

# GREECE

## LUXURY TAILOR MADE TOURS



### CLASSICAL GREECE 1

*Athens – Mycenae – Olympia - Meteora- Athens*

#### DAY 1 WELCOME TO ATHENS!

Meet and greet at the Airport and private transfer to your hotel in Athens .Overnight in Athens

#### DAY 2 THE PARTHENON, MYCENAE, NAFPLIO

Morning sightseeing reveals the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Wingless Victory and Hadrian's Arch. A Local Expert takes you to the Parthenon, built atop the Acropolis. Now follow the shores of the Saronic Gulf to the Corinth Canal, dividing the Peloponnese from mainland Greece. Next is the ruined city of Mycenae, featured in epics of Homer. With a Local Expert, walk through the Lion Gate, visit the royal 'beehive' tombs and see the giant Cyclopean stones used to build the city walls. Later, meet the artisans and view beautiful works of art at a family-run pottery studio. Continue to the elegant seaside town of Nafplio.

#### DAY 3 THE MOUNTAINS OF ARKADIA, OLYMPIA

Travel into the heart of Argolis and with a Local Expert, visit the Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurus with its superb 4th century BC theatre. Visit the Asklepieion and discover a fascinating collection of ancient findings at the Archaeological Museum. Then a delightful drive takes you through the mountains of Arkadia to Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games.

#### DAY 4 DELPHI

In Olympia, see the city's ancient temples, the Olympic Stadium and the athlete's' gymnasium with a Local Expert and learn about how the original games were first held in 776BC. Then head north to Patras and cross the soaring Rio-Antirrio Bridge to the mainland. Follow the coastal road before climbing up in the foothills of Mount Parnassus and on to your hotel.

#### DAY 5 THE SACRED WAY THEN TO KALAMBAKA

Ascend the Sacred Way of Delphi with a Local Expert, past the Parian marble Treasury of the Athenians and Polygonal Wall – its interlocking stones still perfectly intact after thousands of years. You'll approach the Temple of Apollo, where for 14 centuries the mysterious Oracle of Delphi breathed her enigmatic 'words'. Continue north, stopping at Thermopylae to see the memorial to Leonidas and his courageous Spartans. Then on to your hotel in Kalambaka for dinner.

#### DAY 6 MONASTERIES OF METEORA AND TO ATHENS

With a Local Expert, visit one of the amazing monasteries of Meteora, meaning 'in the air'. Incredibly perched on top of pinnacles of rock, see where the early Christians worshipped and enjoy stunning views over the Peneios Valley. Afterwards, enjoy a scenic drive along the coast back to Athens. In the evening, enjoy a hearty Celebration Dinner in true Greek style, complete with wine and good cheer.

#### DAY 7 DEPART ATHENS

Your journey comes to an end with a transfer to Athens Airport.



## CLASSICAL GREECE 2

*Athens – Olympia – Delphi – Athens*

### DAY 1 WELCOME TO ATHENS!

Meet and greet at the Airport and private transfer to your hotel in Athens. Welcome dinner and overnight in Athens.

### DAY 2 - ATHENS

Today enjoy a morning tour of Athens . Begin at the Panathenaic Stadium, and then pass by the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the University, the National Library and Syntagma Square. After your orientation tour, continue to visit the Acropolis, which is widely considered to be the most important ancient monument in the Western World. This afternoon is yours to further explore Athens at your own pace.

### DAY 3 - ATHENS

Morning at your leisure to explore Athens or optional visit the National Archaeological Museum. Afternoon visit to Cape Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon. Overnight in Athens.

### DAY 4 - CORINTH, EPIDAURUS, NAFPLIO

Today, you will drive from Athens to Nafplio via the ancient sites of Corinth and Epidaurus. Enjoy a tour of ancient Corinth. Continue to Epidaurus, A highlight of Epidaurus is the amphitheater. Built in the fourth century BC and dedicated to the god of wine, Dionysus, it is considered one of the best-preserved classical Greek buildings. It is renowned for its superb acoustics, which are due to a combination of nature and simple design. Dinner and Overnight in Nafplio.

### DAY 5 – MYCENAE, OLYMPIA

Today you will drive from Nafplio to Olympia, via Mycenae. Enjoy the tour of Mycenae. The ancient citadel of Mycenae was the site of a former powerful Greek kingdom. Dating back to the Bronze Age, it is 1,000 years older than the acropolis in Athens and is considered to be one of Greece's finest classical sites. After the visit you will drive to Olympia and your hotel.

