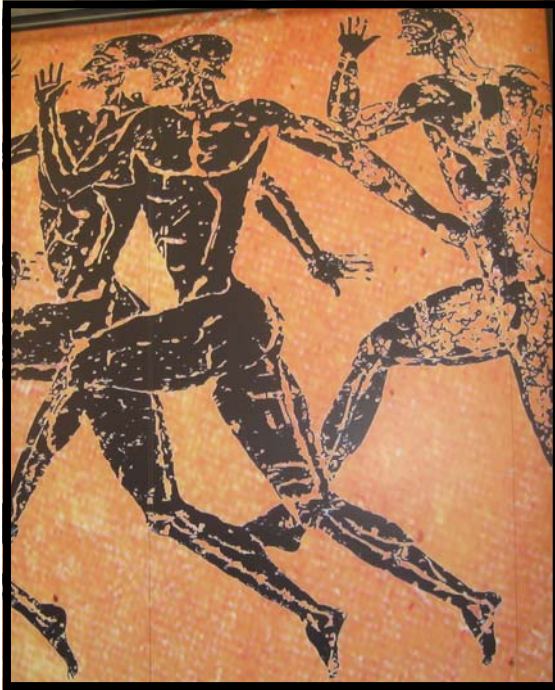


The Athens Marathon

The Race: October 31, 2010
Tour Package: October 28 — November 1

2500th Anniversary



Races

Five races are held on October 31, 2010 at the same time:

The Marathon, 26.2 miles for runners and power walkers

10 km race along the last 5 km of Marathon course

5 km race around historic city center of Athens

1000 meter Special Olympics Hellas run in front of Acropolis

700m Kids Run (9-12 years old)

In 490 BC the outnumbered Greeks defeated the invading Persians on the fields of Marathon. Legend has it that a soldier named Phidippides ran 24.85 miles from Marathon to Athens to bring news of the shocking victory ("nike" in Greek). His heroic effort was memorialized in 1896 when the first modern Olympics, held in Athens, recreated the run officially dubbed the Marathon. During the 1908 London Olympic, the British changed the course to 26.2 miles.

2500 years after the original Marathon, you have the opportunity to re-trace the legendary route. Had the Greeks not stymied the Persians from conquering the mainland, the glory of ancient Greece as the cradle of Western Civilization might never have come to pass. The 2010 Athens Classic Marathon offers an occasion to honor the roots of a culture whose accomplishments continue to inspire greatness in each of us today.

Why book with Aegea?

Aegea is based in Greece, not a foreign outfitter. We know the land, the culture, the ins and outs.

Our organizing team includes marathon and half-marathon runners who know a runner's needs.

We take care of your race registration for you.

Your Athens hotel is centrally located within easy walking distance to the Acropolis as well as from the finish line at the 1896 Olympic Stadium.

You are driven on a preview of the race course.

Two great walking tours: Acropolis and historic Athens to special sites including Socrates Prison and the Pnyx where democracy was born.

Nike Victory Party in a taverna in the heart of Plaka with traditional Greek music and dancing.

Marathon Tour Itinerary

Thursday, October 28, Athens

You arrive to one of the most continuously occupied cities in the world, Athens, the capital of modern Greece. Early evening a welcome toast with light *meze* (Greek appetizers) and a sip of *raki* to get you into the spirit of Greek life.

Friday, October 29, Athens

Optional 30-45 minute morning run around the Acropolis pedestrian walkway. Morning Acropolis walking tour with a professional guide. Three hour walking tour of historic Athens to sites not usually included in tours, such as Socrates' Prison and the Pnyx where democracy was born.

Saturday, October 30, Athens,

Transfer to southern Attiki peninsula to admire the magnificent Temple of Poseidon. Lunch in Marathon. Visit the memorial battlefield and return to Athens via the route you will run tomorrow. Distribute race numbers in Athens. Pre-event pasta dinner

Sunday, October 31, Athens

Show time! Transfer to Marathon. As you run today's route try to imagine Phidippides and his exciting, sensational news -- Greece, the underdog had vanquished Persia, the superpower of 490 BC. Evening Nike/Victory dinner with traditional Greek music and dance.

Monday, November 1, departure

Airport transfers or begin post-race Antiquities Tour

Start & End Points

Athens Marathon Tour starts and ends in Athens.

