



## GREECE

# HIGHLIGHTS OF GREECE

 (TOUR CODE: 12000)

### STARTS AND ENDS

in Athens

### TRAVEL PERIODS

01 Apr 25 - 23 Oct 25

### EXPERIENCE

Cultural

### TRAVEL STYLE

Independent Holiday Packages

Visit Greece, a country which holds a rich heritage of remains from developed civilizations of the Prehistoric Years and its stunning islands

## 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**
- Sample some **local specialties** of Athens during your gastronomy walking tour such as Greek Souvlaki & Greek doughnuts with honey & syrup, traditional spinach pie!
- 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
- Explore **the stunning island of Mykonos** that has 45 different sandy beaches with crystal clear blue waters to be discovered!
- Enjoy a dramatic sunset along the magnificent **coastal scenery of Santorini** while dining onboard your Semi-Private Catamaran

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.

Sail to Mykonos with its magnificent beaches, whitewashed villages, local food and great shopping! 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 Athenaeum Grand - 4 \* or similar
- 1 night in Kalambaka at the Amalia Hotel - 4\* or similar
- 2 nights in Mykonos at the Manoulas Beach - 4\* or similar
- 2 nights in Santorini at El Greco - 4\* or similar
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Piraeus Port to Mykonos Island
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Mykonos to Santorini
- High-speed boat economy ticket from Santorini to Piraeus Port
- Private transfers in Athens, Mykonos & Santorini Island
- Daily Breakfast
- One Dinner at the hotel in Kalambaka
- Full-Day Private Tour of Athens including the Acropolis & the Acropolis Museum followed by a Walking Food Tour
- Delphi-Meteora Land Tour, with English-speaking licensed guide
- Semi-Private Catamaran Sunset Cruise in Santorini Island (5hrs) with dinner included
- Entrance fees Athens: Acropolis, Acropolis Museum.
- Entrance fees Delphi Site & Museum, Meteora 2 Monasteries

## 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 **Athenaeum Grand** or similar.



## 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.

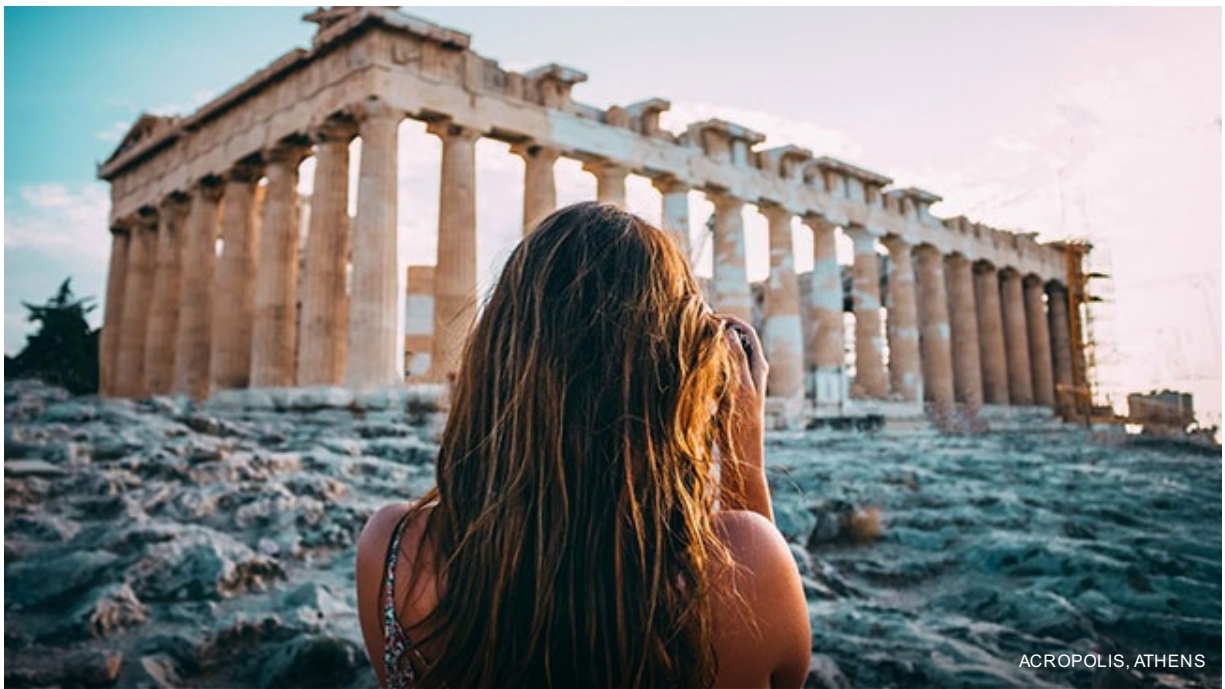
On the natural fortress of the **Acropolis**, reinforced by the hand of man, stand the Propylaea, the temple of the Winged Victory, **Erechtheion** with the Porch of the Caryatids, and towering overall, and the majestic Parthenon. A winding path leads to the treasure of antiquity. Visible are the relics 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)** that is located exactly in the heart of the city, learn from your guide about the city's 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 the Greek specialty **loukoumades (Greek doughnuts with honey syrup and almonds)**, and return to your hotel.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Athenaeum Grand** or similar.

Breakfast



ACROPOLIS, ATHENS

Day **3** Athens Delphi Kalambaka

After breakfast, drive through the rolling plain of **Boeotia**, renowned in antiquity for its grain fields and cattle, and through the city of **Thebes**, birthplace to the tragic King Oedipus and to the divine hero Hercules.

From the verdant slopes of Parnassus to the *Sanctuary of Apollo* and the oracle of Pythia, **Delphi** will surpass the expectations of your imagination. Determined from the eagles of Zeus as the navel of earth, 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 centre of ancient civilization that contributed to the cultural development of the entire country.

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 centre of Meteora. Driving alongside, your eyes will be impressed from the amazing monasteries from a distance of eighteen kilometres. It is a city with its hidden mysteries.

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

Breakfast, Dinner



ONE OF THE MONASTERIES OF METEORA

## Kalambaka Athens

After breakfast, start your **tour of the Monasteries of Meteora**.

Breath-taking at first site, the monasteries are of great cultural and natural importance, honourably 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 by 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 you leave the magnificent Meteora behind on the fourth day, you must 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 the path on your way back to Athens in the late afternoon.

The remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Athenaeum Grand** or similar.

Breakfast



## Athens Piraeus Port Mykonos

After breakfast, transfer to Piraeus Port for embarkation to the high-speed boat for Mykonos Island.

Upon arrival around 09.30 am in Mykonos, meet with your English-speaking Escort and transfer to your hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight stay in Mykonos at the **Manoulas Beach** or similar.

Breakfast



MYKONOS VIEW

Day **6** Mykonos

After breakfast, today is at leisure to relax and recharge!

Overnight stay in Mykonos at the **Manoulas Beach** or similar.

Breakfast



BEACH IN MYKONOS

Day **7** Mykonos 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 **El Greco hotel** or similar.

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
- Snorkelling 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 red rocks and 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, head back to the Marina of Vlychada.

Overnight stay in Santorini at the **El Greco hotel** or similar.

Breakfast, Dinner



CRUISING ALONG SANTORINI

Day **9**

## Santorini Athens

After breakfast, the morning is at leisure.

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

Overnight stay in Athens at the **Athenaeum Grand** or similar.

Breakfast



THE BREATHTAKING ISLAND OF SANTORINI

Day **10**

## Athens Athens International Airport

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