# GREECE TOUR & GREEK ISLANDS CRUISE



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# Greece Escorted Tour with Aegean Cruise

**Duration:** 9 days

**Stay:** 5 nights hotels, 3 nights cruise

Travel style: Escorted tour & independent cruise

**Booking code:** GRECG9M

Call 1300 168 910 to speak to experts at My Travel Experience

Email hello@mytravelxp.com

# 9 Days Greece Tour & Iconic Aegean Cruise

# About the holiday

This exciting Greece holiday combines the essential highlights of historic Athens to Olympia and Delphi with a cruise to magical Mykonos, Kusadasi, Patmos, Crete\* and Santorini.

Begin the journey with taking a step back in time on a tour of the country's capital city. Explore the ancient stadium where the first Olympic Games was held in 776 BC and tour Delphi's archaeologic museum that's been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Next, bid farewell to your tour manager and board the Celestyal Cruise for a wonderful Aegean voyage. First stop is the island of Mykonos, with its whitewashed houses, iconic windmills, trendy cafes and boutiques. Continue to Turkey, where there's the option to tour the magnificent archaeological site of Ephesus when you dock in Kusadasi. Cruise to picturesque Patmos and Crete, the largest of the Greek Islands. Last stop is Santorini, an island that's famous for its inimitable blue door homes and white church domes.

Why you'll love this holiday...

- This comprehensive itinerary ticks the boxes for included highlights & free time
- Join guided tours of the historic sites in Athens, Olympia & Delphi
- Board Celestyal Cruises for a 4-day voyage to the Greek Islands & Turkey

# Travel dates:

2024 & 2025 - Departs Athens on select dates, see our website for details

Departures are subject to confirmation at time of booking. Price may vary depending on your travel date. Please contact us for current prices and availability.

\* Mar. & Nov. sailings will not visit Crete/the Palace of Knoosos

Want to extend your stay or add flights from Australia? Call our office on 1300 168 910 for current rates & travel deals.



## Greece Tour & Cruise Package Includes:

- 8 nights accommodation
  - 3 nights Athens, 4-star hotel
  - 1 night Olympia, 4-star hotel
  - 1 night Delphi, 4-star hotel
  - 3 nights Celestyal Cruise, inside cabin (upgrades available)
- Hotel taxes, fees & service charges
- Hotel porterage
- 16 meals: 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 5 dinners
- Sightseeing per itinerary in modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of English-speaking tour manager (Days 1-6)
- Services of local guide in Athens
- Entrance fees per itinerary

# Package excludes:

International flights to Greece - contact us for the latest airfare deals Airport transfers

Meals & sightseeing not specified in the inclusions or itinerary Optional tours, shore excursions & activities

Personal items, such as drinks, snacks, laundry, WiFi access etc.

Cruise gratuities

Gratuities for guides, representatives & drivers

Travel insurance is essential - please contact us for a quote

Package is subject to confirmation by hotels, tour company, cruise line & local operators.

Contact us for solo traveller rates.

Booking conditions & cancellation fees apply.

Flights from Australia can be added on request For more information, please call 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com



## **Itinerary:**

#### DAY 1, Sunday - Arrive in Athens

Arrive in Athens, the classical capital of Greece; make your own way to the hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure to discover the ancient wonders of this city known as the cradle of Western Civilization and the birthplace of democracy. Your tour will begin with an orientation meeting with your Tour Manager at approximately 7 PM at your hotel. We recommend selecting flights that arrive no later than 5 PM **Overnight:** Athens

## DAY 2, Monday - Athens City Tour

This morning is at leisure, or join the *optional* guided tour of the Acropolis. This architectural masterpiece was built during the Golden Age of Athens and today is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. For passengers who opt not participate in the optional tour, transportation has been included to meet the Tour Manager and the rest of the group at the Acropolis Museum. Visit the museum, built at the base of the famous monument, housing many of the precious original statues from the Acropolis. After lunch on your own, join the Tour Manager for a walk through the lively Plaka area, the oldest section of Athens, a neighbourhood of charming restaurants, shops and sidewalk cafes. Continue by bus to Syntagma Square. Upon arrival, you might catch a glimpse of the colourfully-costumed Evzone guards, outfitted in the traditional Greek style. Tonight, consider joining the *optional* dinner in Athens. Begin the evening with a panoramic drive through illuminated Athens. Continue to the lively Plaka area under the Acropolis and enjoy a 3-course traditional Greek dinner, including wine and live music at a typical Greek taverna

Optional: Acropolis Archaeological Site Walking Tour (AM)

Optional: Dinner in Athens (PM)

Overnight: Athens Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 3, Tuesday - Sightseeing en route to Olympia

Depart Athens via the scenic coastal road to the mighty Corinth Canal, dividing the Peloponnese from mainland Greece. Continue via Nauplion to Mycenae, the heartland of Greek mythology. Visit the Acropolis of Mycenae and the Tomb of Atreus, built around 1250 B.C. From here, drive through the Central Peloponnese Peninsula, whose major cities in classical times were Corinth and Sparta. Continue to Olympia, birthplace of the first Olympic Games

Overnight: Olympia Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 4, Wednesday - Tour the Olympia Archaeological Site

