

Custom Greece 2010



PACKAGE FEATURES:

- Optional round-trip air JFK-ATH-JFK, on Delta Airlines in 'L' class
- Deluxe, private air-conditioned motor coach with an English speaking guide included
- 3-Nights accommodations at the Athens Gate Hotel with breakfast daily
- Half-day Athens tour, including admission to the Acropolis
- 4-Day Classical Tour of Ancient Greece in the first-class Amalia Hotels with breakfast and dinner included
- 1-Night accommodations in standard rooms at the Athens Gate Hotel (or similar), with breakfast daily (after the Classical Tour)
- 3-Night four day cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey on Louis Cruises with standard inside category 'IB' inside cabins and all meals included while onboard . Upgrade to ocean view cabin available.
- All Transfers included as per your quoted itinerary
- All entrance fees included as per your itinerary, except shore excursions.
- Portage of 1 suitcase per person at hotel and at the pier
- Hotel taxes and service charges
- Possible additional night in Athens (Day 13?) to accommodate air schedules

Carol's Custom Travel

an affiliate of Protravel International, A Virtuoso Agency
30452 Luis Rey Heights Road, Bonsall, CA 92003

Toll Free: 888-749-5800 Fax 761-751-0741 carolstravel@hughes.net

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

Day 01/Fri./Jun. 18, 2010: DEPART U.S.A.

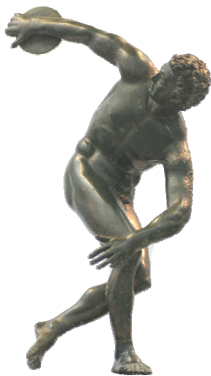
Today we depart for our overnight flight to Athens, Greece. Dinner and breakfast will be served onboard and video/audio entertainment will be provided.

Day 02/Sat./Jun. 19: ATHENS:

After we have completed passport control obligations, we will be met by a Homeric Tours representative and transferred by private, deluxe air-conditioned coach to the Athens Gate Hotel (or similar), our home away from home for the next 2 nights.

Day 03/Sun./Jun. 20: ATHENS (CITY TOUR):

After breakfast at the hotel, we will be met by our English-speaking Homeric Tours guide and our motorcoach to begin a half-day Athens city tour. Today, we will visit such sites as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Royal Palace and the Pan-Athenian Stadium, the Temple of Olympian Zeus and the world famous Acropolis, as well as Monastiraki (the old Flea Market) and the modern market. We will then drive along Patisision, Alexandras, Vas Sofias and Panepistimiou avenues and drive by the view the Academy, the University, the National Library and the Temple of Zeus. Afterwards, we transfer back to our hotel. The rest of the day will be at leisure – perhaps take an optional excursion to Cape Sounion – see description below. **(B.)**

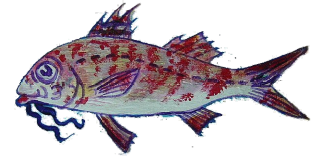


OPTIONAL – CAPE SOUNION:

We will drive along the coastal road past the wonderful beaches of GLYFADA, VOULIAGMENI, VARKIZA and countless coves. On this spectacular and scenic drive, one has a splendid view of the Saronic Gulf. A crowning feature of this tour is Cape Sounion, dominated by the spectacular TEMPLE OF POSEIDON overlooking the Aegean Sea.

Day 04/Mon./Jun. 21: ATHENS – EPIDAUROS – NAUPLIA – MYCENAE – OLYMPIA:

After our included breakfast, we are met by our Homeric Tours representative and private, deluxe air-conditioned motorcoach, to begin our 4-day Classical Tour. We start by driving along the coast to the bridge crossing the spectacular Corinth Canal (short picture taking stop). Two major features today: Epidaurus for a visit of its amazingly well-preserved 2,300-year-old open-air theater and then a short stop at Nauplia before we get to MYCENAE, where 19th-century excavations reveal impressions of the splendors so vividly described by Homer. Here we admire the Beehive Tombs, the Treasury of Atreus, the Lioness Gate, which is Europe's oldest known monument, the remains of King Agamemnon's Royal Palace, and the impressive fortifications of the Citadel. Then it is on to Olympia, via the cities of Megalopolis and Tripolis, for our overnight stay and group dinner at the Amalia Hotel Olympia. **(B.D.)**



Day 05/Tue./Jun. 22: OLYMPIA – DELPHI:

After breakfast at the hotel, we visit where the athletes of antiquity performed in honor of the King of Deities. Learn about the history of those original Olympic Games as you walk among the impressive remains of the Gymnasium and the Temples of Hera and Zeus. Also visit the MUSEUM which displays Praxiteles' magnificent statue of Hermes. Afterwards, we will drive through Patras to Rion and cross the channel to Antirion on the 'state of the art' new suspension bridge, the longest in all of Europe, on our way to Delphi. Here we will overnight and have dinner at the [Amalia Hotel Delphi](#). (B.D.)

