



Day 1: Fly to Greece

Meet your group and travel on an overnight flight to Athens.

Day 2: Athens

Arrive in Athens: Welcome to Athens, the capital city of Greece and the cradle of democracy.

Explore Athens: Depending on your arrival time, you may be able to join a walking tour of Athens. Discover the ancient city named for Athena, goddess of war and wisdom. Head through the Plaka district and towards the Temple of Zeus, built in 515 B.C. to honor the most powerful of all Greek gods.

Day 3: Athens

Sightseeing tour of Athens: Your local guide will lead you up to the Acropolis to view the Parthenon, perhaps the world's greatest architectural feat and an enduring symbol of Athenian democracy. See the Temple of Athena Nike, which once housed a gold statue of the goddess, her wings clipped to prevent her from deserting the city.

Acropolis Museum: Explore the archaeological artifacts of the Acropolis site further at the Acropolis Museum.

Herakleideon Museum: Join a trip to this visual arts museum and participate in an informative workshop, "From the Aesthetics of Art to the Logic of Mathematics and Philosophy: A Voyage from Ancient Greece to the Modern World".

Day 4: Saronic Islands | Athens

Saronic Island cruise: Set sail on a full-day cruise of the Saronic Islands. In addition to beautiful natural scenery, these islands offer visitors historically significant attractions and museums. At Aegina, head to the columned ruins of the Temple of Aphaia, a site of worship that honors the Greek goddess of the same name. Check out the clocktower at Poros for panoramic views of the glittering waters below. Speckled with whitewashed buildings, the rocky coastal town of Hydra is your last stop. Hydra has legislation in place forbidding cars and high-rise buildings, so as to preserve the island's pristine character.

Day 5: Delphi | Olympia

Sightseeing tour of Delphi: Travel to Delphi and visit the archaeological site and museum centered around the Oracle of Delphi, one of the most important landmarks of antiquity. The philosopher Socrates claimed to consult with the Oracle and ancient military leaders were known to leave offerings here in the hopes of earning luck in battle. Ponder the mysteries that lie ahead as you climb the ruins of the Temple of Apollo. According to legend, this is where the gods chose to communicate with mortals. See a variety of artifacts dating back to 550 B.C. at the Delphi Museum, and learn more about the mythical past of Greece. Continue through Olympia, where you'll spend the night.

Day 6: Olympia | Argolida

Sightseeing tour of Olympia: Take an excursion to Olympia and stand on the site of the first Olympic Games. Myth attributes Hercules with founding the Ancient Olympic Games nearly 2,800 years ago. Hercules is also credited with establishing the tradition of holding competitions every four years between Greek city-states. See where the original Olympic athletes displayed physical strength and endurance as a way to honor and entertain the gods of Mount Olympus—especially Zeus. Today, the Olympic flame remains lit by a reflection of sunlight at the restored Olympic Stadium. Be sure to peruse the Olympia Archaeological Museum, which houses bronze, terracotta and sculptured artifacts related to the Olympic Games and their history.

Travel to Argolida: Make your way to Argolida on the periphery of the Peloponnese.

Day 7: Epidaurus | Mycenae | Athens

Sightseeing tour of Epidaurus: Travel to Epidaurus, situated on the Saronic Gulf. This small city experienced prosperity in ancient times as a therapeutic center, and is said to be blessed by Asclepius. The Sanctuary of Asclepius, a spacious outdoor theater and UNESCO World Heritage Site, was built to honor the healer god, and remains a major attraction today.

Sightseeing tour of Mycenae: Continue to Mycenae, the former kingdom of Agamemnon, Trojan War commander and wife of ill-fated Clytemnestra, according to Classical Greek myth. Explore the citadel and excavated ruins, including ancient tombs. Then, try your hand at pottery.

Return to Athens: On your way back to Athens, take a photo stop at the Corinth Canal, a narrow passageway that connects the Gulf of Corinth and the Saronic Gulf with the Aegean Sea. Enjoy an authentic souvlaki dinner before turning in for the night.

Day 8: Athens

Free time in Athens: Enjoy free time to explore Athens on your own. You may want to take in some last-minute sightseeing or simply relax with friends. Be sure to ask your Tour Director for recommendations.

☛ **Cape Sounion:** Take a late afternoon excursion to Cape Sounion and view one of the most imposing sights in the ancient world. High above the sparkling Aegean Sea, the Temple of Poseidon, one of Greece's most evocative ruins, dominates the landscape. Sixteen elegant Doric pillars remain today, and on a clear day, you can view up to five Aegean Islands from the site. Later, have dinner with your group. Students who do not join the optional excursion will enjoy additional free time in Athens.

Day 9: Depart for home

Today your Tour Director assists with your early morning transfer to the airport, where you'll check in for your return flight home.

☛ 4-DAY TOUR EXTENSION

Days 9-12: Greek island and Turkey cruise

Four-day cruise: Discover the islands and coastal towns of Greece and Turkey. Enjoy on-board activities as you sail to Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete and Santorini. Beautiful crystalline waters and both white and black sand beaches helped make these destinations prized—and disputed—territories. Turkish, Roman and Greek influences helped shape the unique blend of cultures you'll encounter. At points of disembarkation, you may choose to participate in additional excursions offered by the cruise line.

☛ **Shore Excursion Package:** You may choose from two available packages—Ephesus, Rhodes and Lindos, or Patmos and Oia Village.

Day 13: Depart for home

Transfer to the airport and check in for your return flight home.