Morning visit to the archaeological site of Olympia, including the Sanctuary of Olympian Zeus, and the ancient stadium where the Olympic Games were first held in 776 B.C. At the Archaeological Museum view astonishing Greek works of art such as the Nike of Paionios and terracotta statues dating back to the 5th century B.C. Visit a local store, where you will have a chance to taste local olive oil and spices. Then, drive north through the plains of Eliad and Achaia, crossing the Corinth Strait via a cabled bridge from Rion to Antirion. Pass the town of Nafpaktos en route to Delphi, home of the ruins of the Tholos Temple

Overnight: Delphi

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

#### DAY 5, Thursday - Archaeological Tour of Delphi

Tour the excavated site of Delphi and the archaeological Museum, perched on the slopes of Mount Parnassos, declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Considered one of the most important places in Greek history, its stunning setting and ancient ruins are truly inspirational. Walk the Sacred Way to the imposing 4th century B.C. Temple of Apollo, site of the most important oracle in the classical world. Afterward, travel south and arrive in Athens in the late afternoon. The rest of the evening is at leisure to further discover Athens on your own. Tonight, meet your Tour Manager for a drink to bid farewell

Overnight: Athens Meals: Breakfast

#### DAY 6, Friday - Cruise Embarkation, Arrive in Mykonos

Morning arrival at the pier for embarkation. Set sail around 11:00 AM, and sit back as you take in the spectacular scenery of the beautiful turquoise waters of the Aegean. Arrive by 6 PM in the ultra-popular and chic jet-set island of Mykonos with its whitewashed houses, iconic windmills and sophisticated town with trendy cafes and boutiques. Find a table at a harbourside taverna and gaze at the bustle of Cycladic island life and the gorgeous views. Perhaps visit one of the island's popular bars before returning to the ship departing at 11 PM for Kusadasi, Turkey

Overnight: Aegean Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### DAY 7, Saturday - Arrive in Kusadasi (Ephesus), Evening in Patmos

Today, arrive at 7:30 AM in Kusadasi, Turkey. This splendid city is renowned for its significant historical and religious sites, including ancient Ephesus, one of the most exquisite cities in antiquity. Tour the magnificent archaeological site of Ephesus, home to the Library of Celsus and Fountain of Trajan. Enjoy free time in Kusadasi before returning to the ship in time for lunch and departure at 1 PM. At 5 PM, arrive in Patmos. This small island is steeped with an intense spiritual character, which inspired St. John the Divine to write the Book of Apocalypse. A large monastery in his name dominates the landscape above Chora, the island's capital, surrounded by strong fortress-like walls. Follow the picturesque narrow lanes in the port of Skála and discover cafés, shops and bakeries selling traditional honey and nut pastries. Time to linger until sailing at 9:30 PM to Crete

Overnight: Aegean Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### DAY 8, Sunday - Arrive in Crete\*, Evening in Santorini

At 7 AM, arrive in Crete\*, largest of the Greek Islands. Crete's remarkable history is highlighted by the ruins of the great Palace of Knossos, ceremonial and political centre of the ancient Minoan civilization and residence of the mythical King Minos. Explore the palace ruins, including the Throne Room, the fresco of the "Prince of the Lilies", and the Queen's Megaron in the east. At 12 PM, enjoy a leisurely lunch on board as the ship sets sail. At 4:30 PM, cruise into Santorini's caldera as you marvel at the sapphire blue water, snow-white architecture and multicoloured cliffs that characterize this enchanting getaway. The streets of bustling Fira, the island's capital city, are a vision of pristine whitewashed buildings. Relax at a cliff-side café or wander the narrow footpaths before the ship sails towards Athens at 9:30 PM \*Mar. & Nov. sailings will not visit Crete/the Palace of Knoosos.

Overnight: Aegean Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

#### DAY 9, Monday - Depart Greece

Disembark your cruise at 7 AM and make your way to the airport in Athens if you are flying out today

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: The daily descriptions are intended as an indicative guide only. Travel by nature is unpredictable. Weather patterns, road & sea conditions, public holidays, travel restrictions and other factors may necessitate itinerary changes that are ultimately for the client's benefit. It is essential that clients are flexible in this regard.

Any questions? Please phone 1300 168 910 or email hello@mytravelxp.com

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#### **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

#### Please read the following information prior to making your reservation

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#### This is a summary in brief for our customers:

- 1. Upon making a reservation with My Travel Experience you will receive a booking form, which needs to be filled out and signed to confirm that you agree to the terms and conditions.
- 2. Your booking will then be confirmed to you in writing and you will be required to pay a deposit to hold your reservation.
  - 3. At this time, you must take out travel insurance for your holiday to protect you against any unforeseen circumstances.
- 4. 120 days prior to departure you will be asked to make the balance payment for your trip (the exact due date for your travel supplier will be advised at the time of booking).
- 5. 10 days prior to departure you will be sent your travel documents electronically via email.

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If you wish to cancel you must notify us of your cancellation in writing. We will then write to the Suppliers to cancel your booking and request a refund (if applicable) for any elements of your holiday that are refundable. You will need to make an insurance claim for any travel arrangements that are non-refundable. If you have any issues during the refund or cancellation process, you have 30 days to contact our office in writing to lodge a complaint so an immediate resolution can be found for you.

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