



Grand Tour of Greece: Athens, Corfu & Santorini

16 days | 19 days with Olympia & the Athens Riviera extension

If you've long dreamed of going to Greece but never quite knew where to start, consider this has-it-all tour your answer. You'll take in the excitement of Thessaloniki and Athens, major cities where ancient history and modern living meet. You'll travel centuries back in time as you explore treasured historic sites, such as Delphi (home to the Temple of Apollo) and Meteora (known for its complex of clifftop monasteries). You'll savor signature Greek flavors, from briny olives to tart kumquats to crisp, mineral-rich wines. And you'll lap up the brilliant sunshine, warm hospitality, and iconic architecture of three major island groups. If you still can't get your fill of Greece, continue on to the Peloponnese peninsula. In this less-trodden corner of the country, an Alpine ski town, a mythological burial ground, and a Bronze Age citadel are just a few wonders that await.



Your tour package includes

- 14 nights in handpicked hotels
- 14 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 liqueur tasting
- 2 food tastings
- 9 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 4 ferry transfers
- 1 on-tour flight

Included highlights

- Thessaloniki's Rotunda Galerius
- Meteora monasteries
- Corfu's Old Town
- Corfu kumquat tasting
- Delphi's Temple of Apollo
- Acropolis in Athens
- Santorini caldera
- Akrotiri excavations
- Knossos Palace on Crete

Tour pace

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

Group size

15-28

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Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Thessaloniki today.

Thessaloniki → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Thessaloniki

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Greece! Get to know your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Thessaloniki

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Set out on a guided tour of Thessaloniki, the second-largest city of the former Byzantine empire and a modern-day hub of Greek culture.

- Pass by the Hagios Demetrios, the storied church built in honor of the patron saint of Thessaloniki on the site where he was martyred in the fourth century AD.
- Marvel at the Hagia Sophia, one of Thessaloniki's oldest churches.
- See the Roman-style city walls that were constructed during the early third century.
- Enter the Rotunda of Galerius (a.k.a. the Rotunda of St. George), which Roman Emperor Galerius commissioned in the fourth century in a style similar to Rome's Pantheon.
- Examine murals and mosaics inside the UNESCO-listed Rotunda, which is one of Thessaloniki's oldest surviving buildings.
- Walk along the seaside promenade to view the White Tower of Thessaloniki, one of the city's central landmarks.
- Stop to try some local olives, a staple of Greek cuisine.
- Enjoy free time in the bustling and artsy Ladadika district, where the cobblestone streets are lined with tavernas and cafes.

Spend a free afternoon in Thessaloniki or add an excursion.

+ Thessaloniki Wine Tasting & Lunch

Day 4: Transfer to Meteora Region & sightseeing tour

Included meals: breakfast

Today, travel to the remote village of Kalambaka, at the foot of the Pindus Mountains. Then, take a guided walking tour of the Meteora monasteries, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Perched in isolation atop towering, sandstone cliffs, the six surviving monasteries date back to the 14th century, when they were established by Orthodox Christian hermit monks.

- Enter two monasteries, such as the Monastery of Roussanou, the Monastery of Agios Stefanos, or the Monastery of Varlaam.
- Hike up to the monasteries to admire views from 1,000-foot-high pinnacle rocks.
- Meet with local nuns for a chat about the traditions and faith of the Eastern Orthodox Church.
- Learn more about this branch of Christianity, the nuns' lives, and the work they take part in at the monasteries.

Corfu → 2 nights

Day 5: Transfer to Corfu

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Cross the Pindus Mountains and make your way to the seaside town of Igoumenitsa. Board a ferry bound for the Ionian Island of Corfu. In stark contrast to the arid, rocky Cyclades Islands in the Aegean Sea, the Ionians are known for their lush, green landscape. After settling into your hotel, enjoy an included dinner this evening.

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Corfu

Included meals: breakfast, liqueur tasting, tasting

Start with a guided sightseeing tour of Corfu Town, the island's capital.

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

- Stop for a tasting of marmalade, liqueur, and other products made from kumquats, a bright orange fruit with Protected Designation of Origin (PDO) status in Corfu.

Enjoy a free evening in Corfu or add an excursion.

