

# Breathtaking Greece:

## South, North, and Islands

Join us for a glorious adventure as we explore ancient Greece over 16 days. We'll be immersed in the rich culture and history of this ancient land. The food, the colors, and the people are all part of this journey. We begin in Athens, then move on through the Peloponnese to visit historic sites and fertile wine producing valleys. We then head north through ancient olive groves, ending in Thessaloniki. Next we hop to the island of Rhodes, and we conclude our journey on the magical island of Kastelorizo, 800 meters off the coast of Turkey.

For More information, visit us at  
[www.uaf.edu/summer/travel](http://www.uaf.edu/summer/travel)

#### Important notes:

- Travelers will be required to have their COVID-19 vaccinations including booster(s). Guidelines regarding facial coverings and distancing will be followed in accordance with local governments.
- Travel insurance is always recommended for any travel out of the United States. There are several ways to purchase coverage. Some credit card companies insure trips that are purchased with their card. Another option is to check with a local travel agency. Travel insurance is also available via CampDoc, our travel program registration system.

#### *Tour Dates:*

April 24-May 10, 2023

#### *Tour Cost:*

Double Occupancy

**\$6,195.00**

Single Supplement

**\$750.00**

#### *Inclusions*

- 24/7 Tour Director/Guide
- Accommodations
- Ground Transportation
- Entry fees
- Three meals per day
- Gratuities

Transportation costs to and from Greece are NOT included in this tour price. All travelers must arrange their own transportation to and from the starting and ending cities.

## *Day 1, Apr 24: Arrival in Athens*

- Upon your arrival in Athens International Airport you will be met by our friendly English speaking drivers who will transfer you to your hotel in the city center.
- Check in at Philippos Hotel Athens, your home at the feet of the Acropolis. Located at the heart of the city, Philippos Hotel has everything you need to experience the most authentic side of Athens.



## *Day 2, Apr 25: Athens Discovery Day*

- Uncover stories from the Greek mythology throughout the visit of the magical Acropolis, including the majestic temple of Olympian Zeus and the Ancient Agora. Continue with a unique Acropolis Museum tour that explores the private and public lives of ancient Athenians by decoding the hidden messages within the artifacts they left behind! It's a journey of Greek mythology, including the actual historical events behind the myths, the social and political setting that gave these stories their meaning and the relevance they bear today. A walk through an ancient city of beauty and mystery, with hidden spots rich in history and cultural significance.
- Dinner & presentation at a Greek home



## *Day 3, Apr 26: Travel to Nafplio, Corinth Canal & Winery Visit*

- In the morning you will depart to the east part of the Peloponnese peninsula with a short stop to admire the Corinth Canal, the six-kilometer waterway connecting the Ionian and Aegean seas.
- Crossing olive groves and cypress trees you will make a stop in the fertile valley of Nemea for a winery visit. Nemea is home to one of Greece's most celebrated grape varieties and its largest Protected Designation of Origin zone. Apart from producing leading grape varieties (Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Syrah...), Nemea is mostly known for its aromatic Agiorgitiko grape, amongst other varieties.
- Check into hotel in Nafplio



## *Day 4, Apr 27: Mycenae & Epidaurus*

- Our first visit is in the fabled Homeric city of Mycenae, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and capital of one of the oldest civilizations in the world. While you are literally walking in the steps of King Agamemnon, your expert guide will reveal every story, myth, and legend that hide behind the imposing ruins of the citadel.
- Continue our visit to the third-century theater of Epidaurus, one of the best-preserved classical Greek structures renowned for its superb acoustics. The Epidavros site was set up in honor of the God of Medicine, Asclepius, son of Apollo and Coronis and enjoy the wonderful location of the shrine which is on the UNESCO World Heritage list.





### *Day 5, April 28: Travel to Olympia*

- Travel through the beautiful Peloponnesian countryside towards the site of ancient Olympia.
- On the way, experience one of the least visited but remarkably special Greek temples, that of Apollo Epicurius. This fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of the most impressive and best-preserved. The Temple of Apollo Epicurius –also known as the Parthenon of the Peloponnese– was built in the 5th century BC by Ictinus, one of the two architects of the Athens Acropolis.
- Continue to the fertile valley of Ancient Olympia.



### *Day 6, April 29: Travel to Delphi*

- Explore the archaeological site of ancient Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games. See the training area and the original stadium where the Olympic Games were born and held for centuries. Visit the archaeological Museum of Olympia, which holds world-class masterpieces and treasures like the breathtaking statue of Hermes and the infant Dionysus, by Praxiteles.
- Make a stop in Galaxidi, once a thriving port and home to some of the most powerful families of seafaring merchants in the Mediterranean.
- End the day in the village of Arachova just a 10 minute drive away from Delphi.



### *Day 7, April 30: Delphi Sightseeing*

- Marvel at the beauty of ancient monuments, including the ruins of the Temple of Apollo and the Athenian Treasury. You'll have plenty of time to soak in the magical scenery, after which it'll be time to visit the Delphi Museum, where some of the finest examples of ancient Greek art are on display – including the world-famous bronze statue of the Charioteer of Delphi.



