

# GREECE & GREEK ISLANDS: Art & Architecture

(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, Hadrian's 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: Depart Athens and stop at Corinth and marvel at the genius of modern man who created the amazing canal. Visit at **Epidaurus** to see the ancient theatre and visit the museum. 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 5: Continue to **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. Proceed to the city of **Olympia**.

Day 6: Visit ancient Olympia which was one of the most important cultural centers of the Greek world for a millennium. Here, every 4 years participants from Sicily, Asia Minor, North Africa, Macedonia and all of Greece convened to worship, compete and enjoy poetry, music art and architecture. Although the ruins are not especially well preserved, the site's colossal size remains impressive. 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.



Day 8: The island of Crete is blessed with innumerable small and beautiful villages. Today guided visits to a few selected towns and villages. Malia is a holiday resort that is the most popular tourist location of Crete, and one of the most popular in Europe. Kritsa is a lovely traditional village with its old houses and narrow streets on the Lassithi Mountains and is known for its traditional way of life for its 2000 inhabitants. It survives in the traditional production of both agricultural and garden produce in daily habits and customs, celebrations and festivals as well as life style and dress code of the older generation.

Day 9: Flight to the gorgeous island of **Santorini**. Transfer to your hotel. Enjoy Thira on own.

**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
- Coach transfers
  - o Athens return airport transfers
  - o To Piraeus cruise terminal
  - o 4 day coach tours with stops as per itinerary
- Assistance upon arrival in Athens
- 9 nights accommodation with private facilities  
*(4 nights on cruise ship)*
- 9 breakfasts
- 3 dinners
- All meals while on cruise ship
- Port Taxes
- Cruise tips
- Guided tours
  - o Ancient city of Ephesus
  - o Coach tour Athens
  - o Olympia
  - o Mycenae
  - o Epidaurus
  - o Acropolis
- Entrances
  - o Ancient city of Ephesus
  - o Monastery of St John
  - o Knossos
  - o Olympia
  - o Museum of Olympia
  - o Mycenae
  - o Epidaurus
  - o Parthenon

