



## *Treasures of Travel*

### *Treasures of Greece Tour, 2023*

*~17 days/15 nights~*

**Please note: This tour is not offered as a pre-planned group tour. We would be delighted to meet the expectation of the interested individuals and/or groups with the below example outline of the trip, based on the highlights of the country, or custom design one working around the offered itinerary according to your special interest and desire to make it unforgettable experience.**

This is the country full of legendary historic sites which span four millennia, where a visit can still seem like a personal discovery; the home to renowned Gods, Goddesses and mythology, who we learn about in our early childhood. Explore the land which gave birth to the world famous author Homer, historian Herodotus, and was the center of philosophy and its fathers: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle; which boasts to be the home to such legendary king as Alexander the Great, the country where democracy was first born, and theater was first founded. Besides this cultural and historical treasure discovery, modern Greece offers unforgettable taste of wonderful cuisine and wines; breathtaking, romantic islands and coastline providing peaceful, enjoyable experience.

#### *Day 1*

Depart the USA on overnight flight to Athens.

#### *Day 2 ~ Athens*

After arrival in Athens you will be **transferred** to your hotel, close to Acropolis and Plaka which will give you the opportunity to wander a bit by yourself or rest. Surrounded by mountains with its seaport to the west, this is an ancient city with a tumultuous history.

#### *Day 3 ~ Athens*

We will spend the morning at the most famous site in Athens, **Acropolis**. This monument, crowned by the Parthenon, is considered the defining aspect of Athens and visible from virtually everywhere within the city. The Parthenon is regarded as an enduring symbol of Ancient Greece, Athenian democracy, western civilization and one of the world's greatest cultural monuments. In the afternoon we will visit the splendid newly opened **New Acropolis Museum**.

#### *Day 4 ~ Athens*

Today our first stop will be at **National Archaeological Museum**, which is perhaps the nation's finest home to a fascinating collection of Greek antiquities. Next we will head to **Benaki Museum**, the first Greek museum which came into being through a collector's, Mr. Antonie Benaki's love for his country; it houses the collections of Greek art, spanning from prehistory to the modern times. In the afternoon we will tour the **Agora** and **Plaka**, the new market place.

### *Day 5 ~ Nafplio*

Today we'll leave Athens and cross over the **Corinth Canal** which links the Ionian and Aegean Seas. A major engineering feat, work on the canal was originally begun by Nero in 67 AD. After many interruptions, the canal (which cuts through solid rock) was completed in 1893. As we arrive in Peloponnese, we will explore the ancient cities of **Corinth**, **Mycenae** with its ruins and museum as well as the famous **Theater in Epidaurus**.

### *Day 6 ~ Nafplio*

Nafplio, the first capital of Greece after its independence, is also one of the country's prettiest towns. Its strategic seaside location made it a major port which required three fortresses for defense. We will spend the day relaxing in this charming city, as well as learning more about it by visiting the impressive **Akronafplia Fortress** with its magnificent view over the city and the sea, the **Archaeological Museum**, finally the **Popular Art Museum**.

### *Day 7 ~ Olympia*

**Ancient Olympia** was the site of the original Olympic Games, which were held every four years throughout Classical Antiquity, from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. The first Olympic Games were in honor of Zeus. Although the magnificent temples and complex that made the games famous have been largely destroyed by earthquakes and wars, it remains a romantic historical attraction with its stadium and gymnasiums among the ruined temples.

### *Day 8 ~ Delphi*

We will leave the Peloponnesian Peninsula today, traveling via **Patras** using the newly built bridge and along the beautiful coastline, we will arrive in **Delphi**; a place of spiritual history, which has a spectacular setting. Delphi is the site of the **Temple of Apollo** from which the ancient Oracle of Delphi was believed to speak for the gods.

### *Day 9 ~ Meteora*

**Meteora** is the most unique site in Greece, with its incredible architecture and the location of its **monasteries** on natural sandstone rock pillars. The rock landscape itself is unusual, weathering and earthquakes gave the present shape to the pinnacles formed about 60 million years ago. Thus it creates wonderful environment for ascetic monastery life, as well as home to number of complexes with their chapels, courtyards, and monks' cells. The monastery of Holy Trinity at Meteora was a filming location in the 1981 for James Bond movie *For Your Eyes Only*. Visitors can walk up steps now without the need to use the original basket/pulley system.

### *Day 10 ~ Ioannina*

Leaving Meteora we will take one of the scenic roads in Greece to the picturesque town of **Metsovo** tucked in the Pindus Mountains, besides being famous for its local cheeses and winemaking industries, it is also a popular winter vacation destination and a ski resort.

In the evening we will arrive in Ioannina, largest city in Epirus, beautifully located on Lake Pamvotis.

### *Day 11 ~ Ioannina*

We will spend the whole day exploring this beautiful old city with its fascinating architecture, market, castle, lake and island of Ioannina. We will visit the impressive **castle and its museum** which offer splendid view over the Pamvotis Lake, the island of Ioannina and the city itself.

### *Day 12 ~ Kastoria*

Today we will reach the Zagori Mountains to enjoy the breathtaking vistas, which are also home to 45 villages of unusual beauty spread all over. We will visit two of most interesting villages, the Papingo and Pendalofos before we arrive in **Kastoria** located on Lake Orestiada. We will stroll in this charming city, home to rich elements of Byzantine culture (Byzantine walls and churches) as well as traditional mansions dating to the Ottoman period, the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries unique for their architectural design. Other places of interest are the Byzantine Museum, and the Folklore Museum “Nerantzi – Aibazi”. Kastoria and the surrounding area are internationally known as centers of the manufacturing and trading of furs, which dominates the local economy. Fur manufacturing dates back more than a thousand years.

### *Day 13 ~ Edessa*

Our destination today is **Edessa**, famous for its many waterfalls and greenery. Edessa is virtually unknown to tourists; the town is one of the most beautiful in Greece, full of little streams, bridges and parks, sits on a ledge overlooking a vast agricultural plain that extends all the way to Thessaloniki.

### *Day 14 ~ Edessa*

Scenic drive will take us through the beautiful villages, and small towns of the region to visit and taste wines, including the most famous Boutari in the beautiful town of **Naousa**. Naousa is famous for its dry red wines, agricultural production and beautiful landscapes.

### *Day 15 ~ Thessaloniki*

**Thessaloniki**, the capital city of Macedonia area and the second largest city in Greece has a more relaxed, pleasant feeling in spite of being a big city. In the morning, we will drive to **Pella**, the city where both Alexander the Great and his father, Philip the II were born. Next we will stop in **Vergina**, the ancient capital of the kings of Macedonia. There are fascinating temple tombs here, including the one of Philip II, and the famous theater where Philip II, unarmed and escorting his daughter to her wedding, was assassinated.

### *Day 16 ~ Thessaloniki*

We will spend the day enjoying this lively, vibrant city of magnificent ancient monuments, its colorful markets and modern shops. Besides that we will visit **Folklore & Ethnological Museum of Macedonia** and **Archaeological Museum**.

*Day 17 ~ Home*

This morning we will **transfer** you to Thessaloniki airport for your flight home via Athens.

*Best time to travel:*

April ~ May

September ~ October