Itinerary for Best of Greece Tour • Expat Explore

Start Point:
Best Western Candia Hotel,
Theodore Diligiannis 40, Athina 104 38, Greece
15:00-17:00 hrs

End Point:
Athens,
Airport
12:00 hrs (midday)

DAY 1: Arrive in Athens

Welcome to Greece! Upon arrival, make your own way the hotel for the start of the tour (airport transfers available at extra cost, please contact us for details). This evening we will enjoy an included dinner at a local restaurant in Thissio, a historical neighbourhood of Athens close to the Acropolis.

Experiences

Get to know the other travellers on your tour at the included dinner this evening. You'll get to try traditional Greek cuisine, like pitta with tzatziki, greek salad, tomato balls and spanakopita (spinach pie).
DAY 2: Athens - Thermopylae - Kalambaka

Enjoy a slower start as we depart from Athens this morning. On the way to Kalambaka, stop at Thermopylae to admire the statue of Leonidas, King of Sparta. This location is famous around the world as the scene of the battle of Thermopylae between the Greek and Persian forces in 480 BC. Next, we travel on to Kalambaka, an excellent base from which to visit the famous Meteora landscapes and monasteries. Upon arrival, visit a Byzantine art workshop to see how locals create exquisite works of Christian Greek art. Then head to tonight's hotel accommodation and take some free time to settle in. Finish the day with a mesmerising sunset drive of the Meteora hills and catch panoramic views of the monolithic pillars and hills with its celebrated cliff top monasteries. It's truly any photographer's dream. Enjoy traditional Greek food for dinner this evening.

Experiences
Visit Thermopylae for a photo stop to admire the statue of Leonidas, King of Sparta.

Visit a Byzantine art workshop under the hills of Meteora. Byzantine art was inherited from the empire of Istanbul and later brought to the Mediterranean world. See how Greek artists handcraft hagiographic art based on the traditional methods of old craftsmen of Meteora.

Take a drive through the Meteora hills at day’s end to see amazing rock formations that have provided sacred retreats for monks over the centuries. The views are breathtaking and you’ll soon understand why Meteora is considered among the most beautiful areas of mainland Greece. This area numbers among UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites.

**Included Meals**

| Breakfast: ✓ | Lunch: ✗ | Dinner: ✓ |

**Accommodation**

Kosta Famissi

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**DAY 3: Kalambaka - Meteora (optional) - Delphi**
Spend free time in Kalambaka this morning, exploring as you wish. Or join our optional excursion of the monasteries of Meteora. This excursion will take you on a drive through the hills and giant cliffs of Meteora, with scheduled visits and free time to explore cliff-top monasteries. This afternoon we cross the mountains for central Greece and Delphi. After a short orientation tour with your tour leader, the evening is yours to spend at leisure.

Experiences

Take a short orientation tour of Delphi. Your tour leader will show you where the ancient sanctuary of Delphi is located, and guide you through the main street of Delphi to point out local amenities, restaurants and main attractions.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✓ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✓

Accommodation

Parnassos Hotel

Optional Excursions

Monasteries of Meteora: € 20

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 4: Delphi - Trizonia island - Olympia
This morning allows free time. Explore as you please, or join in on the optional excursion to discover Delphi with a local guide as you admire the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Treasury of the Athenians and visit the famous museum of Delphi. Then drive along the Coast of Corinth and take a short ferry to the colourful Greek island of Trizonia. The last of its kind, this island is only 2.5 km² big with almost no cars. Soak up the culture, tastes, sights and sounds, and experience how life here has remained the same for centuries. You have the choice to join an optional lunch at a local eatery on the island, or explore as you wish. After the ferry ride back to Glyfada, we drive on to ancient Olympia. This was the home of the original Olympic Games, which originated in 776 BC. Tonight you can spend time at your leisure, or choose to join a Greek evening of traditional food and dance. The perfect way to end an eventful day!

Experiences

Take a ferry to the hidden island of Trizonia, just off the coast from Glyfada. The small island is 2.5 square kilometers in size and the only inhabited island on the Gulf of Corinth. It's nothing less than a haven, with an idyllic fishing port, local seafood tavernas and magical views of the mountainous coastline. There are only a handful of people living on the island, and almost no cars!

Included Meals

Accommodation
Breakfast: ✔ Lunch: ✗ Dinner: ✗ Hotel Neda

Optional Excursions

Delphi museum and ancient site tour: € 25
Trizornia Lunch: € 25
Greek Dinner & Traditional Dancing: € 40

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 5: Olympia - Mycenae - Nafplion

This morning’s activities include a locally-guided tour of the Olympia ancient site. Next, we cross the mountains of Peloponnese to arrive at Mycenae for our visit to the tomb of Agamemnon and the famous Lion’s Gate. It’s not only one of the most important archeological sites in Greece, but is also the place where many of the ancient Greek myths have their origin. Tour the grounds with an expert guide and have an included lunch before making your way to the picturesque town of Nafplion. Nafplion is the first capital of modern
Greece, the skyline of which is dominated by Palamidi castle. Settle into your hotel upon arrival and spend the rest of the evening at your leisure, or join an optional evening tour to Epidaurus and see the ancient theatre.

