



# Athens & Ancient Greece

13 days | 16 days with Crete & Athens extension

Between the Mediterranean beaches bathed in sunlight, ancient ruins teeming with legends, and villas bursting with local charm, falling in love with Greece is a sure thing. Discover the heart of Europe's oldest city, from the Acropolis to the Plaka. Make your way along the Ionian coast to shorelines steeped in mythology.



## Your tour package includes

- 11 nights in handpicked hotels
- 11 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 wine tasting
- 7 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 ferry transfers

## Included highlights

- Acropolis
- Parthenon
- Temple of Apollo
- Meteora monasteries
- Corfu's Old Town
- Ruins of Olympia
- Nemea vineyard visit
- Epidauros & Mycenae

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 2 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and unpaved trails, with some hills and stairs.

## Group size

15-38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Athens today.

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## Athens → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Athens

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Greece! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner tonight.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Athens

*Included meals: breakfast*

A local guide introduces you to the highlights of this bustling ancient capital, home to the world's first democracy.

- Pass by the Olympic Stadium, Syntagma Square, and the Arch of Hadrian
- View the sixth-century Temple of Zeus
- See the classically inspired Old Royal Palace, home of the Hellenic Parliament, and drive through the Plaka district
- Set off on a walking tour around the ancient Acropolis, site of the Parthenon, Temple of Athena Nike, and Erechtheion

Enjoy a free afternoon in Athens or add an excursion.

+ Cape Sounion

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## Delphi Region → 1 night

### Day 4: Transfer to Delphi Region & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to the Delphi region for a guided tour of the legendary home of the mystical oracle. You'll visit the Temple of Apollo where, according to legend, the god once communicated with mortals.

Spend a free evening in Delphi or add an excursion.

+ Arachova Village & Greek Dinner

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## Meteora Region → 1 night

### Day 5: Transfer to Meteora Region &

### sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Today, travel to the remote village of Kalambaka at the foot of the Pindus Mountains. Discover Meteora's stunning architecture: Pinnacle Monastery and St. Stephen's Monastery, two Byzantine structures perched atop 1,000-foot-high pinnacle rocks.

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## Corfu → 2 nights

### Day 6: Transfer to Corfu

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Cross the Pindus Mountains and make your way to the lakeside town of Ioannina, whose beautiful mosque and Ottoman fortress are evidence of four centuries of Turkish rule. This afternoon, board a ferry bound for the island of Corfu.

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Corfu

*Included meals: breakfast*

Discover Corfu with a local guide. Once ruled by the Venetians, this island has retained much of its Italian charm.

- See the city's Italian influence on display at the Spianada, arguably the most impressive square in Greece
- Visit the regal Achillion Palace, once the palatial summer residence of German Kaiser Wilhelm II
- Enter the Church of St. Spyridon, where you'll uncover the sacred relics of the island's patron saint

Enjoy a free evening in Corfu or add an excursion.

+ Corfu Tavern Dinner

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## Olympia → 2 nights

### Day 8: Transfer to Olympia

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Board a ferry back to the mainland from Corfu. Cross the Rio-Antirrio bridge, the world's longest fully suspended cable-stayed bridge, as you make your way to Olympia. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Olympia

*Included meals: breakfast*

This morning, tour the legendary city of Olympia with a local guide.

- View the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World
- See the ancient Gymnasium and site where the first Olympic Games took place
- Step inside the Archaeological Museum of Olympia and enjoy free time to explore the exhibits

Spend a free afternoon in Olympia or add an excursion.

+ Greek Cooking Demonstration & Folk Show Dinner

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## Nafplio → 2 nights

### Day 10: Nafplio via Nemea

*Included meals: breakfast, wine tasting, dinner*

Explore the historic region that has been occupied by the Turks, Venetians, Franks, and Byzantines.

- Stop in Nemea to tour a vineyard and taste a selection of red and white wines accompanied by snacks
- Join your Tour Director on a walk through Nafplio, the town that was the first capital of independent Greece

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Epidaurus & Mycenae

*Included meals: breakfast*

Explore the landmarks of Epidaurus and Mycenae on guided sightseeing tours.

- Discover Greece's best-preserved open-air theater in Epidaurus
  - Explore the mysterious beehive-shaped Treasury of Atreus and the magnificent Lion Gate, one of the oldest monumental sculptures in Europe, in Mycenae
  - Visit the burial ground of Agamemnon and his followers, where archaeologists unearthed incredible treasures
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## Athens → 1 night

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**Day 12: Transfer to Athens**

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Travel back to Athens, stopping along the way to admire the Corinth Canal. Later, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner with your fellow travelers.

