



**Tour:** The Wonders of Greece  
**Destination:** Athens, Crete, Delphi, Corinth, Epidaurus & Nafplio  
**Itinerary:** 11-days / 10-nights (inclusive of overnight travel)  
**Specialization:** History, Science, Language & Culture

The Wonders of Greece: Athens, Crete, Delphi & more				
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Travel outbound to Athens, Greece (overnight flight)			
2	Arrive Athens, check into Hotel	Rest & Relaxation	Welcome, Safety & Orientation	Greek Welcome Dinner
3	Athens Exploration with Private Guide - The Acropolis, The Acropolis Museum, and "Life in the Universe" at the Athens Planetarium			Traditional Greek Tavern Dinner
4	National Archaeological Museum with Specialized Guide	Ancient Agora	Prepare for departure	Travel Overnight to Crete by Boat; Dinner Onboard
5	Traditional Greek Cooking Workshop	Greek Dancing Master Class		Free time in Crete Hotel Dinner
6	Crete Exploration with Private Guide - Knossos Archaeological Site	CretAquarium & Marine Life Master Class	Horseback Riding & Horse Care Workshop	Local Dinner
7	Arolithos Traditional Cretan Village with Bread & Olives Master Class	Sfendoni Cave Tour		Dinner Traditional Dance Performance
8	Minoan Civilization of Crete - The Heraklion Archaeological Museum with Master Class	Guided City Tour of Heraklion	Flight to Athens	Dinner Greek Mythology & Storytelling
9	Delphi Exploration with Private Guide, & Traditional Souviak Lunch			Hotel Dinner
10	Corinth Canal, Epidaurus & Nafplio Excursion Day Trip with Private Guide			Farewell Dinner
11	Transfer to the airport; return travel home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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## Days 1

*Overnight flights; meals in flight*

# GREECE

## Day 2

*Meals in flight; dinner in destination*

**Welcome to Greece!** Upon arrival in Athens and after immigration and customs formalities, our guide will be there to welcome us to this fabulous country. After hotel check-in, we'll take some time to get settled after our long flight and have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting. Once your flights have been booked and dependent upon your arrival time, you may wish to add an activity for the day. We purposefully leave this day's activities open just for this reason. You may wish to rest and refresh, or do something more exciting; the choice is yours! Just let us know how we may best serve you.



*Greece...* Greece is a country with thousands of islands throughout the Aegean and Ionian seas. Influential in ancient times, it's often called the **cradle of Western civilization**. Athens, its capital, retains landmarks including the 5th-century B.C. Acropolis citadel with the Parthenon temple. Few civilizations have left such a mark on our modern world. Greece is also known for its beaches, from the black sands of Santorini to the party resorts of Mykonos. From the grand architecture, the philosophical discoveries and their mythology, Ancient Greece laid the foundation for much of our culture today. During our spectacular trip through Greece, your students will experience the sciences, sports, history and culture that led to the rise of this influential civilization.

*Your chariot awaits!*

*Athens* - the capital of Greece, is one of the oldest cities in the world. Athens took its name from the goddess Athena. Its first name was Kekropia deriving from its mythical founder and first King Kekrops until the competition between Poseidon and Athena was won by Athena, who became protector of the young and rising city, to which she offered the gift of the olive tree, symbolizing serenity, and her name, symbolizing wisdom.

Athens, the cradle of democracy, philosophy and the western civilization as we know it today, begun as a small, fortified village built on top of the Acropolis rock as far back as 3,000 years B.C. Through the years, Athens became one of the most powerful city-states of the ancient world and produced the first and most influential philosophers, poets and scientists - like Plato, Sophocles, Euripides and Socrates. Athens became the symbol of freedom, thinking and art. Athens is now a city with great life, stunning walks, and many museums, such as one of the world's greatest, the "National Archeological Museum" where you can see incredible examples of ancient works of art from Athens and other parts of Greece. The Byzantine & Christian Museum, the Benakis Museum of Greek Culture, and the Museum of Cycladic Art are also amazing world-class museums to sample.



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*Hotel Note – in all locations, hotels may range from general 3-star properties to stunning 4-star experiences. Please let us know your preference when requesting a quote.*

Tonight, we'll dine locally with a Greek Welcome dinner.

