



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

# Best of Greece

## 17-Day, 15-Night Journey

*Athens, Kalamata, Rhodes, Volos, Thessaloniki, Crete*

Experience the best blend of ancient history with scenic mountains and amazing seascapes. And indulge in the rich unforgettable Mediterranean cuisine.

Visit some of the most renowned wonders of the ancient world, including the Acropolis, Macedonia, Pella and Venetian architectures. Enjoy the fabulous scenic views from rugged mountains, forests and lakes. Explore the ancient Minoan civilization on Crete in the blue Aegean Sea. Step back in time and delve into tales of Greek mythology. Taste authentic local Athenian and Cretan cuisine, Greek coffee and Kalamata olives.

### Trip Overview (\*UNESCO World Heritage Sites)

- |                                   |                                     |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ▶ Temple of Apollon               | ▶ Seven Springs                     | ▶ Pella Archaeological Site |
| ▶ Kalamata City Tour              | ▶ Filerimos                         | and the Museum              |
| ▶ Kardamili Village               | ▶ Thermopylae (Hot Gates)           | ▶ Salonica                  |
| ▶ Caves of Dirou                  | ▶ Thermopylae Battle Field          | ▶ Archaeological Museum     |
| ▶ <b>Medieval City of Rhodes*</b> | ▶ Volos City Tour                   | of Thessaloniki             |
| ▶ <b>The Palace of the Grand</b>  | ▶ Pelion Villages                   | ▶ Kastoria Tour             |
| <b>Master*</b>                    | ▶ <b>Meteora Monasteries*</b>       | ▶ Prespa National Park      |
| ▶ Kallithéa & Roman Baths         | ▶ <b>Vergina &amp; Royal Tombs*</b> | ▶ Edessa                    |
| ▶ Acropolis & Village of Lídios   |                                     |                             |

- Crete (Heraklion, Rethymno, Chania Elounda, Agios Nikolaos Ierapetra)
- Athens Walking Tour

- **Athens Acropolis\***
- New Acropolis Museum
- Ancient Agora (Market)
- Stoa of Attalos
- Temple of Hephaestus

- Plaka
- Monastiraki (the Flea Market)
- Aegina, Hydra and Poros Cruise

## Why You'll Love This Tour



### ANCIENT SITES, RUINS AND INTRIGUING MUSEUMS

Greek is a living museum where each town and island tells their own medieval story. Visit Orthodox monasteries on top of rock formations, the medieval town of Rhodes, Royal Tombs and the Palace of the Grand Master. One will never get tired of another Acropolis.



### THE MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE, ISLANDS AND NATURAL BEAUTY

Visit the unique Caves of Dirou, sulfur springs in Thermopylae (Hot Gates), scenic Prespa National Park and relax in the sparkling blue Aegean Sea.



### AMAZING FOOD AND DRINK

Greek cuisine is the pioneer of the Mediterranean diet that is prepared with fresh produce, seafood and olives and olives oil. Taste traditional Cretan and Kalamata cuisine. Enjoy Greek coffee culture, local wine and ouzo.

## Inclusions

- ▶ Private Airport Transfers
- ▶ Hotel Accommodations
- ▶ Daily Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner  
(Except days of arrival & departure)
- ▶ English speaking Local Guide
- ▶ Entrance Fees to Monuments and  
Attractions per Itinerary
- ▶ Greece Domestic Air Fare & Ferries

## Exclusions

- ▶ International Air Fare
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Gratuity
- ▶ Personal Expenses

## Nearby Airport

Athens – Athens International Airport (ATH)

## Itinerary

(B)-Breakfast, (L)-Lunch, (D)-Dinner

### DAY 1: MAJOR N. AMERICA AIRPORT – ATHENS

Depart from your USA or Canadian airport to fly to Athens.

Night on board the aircraft.

\*If your flight departs in the early morning hours, you must arrive at the airport the night before the departure day i.e. early Friday morning means Thursday night!

### DAY 2: ARRIVE ATHENS, GREECE (D)

Arrive at **Athens Eleftherios Venizelos airport**, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the afternoon is free. Dinner at the hotel.

\*Hotel check-in time is generally 4 pm or later. If your flight arrives in the early morning (e.g. midnight or 7 am) we suggest you add a pre-tour hotel night during booking for a well-deserved rest before starting your tour.

1 night in **Athens**.

