



Tour: **WONDERS OF GREECE**
Itinerary: 10-days / 9-nights total trip
Specialization: Science, History, Arts & Culture

WONDERS OF GREECE

Athens, Crete, Delphi, Nafplio, Corinth & Epidaurus

Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Overnight Travel to Athens, Greece		
2	Arrive Athens, clear Customs & Immigrations; transfer to Hotel & Check-In	Rest & Refresh	Welcome, Safety & Orientation Briefing Greek Welcome Dinner
3	Athens: The Acropolis, The Acropolis Museum, Athens Planetarium & Ancient Agora		Traditional Greek Tavern Dinner
4	National Archaeological Museum with Specialized Guide	Traditional Greek Cooking Workshop	Travel Overnight to Crete by boat; Dinner Onboard
5	Crete Exploration & Knosos Archaeological Site	Crete Aquarium & Marine Life Master Class	Local Dinner & Free Time
6	Arolithos Traditional Cretan Village with Bread & Olives Master Class	Sfendoni Cave Tour	Dinner Traditional Dance Performance
7	Minoan Civilization of Crete - The Heraklion Archaeological Museum & Master Class	Heraklion City Tour	Flight to Athens Dinner
8	Delphi Exploration with Private Guide, & Traditional Souviak Lunch		Dinner & Greek Storytelling
9	Corinth Canal, Epidaurus & Nafplio Excursion		Farewell Dinner & Reflections
10	Transfer to Athens airport; return travel home		



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.

Days 1

Overnight flights; meals in flight

GREECE

Day 2

Meals in flight; dinner in destination

Welcome to Greece! Upon arrival in Athens and after immigration and customs formalities, our guide will be there to welcome us to this fabulous country. After hotel check-in, we'll take some time to get settled after our long flight and have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation Meeting. Once your flights have been booked and dependent upon your arrival time, you may wish to add an activity for the day. We purposefully leave this day's activities open just for this reason. You may wish to rest and refresh or do something more exciting; the choice is yours! Just let us know how we may best serve you.



Greece... Greece is a country with thousands of islands throughout the Aegean and Ionian seas. Influential in ancient times, it's often called the **cradle of Western civilization**. Athens, its capital, retains landmarks including the 5th-century B.C. Acropolis citadel with the Parthenon temple. Few civilizations have left such a mark on our modern world. Greece is also known for its beaches, from the black sands of Santorini to the party resorts of Mykonos. From the grand architecture, the philosophical discoveries and their mythology, Ancient Greece laid the foundation for much of our culture today. During our spectacular trip through Greece, your students will experience the sciences, sports, history and culture that led to the rise of this influential civilization.

Athens - the capital of Greece, is one of the oldest cities in the world. Athens took its name from the goddess Athena. Its first name was Kekropia deriving from its mythical founder and first King Kekrops until the competition between Poseidon and Athena was won by Athena, who became protector of the young and rising city, to which she offered the gift of the olive tree, symbolizing serenity, and her name, symbolizing wisdom.

Athens, the cradle of democracy, philosophy and the western civilization as we know it today, begun as a small, fortified village built on top of the Acropolis rock as far back as 3,000 years B.C. Through the years, Athens became one of the most powerful city-states of the ancient world and produced the first and most influential philosophers, poets and scientists - like Plato, Sophocles, Euripides and Socrates. Athens became the symbol of freedom, thinking and art. Athens is now a city with great life, stunning walks, and many museums, such as one of the world's greatest, the "National Archeological Museum" where you can see incredible examples of ancient works of art from Athens and other parts of Greece. The Byzantine & Christian Museum, the Benakis Museum of Greek Culture, and the Museum of Cycladic Art are also amazing world-class museums to sample.

Hotel Note – in all locations, hotels may range from general 3-star properties to stunning 4-star experiences. Please let us know your preference when requesting a quote.



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Day 3

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:



The Acropolis - A **UNESCO World Heritage Site**: The Acropolis of Athens and its monuments are universal symbols of the classical spirit and civilization and form the greatest architectural and artistic complex bequeathed by Greek antiquity to the world. The most important monuments are the Parthenon, built by Ictinus, the Erechtheon, the Propylaea, the monumental entrance to the Acropolis designed by Mnesicles, and the small temple Athena Nike.



The Acropolis Museum - The Acropolis Museum was founded to exhibit all the significant finds from the Sacred Rock and its foothills. The Museum hosts its collections across three levels, as well as in the archaeological excavation that lies at its foundations.