### **Day 3**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Athens! Today after breakfast, we'll discover the historical side of Athens - the capitol, political and cultural center of Greece. We'll embark on a full-day guided tour to explore the Acropolis and the Acropolis Museum, followed by a visit to the Athens Planetarium.



**The Acropolis** - A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**: The Acropolis of Athens and its monuments are universal symbols of the classical spirit and civilization and form the greatest architectural and artistic complex bequeathed by Greek antiquity to the world. The most important monuments are the Parthenon, built by Ictinus, the Erechtheon, the Propylaea, the monumental entrance to the Acropolis designed by Mnesicles, and the small temple Athena Nike.



**The Acropolis Museum** - The Acropolis Museum was founded to exhibit all the significant finds from the Sacred Rock and its foothills. The Museum hosts its collections across three levels, as well as in the archaeological excavation that lies at its foundations.



**Athens Planetarium** - The digital show "Life in the Universe" invites you on a fascinating search for life beyond Earth. Starting with the origin and evolution of life on our planet, the show focuses on the planets and the moons of our Solar system that are more likely to host microbial life, as well as to the key methods used by astronomers for the detection and study of an exoplanet. What might exist in the billions of stars in the billions of galaxies beyond? (Show topics are subject to change)

This evening we'll enjoy a traditional Greek tavern dinner in Athens.



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## Day 4

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Greece! This morning, we will continue exploring Athens with a more in-depth look at archaeology.

**National Archaeological Museum** - The National Archaeological Museum in Athens houses some of the most important artifacts from a variety of locations around Greece from prehistory to late antiquity. It is considered **one of the greatest museums in the world** and contains the richest collection of artifacts from Greek antiquity worldwide. These rich collections, enumerating more than 11,000 exhibits, offer a panorama of ancient Greek culture.



The museum's exhibition grounds, dozens of halls on each floor, cover an area of 8,000 m<sup>2</sup> and houses the five major permanent collections: The Collection of Prehistoric Antiquities which includes works of the great civilizations that developed in the Aegean from the 6th millennium to 1050 BC (Neolithic, Cycladic and Mycenaean) and finds from the prehistoric settlement of Thira; the Collection of Sculpture Works presenting the evolution of ancient Greek sculpture from the 7th century BC until the 5th century AD through unique works of art; the Vase and Miniature Collection which includes representative works of ancient Greek ceramics from the 11th century BC up to the Roman era, as well as the Stathatos Collection - a timeless collection of miniature artifacts; the Collection of Metalworking Works with many unique original works, statues, figurines and miniature crafts; and finally, the collection of Egyptian and Eastern Antiquities with works of art, dating from the pre-emptive period (5000 BC) to the times of the Roman conquest. Enjoy!

In the afternoon, we will visit the Agora of Athens.

**Agora** - The word "agora" applies to an assembly of people and marks their gathering place. In modern Greek, the term means "marketplace". Just about every ancient and modern city includes a place for an agora, and the **Agora of Athens**, being located at the heart of the city, remained in use either as an assembly, as a commercial area, or as a residential area for about 5000 years. Consequently, the area has undergone countless building, destruction, and rebuilding cycles. Today this strata of history has been distilled through excavations to expose the Agora's important functions from Archaic to Greco-Roman and Byzantine times. Here we will learn about what stood anciently and learn how different civilizations used the market, what they sold and what they traded, why they met, how they lived.



Contrasting with the austere ruins in the middle of the archaeological site however, two splendid buildings stand as testaments to its past glory: the humble **Temple of Hephaestus**, which is the best preserved ancient Greek temple from the Classical era, and the impressive **Stoa of Attalos** - a building of the Hellenistic period.



This evening we will set sail! Traveling to Crete via boat, we'll have dinner onboard and wake up to the Island of Crete. Please understand this is a **ferry boat** to Crete with few amenities, it is not a cruise ship. Boats generally do not have showers in their rooms so please be prepared. Showers will be available in the late afternoon when we check into our hotel. If you desire a more upscale sail, please let us know and we will be happy to explore options on your behalf.

**Day 5**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Hello Crete! Today you will be waking up onboard our ferry boat. Stretch, dust off and get ready for an amazing new destination – Crete! Today is all about fabulous Greek culture!