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**Flight Home****Day 13: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your return flight home or continue on to visit Crete and further explore Athens.

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**+ Crete & Athens extension**

Looking for even more ancient history? Luckily, Greece has it in spades. Fly to Crete and stay a little bit longer to put on your archaeologist hat and uncover the past at the ruins of Knossos (they say the Minotaur lived here once). Then, catch a flight back to Athens for one more night in the Greek capital.

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**Heraklion → 2 nights****Day 13: Flight to Crete & sightseeing tour of Heraklion**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly to Crete, the largest of the Greek islands, this morning. Then, explore the city of Heraklion with a local guide.

- Explore the archaeological site of Knossos, home to the ruins of a Minoan palace
- Enter the Heraklion Archaeological Museum to view the world's most complete collection of Minoan artifacts

**Day 14: Free day in Heraklion**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Spend a free day in Heraklion or add an excursion.

+ Chania

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**Athens → 1 night****Day 15: Flight to Athens**

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly back to Athens this afternoon and enjoy a farewell drink with your group.

Later, enjoy a free evening in Athens or add an excursion.

+ Athens Home-Hosted Dinner

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**Flight Home****Day 16: Departure**

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.com/FAN](http://goaheadtours.com/FAN) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 3: Cape Sounion

\$75/\$85\* (4.5 hours, departure time varies)

Journey to the southern tip of the Attica Peninsula to take in the sights of the Poseidon Coast, including sandy beaches, natural and manmade harbors, and, of course, the Aegean Sea itself. High above the sparkling shoreline, the Temple of Poseidon dominates the landscape. Of the original structure, 16 elegant Doric pillars remain. Afterward, decide how you'd like to spend your free time. Take a moment to look out from the lofty cliffside vantage point, where you can see five Aegean islands on a clear day. You may also choose to enjoy a coffee, stop in the souvenir shop, or stroll through the area. Please note: This excursion involves some walking on uneven terrain.

## Day 4: Arachova Village & Greek Dinner

\$79/\$89\* (4 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

This evening, visit Arachova, a picturesque town at the foot of Mount Parnassus. Begin with a visit to the Convent of the Prophet Elias, an abbey that dates back to the 11th century. Examine its ornate Greek ecclesiastical wood carvings, then head back into town. The evening is yours to explore Arachova, stroll its cobblestone streets, and admire its Byzantine churches before capping the day with a traditional Greek dinner at a village restaurant.

## Day 7: Corfu Tavern Dinner

\$89/\$99\* (4 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

Step back in time and savor authentic Greek specialties and hospitality at a rustic, family-run tavern in the picturesque village of Kinopiastes. Touted for its friendly atmosphere, the Tripa Tavern has drawn rave reviews from past patrons, including former Greek President Constantine Karamanlis, Aristotle Onassis, and Jane Fonda. While you sample hors d'oeuvres, hearty entrees, and tasty wines, the tavern staff will entertain you with song and dance.

## Day 9: Greek Cooking Demonstration & Folk Show Dinner

\$69/\$79\* (4 hours, evening with dinner)

Head to a nearby estate in Olympia where you'll learn about Greek cuisine during a cooking demonstration. Then, enjoy a buffet dinner paired with Greek wine followed by a short, interactive dance performance. Please note: Customers will share stations during the cooking demonstration.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 14: Chania

\$119/\$129\* (8 hours, departs in the morning, lunch included)

Travel to historic Chania, where a local guide introduces you to the city's Old Town. You'll visit Chania's cathedral before a walk through the Venetian quarter, where you'll step inside Etz Hayyim, the only synagogue on the island of Crete and a symbol of the city's enduring Jewish community. After exploring the synagogue, your guided tour ends at the port, where you'll visit an ancient Turkish Ottoman mosque. Lunch is included on this excursion, as is free time to get to know this beautiful city at your own pace. Please note: Etz Hayyim is closed on Sundays.

### Day 15: Athens Home-Hosted Dinner

\$79 (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Join a local at their home in Athens to enjoy traditional dishes and dine like a true Grecian. During this dinner, you'll receive an authentic understanding of your host's day-to-day life while learning about Greek culture and traditions from a new perspective. Please note: Your Tour Director will not attend this excursion. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](http://goaheadtours.com/terms)