Athens Planetarium - The digital show "Life in the Universe" invites you on a fascinating search for life beyond Earth. Starting with the origin and evolution of life on our planet, the show focuses on the planets and the moons of our Solar system that are more likely to host microbial life, as well as to the key methods used by astronomers for the detection and study of an exoplanet. What might exist in the billions of stars in the billions of galaxies beyond? (Show topics are subject to change)

Day 4

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:

National Archaeological Museum - The National Archaeological Museum in Athens houses some of the most important artifacts from a variety of locations around Greece from prehistory to late antiquity. It is considered **one of the greatest museums in the world** and contains the richest collection of artifacts from Greek antiquity worldwide. These rich collections, enumerating more than 11,000 exhibits, offer a panorama of ancient Greek culture.



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The museum's exhibition grounds, dozens of halls on each floor, cover an area of 8,000 m² and houses the five major permanent collections: The Collection of Prehistoric Antiquities which includes works of the great civilizations that developed in the Aegean from the 6th millennium to 1050 BC (Neolithic, Cycladic and Mycenaean) and finds from the prehistoric settlement of Thira; the Collection of Sculpture Works presenting the evolution of ancient Greek sculpture from the 7th century BC until the 5th century AD through unique works of art; the Vase and Miniature Collection which includes representative works of ancient Greek ceramics from the 11th century BC up to the Roman era, as well as the Stathatos Collection - a timeless collection of miniature artifacts; the Collection of Metalworking Works with many unique original works, statues, figurines and miniature crafts; and finally, the collection of Egyptian and Eastern Antiquities with works of art, dating from the pre-emptive period (5000 BC) to the times of the Roman conquest. Enjoy!

Traditional Greek Cooking Workshop - If you are interested in Greek cuisine, or you are just crazy about cooking, you will love this lesson. You cook, taste and enjoy local recipes and prepare delicious dishes with the guidance and assistance of a professional chef. All dishes are made of genuine, pure Greek products such as olive oil, vegetables, cheese, meat, wine, etc. and of course all the ingredients are fresh and local.



This evening we will set sail! Traveling to Crete via boat, we'll have dinner onboard and wake up to the Island of Crete. Please understand this is a **ferry boat** to Crete with few amenities; it is not a cruise ship. Boats generally do not have showers in their rooms so please be prepared. Showers will be available in the late afternoon when we check into our hotel. If you desire a more upscale sail, please let us know and we will be happy to explore options on your behalf.

Day 5

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:

Crete - The birthplace of both the king of the Olympian gods and of modern European civilization, Crete is a Mediterranean jewel. It's rich with archaeological and mythological history that's reflected in its ancient ruins



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and cultural attractions. Soak up the charming atmosphere of Chania Town's Old Venetian Harbor or the fortresses and monasteries of Rethymon. The awesome Minoan ruins of Malia date to 1900 BC, and majestic Mount Ida is said to be home to the cave where Zeus was born. – Trip Advisor



Knossos Archaeological Site - Join our specialty guide for a visit to the Knossos Archaeological Site. Knossos is the heart of the Minoan civilization and according to tradition, the seat of the legendary king Minos and the birthplace of thrilling stories such as the myths of the Labyrinth with its Minotaur and of Daidalos and Icaros. The site was inhabited continuously from the Neolithic period (7000-3000 BC) until the late Antiquity.

CretAquarium & Marine Life Workshop - One of the largest and most modern aquariums in Europe, the CretAquarium is geographically located on the northwestern part of the former American Base of Gournes, where together with the research institutions of HCMR forms THALASSOKOSMOS - the largest center for marine science and promotion of the Mediterranean Sea world.

CretAquarium is an expert in presenting species and ecosystems of the Mediterranean, a sea of unique biodiversity that gave birth to ancient civilizations and welcomes millions of visitors every year from all over the world. Offering 60 tanks of different sizes, containing a total amount of 1,700,000 liters of sea water, it is home to 2000 sea animals, 200 different species found in the Mediterranean basin, and successfully represents the Cretan and Mediterranean Sea beds. While here, our students will participate in a specialized marine science workshop.



