SEMI-INDEPENDENT TOUR:
Discover Greece’s extreme beauty on this 12-day tour travelling from ancient Athens uncovering centuries of civilization at the astounding archaeological sites Acropolis, Olympia and Meteora; soaking up the gorgeous beaches of Zakynthos and the outstanding scenery of the Peloponnese before discovering the magical island of Santorini.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights
• Athens - discover one of the world’s oldest cities, from the ancient Acropolis and temple of Zeus to the modern Panathenaic Stadium
• Peloponnese - cross the rocky peninsula at the heart of Greek history, home to Epidaurus, Mycenae, and the Corinth Canal
• Olympia - learn about the site of the original Olympics, where the Statue of Zeus - an ancient Wonder of the World - once stood
• Delphi - follow the Sacred Way in the footsteps of pilgrims who sought the oracle’s advice at this holy sanctuary
• Meteora - admire the stunning, UNESCO-listed rock formations and clifftop monasteries
• Thermopylae - relive the Spartans’ famous last stand against the Persians on this narrow pass
• Zakynthos - explore the famous Navagio shipwreck beach and swim in the azure blue waters at the Blue Caves
• Santorini - relax on one of Greece’s most beautiful islands, where whitewashed villages perch on volcanic cliffs
• Nafplion - stroll through the labyrinthine streets and discover the Venetian and Turkish architecture

What’s Included
• 11 nights 3-4 star hotels
• 11 breakfasts and 3 dinners
• One arrival transfer on Day 1 (Athens) and One departure transfer on Day 12 (Santorini) included per booking
• Entrance fees for all included sites
• Services of an English-speaking tour guide for all scheduled sightseeing
• Note: Touring is operated in conjunction with other tourist groups, not solely On The Go. You will join travellers who booked through other operators for sightseeing each day, some staying in different hotels, and spend your evenings at leisure. The group can vary in size from 20 - 45 persons. Guiding may be in an additional language to English.

What’s Not Included
• International flights and visas
• Tipping - an entirely personal gesture
• A hotel tax of €3.00 per room per night to be paid directly to the hotel at time of check in. Please budget Euro 18, for the duration of the tour. See Trip Notes for details.

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Athens
Welcome to Athens! On arrival you will be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel, where you have the rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight - Athens
### Day 2 : Athens & the Acropolis

Today explore the most important landmarks and monuments of the historical city of Athens on a coach tour. You’ll see the Panathenaic Stadium, home of the first modern Olympic Games and other iconic landmarks including the Zappeion, the temple of Olympian Zeus, and Hadrian’s wall. Then visit the iconic Acropolis and enjoy a guided visit to Propylae, the temple of Athena Nike, the Parthenon, the Erechtheion and the Acropolis Museum, recently voted one of the best museums in the world. This afternoon is free for you to independently explore – wander through the picturesque old neighbourhood of Plaka or shop for souvenirs on Ermou Street.

**Overnight - Athens (B)**

### Day 3 : Epidaurus & Mycenae

Athens - Epidaurus - Mycenae - Olympia. This morning bid farewell to Athens and travel to the Peloponnese, home to many of Greece’s greatest archaeological sites. First stop is the impressive Corinth Canal which separates the Greek mainland from the Peloponnese before travelling on to Epidaurus, a hub of ancient healing famous for its giant theatre.

This afternoon there’s a brief stop in Nafplion, a beautiful town filled with numerous Venetian and Turkish buildings nestled in a labyrinth of narrow streets. Then continue to Mycenae, one of the most famous archaeological sites in the country. The site includes the towering Cyclopean walls, the beehive tomb of Agamemnon and the famous Lion’s Gate. In the afternoon, cross the Peloponnesian Mountains to Olympia, where there’s time to freshen up or relax before dinner at the hotel.

**Overnight - Olympia (B, D)**

### Day 4 : Ancient Olympia

Olympia - Zakynthos. This morning enjoy a guided tour of the archaeological site of ancient Olympia, home of the original Olympic Games. Highlights include the Temple of Zeus, the Palestra and Phidias’s Workshop. Then continue to one of the richest museums in Greece, home to the impressive Hermes of Praxitelis statue.

In the afternoon leave the rest of the group and take a private transfer to the port of Kyllini to board a local ferry to the island of Zakynthos, one of the most popular islands on the Ionian Sea. After checking into our hotel the rest of the afternoon is free for you to explore.

**Overnight - Zakynthos (B)**

### Day 5 : Zakynthos island tour

This morning embark on a coach tour to the north-east part of Zakynthos and learn about the history and mythology of the island en-route. There’s a brief stop at Alykes Hills for the perfect photo opportunity with great scenery overlooking the whole of the island, mainland Greece and the neighbouring island of Kefalonia. Then arrive at a small fishing village and board a boat to travel around the north shores of the island, arriving at Navagio beach, the most photographed beach in the world, before the crowds. The boat then continues to the famous “Blue Caves” (subject to weather conditions), one of the islands most famous natural attractions. Take a dip in the caves rich waters which appear to turn everything below the water blue. On your way back to the port look out for dolphins and sea-turtles before stopping at the sea-spa of Xingia, a small sandy beach with turquoise waters containing traces of Sulphur and collagen. Enjoy a swim that will leave you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated. Return to your hotel for an afternoon at leisure.

**Overnight - Delphi (B, D)**

### Day 6 : Zakynthos

Zakynthos - Delphi. This morning there’s free time to enjoy the town of Zakynthos before your transfer to Kyllini port where you will board the ferry back to the mainland. From here continue your tour of mainland Greece. It’s a scenic drive around Oatras and over the Rio-Antirio bridge to the picturesque town of Delphi in time for dinner at the hotel. Watch the sunset over the Gulf of Corinth and soak up the incredible views of Delphi’s dramatic landscape.

