



### 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.

**Dinner:** Sit down to a delicious meal with your group.

### 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, then visit the Olympic Stadium and Syntagma Square.

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

☉ **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. Dinner is included as part of this excursion.

### Day 4: 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. Enjoy lunch and be sure to 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 in order to preserve the island's pristine character.

### Day 5: Athens | Argolida region

**Free time in Athens:** Spend a half day exploring Athens on your own.

**Travel to Argolida:** Make your way to Argolida, on the periphery of the Peloponnese peninsula. On the way, stop to take a photo at the Corinth Canal.

**Dinner:** Tonight, join your group for dinner.

### Day 6: Argolida region | Epidaurus | Mycenae | Olympia

**Travel via Epidaurus and Mycenae to Olympia:** Explore famed archaeological sites on your way to Olympia.

**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.

**Dinner:** Sit down to a delicious meal with your group in Olympia this evening.

### Day 7: Olympia | Delphi

**Sightseeing tour of Olympia:** Discover 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. After, travel to Delphi where you will spend the night.

**Dinner:** Reflect on your day during a dinner with your group in Delphi.

### Day 8: Delphi | Athens

**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.

**Return to Athens:** On your way back to Athens, make a photo stop at the Corinth Canal, a narrow passageway that connects the Gulf of Corinth and the Saronic Gulf with the Aegean Sea.

**Dinner:** Enjoy dinner in Athens with your group this evening.

### Day 9: Depart for home

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

## ☉ 4-DAY PROGRAM EXTENSION

### Days 9-12: Greek island cruise

**Four-day cruise:** Discover the islands and coastal towns of Greece. Enjoy on-board activities as you sail to Mykonos, Samos, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete, and Santorini. See the beautiful crystalline waters and white and black sand beaches that helped make these destinations prized—and disputed—territories. Three shore excursions and an all-inclusive water, tea, coffee and soft drink package are included.

### Day 13: Depart for home

Arrive at the airport and check in for your return flight home.