Day 6

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:

Arolithos Traditional Cretan Village - It was at the beginning of the 80's that Mr. Saloustros, an intelligent, creative and diligent dreamer, decided to launch his work of a lifetime. His intention was to offer something to Crete, his motherland. His creation was the establishment of a Traditional Village that would reflect many aspects of Cretan tradition with aspects such as arts and crafts, cuisine, and local customs. Gradually over time, Arolithos was formed. At times when nobody in Greece had ever heard of agricultural tourism, Arolithos already existed, resulting from an individual initiative by someone who loved his country



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passionately. Nowadays Arolithos is exclusively owned by the family of Georgis and Marika Saloustros. Together with their four children, they work with zeal and passion to maintain that vision.



Bread & Olives Master Class - While here, our groups participate in the Bread & Olives Master Class. The program presents the process of making wheat flour bread and producing olive oil, in detail. It is implemented in different areas, according to the process applied and divided in three parts including kneading and baking bread, nutrition, and culture review. The class is approximately 1.5-hours.

Sfendoni Cave Tour - Sfendoni Cave one of the most important caves in Greece, covering an area of about 3,000 square meters. The cave's unique and rare beauty is mesmerizing, establishing it as one of Crete's most beautiful caves. Visitors are allowed to explore a route of about 270m, along which they can admire a variety of impressive formations. Large columns create labyrinthine compartments inside the cave and stalactites and stalagmites of different colors and shapes decorate the cave's chambers.



This evening we will have dinner and then go in search of Greek dance!



Greek Traditional Dance Performance - Traditional Cretan dances are performed by men and women wearing their wonderful Cretan costumes in formal events. Tonight, we will get to see and admire this beautiful art form. The main dances are pentozalis, kastrinos, pidichtos, siganos, syrto and sousta, which is danced by couples, almost danced on the tip of the toes.

Day 7

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:

The Heraklion Archaeological Museum - The Heraklion Archaeological Museum is one of the oldest and most important museums in Greece and among the most famous museums in Europe. It houses representative artifacts from all periods of Cretan prehistory and history, covering a chronological span of over 5,500 years from the



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Neolithic period to Roman times. The Heraklion Archaeological Museum prides itself for its unique Minoan collection, which includes the masterpieces of Minoan art. It is rightly considered as the Museum of Minoan Culture par excellence.

Traveling in the Mediterranean Sea Master Class – While at the Museum, students will participate in this 1.5-hour Master Class. Students become members of a commercial ship crew that travels in time, from pre-history to the Roman Era, around the Mediterranean. Students digitally bargain, exchange, and become familiar with non-local materials, techniques, and beliefs that circulated through maritime trade in antiquity.

Heraklion City Tour – Meet your guide and get to know the city of Heraklion. Heraklion is the largest city of Crete and one of Greece’s major urban centers. Its development began in the wake of the 9th century AD (in antiquity, Knossos was the island’s most important center, followed by Gortyn). In later times, Heraklion came under Arabic, Venetian and Ottoman rule; its conquerors initially gave it the name Khandaq or Handak which was corrupted to Candia. Among the most outstanding sights of Heraklion are the fortification walls that delimit the “old city”. The first fortifications were built by the Arabs and were later reinforced by the Venetians in the 15th century. From the seven bastions, only the Martinengo bastion survives to this day. From the four gates to the city, only Chanioporta (1570) with the characteristic winged Lion of Saint Marc and the New Gate (1587) at the southern side survive today.



In the late afternoon we will transfer to the airport and **fly back to Athens**; approximate flight time is 1-hour. Dinner will be served at our hotel.

Day 8

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today’s activities include:

Delphi Guided Tour & Traditional Souviak Lunch - At the foot of Mount Parnassos, within the angle formed by the twin rocks of the Phaedriades, lies the Pan-Hellenic sanctuary of Delphi, which had the most famous oracle of ancient Greece. Delphi was regarded as the center of the world and according to mythology, it is here that the two eagles sent out by Zeus from the ends of the universe to find the “navel of the world” met. The sanctuary of Delphi, set within a



most spectacular landscape, was for many centuries the cultural and religious center and symbol of unity for the Hellenic world.

The history of Delphi begins in prehistory and in the myths of the ancient Greeks. In the beginning the site was sacred to Mother Earth and was guarded by the terrible serpent Python, who was later killed by Apollo. Apollo's sanctuary was built here by Cretans who arrived at Kirrha, the port of Delphi, accompanied by the god in the form of a dolphin. Today, the archaeological site of Delphi includes two sanctuaries, dedicated to Apollo and Athena, some buildings intended for sports, the Persians, a statue of Emperor Hadrian, and a building known as the "house of the priests".

After our full day exploring Delphi, we'll have dinner and then an evening of **Greek Mythology & Storytelling**.

