

Wonders of Greece



What is an ideal vacation? Heavenly relaxation sites. Illuminating antiquities. Interesting cultural exchanges with hospitable locals. Novel and delicious tastes to your palate. You can enjoy all these features on the Wonders of Greece tour.

Relaxation. Greece has the cleanest waters in the Mediterranean where you can relax on a beach chair under an umbrella with the sea breeze keeping you fresh and cool. Or hang out with the old men at a local *kafeneion* sipping Greek coffee from doll-sized cups.

Antiquities. Nothing short of legendary from the perfect geometry of the elegant Acropolis to the astounding acoustics of the 3rd century BC Epidaurus Theatre where up in its last tier you can hear a whisper from the stage far below.

Culture. Loads of it. An ancient monastery built into the side of a cliff. A museum that reenacts the making of gunpowder which fueled the Greek Revolution. Artisan shops specializing in worry beads or goat bells or handmade canes.

Culinary. The variety of Greek cuisine will startle you. Hearty and healthy appetizers at each meal. Fresh fish. Local meats. Regional sweets like baklava. Wine tastings at Peloponnese wineries. Unique spirits like rose petal liqueur.

Trip Highlights

- Visit Ancient Corinth where St. Paul lived and preached
- Swim in Europe's cleanest waters
- Explore 5 UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Dine outdoors next to the sea, eating fresh kalamari
- Stroll or jog around Ancient Olympia's stadium

Trip Duration

8 days

Start & End Points

Start: Athens, drive to Corinth

End: Athens, drive from Delphi



Wonders of Greece 2009

Day 1: Corinth – Loutraki

En route, you may decide to stop at Eleusis famed for its ancient mysteries. You'll cross the Corinth Canal, and marvel at its steep depths, especially if a boat happens to be passing. Visit Ancient Corinth and the towering Akrokorinthos with 360 degree panoramic views.

Day 2: Nafplio

Nafplio was modern Greece's first capital and remains the prettiest city in the Peloponnese. Tour Mycenae where King Agamemnon is buried in an unusual beehive tomb. You can hear the sea waves lapping dining seaside.

Day 3: Nafplio

Tour the ancient Epidavros Theatre amidst shady pine trees. Take an afternoon dip in the little bay lying beneath the towering Palamidi fortress. Nafplio is memorable for its neoclassical architecture with hints of a bygone Ottoman presence.

Day 4: Monemvasia

Step back in time to another era to car free Monemvasia, a rock 980 feet high, 1 mile high first settled in 500 AD and colonized by Crusaders, Venetians and Turks. The town's medieval character is enhanced by Agia Sophia, its towering Byzantine church. You'll want to linger here indefinitely.

Travel Times

Select your own travel dates. Wonders of Greece traverses terrain that is residentially settled all year round, so places and services do not shut down like on the islands. Optimum time to travel in this region is during its high season which is roughly April 1 to October 31.

Trip Price

Trip price depends on the number in your party, level of accommodations, extent of services requested and optional activities sought. See "Pricing" link on website and "Vacation Profile Contact Form"

Basic price for Wonders of Greece 8 days is 1190 euros per person (roughly \$1750 USD) and includes 3 and 4 star hotels (based on double occupancy), daily breakfast, maps, day to day itinerary with activities and logistics, and a pre-tour trip packet with info about Greece, the region you will visit, recommended places to eat, phone numbers and other useful information.

Transport Options

- ◆ Private car (valid driver's license required and international driver's permit)
- ◆ Private car with personal driver
- ◆ 5-8 persons, mini-van with or without personal driver
- ◆ More than 8 persons, coach or mini-coach with personal driver

Hotel Upgrades

- ◆ 5 star hotels available in Corinth, Nafplio or Olympia

Optional Activities

- ◆ Private archaeology tours with professional guides in Epidavros, Mycenae, Olympia or Delphi
- ◆ Sunset boat ride through Corinth Canal
- ◆ Traditional Greek cooking class
- ◆ Transfers to/from airport

Optional Soft Adventures for 4 persons and up

- ◆ Nafplio — 25 mile bike ride to Mycenae
- ◆ Stemnitsa — day hike the Lousio Gorge and "Secret School"



Day 5: Stemnitsa

You'll cherish your stay in this charming mountain village selling traditional products such as rose petal liqueur. Visit the Prodomos Monastery built on the side of a cliff and the live action water power museum telling the story of the local people's contribution to the Greek Revolution.

Day 6: Olympia

Home of the original Olympic Games, ancient Olympia is a World Heritage Site and deservedly so. Just walking through the portal to the stadium gives one goose bumps.

Day 7: Delphi

The ancient Greeks regarded Delphi as the center of the world for here at the foot of Mt. Parnassos in the serenity of the mountains the oracles prophesized for rulers and commoners alike. Nearby Arahova offers traditional crafts and foods.

Day 8: Departure

Athens and Athens Airport are roughly two and one half hours drive from Delphi.

Driving Notes

Daily driving as per the itinerary averages 1-2 hours between overnight destinations.

Athens is the pick-up and drop-off point for private vehicles. Additional charges incur to drop-off the vehicle at a site other than the pick-up point.

Athens is the start and end point for pick-up by a private driver. Depending on location, additional charges may incur if pick-up or drop-off is not within the Athens region or somewhere other than the designated itinerary.

Short Version

Pressed for time? Ask about a 5 or 6 day version of this trip. You will need to decide which sites and destinations to bypass.



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