### *Day 8, May 1: Delphi Hike and Travel to Meteora*

- Hike the ancient trail connecting the port of ancient Kirra with the Oracle of Delphi, while following the footsteps of ancient pilgrims in the heart of the famous Crisaeian olive grove.
- Enjoy a delicious olive snack in the shade of an old chapel and discover the taste of different sorts of olives. Learn how olives are cultivated and why the olive tree is a worldwide symbol of immortality, wisdom and abundance.

## *Day 9, May 2: Meteora Hiking Tour & Monastery Visit*

- Enjoy a unique geological phenomenon, see the best monasteries, and learn the history of this UNESCO World Heritage Site as you hike through the majestic 'rock forest' of Meteora. Take a journey back in time, following in the footsteps of the first monks who arrived in Meteora more than 15 centuries ago, hiking among the gigantic rock pillars to enjoy truly breathtaking views.

## *Day 10, May 3: Vergina Archaeological Site Visit en route to Thessaloniki*

- Visit a UNESCO World Heritage Monument and one of the most important archaeological discoveries of the 20th century, the ancient site of Aigai (or 'goats'), the curiously named first capital of the kingdom of Macedon. Although there are open-air ruins, you have come here to see the extraordinary subterranean museum of Vergina and the tombs of Philip II (father of Alexander the Great) and other family members of the great Macedonian dynasty.

## *Day 11, May 4: Thessaloniki City Exploration & Highlights*

- Greece's second city is unlike anywhere else in the country. It is both a sprawling urban centre and a cultural melting pot, where dreams, ideas, visions, and trends percolate in an alternative, avant-garde scene. Its history is written upon everything that surrounds you: the White Tower, Nikis Avenue, Aristotelous Square, Mitropoleos Avenue, Tsimiski Avenue, the Ladadika district, Modiano Market, Bit Bazaar and the Old City. Just as you'll enjoy the atmosphere in the cafes and bars, you'll adore the choice of traditional tavernas and gourmet restaurants.

## *Day 12, May 5: Medieval Town of Rhodes*

- One of the best-preserved medieval settlements in the world, the Old Town of Rhodes has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Protected inside its imposing walls – a boundary between past and present – is the island's coat of arms. Every stone tells a story. You'll see ancient statues, marble crests, fountains, mosques and hammams, the Clock Tower with its breathtaking view of the Aegean, and a rich heritage left behind by past civilizations. The most famous road in the Old Town of Rhodes is the Street of the Knights, restored just as it was in the Middle Ages. Here you'll find the inns of the 'tongues', or national guards, that made up the Order of the Knights. At the highest point in the road is a significant attraction: the grandiose castle known as the Palace of the Grand Masters, with its enormous towers, now a wonderful museum.



## *Day 13, May 6: Rhodes Tour to Lindos & Anthony Quinn Bay*

- Today we will visit Lindos, one of the undoubted highlights of Rhodes. The ancient Acropolis of Lindos is one of the most popular shrines of antiquity, surrounded by walls constructed by the knights, standing 380 ft above sea level. Here, you'll admire the impressive Doric Temple of Athena Lindia, built in the 4th century BC. Meanwhile, the village of Lindos, built on a slope, is the most attractive and popular on the island. In the summer, its streets fill with visitors bar-hopping and window-shopping or buying gifts, like the island's famous decorative plates.

- After visiting the site, we will enjoy some time swimming in the beautiful bay of Anthony Quinn.



## *Day 14, May 7: Ferry from Rhodes to Kastelorizo*

- On the fringes of the Dodecanese, this tiny island is fiercely Greek but infinitely hospitable. This little gem of an island lies just 800m from the Turkish coast. On the map, it appears a mere speck in the Mediterranean, yet for eons it lay on the crossroads of all the major civilizations. It prospered, too, as you will see from the impressively restored mansions that line the port and only town, and from the red castle nearby that gave the island its name. Most importantly, Zeus (amongst other things, the god of hospitality) still reigns here. The locals will make sure your holiday is memorable. Welcome to Kastelorizo!



## *Day 15, May 8: Cruise Around Kastelorizo*

- Today we will embark on a traditional boat for a wonderful tour in the two highlights of the island. 1) The Blue Cave: Some say this is the most striking grotto in the Mediterranean. Arriving here by boat, you may agree. By some magical means, the sunlight reflected at the back of the cave paints the water an unbelievable shade of Aegean blue, which can be neither described nor captured in photos. 2) The Lady of Ro, a legend in our times: The islet of Ro (also called Agios Georgios or Ropi) lies to the southwest of Kastelorizo. For Greeks it has special, symbolic importance thanks to a remarkable woman, Despina Achladioti, who lived there completely alone for 40 years. What started as a patriotic act of resistance during the Nazi Occupation continued until her death. Every morning she raised the Greek flag on this remote outpost and took it down every evening as the sun set. Any would-be invader would have to contend with her first.



## *Day 16, May 9: Free Day Kastelorizo*

## *Day 17, May 10: Athens*

- Return to Athens, and homeward bound!