Day 9

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Today's activities include:

Ancient Corinth – This morning we'll travel to Corinth. Located on the isthmus which connects mainland Greece with the Peloponnese, surrounded by fertile plains and blessed with natural springs, Corinth was an important city in Greek, Hellenistic, and Roman times. Its geographical location, role as a center of trade, naval fleet, participation in various Greek wars, and status as a major Roman colony meant the city was, for over a millennium, rarely out of the limelight in the ancient world.



We will see the **Corinth Canal**. We'll see the distant view of the straits between the mainland and the island of **Salamis**, where the famous naval battle between the Greeks and the Persians took place and where the Greek navy crashed off the Persian coast. A number of historians believe that a Persian victory would have hamstrung the development of Ancient Greece, and by extension western civilization, and this has led them to argue that Salamis is one of the most significant battles in human history. In the same spot now is the largest naval base in Greece.

Next, we will visit the ancient theatre of Epidauros and then the lovely seaside city of Nafplio.



Epidauros - The Epidauros Theatre is one of the most important ancient sites in Greece, with an almost perfectly preserved Amphitheatre built 2,500 years ago and still hosting Greek dramas today. This **World Heritage Site** is located at the eastern end of the Peloponnese, and according to Greek mythology, Epidauros was the birthplace of **Asclepius**, the god of healing and son of **Apollo**. The site later became one of the most important centers of healing in the ancient world and by the 4th century BC, the sick traveled from far and wide to seek medical and mystical cures at the sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius.

Nafplio - Nafplio is overlooked by the **Palamidi & Akronafplia Castle** on the hill which runs down to the sea, gathering the historic buildings on its way. A testimony to Nafplio's beauty and strategic location is that the



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Venetians made it the capital of their lands in Greece. There are fabulous surrounding areas, vistas, views and tiny villages to venture towards and explore!



After our incredible day of exploration, we will travel back to Athens and have our Farewell Dinner.

Day 10

Breakfast (dependent upon departure times)

After breakfast and our final explorations, we'll prepare to leave fabulous Greece; saying goodbye to our new friends and taking away memories that will last a lifetime. Dependent upon airport check-in times, we'll have breakfast at our hotel if time allows.

ΕΙΣ ΤΟ ΕΠΑΝΙΔΕΙΝ

(Until we meet again)



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The Wonders of Greece

Minimum Booking Numbers: 16 students

What's Included:

- ✓ Round-trip international flights + domestic flight from Crete to Athens
- ✓ 8-nights' accommodation in Greece + overnight air
- ✓ Breakfasts, lunches & dinners daily starting with dinner on arrival and ending with breakfast on departure (dependent upon departure time)
- ✓ Transportation to programmed activities & airport transfers
- ✓ The Acropolis & the Acropolis Museum
- ✓ Athens Planetarium with Astronomy Show
- ✓ National Archaeological Museum
- ✓ Ancient Agora
- ✓ Overnight Ferry accommodations to Crete
- ✓ Traditional Greek Cooking Workshop
- ✓ Knossos Archaeological Site
- ✓ CretAquarium + Marine Life Master Class
- ✓ Arolithos Traditional Cretan Village + Culture "Bread & Olives" Experience
- ✓ Sfendoni Cave Tour
- ✓ Traditional Crete Dance Performance
- ✓ Heraklion Archaeological Museum + Master Class
- ✓ Heraklion City Tour with Guide
- ✓ Greek Mythology & Storytelling Evening
- ✓ Delphi Exploration with Guide + Traditional Souviak Lunch
- ✓ Corinth Canal
- ✓ Epidaurus Theatre & Grounds
- ✓ Nafplio Excursion
- ✓ Personal Tour Director
- ✓ 24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

- ☒ Fully comprehensive insurance (**mandatory**)
- ☒ Baggage costs, pay directly to airline if required
- ☒ Baggage handling - everyone should be able to pull / load their own bag
- ☒ Transfers to/from home airport
- ☒ Meal selections other than ones provided for the entire group (we are generally able to cater for allergy conditions, vegetarians, halal and in some cases vegan)
- ☒ Cost of personal passports, visas or visa waiver fees
- ☒ Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- ☒ Sightseeing / Entertainment / Transport not shown in Itinerary
- ☒ Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, movies, etc.
- ☒ Gratuities – drivers, hotel services, local guides, tour director
- ☒ Credit card fees if individuals wish to pay via credit card instead of ACH
- ☒ Additional taxes, fuel surcharges or fees levied by governments / suppliers

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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