GREEK ESCAPE

7 Day Tour from Athens to Athens

Starting at **$719**

You've seen photos of the ancient Acropolis in Athens, dating back to the 5th century BC—now’s your chance to see it in person. You've watched the Olympics on TV—now’s your chance to walk among the remains in Olympia, where the Olympics began in 776 BC. You've eaten at Greek restaurants—now's your chance to enjoy an authentic Greek cooking demonstration, where you'll learn how to make the traditional Greek tzatziki appetizer. All this and more await you on this Greek Escape.

History comes alive on your guided visits to many of Greece's ancient sights. In addition to the Acropolis and Olympia, you'll also visit ancient Corinth, dating back to the 8th century BC and the place where St. Paul preached; the ruins in Mycenae, dating from 1,350 to 1,200 BC and described by Homer; and the amazingly well-preserved, 2,300-year-old open-air theater in Epidaurus. In ancient Greece, people traveled to Delphi to seek the wisdom of the Oracle. Learn about the Oracle, tour the excavations, and visit the Archaeological Museum.

To add to your Greek experience enjoy a sirtaki dance lesson and try a glass of Ouzo. Plus, you'll be accompanied by an expert Tour Director who will bring this country to life by sharing its history, stories, and insider secrets. From the picturesque fishing villages to ancient historic sights, the Greek Escape has it all!

ITINERARY

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

DAY 1 Athens, Greece

Welcome to Athens! At 6 pm, meet your traveling companions for a welcome drink with your Tour Director.

DAY 2 Athens

Sightseeing with a Local Guide features a visit to the world-famous ACROPOLIS, perched high on a rocky outcrop overlooking the city. Here, see the Parthenon, the Erechtheum with its Porch of Maidens, the Temple of Athena Nike, and enjoy a panoramic view that includes glimpses of the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Theater of Dionysus, and the beautifully preserved Theseum, where Socrates taught. Later, a city orientation tour features the Old Parliament House and a picture stop at the Panathenaic Stadium. Built in the 2nd century AD, it is the only stadium in the world built entirely of marble, and was host to the opening and closing ceremonies of the first modern Olympics in 1896. The rest of the day is at leisure. Tonight is your chance to join an optional dinner outing to try out local fare.

 Breakfast

DAY 3 Athens–Corinth–Mycenae–Epidaurus–Nauplia

Cross the spectacular Corinth Canal, then visit ANCIENT CORINTH, where St. Paul preached. Two highlights today: MYCENAE, where 19th-century excavations reveal impressions of the splendors so vividly described by Homer. Admire the Beehive Tombs, known as the Treasury of Atreus; Lion Gate, Europe’s oldest known monument; the remains of Agamemnon’s Royal Palace, and the impressive fortifications of the Citadel. Also visit the museum. Then, a short drive to EPIDAURUS for a tour of its amazingly well-preserved 2,300-year-old open-air theater. Overnight in nearby Nauplia.

 Breakfast

Dinner

DAY 4 Nauplia–Olympia

Spectacular scenery on the way through the Arkadian Mountains. Then, spend the afternoon in OLYMPIA, where the athletes of antiquity competed in honor of the King of Deities. Learn about the history of those original Olympic Games as you walk among the impressive remains of the Gymnasium and the Temples of Hera and Zeus. Also visit the MUSEUM that displays Praxiteles’ magnificent statue of Hermes. Tonight, enjoy a COOKING DEMONSTRATION and learn how to make the traditional Greek tzatziki appetizer.

 Breakfast

Dinner

DAY 5 Olympia–Patras–Delphi

Via the busy seaport of Patras, proceed to mystic Delphi. The afternoon is devoted to a fascinating tour of the ancient sanctuary of the god Apollo in its dramatic setting on the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Hear about the Oracle and tour the EXCAVATIONS. End the day with a visit to the ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM to admire the Charioteer, an extraordinary 5th-century BC bronze statue. A highlight this evening is a DANCE LESSON, where you’ll learn how to dance the sirtaki, made famous in the movie Zorba the Greek, accompanied by a glass of the traditional Ouzo.

 Breakfast

Dinner

DAY 6 Delphi–Arachova–Athens

Leave fascinating Delphi behind you this morning and head back to Athens stopping en-route at the pretty town of Arachova located on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, boasting panoramic views. Stroll around the town and admire the picturesque architecture before arriving in Athens with time to do some last-minute exploring on your own. Tonight, enjoy an optional dinner at a local restaurant.

 Breakfast

DAY 7 Athens

Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

* Breakfast

## MEALS

Welcome drink in Athens; full buffet breakfast daily; 3 three-course dinners with wine

## DESTINATIONS & SIGHTSEEING

**ATHENS**

Welcome drink; guided sightseeing, visit the Acropolis

**CORINTH**

Guided visit

**MYCENAE**

Guided visit of the excavations and museum

**EPIDAURUS**

Guided visit of the 2,300-year-old open-air theater

**OLYMPIA**

Guided visit of the archaeological site and the museum; learn how to make the traditional Greek tzatziki appetizer

**DELPHI**

Guided visit of the excavations, visit the Archaeological Museum; learn to dance the sirtaki and have a glass of Ouzo

**ARACHOVA**

Visit the town

Headsets throughout the tour.

**Notes:**

* Please check visa requirements with your local consulate(s); responsibility for obtaining visas rests with the traveler.
* Hotels listed may occasionally be substituted with alternate hotels of equivalent standard.
* Single Supplement Waived (limited availability).



The following UNESCO World Heritage Sites can be seen or visited on this vacation:

* Acropolis Athens
* Archaeolgical Site of Delphi
* Archaelogical Site of Olympia
* Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurus

**Transportation:**

Motorcoach. Free Wi-Fi available on your motorcoach and in most hotel lobbies.