### DAY 6 – OLYMPIA - DELPHI

This morning visit the site of Ancient Olympia, ruins devastated over the years by a number of earthquakes and Emperor Theodosius II, who in 426 AD declared that the temples should be destroyed. One of the most photographed sections of the site is where the Olympic torch is lit for either the summer or winter Olympics. After leaving the treasures, continue through a tunnel to the ancient stadium. Dinner and overnight in Delphi.

### DAY 7 – DELPHI - ATHENS

This morning, proceed on a visit to the site of ancient Delphi. Built on the slopes of Mount Parnassos, the ancients believed this site to be the center of the world. Visit to Delphi museum, temple of Apollo; the theater; the stadium, which is considered to be the best-preserved in Greece and where it is still possible to see the sprinters' stone starting blocks; and the Sacred Way, a street once lined with treasures and statues. Dinner and overnight in Athens

### DAY 8 – ATHENS DEPARTURE

Your journey comes to an end with a transfer to Athens Airport.



## ATHENS AND AEGEAN ISLANDS

*Athens – Santorini – Mykonos - Crete*

### DAY 1 - ARRIVE ATHENS

Meet and greet at the Airport and private transfer to your hotel in Athens

### DAY 2 - ATHENS

Today enjoy a morning tour of Athens . After your orientation tour, continue to visit the Acropolis, which is widely considered to be the most important ancient monument in the Western World.This afternoon is yours to further explore Athens at your own pace. Overnight in Athens

### DAY 3 - ATHENS

Morning at your leisure to explore Athens or optional visit the National Archaeological Museum. Afternoon visit to Cape Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon. Overnight in Athens.

### DAY 4 - MYKONOS

This morning, board the high-speed ferry to the island of Mykonos. Upon arrival, you will be escorted to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

### DAY 5 - MYKONOS

Embark on an excursion to Delos Island to see the sacred ruins of the Terrace of the Lions, the House of Dionysus, the Temple of Isis and the Archaeological Museum of Delos. Return by ferry to Mykonos. Overnight Mykonos.

### DAY 6 - SANTORINI

This morning, board your high-speed ferry to Santorini. Upon arrival, you will be escorted to your hotel. Later, embark on a private cruise in the Aegean Sea. Admire the volcanic landscape at Nea Kameni, and relax in the natural springs, before stopping for swimming, snorkeling and sunbathing. Overnight Santorini.

### DAY 7 - SANTORINI

This morning, visit a local winery, where you will meet the winemaker and participate in a guided tasting. Continue to the black-sand beach of Kamari, which is distinguished by an enormous rock called Mes Vouno that rises from the sea. Overnight Santorini.

### DAY 8 - CRETE

This morning, explore the excavations at Akrotiri with your private guide. Then, visit the Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which houses many objects from Crete and the Aegean Islands. Later, board your high-speed ferry to Crete. Upon arrival at Heraklion port, you will be accompanied to your hotel.

### DAY 9 - ELOUNDA

This morning, visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, one of the island's foremost historical sites. Continue to Arolithos, a reconstruction of a typical Cretan village. Try your hand at creating traditional Cretan cuisine during a hands-on culinary experience; then enjoy a traditional mezze lunch accompanied by a shot of raki. Overnight in seaside town of Elounda.

### DAY 10 - ELOUNDA

Explore the Venetian castle on the island of Spinalonga. Afterward, travel to the village of Agios Nikolaos, where you will have time for lunch at your leisure. Visit Lake Voulismeni at the center of town - according to myth it's bottomless, and Artemis and Athena are said to have bathed here. Enjoy the evening at leisure in your Elounda resort.

### DAY 11 - DEPART CRETE

After breakfast, you will be escorted to the Heraklion International Airport for your onward flight.

