

## Glories of Greece: Athens, Delphi, Meteora and islands including Crete, Corfu and the Saronics. Sept 24-Oct 5 2020

**Price \$4999 Single +\$899 and limited. Book early to get a share.  
Deposit: \$600 with signed Booking Form**



The trip dates were chosen for weather, and for when the crowds are gone! The itinerary is very inclusive, but still time to regroup in each city. We cover both highlights and hidden charms of mainland and islands of Greece.

**Sept. 24** Depart on flights to Thessaloniki on the Aegean Sea in NW Greece.

**Sept. 25** Thessaloniki **[Dinner]** Arrive Thessaloniki, meet our English-speaking guide. Group transfer time 3PM. Private transfers available \$125. We will group arrivals, to share taxis whenever possible. PM orientation tour of what National Geographic called 'one of the top tourist destinations in the world'. Founded 315BC, it was the 2nd most important city after Constantinople. Welcome dinner. Overnight Thessaloniki. **All hotels are listed below.**

**Sept. 26** Thessaloniki - Ioannina **[Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner]** Upon arrival, proceed for an orientation tour. Ioannina, capital of Epirus, spreads around beautiful Lake Pamvotida. A walk through the city has the feel of a bygone era. Wonderful buildings like the House Matei Hussein, Ottoman mosque of Veli Pasha and entire historic center are unique attractions. Ioannina was dominated by Christian, Islamic and Jewish influences. This coexistence is evident in the historic center. The Stoa Louli arcade is one location where the three communities worked together. The arcade, originally an inn, became a mercantile exchange of great importance. Dinner at local restaurant by the lake. Overnight Ioannina



**Sept. 27** Day tour Meteora **[B]** This morning we embark on a tour of Meteora one of the largest and most precipitously perched Eastern Orthodox monasteries. UNESCO characterized Meteora as a "monument of Humanity that has to be maintained". The



same is valid for Mount Athos, Mistra, Holy Monastery of Saint Lucas etc. The monasteries of Meteora are a harmonious matching of Byzantine architecture and natural beauty. Moreover, the presence of many monasteries in such a small place, as well as Orthodox spiritual life is fascinating. Free time for lunch Dinner on own Ioannina for overnight

**Sept. 28** Ioannina to Corfu **[B]** Free day or optional tour to stunning **Corfu**, studded with white washed houses, Byzantine churches, palaces and

Venetian forts. (The modern ferry takes 30 minutes). Tour to Corfu with lunch and entrance to Achilleion Palace: \$175 per person (minimum 10 needed.)



**Sept. 29** Ioannina - Delphi **[B/L/D]** Transfer to Delphi. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Proceed to Delphi Site and Museum. At the foot of Mount Parnassos, formed by the twin rocks of the Phaedriades, lies the sanctuary of Delphi, the most famous oracle of ancient Greece. We visit the temple of Apollo, ancient theater, stadium, sanctuary of Athena Pronaia with the Tholos, the Kastalia springs, and various treasures that adorn the sacred way. After the tour visit Itea a lovely town on the Gulf of Corinth. Dinner at local restaurant Overnight in Delphi



**Sept. 30** Delphi – Athens – Heraklion in Crete **[B/D]** Transfer to Athens for short flight to Heraklion. If time permits enjoy orientation tour of Heraklion before included dinner at local restaurant Overnight in Heraklion.



**Oct. 1** Heraklion, Crete **[B + gastronomy tour]**

Today uncover mysteries of ancient Minoan civilization on a full-day tour of Heraklion. Explore the magnificent Knossos Palace, home to King Minos and legends of the Minotaur. Visit a world-class museum featuring artifacts dating to 5000 BC. See the contrast of ancient and modern Crete with free time in the town of Heraklion. Entrance fees to Knossos Palace/

Archaeological Museum included. PM enjoy a gastronomy tour. Due to its location in the heart of the Mediterranean, Crete is at the crossroads. Local cuisine combines seasonal ingredients that reflect Europe's southernmost point. Tour ends at the hotel. Overnight in Heraklion

**Oct. 2** Heraklion – Chania – Heraklion **[B/L+wine/cheese/olive tasting]** Although Heraklion is the perfect base to see Crete's heritage, it's not the only part of Crete worthy of a visit. On this full-day tour, discover one of the prettiest cities in Western Crete, Chania. Explore Chania's Old Town on a walking tour with a local guide. See the city's impressive 14th-century harbor and 16th-century lighthouse. Learn about Crete's Venetian, Egyptian Ottoman influences on narrow streets with vendors and markets. Wine tasting included with cheese and olive samples. Enjoy a traditional lunch. Dinner on own. Return to Heraklion for overnight.

**Oct. 3** Heraklion – Athens **[B,D]** Transfer to airport. Take a short flight to Athens and transfer for half day tour of Athens. The tour is an introduction to the splendor of the Golden Age of Athens as well as the modern city. We visit the Acropolis on which is the Parthenon, symbol of classical architecture. The entrance to the top of the hill is through the Propylea 'gates' through which processions used to enter. Next is the temple of Athena Niki also known as 'Wingless Victory'. The Parthenon is the major temple built in honor of Goddess Athena. Her statue decorates the center and was made of ivory and gold. Next to the Parthenon is the smaller Temple of Erechthion with lovely sculptured young maidens supporting the roof of the porch. From the top of the Acropolis we admire the ancient theatre of Herodus Atticus with remarkable acoustics.

Leaving the Acropolis, the tour takes us by the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, guarded by the 'evzones' dressed in traditional costume, Parliament, Presidential Palace and Panathinaikon Stadium where the first modern Olympics were held in 1896. The stadium is built of pure white marble. We drive by the University representing 19th century architecture blended with classical. The tour will pass by Omonia Square, commercial center and Syntagma Square, business, and cultural center. Lunch in Plaka area, on your own Dinner included. Tour ends at the hotel Overnight in Athens.

**Oct. 4 Athens and Saronic Island Cruise [B/L/D]** Today we enjoy a full day cruise to 3 islands of the Saronic Gulf. The order visited is either Poros- Hydra- Aegina or vice versa. In 2 hours we arrive at Poros. Time at leisure in Poros. Upon departure, lunch served with first sitting. An hour plus later, we enter Hydra. We have 1 hour+ 30 minutes at leisure, stone narrow- paved streets, seaside promenades and traditional houses. Upon embarkation, lunch is served for second sitting. After 2 hours arrive at Aegina, largest of the three. Guided bus tour (with others) to Temple of Aphaia Upon disembarkation a "traditional Greek Folk Show" with singers and dancers in original costumes will entertain on the ship. Arrival Piraeus and transfer to enjoy dinner. Lunch on board cruise. A farewell dinner included at festive restaurant with traditional music and entertainment Overnight Athens.

**Oct. 5 Athens - Home [B]** Type of breakfast depends on departure time. Very early transfer to Athens International Airport for return flights. Time TBA-we will base this on the flights sent to us and let you know closer to the time. Private transfers available optionally at \$125 per car.

**Hotels:**

1 night Thessaloniki Anatolia Hotel or Similar  
3 nights Ioannina SAZ Hotel or Similar  
1 night Delphi Nafskia Palace or Similar  
3 nights Heraklion Astoria Capsis or Similar  
3 nights Athens Titania or Similar

**Included:** full time tour guide who travels with us, deluxe motor coach, flight Athens-Heraklion-Athens, meals as noted with coffee/tea, portorage one piece each in/out of hotels, one group transfer in and out of international airports. Group included meals have tips included.

**Not included:** International flights, tips to drivers, guides, meals not included, one option to Corfu ( \$175 per person 10 minimum needed).