Day 06/Wed./Jun. 23: DELPHI – KALAMBAKA:

After breakfast, a fascinating tour of the ancient sanctuary of the god Apollo in its dramatic setting on the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Hear about the Oracle and tour the excavations and the museum to admire the Charioteer, an extraordinary 5th-century B.C. bronze statue. Later, in the afternoon, we depart for Kalambaka, driving through Amphissa, Lamia and Trikala, before arriving at the [Amalia Hotel Kalambaka](#) for our overnight and included group dinner. (B.D.)

Day 07/Thur./Jun., 24: KALAMBAKA – ATHENS:

After breakfast this morning, we will visit the fantastic landscape of Meteora with its 24 rock-top monasteries. We have selected two of them to visit: VARLAAM MONASTERY, famous for its frescoes, and ST. STEPHEN'S, featuring a unique collection of icons and an incredible panoramic view. This afternoon, we will begin our return to Athens, driving past Larissa to the comfortable coastal highway. An additional highlight is a visit to Thermopylae, the site of the heroic battle of Leonidas' 300 doomed Spartans against Xerxes' huge Persian army. Two more sites along the way back to Athens give your tour director welcome opportunities to display his/her vast knowledge of Greek history and legend: Thebes, the setting of Sophocles' *Oedipus Rex*; and Marathon, where in 490 BC., 10,000 Athenians defeated more than twice that number of Persian invaders. Return in the early evening to Athens and the [Athens Gate Hotel](#) (or similar). Dinner is on our own this evening. (B.)

Day 08/Fri./Jun. 25: ATHENS – PIRAEUS – MYKONOS – SAILING:

After breakfast, we will be met by our Homeric Tours representative and transfer to Piraeus to board our ship for a 4-day cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey. The first port of call will be the island of Mykonos, where beautiful beaches, chic boutiques and elegant nightclubs all vie for the tourist's attention. Beneath its sophisticated surface, however, lies a quintessential Greek island. Hundreds of tiny chapels dot the island and sheep graze in the shadow of whitewashed windmills. Find a table on the waterfront and bask in the serenity of sunset over the picturesque harbor. Be sure to send your regards to Pete the Pelican. We then sail through the night. (B.L.D.)

Day 09/Sat. /Jun. 26: KUSADASI (EPHESUS) – PATMOS:

After breakfast, an optional tour of nearby Ephesus should not be missed, for here, history truly comes to life. Walking towards the ancient harbor, down a marble road rutted by the wheels of countless chariots, one will pass such architectural masterpieces as the Magnesia Gate and the Library of Celsus before arriving at the Great Amphitheater where St. Paul was arrested and cast out of the city. In the later part of the afternoon, we will arrive on the island of Patmos. This serene island is known as the site of the apocalyptic revelations of St. John the Divine, written here during his exile from the Roman Empire. The cave where he is said to have lived is now the site of the Monastery of the Apocalypse. In the 11th century, the Abbot Christodoulos founded the Monastery of St. John on one of the island's highest points. It houses priceless icons and manuscripts in its treasury. **(B.L.D.)**

Day 10/Sun./Jun. 27: CRETE (HERAKLION) – SANTORINI:

Good morning, and welcome to Crete. After breakfast, one has a choice of excursions to visit Heraklion, the capitol of Crete and its principal commercial port. Just 3 miles away are the fantastic ruins of the Palace of Knossos. Discovered in 1899 by Sir Arthur Evans and partially reconstructed, the elaborate Palace is believed to be the mythical Labyrinth of King Minos and the seat of ancient Minoan culture. This afternoon, we will sail to the island of Santorini, perhaps the most breathtaking of all Greek islands. Around 1500 B.C., a volcanic eruption destroyed the center of the island, leaving a crescent shaped rim of cliffs around a harbor formed in the volcano's caldera. The town of Fira, with its whitewashed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes and glittering boutiques, clings to these cliffs, accessible mostly by cable car or donkey. To the south is Akrotiri, where recent Minoan excavations support the theories that Santorini might be the fabled lost continent of Atlantis. **(B.L.D.)**

Day 12/Mon./Jun. 28 PIRAEUS – ATHENS AIRPORT – USA:

This morning we disembark and are met for the final time by our Homeric Tours representative and transferred to the Athens airport for our flight home, bringing with us the glories of Greece and the memories of good times and even better friends. **(B.)**

YASSOU!!!
(Hello or Goodbye)



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