

# GREECE & GREEK ISLAND CRUISE

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

**Day 1:** Depart for Athens.

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

**Day 3:** Board your ship for your **4 day cruise**. At 6:00 pm arrive at **Mykonos**. This gorgeous island attracts many visitors from all over the globe. The capital city, Hora, is narrow cobbled streets lined with chic boutiques, elegant nightclubs, and white washed houses. Alefkandra is a charming corner where houses are built on the sea with wooden balconies that evoke images of Venice. Enjoy an evening visit.



**Day 4:** Arrive in **Kusadasi, Turkey**. Coach to the ancient city of **Ephesus** famous for its **Temple of Diana one of the Seven wonders of the Ancient World**. Discover the Forum, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Thermal Bath of Scolastika and the Great Theatre. Walk back along the Arcadian Way where once Mark Antony and Cleopatra rode in procession. Depart for **Patmos**, a small Greek island with a population of 3,000. This island is known as the site of the apocalyptic revelations of St. John the Divine written during his exile from the Roman Empire. Visit the Monastery of St. John, built on one of the island's highest points, houses priceless icons and manuscripts in its Treasury.

**Day 5:** The beautiful island of **Rhodes** has a rich and varied history. On a hill above Lindos rises an ancient acropolis dedicated to the goddess Athena. Below is the bay of St. Paul where the apostle landed during his voyages. See how this entire city is guarded by medieval walls which were constructed by the knights of St. John in the 13th century. Within them stands the ancient **Acropolis of Lindos** on the brink of a precipice 400 feet above the sea. From the Acropolis, marvel at the breathtaking views covering the great expanse of the Aegean Sea.



**Day 6:** **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. On to the most breathtaking of all the Greek Islands, Santorini, a volcanic crater partially submerged by the sea. The town of Thira is situated high above the edge of the crater and is glorious with white washed houses and glittering boutiques clinging to the edges of cliffs, narrow streets and open air cafes. Later today visit **Santorini**.

**Day 7:** Arrive **Athens**. Athens city tour. 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 8:** Depart for **Olympia**. Enroute stop at the **Corinth Canal** for a brief visit. The idea for the canal was first envisioned in 603BC but the technical capabilities in ancient time made it impossible to carry out. It was not until the 19th century that the canal was actually constructed and a 2000 year old dream realized. The Corinth Canal is still in use today, though many newer and larger ships are too large to pass through any more.

**Day 9:** Transfer to ancient **Olympia** for your guided visit. Although the ruins are not especially well preserved, the site's colossal size remains impressive. Visit the Museum of Olympia where amongst other famous classical treasures is the Hermes of Praxiteles – the prize of Olympia. Later transfer to **Nafplion**. Enjoy this beautiful old city with its glorious Venetian architecture, fortress, and pebble beach and hillside stairways. Wander the stone walkways of Old Town.

**Day 10:** 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 portal to the ancient city, the Treasure of Atreus and the Tombs of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra and the palace and the Royal apartments. Later visit the spa at **Epidaurus** to see the ancient theatre and visit the museum.

**Day 11:** YASSOU ATHINAI! HELLO CANADA.

## 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

