

# THE BEST OF GREECE

**COSMOS.**  
Turning travel dreams into reality™

11 days incl. travel, or 10 days from Athens to Athens (6670)



## Vacation Overview

Discover the best of historic and mythical Greece. Begin your vacation with two nights in Athens and guided sightseeing that includes the amazing ancient Acropolis, as well as time at leisure. Cross the Corinth Canal and marvel at the perfect acoustics of the Epidauros Theater and at the remains of the Mycenae city fortress. Visit Sparta and see the monument to its king, Leonidas. On to Olympia, the legendary home of the Olympic Games, then cross the spectacular Rion-Antirion Bridge and spend time in mythical Delphi. Marvel at the extraordinary rock-top Meteora monasteries before returning to Athens.

## Itinerary

**Day 1 - Fri. BOARD YOUR OVERNIGHT TRANSATLANTIC FLIGHT**

**Day 2 - Sat. ARRIVE IN ATHENS, GREECE**

Check into your hotel. The rest of the day is free for you to start exploring the Greek capital. Later, meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers and maybe join them in an optional evening out.

### **Day 3 - Sun. ATHENS**

An opportunity to see island life from the cruise ship on the optional three-island cruise, visiting Aegina, Poros, and Hydra. Poros is a lush island with a maze of narrow streets. Aegina is the main producer of pistachio nuts in Greece, while Hydra is home to a large artist community and where beautiful boutiques line the scenic harbor. (B)

### **Day 4 - Mon. ATHENS–EPIDAUROS–NAUPLIA**

Join the included sightseeing tour of Athens, featuring the highlights of this ancient capital with a visit to the Acropolis. Next, west to the Corinth Canal. Journey into the Argolis to stop in Epidaurus, located in the hilly countryside dotted with pine trees and oleanders. In this magnificent setting you'll visit the open-air theater that can still seat 14,000 spectators. Head for the coast and overnight in Nauplia. (B,D)

### **Day 5 - Tue. NAUPLIA–MYCENAE–SPARTA**

This morning, enjoy the included excursion with a Local Guide to Mycenae, a city fortress cursed by the gods but rich in gold and warrior kings. Motor south in the afternoon deep into the Peloponnese to Sparta for an overnight. (B,D)

### **Day 6 - Wed. SPARTA–MYSTRA–PYLOS**

Your morning highlight will be the included sightseeing of the medieval Byzantine citadel of Mystra, at one time known as the "Florence of the East." In the afternoon, drive to Pylos, located on a quaint bay on the Messenian Gulf. (B,D)

### **Day 7 - Thu. PYLOS–NESTOR'S PALACE - Olympia is the founding city of the Olympics, dated from 776 B.C.E.**

Drive north this morning to Nestor's Palace. Your included visit will help you imagine the siege of Troy, where Nestor commanded a large fleet. A short stop at the Chora Museum will get you acquainted with the splendor of the past. Later, travel northwest to Olympia, the legendary venue of the Olympic Games, when every four years the city-states engaged in sport instead of war. (B)

### **Day 8 - Fri. OLYMPIA–Delphi Ruins**

Focus on Olympia, where the athletes of antiquity performed in honor of the King of Deities. Learn more about the history of the Olympic Games on the optional sightseeing tour. In the afternoon, drive north to Patras, the capital of the Peloponnese and the west coast's largest port. Then, proceed via the spectacular Rion-Antirion Bridge through the picturesque fishing villages along the south coast of the mainland to mythical Delphi. (B)

## **Day 9 - Sat. DELPHI–KALAMBAKA**

Optional morning sightseeing of the archaeological site in Delphi. Once called the "Navel of the Earth," Delphi was the greatest Oracle of the ancient world, where people flocked to seek advice. Now, it's one of the grandest sights in Greece; its theater and [Temple of Apollo](#) still stand in their lovely natural setting. In the afternoon, drive north by way of Lamia and on to Trikala in Thessaly for an overnight in Kalambaka. (B,D)

## **Day 10 - Sun. KALAMBAKA–[METEORA](#) –ATHENS**

A short drive to Meteora, which is a cluster of monastic buildings perched in an unforgettable manner on a set of rising rock formations. Your included visit is certainly the day's highlight. Later, drive south to Athens for an overnight. Why not join the optional Greek dinner? (B)

## **Day 11 - Mon. YOUR HOMEBOUND FLIGHT ARRIVES THE SAME DAY. (B)**

### **Optional Excursions**

Here's a list of optional excursions you can enjoy during your vacation. Whether it's a special dinner, a local show or a special behind-the-scenes glimpse into an historical site, optional excursions are a wonderful way to enrich your vacation even further. Plus, they give you flexibility. We include the must-see sites and experiences, and we also understand that people take interest in different activities and may want to craft a more personal vacation by hand-picking optional excursions that appeal to them.

Availability is subject to sufficient participation, weather conditions, seasonal suitability, days of operation, group interests, and general feasibility for your vacation. The approximate value listed gives you a good, general idea of what you can expect to pay but may vary once you are on your vacation. Some information provided might be in a foreign currency; you can use our online [currency converter](#) for exchange rate information.

