



Greece – Athens, Mykonos & Santorini

13 days

Tour Description

Explore the amazing architecture of Greece and the temples of the gods on this highlight tour. Enjoy several Greek islands each with their own character, from the beaches of Hydra to the art colony on Paros. Shop for souvenirs and enjoy traditional folk music in Athens and snap some photos of the windmills of Mykonos and the sunsets of Santorini.

Highlights

- ❖ Visit the temples of Zeus, Poseidon and Athena
- ❖ Folklore music night in an Athens taverna
- ❖ Daytrip to the island of Delos, birthplace of Apollo and Artemis
- ❖ Half-day cruise to hot springs
- ❖ Visit the ancient theatre of Epidauros

Sample Tour Itinerary

Athens – 4 nights

Day 1: Arrive Athens

Upon arrival at the Athens airport, collect your luggage and proceed to the arrivals hall. A representative will be there to meet you and assist with transfers to your Athens hotel. The balance of the day is yours to enjoy at leisure. Tonight we will take a short walk to a local restaurant and enjoy a welcome dinner together.

Day 2:

This morning we will tour the amazing city of Athens, which has thrived for over 25 centuries. We will view landmarks such as the Arch of Hadrian and the Temple of Zeus, built over a span of 700 years. We will visit the iconic Acropolis, and its crown, the Parthenon, dedicated to the patron goddess of the city. Lunch is on your own today. This afternoon we will drive the coastal road to the rocky promontory of Cape Sounion. Visit the Temple of Poseidon where you will enjoy stunning views of the Saronic Gulf and the offshore Islands.

Day 3:

Depart from the Marina Trocadero heading first to the nearby island of Hydra, arriving at 11:45 am. You'll have free time to explore or take a swim. At 1:30pm we'll push off again, enjoying lunch onboard as we sail past Paros, arriving in Aegina at 3:30pm. Artist studios are sprinkled amid the olive and citrus groves. You'll have time for a swim or an optional excursion by coach to the finely preserved Temple of Aphaia Athena. At 6:00pm we head back to the mainland. This excursion is best done weekdays to avoid the crowds.

**Day 4:**

There's plenty of great shopping in Athens, from local street vendors to upscale boutiques. Take some time to stroll through the old Plaka, have lunch in a taverna or relax on your hotel's rooftop pool with a view. The metro is a very efficient way to get around. Tonight we will go to the Plaka area to mingle with locals and enjoy dinner in a taverna with folklore music.

Mykonos – 3 nights**Day 5:**

Transfer to the nearby port of Piraeus for your high-speed Hydrofoil to the island of Mykonos in the Cyclades island group. This island is a favorite of partiers (especially in summer) and sunbathers. Busses are easy to use and run till midnight.

Day 6:

This is the ultimate jet-setters' playground and for good reason. You can relax & swim on one of the many beaches, some reachable only by boat. Get lost shopping in the labyrinth of alleyways that make up Mykonos Town. Photo-ops abound, especially the island's trademark windmills. There's an agricultural museum inside one of the windmills

Day 7:

Sacred and desolate, the nearby archeological island of Delos is a nice day-trip (no hotels here). It is said to be the birthplace of Apollo and Artemis and there's an excellent museum where some amazing finds are displayed. You can visit the Doric style Temple of Isis greeting you from above the harbor as you arrive.

Santorini – 3 nights**Day 8:**

One of the most popular islands in Greece, the scenery here is stunning. Believed to be the lost continent of Atlantis, it is situated on the edge of a submerged volcano. Stand high on the cliffs to admire the incredible views of the white Cycladic houses with blue painted windows that have inspired artists over the ages. Explore picturesque Oia Village, known for its quiet life and dramatic sunsets.

Day 9:

Enjoy a half day cruise to the small islands of Nea Kameni & Palea Kameni located inside the caldera, the hot springs with the green and yellow waters (with free time for swimming) and the remote and untouched island of Thirassia. Admire the town of Fira's white-washed houses, narrow streets and open air cafes that cling to a steep cliff accessible by cable car or mule. The cathedral sitting prominently near the bottom of town can be seen from quite a distance.

Day 10:

South of Fira, near the village of Akrotiri, visit the Minoan settlement; one of the main attractions of Santorini. It is one of the most important archaeological sites of Greece and maybe of the whole world. Nearby, you might want to spend some a relaxing afternoon at Red Beach – one of the most famous and gorgeous settings.



Naplio – 2 nights

Day 11:

A short flight brings you back to the Athens airport. From there we'll take a 2-hr drive to the Peloponnese Peninsula by the coastal road along the Saronic Gulf. Crossing the Corinth Canal, which connects the Aegean Sea, we'll continue on to seaside town of Nauplio through the fertile plain of Argoli. This picturesque town is nestled at the foot of a cliff crowned by the mighty ramparts of the Palamidi Fortress. You can either climb up the endless stairs or take a cab to the front door.

Day 12:

Our tour takes us to the ancient ruins at Mycenae, the Homeric city of the Atreides, the city "rich in gold" of the ancient poets. Visit the Lion's Gate, the Cyclopean Walls, and the Royal Tombs etc. In the afternoon we'll visit Epidaurus to step into the 4th century B.C Theatre famous for its astonishing acoustics.

Day 13:

This morning we transfer to Athens International Airport with ample time to check your luggage and board your flight back to the USA.

INCLUSIONS

- Accommodations: Athens 4 nights, Mykonos 3 nights, Santorini 3 nights, Naplio 2 nights
- Meals: Continental breakfast daily, lunch and dinner as noted in itinerary
- Ground transportation via air conditioned luxury coach
- English speaking assistants and guides
- Admission tickets as outlined in the itinerary