 1,000 years. The most important *building of the Altis (or Sacred Precinct of Zeus)* was the immense 5th-century-BC Doric temple dedicated to the king of the gods.

It housed Pheidias' statue of Zeus for more than 800 years. One column of the temple has been restored, allowing us to appreciate its size. Passing through a stone archway, you enter the remains **of the Ancient Stadium**, once housing more than 45,000 spectators. The mind boggles at being able to line up on the track (measuring 192.27m), just as the finest athletes in the land did thousands of years ago. Nearby are the judges' seats.

Leaving behind Olympia, head towards **Rion**. Passing through **Patras**, Greece's Gate to the West, catch your breath as we reach the "state of the art" award-winning suspended bridge connecting to **Antirion**. Spanning a 3 km-wide straight across the Gulf of Corinth, the bridge is considered to have the longest continuous, cable-stayed, fully suspended deck in the world. As we drive by the city of **Nafpaktos**, where, according to legend, the Heraclid built a fleet to invade the Peloponnese, we will follow the scenic coastal road to the omphalos or "navel of the earth", according to Ancient Greeks, Delphi

Overnight stay and dinner in Delphi at the **Amalia Hotel Delphi**.

Breakfast, Dinner



Day **5**

## Delphi Kalambaka

Enjoy a breakfast at the hotel.

Delphi is one of the most sacred places of Greece perched on the high slopes of Mount Parnassus, indeed its cultural richness designated it as a World Heritage Site from UNESCO. Delphi served as the religious and spiritual center of ancient civilization that contributed to the cultural development of the entire country. The permanent exhibition of the **Delphi museum** covers a history of one thousand years, from the Mycenaean era to the Greco Roman times, accommodating one of the most valuable collections of ancient Greek art.

In the central region of Greece, on the way towards the Valley of Peneus river and the enormous Thessaly plain, you will arrive to the majestic, mysterious, astonishing and spiritual **monasteries of Meteora**. The city of **Kalambaka** is the city center of Meteora. Driving alongside, your eyes will be impressed from the amazing monasteries from a distance of eighteen kilometers. It is a city with its hidden mysteries.

Overnight stay and dinner in Kalambaka at the **Amalia Hotel Kalambaka**.

Breakfast, Dinner



## Kalambaka Athens

Breathtaking at first site, the Monasteries are of great cultural and natural importance, honorably included in the UNESCO'S World Heritage list. Split from earthquakes, weathered from the wind and the water over millions of millions of years, these immense rocks are an authentic masterpiece of mother nature. **The Holy Monastery of Great Meteoro** is the biggest and oldest one. Its name refers to the formation of the gigantic rock on top of which the monastery was built. **The Holy monastery of Varlaam**, the second biggest monastery, was established from ascetic monk Hosios Varlaam, who lived in a cave as a hermit and built a chapel on top of a rock, during the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

As we leave the magnificent Meteora behind us on the fourth day, let us not overlook **the Battle of Thermopylae** of 480 BCE, which has long been the topic of cultural motivation, as it is perhaps the most famous military last stand of all time. The monument of the **Great Leonidas, king of Sparta**, in Thermopylae, will grace our path on our way back to Athens in the late afternoon.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Acropolian Spirit Boutique Hotel**.

Breakfast



## Athens Santorini

After breakfast, transfer to port for embarkation to the high-speed boat for Santorini Island.

Upon arrival in Santorini, meet with your English-speaking escort and transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Santorini at the **Cliff Side Suites**.

Breakfast



Day **8**

## Santorini

After breakfast, the morning is at leisure to relax and discover what Santorini has to offer.

In the afternoon around 15.30hrs, transfer from your hotel to the port and depart for a **Semi-Private Catamaran ride up to 14 pax**. Your Sunset Cruise includes:

- Welcome drink
- Snorkeling gear
- Towels
- Dinner on board: Seafood, chicken fillet, salads, open bar with local white wine, beers, beverages, fruits (Vegetarian meal available upon request).

Set sail from the picturesque Marina of Vlychada and enjoy sailing along with the magnificent coastal scenery of Santorini. Your first photo shooting stop is at the Red Beach in Akrotiri, one of the most beautiful beaches of the island with the red rocks and the dark pebbles. Move on and reach the White Beach – accessible only by boat – and the Mesa Pigadia swimming spot and snorkel in the crystal-clear blue waters with the rich underwater environment and reefs.

Then sail past the Indian Rock, the Venetian Light House of Akrotiri. Pass by the Aspronisi Island and marvel at the glorious views of the Caldera and the cliff-hanging white houses. Sail around the must-see Volcano coast and stop at its' hot springs, where you can treat yourself to a natural spa in the thermal mixed volcanic mud waters. One more stop follows up, this time to a secluded private bay and plunge in the majestic waters as our attentive crew prepares for you a delicious meal.

At the end of this unique sailing experience, we head back to the Marina of Vlychada.

Overnight stay in Santorini at the **Cliff Side Suites**.

Breakfast, Dinner





CRUISING ALONG SANTORINI

Day **9** Santorini

Day at leisure to discover what the stunning island of Santorini has to offer.

Overnight stay in Santorini at **Cliff Side Suites**.

Breakfast



THE BREATHTAKING ISLAND OF SANTORINI

Day **10** Santorini Athens

After breakfast, the morning is at leisure.

Transfer to Santorini Port for embarkation to the high-speed boat for Athens. Upon arrival at Piraeus Port around 17.00hrs transfer to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Acropolian Spirit Boutique Hotel**.

Breakfast



Day **11** Athens

After breakfast, transfer to Athens International Airport for your departure flight back home.

Breakfast

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**OFFICIAL LANGUAGE**

Greek

**LOCAL CURRENCY**

Euro(€)

- Ferry times are subject to change and they will be re-confirmed with documentation.
- We work with a selection of hotels in each location. All bookings are subject to availability, which means our team will confirm your specific hotels upon confirmation and payment of deposit. The package price is based on 4-star accommodation.

### Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package