+ Corfu Tavern Dinner

Delphi Region → 1 night

Day 7: Transfer to Delphi Region

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Board a ferry back to the mainland from Corfu. Then, travel to the Delphi region, home of the legendary mystical oracle.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Athens → 2 nights

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Delphi & transfer to Athens

Included meals: breakfast

Journey to the slopes of Mount Parnassus and visit the Archaeological Site of Delphi. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Delphi was believed by ancient Greeks to be the Navel of the Earth and a spiritual focal point for all Greeks.

- Embark on a guided tour featuring the Temple of Apollo, where, according to legend, the god Apollo once spoke in prophecy to mortals through the voice of the oracle and high priestess Pythia.
- Take time to explore the ancient treasures at the Delphi Museum, including the life-size bronze statue named the *Charioteer of Delphi*.
- Visit Arachova and soak in the breathtaking mountain landscape as you stroll through the mountain town's cobblestone streets.
- Enjoy free time for lunch or to explore the charming village and admire its many Byzantine-era churches.

Then, continue on to Athens and enjoy a free evening in the city.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Athens

Included meals: breakfast

Meet up with a local guide for an introduction 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

Santorini → 2 nights

Day 10: Ferry to Santorini

Included meals: breakfast

Take a ferry across the Aegean Sea to Santorini, a popular vacation destination in the Cyclades Islands. Then, enjoy free time to discover the island's charming culture, rugged, volcanic landscapes, and cliffside villages.

Please note: For an additional cost, you can book a visit to the village of Oia through your Tour Director.

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Santorini

Included meals: breakfast

Take in the local sights on a guided tour of Santorini, a volcanic isle known for its black-sand beaches, cliff-lined shores, and stunning whitewashed architecture.

- Visit the prehistoric settlements that were unearthed during the archaeological excavations at Akrotiri.
- Ride to the top of Mount Profitis Ilias for panoramic views of the whole island.
- Stop in small, picturesque Pyrgos, a well-preserved medieval village that's situated on the island's highest point and latticed with steep, cobblestone alleys.

Spend a free evening in Santorini or add an excursion.
+ Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

Crete → 3 nights

Day 12: Ferry to Crete

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Take a ferry to Greece's largest island, Crete, which is known for its varied landscapes (beaches, mountains, valleys, and gorges) and gastronomy.
Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Heraklion

Included meals: breakfast

Join a local guide this morning and get to know Heraklion, a bustling port city and the capital of Crete.

- Visit the ruins of Knossos Palace, where, according to myth, King Minos imprisoned the Minotaur.
- Enter the Heraklion Archaeological Museum, widely celebrated for its collection of artworks and artifacts from the Minoans—the Bronze Age civilization of Crete.

Enjoy a free afternoon in Crete or add an excursion.
+ Iraklio Wine Country Tasting Tour

Day 14: Free day in Crete

Included meals: breakfast

Spend a free day on Crete or add an excursion.
+ Venetian Rethymno & Crete Farm Lunch

Athens → 1 night

Day 15: Flight to Athens

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Fly back to Athens today. Then, celebrate your trip with your fellow group members at a farewell dinner this evening.

Flight Home

Day 16: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to airport for your flight home, or continue on to visit Olympia and the Athens Riviera.

+ Olympia & the Athens Riviera extension

Located in the southwestern region of Greece's mainland, the Peloponnese peninsula is chock-full of treasured archaeological sites and landmarks made famous by Greek mythology. You'll also find a few surprises there, such as an Alpine ski town that's accessible by train and home to a moving museum that sheds light on

life under Nazi occupation. The region is also less trodden compared to perennially popular places, like Athens and the Greek Islands. Both are among the reasons you'll likely fall in love with this corner of the country, where you'll explore the birthplace of the Olympic Games, a mythological burial site, an early capital of independent Greece, and more.

Olympia → 2 nights

Day 16: Train ride to Kalavryta & transfer to Olympia

Included meals: breakfast

Transfer to the town of Diakopto. There, board the famous Odontotos rack railway for a journey that's widely considered to be the most scenic in Greece. Travel aboard the railway through the Vouraikos gorge and ascend to the Alpine town of Kalavryta, where you'll find stone houses, small squares, charming alleys, cozy cafes, and lively tavernas.

- Enter the Municipal Museum of Kalavritan Holocaust, built to commemorate the 1943 massacre and destruction of the town by occupying Nazi troops.
- Enjoy free time in the charming ski town.

Then, continue on to your hotel in Olympia and enjoy a free evening.

Day 17: Sightseeing tour of Olympia

Included meals: breakfast

This morning, meet your local guide and tour the legendary Archaeological Site of Olympia, where the Olympic Games were born.