**Experiences**

Enjoy a tour of the ancient Olympia complex, including the Temple of Zeus, the Palaestra and Phidias' workshop.

Visit Mycenae and take a walking tour with an expert guide to explore the ruins of this once powerful settlement. Learn all about how it came to exist and, according to Greek myth, was ruled by King Agamemnon. See highlights such as the Palace, Tomb of Agamemnon and Lion's Gate. Lunch is included this afternoon as we sit down in a local restaurant for a 3-course meal.

Visit Nafplion, dominated by Palamidi Castle. Be sure to take time to explore the picturesque narrow streets and admire the neo-classical architecture. Take a stroll along the seafront promenade and enjoy the amazing views to the fortified Bourtzi islet, which guarded the entrance to the port of Nafplion.

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✓
- Lunch: ✓
- Dinner: ❌

**Accommodation**

- Park Hotel

**DAY 6: Corinth Canal - Athens city tour - Acropolis (optional) - Mykonos**
Depart for Athens from Nafplion and take a short stop along the way for a photo stop at the Corinth Canal. Once you arrive in Athens, embark on a city tour with an expert local guide. See top attractions like the Academy, National Library, Greek parliament, Panathinaikos marble stadium, Hadrian's Arch, and the temple of Olympian Zeus. After the tour you will have the option to join a guided tour of the Acropolis site. During this optional excursion you will continue on foot to the sacred rock of Acropolis, visiting the Propylaea, the Erechtheion, the temple of Athena Nike and the Parthenon. After the tour, walk along Apostolou Pavlou street towards the Plaka neighbourhood for an included lunch at a local restaurant. Later on, transfer to the port to catch the local ferry to Mykonos. Upon arrival in Mykonos, settle in at your hotel room and enjoy a relaxing evening.

**Experiences**

Photo stop at the Corinth Canal. Constructed between 1880 and 1893, the Corinth Canal is one of Greece’s most important engineering achievements. The four-mile-long canal was designed to link the Corinth and Saronic Gulf, and in the past it used to be an important navigational route for ships coming in from the Aegean sea. Today it’s mainly used for small ships and and tourist boats.

City tour of Athens. Take a tour of the city which will include stops at The Academy, the National Library, the Greek parliament and the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the Panathinaikon marble stadium where the first modern
Olympics took place, Hadrian's Arch and the temple of Olympian Zeus.

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✓
- Lunch: ✓
- Dinner: ❌

**Accommodation**

- Best Western Candia

**Optional Excursions**

Acropolis: € 25

*Stated prices and availability are subject to change.*

**DAY 7: Mykonos: Free Day**

Day at leisure to explore the magnificent island of Mykonos with its unique sandy beaches on your own.

**Included Meals**

- Breakfast: ✓
- Lunch: ❌
- Dinner: ❌

**Accommodation**

- Hotel Makis
Optional Excursions

Mykonos island & Ano Mera tour: € 44

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 8: Mykonos: Free Day

Another day at leisure to soak up some sun, explore the bustling town of Mykonos or enjoy the facilities of your hotel. Alternatively, follow our suggested optional excursion to ancient Delos.

Included Meals

Breakfast: ✔️  Lunch: ❌  Dinner: ❌

Accommodation

Hotel Makis

Optional Excursions

Delos Tour: € 55
South Coast Boat Trip: € 75
* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

DAY 9: Mykonos - Santorini

Morning at leisure until the time to transfer to the port to catch the local ferry to Santorini. Arrive in Santorini and transfer to our hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

Experiences

Enjoy the morning in Mykonos before we take the ferry to Santorini, where you will have the evening to relax and plan the following free days!

Included Meals

- Breakfast: ✔️  Lunch: ❌  Dinner: ❌

DAY 10: Santorini: Free Day
Day at leisure to explore this unique island on your own.

**Included Meals**

- **Breakfast:** ✓
- **Lunch:** ✗
- **Dinner:** ✗

**Accommodation**

- Kalisperis Hotel
- Hotel Sandy Village

**Optional Excursions**

Santorini island day tour: € 45

*Stated prices and availability are subject to change.*

**DAY 11: Santorini: Free Day**
Another day at leisure for you to explore this unique island. Alternatively, you can follow our optional boat excursion to the caldera islands. We will visit the volcano, the hot springs, little Thirassia island and we will end at Amoudi bay, the little port of Oia. We will climb up to Oia village and admire one of the best sunsets in the Aegean. Later, we will be transferred back to our hotel.

### Included Meals
- Breakfast: ✔️
- Lunch: ❌
- Dinner: ❌

### Accommodation
- Kalisperis Hotel
- Hotel Sandy Village

### Optional Excursions
- Caldera Islands: € 37

* Stated prices and availability are subject to change.

**DAY 12: Return to Athens**
Early in the morning we will be transferred to the airport of Santorini to catch a local flight back to Athens. This flight is with Aegean airlines and is included within the cost of the tour package. Arrival at Athens airport brings your tour to a conclusion.

**Experiences**

Fly back to Athens for the end of the tour.

**Included Meals**

Breakfast: ✓  Lunch: ✗  Dinner: ✗