**Crete** - The birthplace of both the king of the Olympian gods and of modern European civilization, Crete is a Mediterranean jewel. It's rich with archaeological and mythological history that's reflected in its ancient ruins and cultural attractions. Soak up the charming atmosphere of Chania Town's Old Venetian Harbor or the fortresses and monasteries of Rethymonon. The awesome Minoan ruins of Malia date to 1900 BC, and majestic Mount Ida is said to be home to the cave where Zeus was born. – Trip Advisor



**Traditional Greek Cooking Workshop** - If you are interested in Cretan cuisine, Greek food, or you are just crazy about cooking, you will love this lesson. You cook, taste and enjoy local recipes and prepare delicious dishes with the guidance and assistance of a professional chef. All dishes are made of genuine, pure Cretan products such as olive oil, vegetables, cheese, meat, wine, etc. and of course all the ingredients are fresh and local.



This afternoon, we will kick up our heels as we learn about Greek Dance!



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**Traditional Greek Dancing Workshop** - Start this extraordinary dancing day at a Traditional Cretan village. Upon your arrival, you will be met by the warm and welcoming staff with a serving of traditional nuts. As you enjoy your local delicacies, your friendly staff will give you a run-down of the 2-hour dance lesson. During your dance workshop, you will learn to dance the Greek and Cretan way. Under the tutelage of a professional dancer, you will learn the most famous and popular dances of Greece and Crete. You will be taught how to dance the famous Zorba, Sirtaki, Kalamatianos, Anogianos among others. After your dance lesson, you will take a 30-minute visit to the Museum of Rural History and Folk Craft where you will learn about the various historical traditions that exist in Crete.

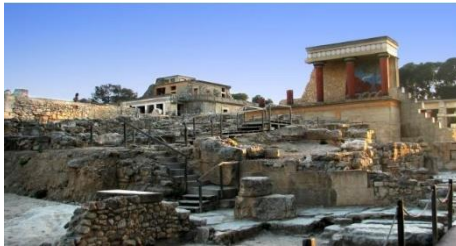


After, we'll check into our hotel, get settled and have dinner. Time for rest!

### **Day 6**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Greece! Today will be one of adventure as we explore caves, visit the local aquarium and participate in a workshop, then wrap up with horseback riding.



**Knossos Archaeological Site** - Join our specialty guide for a visit to the Knossos Archaeological Site. Knossos is the heart of the Minoan civilization and according to tradition, the seat of the legendary king Minos and the birthplace of thrilling stories such as the myths of the Labyrinth with its Minotaur and of Daidalos and Icaros. The site was inhabited continuously from the Neolithic period (7000-3000 BC) until the late Antiquity.

**CretAquarium & Marine Life Workshop** - One of the largest and most modern aquariums in Europe, the CretAquarium is geographically located on the northwestern part of the former American Base of Gournes, where together with the research institutions of HCMR forms THALASSOKOSMOS - the largest center for marine science and promotion of the Mediterranean Sea world.

CretAquarium is an expert in presenting species and ecosystems of the Mediterranean, a sea of unique biodiversity that gave birth to ancient civilizations and welcomes millions of visitors every year from all over the world. Offering 60 tanks of different sizes, containing a total amount of 1,700,000 liters of sea water, it is home to 2000 sea animals, 200 different species found in the Mediterranean basin, and successfully represents the Cretan and Mediterranean Sea beds. While here, our students will participate in a specialized marine science workshop.



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**Horseback Riding plus Horse Care Workshop** – Get ready for a fun afternoon learning about horses. We'll get an opportunity to learn about horse care from a trainer - understanding their psychology, needs and diets - then get a chance to ride off into the sunset on a guided tour.



This evening, we'll have dinner and then the evening is free for fun!

### **Day 7**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Crete! This morning we will learn about Cretan traditions and culture. In the afternoon, we're going caving!

**Arolithos Traditional Cretan Village** - It was at the beginning of the 80's, that Mr. Saloustris, an intelligent, creative and diligent dreamer, decided to launch his work of a lifetime. His intention was to offer something to Crete, his motherland. His creation was the establishment of a Traditional Village that would reflect many aspects of Cretan tradition with aspects such as arts and crafts, cuisine, and local customs. Gradually over time, Arolithos was formed. At times when nobody in Greece had ever heard of agricultural tourism, Arolithos already existed, resulting from an individual initiative by someone who loved his country passionately. Nowadays Arolithos is exclusively owned by the family of Georgis and Marika Saloustris. Together with their four children, they work with zeal and passion to maintain that vision.