### DAY 3: APOLLON TEMPLE & KALAMATA CITY TOUR (B, L, D)

Check-out and travel to **Kalamata**. Enroute, visit the famous **Temple of Apollon**. Lunch in Kalamata and then hotel check in. Afternoon **city tour of Kalamata** where the Greek Revolution against the Ottomans started.



2 nights in **Kalamata**.

#### **DAY 4: KARDAMILI VILLAGE & CAVES OF DIROU (B, L, D)**

After breakfast we visit the beautiful village of **Kardamili**, walk in the picturesque streets, and enjoy Greek coffee like a local. We continue to the unique **Caves of Dirou**. Traditional local lunch in Aeropoli and then return to our hotel. Afternoon is free to discover the myths and traditions of the city.

#### **DAY 5: RHODES CITY TOUR (B, L, D)**

Early in the morning we depart **Kalamata** to Athens Airport and fly to **Rhodes Island**. Arrive at Rhodes and hotel check in. After lunch we discover the old town of Rhodes on a walking tour. The **Old Town of Rhodes** is the biggest inhabited medieval town in Europe. Built in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, it is a *UNESCO World Heritage Site*. Check out the **Palace of the Grand Master** that was originally a 7th century A.D. Byzantine fortress. It was converted into the Grand Master's residence in 14th century.

2 nights in **Rhodes Island**.

#### **DAY 6: RHODES TOUR (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, a full day tour in Rhodes. Visit **Kallithéa**, a cosmopolitan holiday resort town. The highlight is its popular long sandy **Faliráki Beach** and the **Roman baths**.

We continue to the ancient city-state of **Líndos** (one of the three major towns of ancient Rhodes). See the remains of the **acropolis of Líndos** and the **village of Líndos** with whitewashed houses, mansions, Byzantine churches, and narrow cobbled streets. Lunch at a local restaurant. Our tour continues to **Seven Springs**, where we will walk in the forest and enjoy the fresh water coming from the springs. We end our tour by visiting **Filerimos** on a hilltop. Return to our hotel for dinner

#### **DAY 7: TOUR VOLOS CITY & PELION VILLAGE (B, L, D)**

After breakfast we fly to **Athens** and transfer to **Volos** by car.

Enroute we visit **Thermopylae (Hot Gates)** and the hot sulfur springs. We then visit the area of the famous 480 B.C. **Battle of Thermopylae** between the Greeks and the Persians, and the marvelous statue of Leonidas, King of Sparta. Followed by **Centre of Historical Information of Thermopylae**.

After lunch, check in at the hotel in Volos followed by **Volos city tour**. **Volos**, on the Pagasetic Gulf, is featured in many tales of Greek mythology. Its beautiful seafront is dotted with picturesque little taverns (tsipouradiko) specializing in tsipouro (a Greek spirit). In the afternoon we visit the **Pelion villages** on the slopes of **Mount Pelion** (the home of the Centaur, a mythical half-man half-horse creature)

2 nights in **Volos**.

#### **DAY 8: METEORA MONASTERIES (B, L, D)**

After breakfast we drive to **Kalambaka** for a full day tour of **Meteora**. We visit the **3 main monasteries of Meteora** to discover the natural beauty and cultural heritage of this area. We go back in time to the dark ages and the story of the first hermits and monks who laid the foundations of the monastic community of Meteora.

#### **DAY 9: VERGINA & PELLA TOUR (B, L, D)**

After breakfast, check out and proceed on a magical journey visiting **Vergina**, the ancient first capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia and Pella. The **Royal Tombs** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After lunch we continue to **Pella**, the birthplace of Alexander the Great. We visit the archaeological site and the museum.

We then transfer to **Thessaloniki (Salonica)**, the pearl of Macedonia and the second largest city in Greece.

3 nights in **Thessaloniki**.

#### **DAY 10: SALONICA CITY TOUR (B, L, D)**

We take a city tour of the beautiful town of **Salonica**. We visit the Galerius Arch (Kamara), the Rotunda monument, the Citadel and the City Walls, and a marvelous view of Thessaloniki. We then see the White Tower of Thessaloniki. The walk continues towards the Nea Paralia to see the statue of Alexander the Great and admire the famous umbrellas. Next we see the historic **Aristotelous Square** followed by the ancient Roman Agora (market place) and Dikasterion Square. We visit the **Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki** to experience the history of ancient Macedonia.

