



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

## Greece: Athens, Santorini, Heraklion and Chania in Winter

### 9-Day, 8-Night Journey

*Athens, Santorini, Heraklion, Chania*

Embark on a captivating journey through Greece during the winter season (October to March). Commence your adventure in Athens, where ancient wonders await your exploration. Sail to the famous island of Santorini in the Aegean Sea, where the iconic Oia village unveils its enchanting beauty. Next, set foot on Crete, Greece's largest island. The ancient towns of Heraklion and Chania offer an amazing blend of history and culture.

This memorable journey allows you to savor the Aegean atmosphere at a leisurely pace. Embrace the tranquility of winter, as each destination reveals its distinct beauty without the summer crowds.



Parthenon at sunset



Mycenae, an Archaeological Site



Epidaurus Theatre, a UNESCO World Heritage Site



Oia, Santorini



Venetian Fort, Heraklion Harbor



Chania Old Port, Crete

## Inclusions

- ▶ Private Airport Transfers
- ▶ Hotel Accommodations
- ▶ Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals  
(See tour plan for details)
- ▶ English-speaking Local Guide
- ▶ Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

## Exclusions

- ▶ International & Domestic Air Fare
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee (if applicable)
- ▶ Gratuities
- ▶ Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airport

Athens – Athens International Airport (ATH)

Heraklion – Heraklion International Airport (HER)

## Itinerary

### DAY 1: ARRIVE ATHENS, GREECE

At **Athens airport** you'll be met and transferred to your hotel.

The rest of the day is free.

[3 nights in Athens. Meals: None]

### DAY 2: ATHENS CITY ORIENTATION TOUR WITH ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

Half-day ancient **Athens city group tour** including Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Greek Parliament building, Presidential Palace, photo stop at Panathinaiko Stadium (where the first Olympic Games took place), Zappeion and Temple of Olympian Zeus, Athens Trilogy, National Garden, Hadrian's Arc, St. Paul's Church,



Schliemann's House (Numismatic Museum), Catholic Cathedral, Old Parliament, Constitution Square, Russian Orthodox Church and Acropolis (UNESCO World Heritage Site).

Note: Acropolis admission is not included.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### **DAY 3: ATHENS PERSONALIZED EXCURSION DAY**

After breakfast, join one of the following options included in this tour.

#### **OPTION 1: Epidaurus & Mycenae Full Day Tour (9-10 hours)**

Visit the ancient city of Mycenae and the ancient theatre of Epidaurus.

Drive along the coastal road on the Saronic Gulf to reach the Corinth Canal that connects the two Greek seas - the Aegean Sea and the Ionian Sea. We then arrive at the ancient site of Mycenae, home to the kingdom of mythical king Agamemnon. You will visit the Treasury of Atreus (Tomb of Agamemnon), the Mycenaean Citadel with the Cyclopean Walls and the Lionesses Gate.

After lunch, a scenic drive through the fertile Argolic valley of orange and lemon groves. At Nafplio we stop to admire the Palamidi and Acronauplia Hills, and Bourtzi island in the middle of the harbor. We continue Epidaurus Theatre, a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is one of the best preserved classical Greek theatres and still used today due to its amazing acoustics.

#### **OPTION 2: Delphi Full Day Tour (8-9 hour)**

Immerse yourself in the myths and monuments of classical Greece on this full-day tour of Delphi. Explore the UNESCO-listed archeological site of Delphi with an expert guide and learn how the city was considered the 'Center of the World' in ancient Greece. Stand in awe before the dramatically situated Temple of Apollo, then discover long-lost wonders at the Delphi Archeological Museum, including the Charioteer of Delphi and the Sphinx of Naxos. After lunch in Delphi (at your own expense), visit the handicrafts towns of Arachova and Levadia on the way back to Athens.

[Meals: Breakfast]

### **DAY 4: ATHENS - SANTORINI FLIGHT**

Hotel check-out and fly to the best-known and most breathtaking of all of the Greek islands - **Santorini**.

Transfer to the hotel for check-in. The rest of the day is free.

Believed by some to be the lost continent of Atlantis, this historic and unimaginably picturesque island is situated on the edge of a submerged volcano. Stand high on the cliffs to admire the incredible views of the white Cycladic houses with blue painted windows that have inspired artists over the ages. During your free time, sample the distinguished local wines and sunbathe on one of its many beautiful beaches which are home to transparent azure waters, with black, red or white sand depending on which beach you visit.

[2 nights in Santorini. Meals: Breakfast]

### **DAY 5: SANTORINI ISLAND TOUR WITH OIA SUNSET**

**Full day Santorini group excursion** - This excursion takes you back to the Prehistoric Thera and the myth of Lost Atlantis. Continue to the natural beauties of Santorini and its much-praised wine and food. Visit Akrotiri Excavations, Red beach and Prehistoric Museum. Blue Dome, Black Beach, Pyrgos, Prophet Elias and then watch the Santorini sunset.

[Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 6: SANTORINI – HERAKLION, CRETE (BY FLIGHT)**

Hotel check-out and proceed to the airport to fly to **Heraklion, Crete**. Arrive and check-in to your hotel. The rest of the day is free. Explore the Venetian Fort and local restaurants on your own.

[1 night in Heraklion. Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 7: HERAKLION TO CHANIA**

Hotel check-out and transfer east to **Chania**. Chania is known for its 14th-century Venetian harbor, narrow streets and delightful waterfront restaurants. At the harbor entrance is a 16th-century lighthouse with Venetian, Egyptian and Ottoman influences.

You can visit the Agora on your own, which is the central market of Chania and a lively place where you can find local products, such as cheese, honey, olive oil, herbs, and souvenirs. Taste traditional dishes such as dakos (bread with tomato and cheese), kalitsounia (cheese pies), boureki (zucchini and potato pie), or lamb with stamnagathi (wild greens).

[2 nights in Chania. Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 8: CHANIA WALKING TOUR**

**Explore Chania old town with a local guide** (1.5 hours). A walking tour to see the Venetian and Ottoman monuments in the historic part of Chania Old Town.

The rest of the day is free.

[Meals: Breakfast]

#### **DAY 9: DEPART CRETE –ARRIVE IN N. AMERICA**

After breakfast, transfer to **Heraklion Airport (HER)** for your flight home. Most flights arrive back in North America the same day.

[Meals: Breakfast]

\*Hotel check-out time is generally around 11 am. If your flight departs in the evening or past midnight, we suggest you consider adding a post-tour hotel night during booking, to be comfortable and well rested before your flight home.

\*The duration and start time of excursions are subject to change without prior notice.

## Hotels

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