**Bread & Olives Master Class** - While here, our groups participate in the Bread & Olives Master Class. The program presents the process of making wheat flour bread and producing olive oil, in detail. It is implemented in different areas, according to the process applied and divided in three parts including kneading and baking bread, nutrition, and culture review. The class is approximately 1.5-hours.

**Sfendoni Cave Tour** - Sfendoni Cave one of the most important caves in Greece, covering an area of about 3,000 square meters. The cave's unique and rare beauty is mesmerizing, establishing it as one of Crete's most beautiful caves. Visitors are allowed to explore a route of about 270m, along which they can admire a variety of impressive formations. Large columns create labyrinthine compartments inside the cave and stalactites and stalagmites of different colors and shapes decorate the cave's chambers.



This evening we will have dinner and then go in search of Greek dance!



***Greek Traditional Dance Performance*** - Traditional Cretan dances are performed by men and women wearing their wonderful Cretan costumes in formal events. Tonight, we will get to see and admire this beautiful art form. The main dances are pentozalis, kastrinos, pidichtos, siganos, syrto and sousta, which is danced by couples, almost danced on the tip of the toes.

### ***Day 8***

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Hello Greece! After breakfast this morning, we will check-out of our hotel in Crete. The first part of our day will be spent exploring Heraklion, and then in the afternoon, we will fly back to Athens to continue our tour.

***The Heraklion Archaeological Museum*** - The Heraklion Archaeological Museum is one of the oldest and most important museums in Greece and among the most famous museums in Europe. It houses representative artifacts from all periods of Cretan prehistory and history, covering a chronological span of over 5,500 years from the Neolithic period to Roman times. The Heraklion Archaeological Museum prides itself for its unique Minoan collection, which includes the masterpieces of Minoan art. It is rightly considered as the Museum of Minoan Culture par excellence.



***Traveling in the Mediterranean Sea Master Class*** – While at the Museum, students will participate in this 1.5-hour Master Class. Students become members of a commercial ship crew that travels in time, from pre-history to the Roman Era, around the Mediterranean. Students digitally bargain, exchange, and become familiar with non-local materials, techniques, and beliefs that circulated through maritime trade in antiquity.

***Heraklion City Tour*** – Meet your guide and get to know the city of Heraklion. Heraklion is the largest city of Crete and one of Greece’s major urban centers. Its development began in the wake of the 9th century AD (in antiquity, Knossos was the island’s most important center, followed by Gortyn). In later times, Heraklion came under Arabic, Venetian and Ottoman rule; its conquerors initially gave it the name Khandaq or Handak which was corrupted to Candia. Among the most outstanding sights of Heraklion are the fortification walls that delimit the “old city”. The first fortifications were built by the Arabs and were later reinforced by the Venetians in the 15th century. From the seven bastions, only the Martinengo bastion survives to this day. From the four gates to the city, only Chanioporta (1570) with the characteristic winged Lion of Saint Marc and the New Gate (1587) at the southern side survive today.





In the late afternoon we will transfer to the airport and **fly back to Athens**; approximate flight time is 1-hour. Once we get checked in and settled in our hotel, we will have dinner at our hotel, followed by an evening of **Greek Mythology & Storytelling**.

### **Day 9**

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Athens! Today we will embark on a day trip to Delphi.

**Delphi Guided Tour & Traditional Souviak Lunch** - At the foot of Mount Parnassos, within the angle formed by the twin rocks of the Phaedriades, lies the Pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi, which had the most famous oracle of ancient Greece. Delphi was regarded as the center of the world and according to mythology, it is here that the two eagles sent out by Zeus from the ends of the universe to find the “navel of the world” met. The sanctuary of Delphi, set within a most spectacular landscape, was for many centuries the cultural and religious center and symbol of unity for the Hellenic world.



The history of Delphi begins in prehistory and in the myths of the ancient Greeks. In the beginning the site was sacred to Mother Earth and was guarded by the terrible serpent Python, who was later killed by Apollo. Apollo's sanctuary was built here by Cretans who arrived at Kirrha, the port of Delphi, accompanied by the god in the form of a dolphin. Today, the archaeological site of Delphi includes two sanctuaries, dedicated to Apollo and Athena, some buildings intended for sports, the Persians, a statue of Emperor Hadrian, and a building known as the "house of the priests".

