

Jewels of Greece and Aegean Islands

8 Days | Starts/Ends: Athens



SEMI INDEPENDENT TOUR:

Combine classic Greek history with sun-kissed islands on this 8-day group tour which takes in the key sites of the mainland and includes a 3-night island hopping cruise. Discover the legendary Acropolis in Athens, marvel at the cliff-top monasteries of Meteora and relax on the beaches of Mykonos. Cross into Turkey to see the ruins of Ephesus and wander the streets of white-washed Oia and Fira on Santorini.

HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

Trip Highlights

- Athens - Discover some of the world's most famous architecture, from the Panathenaic Stadium to the legendary Acropolis
- Meteora - Marvel at the magical and sacred cliff-top monasteries in one of the most beautiful regions of Greece
- Santorini - Wander the streets of the pretty whitewashed towns of Oia and Fira or relax on the volcanic black sand lava beaches
- Kusadasi - Hop into Turkey for an excursion to the incredible ruins of

Ephesus and marvel at the Library of Celsus

- Delphi - Follow in the footsteps of ancient pilgrims along the Sacred Way and admire the Temple of Apollo
- Mykonos - Relax on the Greek island's famous beaches and enjoy a glass of wine in one of the town's many bars
- Crete - Enjoy an included excursion to the Minoan Palace of Knossos which was the home of the Minotaur in Greek mythology
- Thermopylae - Visit the site where King Leonidas made his infamous final stand against the Persians in 480BC

What's Included

- 7 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 4 dinners
- 4 nights 4 star hotels
- 3 nights Greek island cruise aboard a Celestyal Olympia Cruise ship - inside cabin with all meals, daily drinks package (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), port taxes and service charges, tips on board
- One Airport arrival on Day 1 and one departure transfer on day 8 per booking
- Guided sightseeing in Athens, Delphi and Meteora and included excursion to Ephesus and the Minoan Palace of Knossos
- Services of an English-speaking tour guide for all scheduled sightseeing from days 1 - 4 and services of local guides for included sightseeing
- Entrance fees for all included sites

- All transfers and transportation in modern air conditioned vehicles
- 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 (tipping is included on the cruise from days 5 - 8)
- 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 12, for days 1 - 4. The hotel tax is not applicable on the cruise. See Trip Notes additional info for details

ITINERARY

Day 1 : Welcome to Athens!

Welcome to Greece! On arrival in Athens, you will be met and transferred to our hotel. The rest of the day is free to head out and explore the city, an incredible contrast of the ancient and the modern. **Overnight - Athens**

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Day 2 : Athens sightseeing



Today we embark on a guided coach tour of Athens. We take in important highlights of the city including the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Zappeion and the Panathenaic Stadium, which is the only stadium in the world built entirely from marble. We also see the Greek Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Later we head to Athens' most iconic attraction - the legendary Acropolis. The Acropolis is an ancient citadel built atop a rock overlooking the city. As well as the amazing view, we take in the highlights of the site, including the Temple of Athena Nike, the Propylae and the most famous of all ancient Greek architecture, the Parthenon. We visit the excellent Acropolis Museum and the afternoon is at leisure to wander the streets of the picturesque Plaka district. **Overnight - Athens (B)**

Day 3 : The Delphi Sanctuary



Athens - Delphi - Kalambaka. Leaving Athens, we head north towards Delphi, which was once one of the world's most sacred sites and an important pilgrimage destination. We admire the UNESCO-listed Sanctuary of Apollo and follow the footsteps of ancient Greeks on the Sacred Way. Admire the remains of the Temple of Apollo, home of

the legendary Pythian Oracle. After our visit, we cross the mountains of Central Greece to Kalambaka. **Overnight - Kalambaka (B, D)**

Day 4 : Meteora & Thermopylae



Kalambaka - Meteora - Athens. Today we visit Meteora, where tiny sacred monasteries perch atop incredible towering rock formations. Meteora is considered one of the most beautiful regions in the whole of Greece and the view from the cliffs is breathtaking.

After our visit to Meteora, we begin to make our way back to Athens. We stop at Thermopylae, where King Leonidas and 300 Spartans made a famous last stand against the Persians in 480 BC. A statue now stands here in the Spartan king's honour. After a quick photo opportunity, we continue to Athens, where the evening is at leisure. **Overnight - Athens (B)**

Day 5 : Cruising to Mykonos



Athens - Mykonos. Enjoy a final breakfast in Athens before we transport you to Piraeus Port where you board your boat for a four day Greek island cruise. Your tour is independent from here. Settle in onboard before you depart for Mykonos, the island famous for its pristine white sand beaches and

busy nightlife. There's free time to explore Mykonos town and relax with a glass of wine in one of the islands many bars. **Overnight - Mykonos (onboard) (B, L, D)**

Day 6 : Ephesus & Patmos



Mykonos - Kusadasi (Turkey) - Patmos. Today we have a trip into Turkey as we dock at Kusadasi and visit the legendary marble ruins of Ephesus on an included excursion. Highlights of these famous ruins include the Temple of Serapis and the colossal Library of Celsus.

After our visit, the ship sets sail for the small Greek island of Patmos. Here you can join an optional visit to the famous monastery of St John and the Grotto of the Apocalypse. This site is believed to be where John of Patmos had the visions that he recorded in the Book of Revelation. **Overnight - Patmos (onboard) (B, L, D)**

Day 7 : Crete & Santorini



Patmos - Crete - Santorini. Early this morning we dock at Heraklion, Crete. Enjoy an included visit to the Minoan Palace of Knossos. Legend has it this is where King Minos dwelt, and kept his son, the Minotaur, hidden in a labyrinth beneath the city.

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We sail to the enchanting island of Santorini this afternoon. Santorini is considered one of the prettiest islands in the world, with black sand lava beaches and pretty whitewashed towns. There's free time to explore the island and you may opt to ride the cable car up to Fira town or join an optional excursion to Oia village, perched on the rim of a volcanic caldera. **Overnight - Santorini (onboard)** (B, L, D)

Day 8 : Athens

Santorini - Athens. Today we cruise back to Athens. Enjoy breakfast onboard before disembarkation and an included transfer to the airport. (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. Definitely 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 Titania 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 Amalia

Hotel Amalia is embedded on 14 acres of beautiful greenery. Built from traditional materials to match its surrounds, the hotel features extensive gardens, a large swimming pool and distant views of the Meteora Rocks. Guestrooms are spacious and fully equipped with the latest facilities. In the dining area, a rich American buffet breakfast is served with both local and international cuisine available for lunch and dinner. Relax by the fireplace in the hotel's cosy lounge bar and listen to piano music as you sip a cocktail.



Hotel Divani Meteora

Offering the chance to enjoy traditional Greek hospitality within a contemporary setting is the Hotel Divani Meteora. Surrounded by natural beauty, the hotel is set in front of the World Heritage-listed Meteora sandstone monasteries. The fully renovated hotel has a welcoming decor, with warm shades and a luxury wooden floor. A tranquil restaurant offers delicious Mediterranean cuisine and there is an outdoor and indoor pool. You can also unwind after a day of exploring in the sauna steam bath or bubbling Jacuzzi.



PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person when there are 2 persons sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' is compulsory for solo travellers or if your booking party cannot reach the minimum of 2 persons in a room and the amount needs to be added to the per person price. The single supplement offers the comfort of your own room and is also available to any other person wanting their own room.

PRICES / DATES 2021

Date	Twin Share	Single
01 Apr	USD 2,145	USD 2,945