

CLASSICAL GREECE 2024

ATHENS TO ATHENS • PRIVATE SHORE EXCURSIONS





DAY 2

DELOS

DELOS: TRIUMPH & TURMOIL, BIRTHPLACE OF GODS

- Duration approx. 3,5-4 hours
- Incl. Round trip boat/Guide/Entry fee
- Per Person: Euro 80

In antiquity, **Delos** was considered to be **the spiritual and commercial centre of the Aegean**. After a short ferry/tender ride disembark on the island and gather for an introduction before proceeding with your lecturer guide on a unique walk through the original streets of the site's best-preserved quarters. There you will see **Hellenistic houses** with beautiful mosaics in amazingly good condition, further along you will come to the **Sanctuary**, where you can see the **ruins of a temple dedicated to Apollo** – Delos being Apollo's mythological birthplace - while over the **Sacred Way** you will see the famous five **7th century B.C. marble lions, guardians of the Sacred Lake**. On to the **Theatre and the Roman quarter**, where you will find ancient statues dedicated to Dionysus and optionally visit the museum with its interesting exhibits (until now under renovation). Delos is one of the most important Unesco World Heritage sites!



DAY 3

SANTORINI

SANTORINI: BEST ISLAND HIGHLIGHTS, VILLAGES, LEGENDS OF ATLANTIS

- Duration approx. 4,5 hours
- Incl. Bus/Guide/Entry fee
- Per Person: Euro 104

Disembark by tender and board the cable car to reach the **island's capital Fira** for a guided walk through the narrow pedestrian streets. Board the bus for a pleasant drive through the countryside passing the village of **Pyrgos** to the famous **archaeological site of Akrotiri**. If Santorini is known as the Greek Pompeii it is because of ancient Akrotiri. Excavations uncovered an ancient town frozen in time by ash from an eruption some 3.600 years ago. Remains of sophisticated buildings with great frescoes and other constructions are evidence of an elaborate lifestyle.

Continue by bus to the northern coast admiring views of land, sea and skies to reach **Oia**, the **most picturesque village of Santorini** with its **magical views over the Caldera**. Our local guide will take you to the most photographed blue domes, to insight spots and will give you hints for your time at leisure. A short drive will bring you back to Fira.



DAY 4

RETHYMNON/CRETE

CRETE/RETHYMNNO: KNOSSOS, LEGENDARY MINOANS & CRETAN FOOD SECRETS

- Duration approx. 5 hours
- Incl. Bus/Guide/Entry fee/a local light lunch
- Per Person: Euro 140

After about an hour's drive eastwards along the coast and areas where **Cretan wines grow** we arrive at the **Prehistoric (2000BC) Minoan Palace of Knossos** to visit the **archaeological site**, located in a uniquely quaint scenery.

The palace is a monumental symbol of Minoan Civilization due to its impressive size and construction and has been excavated and partially restored in the early 20th century by the great English archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans. Was it the palace of mythical King Minos bearing the labyrinth, where the fearsome Minotaur was said to have lurked?...

After our detailed visit we will proceed by bus to the greater area of **Heraklion** to sample **healthy local delicacies** at a **traditional Cretan Taverna**; we will have some free time before returning to **Rethymnon**.



DAY 4

RETHYMNON/CRETE

MOUNTAIN RETHYMNON VILLAGES, A GORGE , DAMNONI SANDY BEACH

- Duration approx. 5.5 hours
- Incl. bus/escort/entry fee/
- Per Person: Euro 84

A short drive along a gorge will take us to the late Minoan cemetery of Armeni, located on the edge of an Oak Forest, with more than 220 rock-cut chamber tombs with dromos.

After a brief visit we will cross the Rethymno district southwards to arrive in Spili, the green heart of the district with its healthy waters running out of a fountain. Walk in the little alleys, visit the local traditional museum, have a time for a Greek Coffee and some shopping of Cretan herbs and products.

Driving through the breathtaking Kourtaliotiko Gorge and passing the mountain slopes we will stop at one of the last Byzantine stone bridges on Crete, situated in a nice location by the river Megas Potamos.

Finally, we arrive at Damnoni Beach, one of the best beaches on Rethymno's southern shore. Here you will have time to swim in the turquoise crystal-clear waters of the Libyan Sea and if you wish you can enjoy a lunch in a traditional Cretan tavern (not included).

After lunch we drive up into the mountains to pass another impressive gorge, which leads us back to the fertile central part of the district and on scenic roads back to Rethymno, where you will have plenty of time to visit the picturesque Old Town.



DAY 7

NAFPLION

MYCENAE – AGAMEMNON AND THE CYCLOPEAN WALLS

- Duration approx. 3 hours
- Incl. Bus/Guide/Entry fee
- Per Person: Euro 75

A short drive through the **fertile countryside of Argolis** takes us to the ancient city of **Mycenae**, home to the kingdom of mythical Agamemnon.

The importance of the city, which **Homer calls “rich in gold”** begins in 1650 B.C and ceases around 1100 B.C with the fall of the civilization to which it gives name. Visit the remains of the glorious city including the **Lion’s Gate**, the **Palace** and the **tomb of Agamemnon**.

Mycenae in legend was the royal seat of the ill-fated House of Atreus, and from Mycenae Agamemnon, “king of men”, went off as the leader of the Achaean expedition to war against Troy.

Mycenae was a **major centre of Greek civilization** between 1600BC and 1100BC and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

At the end of the tour, we will have a short, guided walk in the historical center of **Nafplion, first Capital of modern Greece** with its dominating castle walls, old houses and picturesque narrow streets.



REMARKS:

The tours are exclusively run for our Variety small groups and require a minimum of 14 guests.

Our tours do perfectly match with our cruise itinerary timings and are led by local certified English-speaking guides or professional escorts. Let us take you to the “must see” sites and show you some hidden spots at the same time.

The tours are subject to changes due to site restorations, weather, heavy traffic or other conditions. Should sites or museums be closed on our visiting days, alternative visits will be offered instead.

The tours are quite active and require good physical condition. Due to slippery sites, we recommend comfortable shoes, sun tan lotion, a hat and water. Dress code for Church and Monastery visits.

Gratuities for drivers and guides are not included.

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