**Overnight - Delphi (B, D)**

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Day 7: Delphi & the Temple of Apollo

Delphi - Kalambaka. Delphi, one of the most sacred pilgrimage centres in the world, is yours to explore on a guided tour today. Admire the Sanctuary of Apollo and walk up the Sacred Way to reach the incredible Temple of Apollo. After exploring this spectacular archaeological site, see the bronze Charioteer statue and the mythical omphalos stone at the fascinating Delphi Museum. This afternoon cross the mountains of central Greece on your journey to Kalambaka, the gateway to Meteroa. After dinner at the hotel, the evening is free to explore the town. Overnight - Kalambaka (B, D)

Day 8: Monasteries of Meteora

Kalambaka - Meteora - Athens. After breakfast visit the extraordinary Meteora World Heritage Site, where Byzantine monasteries are perched on top of towering rock formations. Marvel at the surreal landscape and explore two of the Orthodox monasteries, which provided a sacred retreat for monks over centuries. From Meteora it’s a long drive back to Athens with a stop en route at Thermopylae, where King Leonidas and 300 Spartans made a famous last stand against the Persians in 480 BC. Upon arrival bid farewell to your fellow travellers and spend the evening at leisure. Overnight - Athens (B)

Day 9: Athens to Santorini

Athens - Santorini. After breakfast, you will be transferred to the port of Piraeus to catch the local ferry to the magical island of Santorini. The journey takes roughly 8 hours and on arrival you’ll be met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight - Santorini (B)

Days 10-11: Santorini R&R

The next two days are free for you to relax and explore the beautiful volcanic island of Santorini. No trip to the island would be complete without exploring the whitewashed towns of Fira and Oia which boast amazing views of the volcano that birthed the island. Sit on the black-sanded beaches for one of the best sunsets in the Aegean or cruise around the caldera on a boat tour. Overnight - Santorini (B:2)

Day 12: Santorini

Your tour of Greece ends today. Spend the morning at leisure before an included transfer to Santorini airport for your onward flight. (B)

HOTELS

Highlighted below are some of the hotels which we frequently use on this tour, though we reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard.

Please refer to your Tour Voucher for your confirmed arrival hotel and further arrival information.

Polis Grand

In the heart of Athens, the Polis Grand is a contemporary hotel with excellent facilities. Guest rooms are well appointed with elegant furniture and all modern conveniences.

Some rooms are equipped with a balcony with fantastic views over to the Acropolis. The hotel benefits from a number of eateries which serve up an array of Greek and international cuisine as well as tasty coffee and delicious pies. Definitley head for a cocktail in the evening at the roof garden bar for amazing views across the city.

Titania Hotel

Nestled in the historic centre of Athens, the Titiana offers beautiful accommodation all classically designed. The ensuite guest rooms are furnished to a high standard with neutral tones and wooden flooring. Breakfast is served in the impressive rooftop Olive Garden restaurant which affords amazing views across the city including the Acropolis. The hotel also benefits from complimentary Wi-Fi and a fitness centre.

Hotel Arty Grand

Located on top of a hill overlooking Olympia, the Arty Grand Hotel is all about the guest experience. From the welcoming reception hall, up to the spacious rooms and beautiful verandas, the Arty Grand provides world-class treatment. Arranged over three floors, there is an outdoor swimming pool and spa centre, where you can relax with a rejuvenating massage after a day of exploring. The hotel serves a daily breakfast buffet and you can order from the lunch and dinner menu. Then take your pick between the hotel or poolside bar to enjoy an evening drink.

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classical greece & idyllic islands

hotel europa
set at the top of drouvas hill, hotel europa offers views of the arcadian mountains and alfios valley from your own private balcony. the spacious guestrooms also feature marble floors and modern amenities, with free wifi and breakfast included. relax on the comfortable sunbeds by the outdoor pool that is surrounded by luscious greenery. within the garden there is a greek tavern where you can enjoy a delicious feast of mediterranean cuisine prepared with natural and organic ingredients.

hotel amalia
located at the foot of mount parnassus, hotel amalia overlooks a picturesque green valley and the ionian sea. guestrooms are spread over four levels, offering plenty of natural light and all the essential amenities. relax in the main lounge where you can enjoy the magnificent vistas by a rustic fireplace. next to the beautiful gardens you will find the main restaurant, serving up a rich american buffet breakfast and a la carte lunch and dinner featuring greek cuisine. you can also enjoy coffee, fresh juice and cocktails as you unwind at the poolside bar.

hotel apollonia
situated in an ideal location within the modern town, hotel apollonia provides the perfect base for exploring ancient delphi. offering a majestic view of the corinthian gulf, the hotel combines wood and stone in a traditional-style build. the spacious guestrooms and modern facilities offer a very comfortable stay, with a delicious breakfast and dinner served in the hotel restaurant. you can also relax by a cozy fire with a drink or two from the bar.

orizontes hotel & villas santorini
located in the village of pyrgos, the orizontes hotel was recently renovated and is surrounded by vineyards. guest rooms have private balconies looking out to the sea or the garden and are equipped with lots of modern conveniences. the hotel also has a couple of restaurants serving local and international cuisine. plus there is a lovely outdoor pool to cool down in and lots of sunbeds.

el greco resort & spa
conveniently located just minutes from the centre of fira, el greco is a beautiful white washed complex in the classic santorini style. all guest rooms are air conditioned and reflect the cycladic style whilst including all mod-cons and exception ensuite facilities. the resort benefits from an outdoor pool, on site restaurant and adult-only spa centre for guests.

prices / dates info
prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. the ‘single supplement’ applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person

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Classical Greece & Idyllic Islands

price. Departure dates noted with a ‘G’ are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons.

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