# Classical Greece with 3-Night Aegean Cruise May 22 – June 3, 2025 \$4979 per person plus airfare

# 12 DAYS FROM ATHENS TO ATHENS





# **DAY 1 ARRIVE IN**

ATHENS, GREECE Welcome to Athens! At 6 pm, meet your Tour Director and traveling companions for a welcome drink.

ATHENS-CARYATUD-PORCH.jpg

# **DAY 2 ATHENS**

Marvels & Myths ATHENS Guided sightseeing includes a visit to the Acropolis and a stop at the Panathenaic Stadium. Free time this afternoon and evening.

### **TOUR HIGHLIGHT**

HISTORIC SPOTS Explore the heart of Ancient Greece, in the historic empire where 5th-century BC landmarks, including the Acropolis, never fail to amaze! See the Panathenaic Stadium, one of the venues of the first modern Olympic Games.

### ATHENS-ACROPOLIS.jpg

Breakfast

# DAY 3 ATHENS-CORINTH-MYCENAE-EPIDAURUS-NAUPLIA

Greek History & Heroes CORINTH Cross the canal and visit ancient Corinth.

MYCENAE Free time for lunch. Guided visit of the excavations and museum.

EPIDAURUS Guided visit to the 2,300-year-old open-air auditorium before continuing to Nauplia.

132 mi / 212 km

#### **TOUR HIGHLIGHT**

CULTURAL GEM The outdoor auditorium of Epidaurus combines perfect mathematic proportion with excellent acoustics. This fascinating archaeological treasure was used for the healing of patients from all over Greece and was dedicated to Asklepios, the god of healing.

### **EPIDAURUS-THEATER.jpg**

Breakfast Dinner

### DAY 4 NAUPLIA-OLYMPIA

Ruins & Recipes Take a scenic drive through the Arkadian Mountains.

OLYMPIA Join a guided visit to the archaeological site and the museum. Attend a cooking demonstration this evening to learn how to make traditional Greek tzatziki.

112 mi / 181 km

#### LOCAL FAVORITE

LOCAL TASTES Dip into the delicious tradition of Greek tzatziki – a mix of yogurt, cucumbers, garlic, salt, olive oil, vinegar, lemon juice, and herbs such as dill, mint, parsley, and thyme. Learn how to make this quintessential recipe loved the world over.

# OLYMPIA-TZATZIKI.jpg

Breakfast Dinner

# DAY 5 OLYMPIA-PATRAS-DELPHI

Digs & Dances Drive by the busy seaport of Patras.

DELPHI Join a guided visit to the excavations and Archaeological Museum. This evening, **@** learn how to dance the sirtaki while sipping a glass of ouzo.

149 mi / 239 km

#### LOCAL FAVORITE

CULTURE & TRADITION Dance in the steps of Zorba the Greek to learn the sirtaki. This passionate and dramatic dance goes very well with a glass of ouzo, the anice-infused drink the locals are so fond of.

## DELPHI-TEMPLE.jpg

### DAY 6 DELPHI-METEORA AREA

Monasteries in Magical Greece Drive past Lamia and Trikala en route to Kalambaka. METEORA Guided visit of the Varlaam and St. Stephen's Monasteries.

155 mi / 249 km

#### **TOUR HIGHLIGHT**

SACRED SITES Perched atop soaring huge cliffs are the monasteries of Meteora, of which six are still active. Visit the beautiful monasteries of Varlaam and St. Stephen's to marvel at this serenely mystical landscape with breathtaking views from above. Long revered for the perfect monastic retreat from the world outside, Meteora's spectacular array of massive sandstone cliffs create a surreal setting unlike any other.

### METEORA.jpg

Breakfast 📤 Dinner

# DAY 7 METEORA AREA-THERMOPYLAE-ATHENS

Grecian Battles & Beauty THERMOPYLAE Stop at the battle site. ATHENS Free time late afternoon and evening. 236 mi / 380 km  $\,$ 

#### **TOUR HIGHLIGHT**

LEGENDARY LIVES The story of the Battle of Thermopylae is hard to beat for drama. You may recognize this tale of the heroic, yet doomed Spartans of 480 BC fighting against the Persian army, which is dramatized in the film "300." Their brave battle endures as a valiant symbol of bravery and sacrifice for a patriotic cause.

### THERMOPYLAE.jpg

Breakfast

# **DAY 8 ATHENS (EMBARKATION)-MYKONOS**

Beyond the Shore ATHENS Embark on your Greek Islands cruise. MYKONOS Free time to explore this evening.

### **ENHANCED FREE TIME**

EXPLORE MORE Your dreams of the Greek Islands come true with free time in Mykonos. This Aegean paradise of pristine waters and beaches, mixed with a lively nightlife scene is only made brighter by the iconic 16th-century windmills that dot the hillside above.

### MYKONOS.jpg

Breakfast 
 X Lunch 
 △ Dinner

# DAY 9 CRUISING: KUSADASI, TURKEY-PATMOS, GREECE

Turkish Treasures KUSADASI Visit the excavations of Ephesus. PATMOS Afternoon call.

# TOUR HIGHLIGHT

HISTORIC SPOT Pull into port in Turkey to explore the fascinating Greek, Roman, and Byzantine excavations of Ephesus - one of the best-preserved ancient cities in the world – with the historic ruins of the Library of Celsus, the Basilica of St. John, and the Temple of Artemis.

# KUSADASI-EPHESUS.jpg

🍅 Breakfast 🗶 Lunch 📤 Dinner

# DAY 10 CRUISING: HERAKLION, CRETE-SANTORINI

Greek Mythology & Marvels HERAKLION Visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos. SANTORINI Afternoon call (weather permitting).

# TOUR HIGHLIGHT

MYTHS & LEGENDS Marvel at the architecture of the Palace of Knossos in Crete's city of Heraklion. Here, you'll envision epic tales of Greek mythology- the Labyrinth, the Minotaur half-man/half-beast, and the legends of Daedalus and Icarus.

### SANTORINI.jpg

# **DAY 11 ATHENS (DISEMBARKATION)**

Amazing Athens ATHENS Disembark From your ship for a free day in Athens.

### **ENHANCED FREE TIME**

EXPLORE MORE There are countless ways to enjoy free time in the birthplace of democracy, arts, science, and the philosophy of western civilization! Explore the urban landscapes and lively restaurants in this historic capital and enjoy the sunny slopes of this iconic city. Stroll in the shadow of the Acropolis in the village atmosphere of Plaka. Walk along the narrow cobblestone streets to browse jewelry stores and ceramics shops, then linger in a sidewalk café or taverna to celebrate your Greek adventure.

# ATHENS-PLAKA-AGORA.jpg

Breakfast

# **DAY 12 ATHENS**

Safe travels until we meet again! Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

# ATHENS-STREET-SCENE.jpg

Breakfast