6 Day Antiquities Tour starts in Athens, ends in Nafplio with transfer to Athens Airport on morning of Day 6 (roughly two-hour transfer)



Marathon Tour Cost

4 nights, 5 days - 930 euros
(estimate \$1390 US)
single supplement - 140 euros,

Prices based on the euro, Greece's official currency. Daily exchange rates found at www.xe.com

Our Value-Filled Inclusions

- 4 nights accommodations in central Athens hotel near Acropolis. Tasteful, clean, private bath, hospitality, comfort. All accommodations come with breakfast. Tour price based on double occupancy.
- Airport transfers in designated time periods
- Registration filing and registration fees to 2010 Athens Classic Marathon
- Welcome toast with appetizers
- Pre-Race pasta dinner
- Post-Race Victory dinner with traditional Greek music and dance
- Post-Race Massage (first come - first serve)
- Support/Sweep vehicle during Race with water, snacks, day packs
- Tour Leader handling logistics
- Map of the region
- 3 hour Acropolis Walking Tour with professional guide
- 3 hour Athens Walking Tour
- Entrance fees to Acropolis and surrounding ruins
- Excursion to Sounio, Temple of Poseidon, Marathon memorial and Race route
- Entry fee to Temple of Poseidon
- Trip packet with useful information
- Gratuities, tips and VAT taxes

Exclusions

- international airfare
- lunches
- dinners Days 1-2
- travel insurance

Athens Classic Marathon is organized and operated by Hellenic Amateur Athletics Association (S.E.G.A.S.) in collaboration with Association of International Marathons and Distance Races (AIMS) and International Association of Athletics Federations (IAFF)

Antiquities Add-On Tour 5 nights

Pay your respect to the gods! Don't leave Greece without visiting its legendary sites. The day after the Marathon, join the tour that takes you across rural Greece into its countryside and mountain villages to the terrain where so much of Greece's ancient mythology took root. Visit four UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Highlights

- ◆ In Delphi, seek the oracle's advice
- ◆ Run around Ancient Olympia's stadium
- ◆ Enter a monastery built into the side of a cliff
- ◆ Hike the invigorating Lousios Gorge
- ◆ Climb the 999 steps to Palamidi Fortress



Monday, November 1, Delphi

The ancients regarded Delphi as the center of the universe. Every city-state called upon the oracle before making important decisions. She prophesized for the lives of individuals, too, if one had enough resources for the sacrifice. A one hour tour with a professional guide enlightens your understanding of Delphi's importance.

Tuesday, November 2, Olympia

The earliest recorded Olympic Games were in 796 BC, 300 centuries before the Marathon. The Temple of Zeus at Olympia, part of which is still standing, was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. A professional guide takes you around the grounds and museum which has a superb statue of Hermes.

Wednesday, November 3, Stemnitsa

You don't really know Greece until you spend a little time in a traditional mountain village. Stemnitsa, population 400, lies in the heart of the Arcadia mountains and abuts the verdant Lousios Gorge. An invigorating hike takes up to a monastery on the side of a cliff and the "secret school" which came about during Greece's war for independence against the Ottoman occupation in the 1820s.



Thursday, November 4, Nafplio

Modern Greece's first capital was Nafplio, an elegant little harbor city with neo-Classical mansions and a spacious plaza. Close by is Ancient Mycenae home of King Agamemnon who launched the Trojan War. You will marvel at his unusual beehive tomb. Tour the grounds with a professional guide.

Friday, November 5, Nafplio

During your professional guided tour of Epidavros, you will learn that its famous theatre was not the major attraction in the ancient world as it is today. Rather, Epidavros was the largest of some 200 Asclipion centers in ancient Greece where adherents came from all over for body, mind and spirit healing, including dream therapy and rubbing snakes on their bodies. Today the outdoor Epidavros Theatre, seating 15,000, holds summer drama festivals.

Saturday, November 6, departure

Other Marathon Events

Marathon Expo Exhibitor booths at the Zappeion Exhibition Center. Free entry. 9:00 am to 8:00 pm starting October 29th.

AIMS Symposium The fourth annual symposium held in Marathon on October 30 by AIMS -- Association of International Marathons and Distance Races.

Airport Booth The Marathon organizers, the Hellenic Association of Amateur Athletics (SEGAS), hosts a booth at the airport offering information for incoming Marathon travelers.



Antiquities Tour Cost

Cost based on number of participants
10-15 persons, 1200 euros
16-30 persons 1050 euros
Single Supplement 185 euros

Note: tour prices are based on the euro which is the official currency of Greece. Daily exchange rates found at www.xe.com

Antiquities Inclusions

- 4 nights accommodations in best hotels in each region. Tasteful, clean, private bath, abundant hospitality, comfort. All accommodations come with breakfast. Tour price based on double occupancy.
- Airport transfer at end of tour
- Mini-coach for 10-14 persons, standard coach for 15-30 persons (approx). The number of participants joining the Tour determines vehicle size.
- All dinners
- 4 one-hour private walking tours at Delphi, Olympia, Mycenae, Epidavros with professional guides
- entry fees to Delphi, Olympia, Ancient Mycenae, Epidavros
- Guided hike in Lousios Gorge
- Tour Leader handling all logistics
- Map of the region
- Gratuities, tips and VAT taxes

Antiquities Exclusions

- All lunches
- Travel insurance

