



## Food & Wine: A Taste of Greece

11 days

See how historic traditions and modern-day culture have swirled together to create Greece's current food and wine scene. Start in Thessaloniki, the country's culinary hub, before making your way down to Athens to explore some of the nation's ancient wonders. Then, continue on to Crete where the area's flavourful cuisine comes to life inside the local markets. From mainland wine regions to island vineyards, you'll experience the wonders of Greek wine while indulging in locally sourced, fresh foods.



### Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 3 wine tastings & 1 cooking class
- Guided sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 on-tour flights

### Included highlights

- Thessaloniki's ancient Byzantine landmarks
- wine tasting in Epanomi
- Acropolis
- Palace of Knossos
- Heraklion Archaeological Museum
- wine tasting in Iraklio
- Cretan market visit
- Chania harbor
- Greek cooking class

### Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about 1.5 hours daily across uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with steep 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 → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Thessaloniki

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to Greece! Gather with your fellow travellers at a welcome dinner tonight.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Thessaloniki & wine tasting

*Included meals: breakfast*

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

- View the Arch of Galerius and Rotunda, which were built for Roman Emperor Galerius in the 4th century
- Pass by the Hagios Demetrios and Hagia Sophia churches
- See the Roman-style city walls that were constructed during the early 3rd century
- Walk along the seaside promenade to view the White Tower of Thessaloniki
- Visit the Ladadika district and enjoy free time to explore at your leisure

Later, head to the Epanomi wine region and visit the Ktima Gerovassiliou winery.

- Follow a guide on a short walk through the vineyard to see Malagousia and Assyrtiko grapes that are used to create the winery's signature red and white Epanomi wines
- Tour the production area
- Explore the on-site museum to see well-preserved artifacts that are essential to the history of Greek winemaking including bottles, barrels, and corkscrews
- Sample some of the wines during a tasting

### Day 4: Ruins of Vergina & Naoussa wine region

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Tour the Archaeological Site of Aigai and enjoy a wine tasting in the Naoussa region.

- Join a local guide to tour of the UNESCO World Heritage Archaeological Site of Aigai
- Learn about and explore the ruins of the first capital of the Macedonian Kingdom, where Alexander the Great was declared the king of the Macedonian Empire
- Visit the Museum of Royal Tombs of Aigai where Philip II, father of Alexander the Great, is buried

Pass through the eastern slopes of the Vermio Mountains to visit the Naoussa wine region, widely regarded as one of Greece's top areas for viticulture.

- Visit a wine tavern and enjoy a lunch of Macedonian specialties
- Sample wines produced in the Naoussa region

## Athens → 2 nights

### Day 5: Athens via Volos

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Travel from Thessaloniki to the seaside city of Volos. Located on the Pelion Peninsula, this area is known for its culinary scene. During a lunch, you'll try mezedes, or small plates, and *tsipouro*, an anise-flavoured brandy. After, continue on to Athens.

### Day 6: 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

This afternoon, journey to the southern tip of the Attic Peninsula to take in the sights of the Poseidon Coast.

- See the Temple of Poseidon, which sits high above the sparkling shoreline

- Look out from the lofty cliffside vantage point, where you can see five Aegean islands on a clear day
- Spend free time enjoying a coffee, stopping in a souvenir shop, or strolling through

## Heraklion → 1 night

### Day 7: Flight to Crete & sightseeing tour of Heraklion

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Today, fly to Crete and take a guided sightseeing tour of Heraklion, the largest city on the island.

- Visit the ruins of Knossos, where King Minos imprisoned the Minotaur in a labyrinth, according to the myth
- Step inside the Heraklion Archaeological Museum

Tonight, sample some of Greece's most well-known liquors including Ouzo, Metaxa, and Raki. Then, enjoy an included dinner of Cretan specialties and regional wine.

## Chania → 2 nights

### Day 8: Chania via Iraklio wine country & olive oil tasting

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Make your way to Chania by travelling through the Iraklio wine country

- Stop to tour a Cretan vineyard
- Enjoy a lunch and tasting featuring a variety of the wines produced from Kotsifali, Mandilaria, and Malvasia grapes •
- Visit the city of Rethymno before continuing on to Chania

Head to a local olive oil farm outside of Chania this evening where you'll enjoy an olive oil and wine tasting before an included dinner.

- Dip into the extra-virgin olive oil with a side of fresh-baked bread
- Try five different wine varieties served with a dish of Cretan delicacies
- End your night of food, wine, and fun with a dinner overlooking the stunning vineyard and olive groves

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Chania & cooking

**class**

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Join a local guide who will introduce you to Chania's Old Town.

- Step inside the Chania Cathedral Trimartiti and Etz Hayyim, the only synagogue on the island and a symbol of the city's ages-old Jewish community
- Walk through the city's indoor market, stopping along the way to try local herbs, cheese, and olive oil
- Pass the Mosque Yiali Tzami as you walk along the old Venetian harbour
- See the famous Egyptian lighthouse

This evening, head to a local cooking school where you'll prepare regional dishes alongside a professional chef. Then, enjoy drinking Greek wine and eating the foods you cooked.

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**Athens → 2 nights****Day 10: Flight to Athens**

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Fly to Athens this morning. Tonight, gather with your group to celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner.

**Day 11: Departure**

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

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.