CITY: Athens

### **Greek Show**

A short coach drive takes you to an authentic Greek night club, situated in Pireaus. This nightspot provides excellent food and service, with non stop entertainment including traditional dances in costumes (you will be invited to join in), live orchestra and singers. After the show finishes return to your hotel by coach.

### **Aegean Cruise**

Visit three Greek islands and enjoy lunch on board your modern cruise ship. Visit the Saronic islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra. On Hydra there are no cars, the

only means of transportation is by donkey.

### **A Taste Of Athens**

First by coach into the centre of Athens where you will pick up the "train" which will take you at a leisurely pace for about 20 minutes around the old part of Athens, the "Plaka" - a good way to get a first impression of the layout, shops and points of interest. Re-board your coach to continue to a Taverna for a Greek feast with unlimited local wine. On the way back to the hotel view the illuminated Acropolis.

CITY: Delphi

### **Delphi Archeological Site**

Ancient Delphi is situated on the southern slopes of Mount Parnassus, overlooking the sacred valley and Itea Harbour, and home to the oracle of the sun god Apollo. Visit the oracle site, the Temple of Apollo, the Athenian treasury, stadium and theatre.

CITY: Olympia

### **Olympian Delights**

Not to be missed - enjoy a typical Olympian dinner with a three-course meal and local wine.

### **Olympia Archaeological Site**

This ancient site is the most famous of Greek sanctuaries, where Zeus was worshipped and where his ivory and gold statue was counted among the Seven Wonders of the World. Olympic Games were held here between 776 BD and 393 AD. Your local guide will bring Olympia back to life with her commentary.

## **Vacation Highlights**

### **INCLUDED FEATURES**

Visits to Epidaurus, Nauplia, Sparta, Mystra, Nestor's Palace, Olympia, Delphi, Kalambaka, Meteora

### **SCENIC HIGHLIGHTS**

Peloponnese, Mount Parnassus, Arcadian Mountains, Corinth Canal, Rion-Antirion Bridge

### **INSIDE VISITS**

Inside visits and special features are shown in the description, including admission charges when applicable.

## GUIDES

Local Guide for city sightseeing in Athens and Mycenae. Services of a professional Tour Director while touring.

### *Accommodations*

### **MEALS - (B) Breakfast (L) Lunch (D) Dinner**

Buffet breakfasts (B); 4 dinners (D)

### **HOTELS - (F) First-Class (ST) Superior Tourist-Class (T) Tourist Class**

Athens Coral (F), Nauplia Rex (ST), Sparta Maniatis (ST), Pylos Karalis (ST), Olympia Olympton Asty (ST), Delphi Acropole (ST) or Parnassos (ST), Kalambaka Antoniadis (F), Athens Poseidon (F)

## TRANSPORTATION

Scheduled transatlantic flights and airport transfers in Athens if Cosmos issues the air tickets. Touring by private first-class air-conditioned motorcoach.

<b>Departure Details</b>	<b>Departure Date</b>	<b>Tour Start Date</b>	<b>Return Date</b>	<b>Land/Cruise Price Only</b>
	4/30/2010	5/1/2010	5/10/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	5/7/2010	5/8/2010	5/17/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	5/14/2010	5/15/2010	5/24/2010	\$1,325.00
	5/21/2010	5/22/2010	5/31/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	5/28/2010	5/29/2010	6/7/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	6/4/2010	6/5/2010	6/14/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	6/11/2010	6/12/2010	6/21/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	6/18/2010	6/19/2010	6/28/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	6/25/2010	6/26/2010	7/5/2010	\$1,325.00
	7/2/2010	7/3/2010	7/12/2010	\$1,279.00
Popular Departure	7/9/2010	7/10/2010	7/19/2010	\$1,279.00
	7/16/2010	7/17/2010	7/26/2010	\$1,279.00
Popular Departure	7/23/2010	7/24/2010	8/2/2010	\$1,229.00
Popular Departure	7/30/2010	7/31/2010	8/9/2010	\$1,229.00
Popular Departure	8/6/2010	8/7/2010	8/16/2010	\$1,229.00
Popular Departure	8/13/2010	8/14/2010	8/23/2010	\$1,229.00
	8/20/2010	8/21/2010	8/30/2010	\$1,229.00
Popular Departure	8/27/2010	8/28/2010	9/6/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	9/3/2010	9/4/2010	9/13/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	9/10/2010	9/11/2010	9/20/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	9/17/2010	9/18/2010	9/27/2010	\$1,325.00
Popular Departure	9/24/2010	9/25/2010	10/4/2010	\$1,305.00
Popular Departure	10/1/2010	10/2/2010	10/11/2010	\$1,305.00
	10/8/2010	10/9/2010	10/18/2010	\$1,305.00
Popular Departure	10/15/2010	10/16/2010	10/25/2010	\$1,305.00
	10/22/2010	10/23/2010	11/1/2010	\$1,139.00

Popular Departure - due to itinerary and time of year, this departure historically sells out quickly. Early booking is encouraged.