

ITALY & GREECE: History 2

(Note: This is only a sample tour)

Day 1: Depart for Rome.

Day 2: Arrive **Rome**.

Day 3: Morning guided visit to **Vatican**. The Vatican is a city unto itself with its own postal service, radio station, newspaper and army. Visit **St. Peter's Basilica** and Square, the **Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel**. Visit some of Rome's other interesting neighborhoods. You don't need to cross the Tiber River for Trastevere, for a look at medieval village Rome.



Day 4: Guided morning visit to the **Colosseum, the Forum, Capitol Hill**, Victor Emmanuel Monument and Piazza Venezia. Later stroll through the major archaeological monuments. See the **Spanish Steps, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon**. For shopping head to Piazza del Popolo, Via del Corso and the Via Condotti.

Day 5: Possible visits to the numerous **Catacombs** of Rome or underground burial places. Begun in the 2nd Century, they were not only a place for persecuted Christians to bury in secret, but also for pagan and Jewish burials. Many have kilometers of tunnels, with up to four stories or layers. Or possibly Borghese Gallery. Later this afternoon spend some time in Piazza Navona originally built as a stadium in the first century for athletic contests and chariot races. Now it is lined with luxurious cafes and is the home to three lavish Baroque fountains.

Day 6: Visit **Pompeii**, the sumptuous town that was buried under lava during a volcanic eruption of Vesuvius that started in August 24, AD 79. In Pompeii the fascination lies in the glimpses of everyday life frozen in time. Today you will have a guided visit. Later transfer you to Brindisi for your ferry for your overnight transfer to Greece.



Day 7: Arrive in Patras **Greece**. Meet your guide and transfer to ancient Olympia for your 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 8: 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. En route to Athens, stop at Corinth and marvel at the genius of modern man who created the amazing canal.

Day 9: **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 10: Full day **cruise through 3 of Greece's most interesting Saronic Islands**. Each island has a distinct personality. **Aegina's** mountainous terrain and many small rocky coves make the island attractive to visitors. **Poros** is less crowded than Aegina but here one can find some serenity and spectacular views by climbing up the narrow passageways that lead to the top of Poros Town and the hills beyond. **Hydra** is a beautiful example of a typical Greek port town with its dazzling white houses nestled quietly among steep rocky hills and a small but busy harbor. No cars are allowed on the island so you will see both donkeys and boats which service the areas transportation needs!

Day 11: Today, you bid farewell to Greece.

TOUR INCLUSIONS

- Return airfare to Rome return from Athens
- Coach transfers
 - o Rome – airport transfer
 - o Transfer Rome to Brindisi with stop for visit Pompeii
 - o 2 days coach with transfer Patras to Athens with stops according to itinerary
 - o Athens – airport transfer
- Assistance upon arrival in Rome and Brindisi
- 8 nights accommodation with private facilities
- 1 overnight ferry Italy – Greece with sleeping compartment
- 9 breakfasts
- 5 dinners
- Full day cruise of 3 Saronic Islands - Aegina, Poros, Hydra
- Guided tours
 - o 2 walking tours Rome
 - o Pompeii
 - o Olympia
 - o Mycenae
 - o Epidaurus
 - o Acropolis
 - o Athens – coach and walking
- Entrances
 - o Coliseum and Forum
 - o Pompeii
 - o Olympia
 - o Museum of Olympia
 - o Mycenae
 - o Epidaurus
 - o Parthenon

