

# GREECE: Culinary Tour

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

**Day 1:** Depart for Athens.

**Day 2:** Arrive **Athens**.

Day 3: Athens. The capital of Greece took its name from the goddess Athena, the goddess of wisdom and knowledge. Morning guided sightseeing tour of Athens. Tour includes the **Royal Palace, the Olympic Stadium, the Temple of Jupiter, Hadrians Arch and Constitution Square**. Constitution or Syntagma Square has a long history. It seems every major event in Greece's modern history has either been mourned or celebrated here. See The **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** guarded by the elite soldiers chosen for their height and strength and time permitting, the changing of the guard. Visit the **Acropolis to see the Parthenon**. Built between 447 and 438 BC, it is the most important and characteristic monument of the ancient Greek civilization and still remains its international symbol. Discover the old quarter, the **Pláka**, which is huddled at the foot of the Acropolis and is the oldest section of the city and is a hodge-podge of narrow winding alleys, flower-filled courtyards, old balconied houses and marvelous lively cafés that is closed to automobile traffic. The streets are crammed full of the tourist shops and great restaurants.



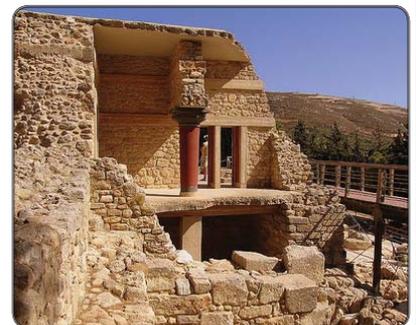
Day 4: A day for "foodies". Guided visit to a local vegetable and/or meat market followed by a cooking class in a restaurant in the Plaka area. Enjoy learning how to prepare and to eat Greek food. Later, visit Syntagma Square for the changing of the guard. Constitution or Syntagma Square has a long history. It seems every major event in Greece's modern history has either been mourned or celebrated here. The tomb of the Unknown Soldier is guarded by the elite soldiers who also guard the Palace and are chosen for their height and strength.



Day 5: Guided visit to ancient **Mycenae**. The bulk of the ruins dates from 1280 B.C. and is among the most celebrated archaeological discoveries in modern history. Mycenae was known as the center of the great Helladic civilization as the capital of the all-powerful Agememnon. See the handsome **Lion Gate**, the Treasure of Atreus and the Tombs of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra and the palace and the Royal apartments. En route to Mycenae, stop at Corinth and marvel at the genius of modern man who created the amazing canal. Enjoy a cooking class in Mycenae followed by lunch. On to beautiful old Nafplion with its glorious Venetian architecture, fortress, pebble beach and hillside stairways. Enjoy the remainder of the day wandering the stone walkways of Old Town.

Day 6: Visit at **Epidaurus** to see the ancient theatre and visit the museum. Transfer to Piraeus port for overnight ferry to the island of Crete.

Day 7: Arrive in **Crete**. Crete is the largest and most rugged of the **Greek Islands** and home of the great Minoan Civilization and the mythological home of Zeus. Crete is home to the **Knossos** excavations dating back to 4000 BC when an empire flourished on the island of Crete. Visit Knossos. Visit the Archaeological Museum. Later visit a small farm at Lithri Village for a cooking class and meal.



Day 8: The island of Crete is blessed with innumerable small and beautiful villages. Today guided visits to a few selected towns and villages. Visit the traditional village of Arolithos, the brainchild of a creative dreamer who wanted to reflect the many aspects of Cretan tradition including arts and crafts, cuisine and local customs. Then make your way to Anoghia to visit a cheese making factory, have a typical Cretan lunch at a local restaurant by the village of Axos. On your way back to Heraklion, stop and buy some local honey.

Day 9: Travel to **Peza**, a small inland village that is an important agricultural and economic center due to the extensive agricultural products mainly wine and olive oil. 4 kilometers from Peza is Myrtia, the birth place of the famous author of Zorba the Greek, Nikos Kazantzakis. Myrtia, with its breathtaking countryside, is home to the Nikos Kazantzakis Museum, a museum dedicated to the Nobel winning author. Visit the museum. Enjoy a **cooking lesson** and lunch at a typical tavern on the way back to the village of Archanes. Archanes is the archaeological site of an ancient Minoan settlement in central Crete Late this afternoon catch your ferry for Santorini.

Day 10: **Santorini** is a volcanic crater partially submerged by the sea and perhaps the most beautiful of the Greek islands. From 2000 B.C. to 1500 B.C. one of the most advanced societies in ancient Greece flourished on this volcanic island. Around 1500 B.C., a massive eruption buried every sign of civilization beneath millions of tons of lava and pumice. Today a full day guided visit to some of Santorini's most charming sites. Visit Pyrgos Village where you will find Cycladic, Venetian and Neo Classical architecture. Join your guide for a visit to the Venetian Castle. Continue to Imerovigli Village perched on the edge of Santorini's volcanic cliffs that preciously guard the secrets of the lost city of Atlantis. Continue to Oia, the famous and most picturesque village on Santorini.

Day 11: Discover more about this gorgeous island. Optional visits to the Akrotiri Lighthouse or the Caldera visiting Nea Kameni to climb to the top of the crater in the center of the island. Stop at Palea Kameni to swim in the **underwater hot springs**. Transfer to Athens.

Day 12: Today, you bid farewell to Greece.

## **TOUR INCLUSIONS**

- Return airfare Athens
- Overnight ferry Athens to Crete
- Ferry Crete to Santorini
- One way flight Santorini to Athens
- Coach transfers
  - o Athens return airport transfer
  - o 2 days coach to Mycenae and Epidaurus to Piraeus with stops according to itinerary
  - o 2 days village tours on Crete with visits according to itinerary
  - o 1 day coach tour Santorini with visits according to itinerary
- Assistance upon arrival in Athens
- 9 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 1 overnight ferry Athens – Crete with sleeping compartment
- 10 breakfasts
- 5 dinners
- 4 lunches – 3 are cooking classes
- Cooking classes
  - o Athens
  - o Mycenae
  - o 2 on Crete
- Guided tours
  - o 2 walking tours Athens – 1 is culinary market tour
  - o Mycenae
  - o Epidaurus
  - o Knossos
  - o Acropolis
  - o Full day Santorini as per itinerary
  - o 2 days of village tours on Crete with visits as per itinerary

- Entrances
  - o Mycenae
  - o Epidaurus
  - o Parthenon
  - o Knossos
  - o Archeological Museum Knossos
  - o Cheese making factory
  - o Nikos Kazantzakis Museum
  - o Archanes ancient Minoan settlement
  - o Venetian castle on Santorini