#### **DAY 11: KASTORIA, PRESPA NATIONAL PARK, EDESSA (B, L, D)**

After breakfast we have a full day tour, starting with a city tour of **Kastoria** and its amazing local products which we will see and taste. Later we will continue to **Prespa National Park**. Followed by a local lunch and return to Thessaloniki. Enroute we visit **Edessa**, an ancient city with magnificent waterfalls.

#### **DAY 12: CRETE & HERAKLION TOUR (B, L, D)**

Breakfast at the hotel and early flight from Thessaloniki airport to **Heraklion, Crete**.

Today we explore **the cradle of the Minoan civilization**, and the **Minoan Palace** – labyrinth of legendary King Minos and its mythical Minotaur. Next we head to **Heraklion city**. We will see unique Venetian monuments: the Venetian fountain of Morosini, the Basilica of St. Marc, the Venetian Loggia, St. Titos church, and the Venetian Port with the Fortress of "Koule". We enjoy a visit to the town's open-air market. In the old Venetian port, one can see the vaulted tarsanades where ships were built, while the western side is dominated by the 16th century **Koule fortress**.

3 nights in **Heraklion, Crete**.

#### **DAY 13: RETHYMNO & CHANIA OLD TOWN (B, L, D)**

After our breakfast we head west to visit old towns of **Rethymno** and **Chania** to see medieval Venetian sites with free time for shopping. We enjoy a traditional Cretan lunch in Chania. Return to Heraklion in the afternoon.

#### **DAY 14: ELOUNDA, AGIOS NIKOLAOS & IERAPETRA | ATHENS (B, L, D)**

After our breakfast we head east to visit **Elounda** and **Agios Nikolaos**. After lunch we visit **Ierapetra**. We return to Heraklion and embark our ferry to Athens. Dinner onboard the ferry.

Overnight in your cabin on the **Heraklion-Athens ferry**.



### DAY 15: ATHENS WALKING TOUR (B, L, D)

Breakfast on the ferry. We disembark and start our **Athens tour** visiting the **Acropolis**, The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and the Parthenon. We then visit the **New Acropolis Museum**. Free time for lunch and then walk to the **ancient Agora** (Market). On this magnificent walking tour we will see the **Stoa of Attalos**, originally erected during the 2nd century BC. Afterwards we see the **Temple of Hephaestus**. Then we will have free time at **Plaka**, which is the picturesque oldest quarter of Athens filled with small handicraft stores and **Monastiraki (the Flea Market)** where you can have a pleasant walk before returning to the Hotel.

2 nights in **Athens**.

### DAY 16: 3 ISLANDS CRUISE ON SARONIC GULF (B, L, D)

Early breakfast at the hotel. Today we explore the famous Greek islands on a Saronic Cruise. We cover three of the most beautiful islands in the Saronic Gulf: **Aegina, Hydra and Poros**. These islands are small havens near Athens where we will enjoy natural beauty, historical treasures, unique architecture, and a glamorous, yet romantic atmosphere.

On the island of **Aegina** we visit the famous **Aphaea Temple**. Second stop is **Hydra island** with traditional stone mansions, narrow cobblestone streets, secluded squares and around 500 donkeys as the means of public transportation. The town of **Poros** is built in the shape of an amphitheater over two hills. Poros has lush pine trees, crystal clear beaches, a lively waterfront adorned with shops, cozy cafes and restaurants, a picturesque capital with grand traditional mansions and picturesque cobblestone streets. Enjoy a Mediterranean buffet lunch during the cruise. After the cruise we have dinner.

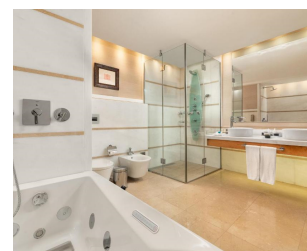
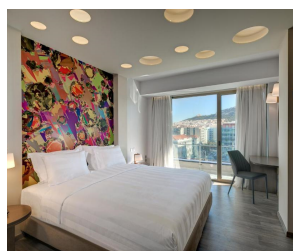
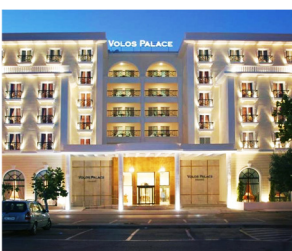
### DAY 17: DEPART ATHENS – ARRIVE IN N. AMERICA (B)

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

\*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.

## 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.



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