- View the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, once home to a statue that was 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 its world-renowned sculpture, bronze, and terracotta exhibits.

Spend a free afternoon in Olympia or add an excursion.
+ Greek Cooking Demonstration & Folk Show Dinner

Athens Riviera → 1 night

Day 18: Athens Riviera via Mycenae & Nafplio

Included meals: breakfast

Get to know more landmarks and history as you discover different parts of the Peloponnese peninsula.

- Explore the Bronze Age citadel of Mycenae, including its main entrance, which is known as Lion Gate, and the mysterious beehive-shaped Treasury of Atreus (a.k.a. the Tomb of Agamemnon).
- Visit the burial ground of Agamemnon and his followers, where archaeologists unearthed incredible treasures.
- Join your Tour Director on a walk through Nafplio, a vibrant coastal town known for its romantic, seaside setting, fairytale castle, and bustling squares lined with charming tavernas.
- Learn about Nafplio's history, including how it became the first capital of independent Greece.

Continue to your hotel in the Athens Riviera, then raise a glass and toast to your trip with a farewell drink this evening.

Flight Home

Day 19: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the Athens 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.ca/GRE | 1-800-754-5066

Day 3: Thessaloniki Wine Tasting & Lunch

\$119CAD/\$129CAD* (6 hours, departs in the afternoon, includes dinner)

This afternoon, head south to the Epanomi wine region and visit the Ktima Gerovassiliou winery. Join your guide on a walk through the vineyard to learn about the harvest process and to spot bunches of Malagousia and Assyrtiko grapes that are used to create the winery's signature red and white Epanomi wines. Then, tour the production area to see first-hand how freshly picked grapes are turned into wine. After your visit, head to a local restaurant for a traditional Macedonian lunch.

Day 6: Corfu Tavern Dinner

\$125CAD/\$135CAD* (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: Cape Sounion

\$89CAD/\$99CAD* (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 11: Santorini Caldera Cruise & Dinner

\$205CAD (5 hours, departs in the afternoon, dinner included)

Board a catamaran and sail in comfort through Santorini's awe-inspiring caldera on this scenic excursion. You'll cruise around the volcanic island of Nea Kameni for views of the picture-perfect cliffside village of Oia (pronounced "EE-ah"). Situated on the western end of the island, Oia was once a maritime center, and stately captains' houses still sit on its high ridges. Spend the afternoon on the open waters as you snorkel in the ocean, sunbathe on the deck of the catamaran, and swim in a natural hot spring that was once the crater of a volcano. You'll enjoy unlimited wine, water, and soft drinks, as well as a buffet-style dinner of home-cooked Greek specialties, on board the boat as you take in the beautiful scenery. Please note: We recommend packing a bathing suit. This excursion is

seasonal and runs from April through mid-October only. It is also weather-dependent. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 13: Iraklio Wine Country Tasting Tour

\$129CAD/\$139CAD* (6 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Pay a visit to the village of Archanes and step inside a women's cooperative where local women prepare traditional baked goods and preserves. Sample some of their delicious homemade jams and baked goods made from regional ingredients, and help support agriculture in a fairly remote area of Crete. Afterwards, make your way to Iraklio wine country and tour a Cretan vineyard, then enjoy a wine tasting featuring varietals produced from Kotsifali, Mandilaria, and Malvasia grapes.

Day 14: Venetian Rethymno & Crete Farm Lunch

\$215CAD/\$225CAD* (10 hours, departs in the morning, includes lunch)

Make your way to the western side of the island, to the historic port city of Rethymno, where Venetian and Turkish influences remain. Enjoy free time to explore the charming city's streets and treasures. Next, pay a visit to a small, family-owned farm, where you'll learn about the island's production of olives, olive oil, grapes, tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, peppers, zucchini, oranges, and carob beans. Meet up with a guide and set off on a tour through the farm's olive groves and gardens before sitting down for a traditional Cretan lunch served with local wines. Begin with a tasting of fresh, farm-made cheeses, then sit down for a delicious lunch made from locally grown products. Menu items might include Cretan cheese pies (known locally as kalitsounia), a risotto-like dish called gamopilafo, and salads made from locally harvested mountain bulbs, or askordoulakous.

Extension excursion options

Day 17: Greek Cooking Demonstration & Folk Show Dinner

\$95CAD/\$105CAD* (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.

*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.ca/terms