After our full day exploring Delphi, we'll have dinner and then the evening is ours for exploration. Have something special in mind? Just let us know. We are happy to make it happen if we can!

## Day 10

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Greece! It's our last full day and we will be making a very special trip to visit "Classical Greece" including Corinth, Epidaurus and Nafplio.

**Ancient Corinth** – This morning we'll travel to Corinth. Located on the isthmus which connects mainland Greece with the Peloponnese, surrounded by fertile plains and blessed with natural springs, Corinth was an important city in Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman times. Its geographical location, role as a center of trade, naval fleet, participation in various Greek wars, and status as a major Roman colony meant the city was, for over a millennium, rarely out of the limelight in the ancient world.



We will see the **Corinth Canal**. We'll see the distant view of the straits between the mainland and the island of **Salamis**, where the famous naval battle between the Greeks and the Persians took place and where the Greek navy crashed off the Persian coast. A number of historians believe that a Persian victory would have hamstrung the development of Ancient Greece, and by extension western civilization, and this has led them to argue that Salamis is one of the most significant battles in human history. In the same spot now is the largest naval base in Greece.

Next, we will visit the ancient theatre of Epidaurus and then the lovely seaside city of Nafplio.

**Epidaurus** - The Epidaurus Theatre is one of the most important ancient sites in Greece, with an almost perfectly preserved Amphitheatre built 2,500 years ago and still hosting Greek dramas today. This **World Heritage Site** is located at the eastern end of the Peloponnese, and according to Greek mythology, Epidaurus was the birthplace of **Asclepius**, the god of healing and son of **Apollo**. The site later became one of the most important centers of healing in the ancient world and by the 4th century BC, the sick traveled from far and wide to seek medical and mystical cures at the sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius.



**Nafplio** - Nafplio is overlooked by the **Palamidi & Akronafplia Castle** on the hill which runs down to the sea, gathering the historic buildings on its way. A testimony to Nafplio's beauty and strategic location is that the Venetians made it the capital of their lands in Greece. There are fabulous surrounding areas, vistas, views and tiny villages to venture towards and explore!



After our incredible day of exploration, we will travel back to Athens and have our Farewell Dinner.

### **Day 11**

Breakfast (dependent upon departure times)

After breakfast and our final explorations, we'll prepare to leave fabulous Greece; saying goodbye to our new friends and taking away memories that will last a lifetime. Dependent upon airport check-in times, we'll have breakfast at our hotel if time allows.

# ΕΙΣ ΤΟ ΕΠΑΝΙΔΕΙΝ

(Until we meet again)



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# The Wonders of Greece

**Minimum Booking Numbers:**

16 students

**What's Included:**

Round-trip international flights  
9-nights' accommodation in Greece + overnight air  
Breakfasts, lunches & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure (dependent upon departure time)  
Transportation to programmed activities & airport transfers  
The Acropolis  
The Acropolis Museum  
Athens Planetarium with Astronomy Show  
National Archaeological Museum  
Ancient Agora  
Overnight Ferry accommodations to Crete  
Traditional Greek Cooking Workshop  
Greek Dancing Master Class  
Knossos Archaeological Site  
CretAquarium + Marine Life Master Class  
Horseback Riding + Horse Care Workshop  
Arolithos Traditional Cretan Village + Culture "Bread & Olives" Master Class  
Sfendoni Cave Tour  
Traditional Crete Dance Performance  
Heraklion Archaeological Museum + Master Class  
Heraklion City Tour with Guide  
Domestic Flight from Crete to Athens  
Greek Mythology & Storytelling Evening  
Delphi Exploration with Guide + Traditional Souviak Lunch  
Corinth Canal  
Epidaurus Theatre & Grounds  
Nafplio Excursion  
Personal Tour Ambassador  
Fund-a-Forest: A tree is planted in the name of each guest  
Dollar\$ For Scholars: \$2 donation in the name of each guest  
24-hour emergency cover

**What's Not Included:**

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)  
Transfers to/from home airport  
Transportation for activities not shown in the itinerary  
Lunches and other meals/snacks not shown in itinerary  
Cost of visas, full or collective passports  
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel  
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary  
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc.  
Any gratuities – drivers, hotel services, dive instructors, boat captain and hand tips, ambassador

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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