

## Athens Excursions

### Athens Sightseeing Tour (½ day)



Departure to the Temple of Olympian Zeus (visit). Then we proceed to the Panathinaiko Stadium, the cradle of the first Olympic Games that took place in 1896 (short stop). Then we pass by the Prime's Ministers residence, Ex Royal Palace, (guarded by colourful Evzones) Zappion (Conference and Exhibition Hall), National Garden,

Hadrian's Arc, St. Paul's Church, Parliament, Tomb of the Unknown soldier, Schliemann's House (Nomismatic Museum), Catholic Cathedral, Academy, University, National Library, Old Parliament, Constitution Square, Russian Orthodox Church, Acropolis (visit Propylaea, Temple of Athena, Nike, Parthenon and Erechtheion).

### Athens by night

The tour starts with a visit to the main Greek port of Piraeus, passing by the most important points of the city (City Hall, picturesque yacht's harbour of Microlimano etc). Following the principal avenues and passing by the Temple of Olympian Zeus, National Garden, Parliament, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Catholic Cathedral, Academy, University, National Library, Old Parliament we arrive at Plaka. Short pleasant walk through the old unique Athens city to one of the most popular taverns for dinner with live bouzouki music and Greek folklore dances.

### **Cape Sounio (½ day)**

Departure for a wonderful drive along the scenic coastal road which affords a splendid view of the Saronic Gulf, passing through some of Athens most beautiful suburbs (Glyfada, Vouliagmeni, Varkiza) to Cape Sounio where you will visit the 5th century B.C. TEMPLE of POSEIDON with one of the most breathtaking panoramic views in the world (on a clear day you can see at least seven islands). The precipice is a sheer 197 foot drop to the sea.

### **Delphi (Full day)**

Departure from our terminal; we are passing by the Olympic Stadium to see the Athens 2004 Olympics main venue. We continue through Thebes, Levadia (short stop) and Arachova for Delphi, known in ancient times as the navel of the world. We pass by Castalia Spring, visit the archaeological site "the Temple of Apollo", famous for its oracle, and the museum of Delphi, with its spectacular findings, including the bronze Charioteer, the Naxian Sphinx and the Statue of Antinoos. After lunch we return to Athens via the picturesque mountain village of Arachova, built on the south slopes of Parnassus, well known for its attractive hand-woven carpets, rugs and quilts, as well as for its wine and cheese (short stop).

### **Argolis Epidaurus- Mycenae (Full day)**

Departure from our terminal; we are passing by the Olympic Stadium to see the Athens 2004 Olympics main venue. We continue for the Corinth Canal (short stop). Drive to Mycenae and visit of the archaeological site and the tomb of Agamemnon (optional stop for souvenirs). After lunch, through Argos we proceed to Nafplion, the first capital of modern Greece with its Venetian fortress of Palamidi and the fortified islet of Bourtzi (short stop). Continue to Epidaurus and visit of the ancient theatre, world-famous for its outstanding acoustics. Finally we drive along the coastal road of Saronic Gulf back to Athens.

## Meteora ( 2 days)



**1st DAY:** Departure through Thebes, Levadia (short stop) and Arachova for Delphi, known in ancient times as the navel of the world. Two hours at leisure or optional visit to the archaeological site and the museum of Delphi. In the afternoon we continue the journey through Central Greece and the cities of Lamia (short stop), Trikala to

Kalambaka (a small town built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks, and crowded by the Meteora Monasteries). Overnight in Kalambaka.

**2nd DAY:** Leave in the morning for nearby Meteora to visit the Byzantine monasteries. Return to Athens passing by the heroic monument of Leonidas in Thermopylae.

## Classical Tour with Meteora (4 days)

**1st DAY:** Departure from our terminal; we are passing by the Olympic Stadium to see the Athens 2004 Olympics main venue. We continue for the Corinth Canal (short stop). Drive to Epidaurus and visit of the Ancient theatre, world-famous for its outstanding acoustics. Then we proceed to Nafplion (short stop) and through the plain of Argos, we arrive in Mycenae. Visit of the archaeological site and the Tomb of Agamemnon. In the afternoon (optional stop for souvenirs) departure for Olympia, the birth place of the Olympic Games, through the cities of Tripoli and Megalopoli (short stop).

Overnight in Olympia.

**2nd DAY:** Visit of the archaeological site with the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of Hera, the altar of the Olympic flame, the Stadium and the archaeological Museum. We continue via Patras (short stop) to Rion, cross the Corinthian bay by the new bridge to Antirion. We pass by the city of Nafpaktos and from there on, we continue along the coastal road to Delphi,

known in ancient times as the navel of the world. In the afternoon, we visit the picturesque mountain village of Arachova. Overnight in Delphi.

**3rd DAY:** Visit of the archaeological site and the museum of Delphi. Departure to Kalambaka via Central Greece (short stop by Lamia). Overnight stay in Kalambaka (a small town built at the foot of the majestic grey rocks and crowned by the Meteora Monasteries).

**4th DAY:** Leave in the morning for nearby Meteora to visit the Byzantine Monasteries. Return to Athens passing by the heroic monument of Leonidas at Thermopylae.

### **Cruise to Aegina- Poros- Hydra (Full day)**



The ship departs at 8:15 am from the port of Piraeus near Athens where passengers are welcomed by the professional multilingual tour leaders in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

At 9:30 am the vessel arrives in Aegina. At the reception desk passengers may obtain shore excursion tickets to the magnificent 5th century BC Classical Greek Temple of Afaea, rising above a breathtaking scenery of dark green pine trees and deep blue sea. The three temples of Afaea (Aegina), Parthenon (Acropolis) and Poseidon (Cape Sounio) form the famous 'Golden Mean Triangle'.

Other options include a guided tour of the island and visit to the Greek Orthodox Church of Saint Nektarios.

A bustling fish market, floating fruit market and Aegina's pistachio nuts are other attractions awaiting visitors.

Next port of call is the little island of Poros. Walk along winding streets, among rich pine forest and lemon trees to the top of a panoramic tower clock view of the Peloponnese. Alternatively you may wish to relax at a portside cafe and enjoy the scenery.



Finally, Hydra. Enjoy one of the most cosmopolitan Greek islands. The favourite of the international jet-set and an artist retreat dotted with art galleries, narrow picturesque streets (no cars allowed on the island), white washed houses, stores of folklore art and jewellery,

local delicacies, crystal waters and multiple cliff face views justly make this island a jewel of the Aegean Sea. Ideal destination for shopping, swimming and photographs.

On the way to the port of Piraeus, passengers are invited to the main lounge to enjoy our international live orchestra and local Greek folklore dances. Our main aim is the entertainment of all our passengers.

This cruise is the ideal introduction to the 'Greek Spirit', the life, the culture, the entertainment and the famous Greek hospitality ('filoxenia').