# GREECE – BULGARIA – ALBANIA – FYR MACEDONIA – GREECE



## DAY 1 WELCOME TO ATHENS((GREECE))

Meet and greet at the Airport and private transfer to your hotel in Athens . Overnight in Athens

## DAY 2 ATHENS(GREECE)

Today enjoy guided tour of Athens . Continue to visit the Acropolis, the most important ancient monument in the Western World.This afternoon is yours to further explore Athens at your own pace. Overnight in Athens

## DAY 3 DELPHI AND KALAMABA(K(GREECE))

A scenic drive brings you to mystical Delphi, clinging to the side of Mount Parnassus at 600m. With a Local Expert, ascend the Sacred Way, once lined with offertory temples and statues to the honour of Apollo. Continue north via Thermopylae, site of the famous battle between the Spartans and Persians. Stop for a wonderful photo opportunity before continue to Kalambaka.

## DAY 4 METEORA, VERGINA, THESSALONIKI (GREECE)

With a Local Expert, visit one of the amazing hanging Monasteries of Meteora, incredibly perched on top of pinnacles of rock and enjoy stunning views over the Peneios Valley. Continue to Vergina, site of ancient Macedonia's first capital, where one of the world's most astonishing discoveries awaits. Continuo to Thessaloniki.

## DAY 5 THESSALONIKI (GREECE)

Join a Local Expert to explore the second city of modern Greece, a vibrant port full of great gastronomic tradition. See the historic Arch of Galerius followed by a visit to the Archaeological Museum and explore some of the city's colourful markets and culinary highlights. The afternoon is at leisure in this vibrant city.

## DAY 6 RILA MONASTERY AND SOFIA(BULGARIA)

Cross the Bulgarian border and follow the fertile River Struma northward, before turning off towards the Balkan's highest mountain range. Rising out of a forested valley, the magnificent Rila Monastery is the largest and most important symbol of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. Continue on to the Bulgarian capital of Sofia.

## DAY 7 SOFIA(BULGARIA)

Sightseeing with a Local Expert takes in the St. Sofia Church across the square from the golden domed St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral and the archeological complex, dominated by St. George's Church. The afternoon is at leisure to shop or continue sightseeing.

## DAY 8 SKOPJE THEN ON TO OHRID(FYR MACEDONIA)

Cross the border in the morning, and head for the FYR Macedonian capital. Skopje is an ultra modern city with

an age-old bazaar, where Turkish influences can still be seen and felt. Enjoy a guided tour of Skopje before continue to the lake of Ohrid, where you can wander lake promenades and shop famous Ohrid pearls.

## DAY 9 THE ALBANIAN CAPITAL, TIRANA(ALBANIA)

This morning drive to Tirana, renowned for its unfailingly friendly locals. Meet a resident expert at the landmark Skanderbeg Square for an insider's look at the Albanian capital, taking in the Et'hem Bey Mosque, Clock Tower, National Historic Museum and other major sights.

## DAY 10 CHARMING IOANNINA(GREECE)

Spectacular scenery brings you back to the northern mountainous region of Greece and the pretty resort of Ioannina, on the banks of placid Pamvotis Lake.

## DAY 11 DODONA AND OLYMPIA (GREECE)

Visit the peaceful Shrine of Dodona in the morning, overlooked by the majestic twin peaks of Mount Tomaros. Continue south around the small fishing villages and shallow waters of the Ambracian Gulf, before crossing the soaring Rio-Antirrio Bridge to the Peloponnese. Dinner and overnight in Olympia.

## DAY 12 OLYMPIA AND ON TO NAFPLIO(GREECE)

Join your Local Expert to see the Olympic Stadium, where the original games were first held in 776BC, plus the athletes' gymnasium and time-worn temples. Then a delightful drive through the Arcadian Mountains takes you into the heart of Argolis before continuing on to the elegant seaside town of Nafplio, first capital of modern Greece.

## DAY 13 ANCIENT MYCENAE

A Local Expert will join you as you head to the ancient site of Mycenae, home to several important excavations such as the Lion Gate, Royal Palace and Tomb of Agamemnon. Later, learn traditional ceramic techniques and patterns, meet the artisans and view beautiful works of art at a family-run pottery studio.

## DAY 14 CORINTH CANAL, ATHENS

Cross the Corinth Canal, an amazing rock-cut channel dividing the Peloponnese from mainland Greece. Follow the shores of the Saronic Gulf back to Athens, where the rest of the day is at leisure for last-minute shopping. In the evening, enjoy a Farewell Dinner in true Greek .

## DAY 15 DEPART ATHENS

Your journey comes to an end with a transfer to Athens airport.