

OCEANIA'S "SACRED TREASURES OF GREECE" – 3 NIGHT PRE-CRUISE ATHENS TOUR:
\$1899 PER PERSON BASED UPON DOUBLE OCCUPANCY

Enjoy the unique opportunity to visit two of the most precious and sacred sites which lie in the most beautiful and unspoiled parts of Northern Greece.

NOTE: This is an extensive 4-day program that covers a lot of ground both on foot and by luxury coach. There is a lot of driving involved. This tour is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties due to the amount of walking, steps and uneven ground.

DAY 1

Upon arrival to the Athens International airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the center of Athens. The remainder of the day and evening are at your leisure with meals on your own.

Overnight at the Divani Caravel Hotel or similar hotel.

Note that check in time at the hotel is at 2:00pm.

DAY 2

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and then meet your guide in the lobby to begin your sightseeing tour of Athens.

Begin with a visit to the famous site of the Acropolis. En route you will drive by Constitution Square, the House of Parliament, the Neo-Classical style university buildings, the Royal Palace and the Old Olympic Stadium of Athens.

Arriving at the foot of the Acropolis, one of the most photographed ancient monuments in the world, you will set off with your group on a walking tour to the top. Your guide will stop along the way to brief you on its history. Once you get to the top you will have some free time to explore and take photographs. Admire the ancient temples of Athena Nike and the towering Parthenon as well as the gorgeous view of the city of Athens below.

Note: Expect high temperatures in the summer months and heavy crowds. There are upwards of 100 or more un-even steps to get to the top of the monument. There is handrail in some spots but not all. Those not wishing to venture to the top can remain at the bottom and wait for the group to return. At the top the ground is uneven. Large bags are not permitted here and will need to be left on the tour bus.

Next you will visit the breathtaking Acropolis Museum – an impressive building that was completed and opened in 2009 and has an exhibition space of more than 14,000 square meters. It houses every artifact found on the rock and on the surrounding slopes, from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece. It also lies over the ruins of a part of Roman and early Byzantine Athens.

Following your visit of the museum, take a stroll with your group through the enchanting, traditional streets of Plaka, the colorful old quarter of Athens, rich in neoclassical, ancient monuments and Byzantine Churches. Here in the Plaka, you will have a traditional Greek lunch before returning to your hotel where you will have some free time.

In the evening you will be met by your guide and you will transfer to the picturesque Mikrolimano Area in Piraeus where you will dine at Varoulko Restaurant. Lefteris Lazarou, Greece's top-awarded Michelin Star Chef created the restaurant's menu, so you will not be disappointed in this fantastic dining experience.

Overnight at the Divani Caravel Hotel or similar hotel.

DAY 3

The next day enjoy breakfast at your hotel and board your coach for the drive to Delphi. The beautiful drive into the land of central Greece will bring you to the magnificent site of Delphi.

Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the physical and spiritual centers of the earth. This shrine of Apollo set nearly 2,000 feet up on the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Here was the most respected oracle of antiquity. Even the most intelligent men, who lived during the brilliant civilization of Athens, believed implicitly in the responses of the god. These were given by the inspired priestess, the Pythia, and were interpreted, usually with an ambiguous touch, by the priests. Delphi grew fabulously rich with offerings, and though they have almost all disappeared now, you can admire the ruins and try to picture it as it was during its 1,000 prestigious years.

Walk up the Sacred Way past the beautiful small Treasuries to the Temple of Apollo, location of the oracle; continue to the Museum with its superb collection of votive offerings and statues, including the world-famous Charioteer. A traditional country lunch will be offered at the nearby village of Arachova. After lunch you will board your coach and commence the drive to the town of Kalambaka, after check-in your dinner will be served at the hotel and the evening will be at your leisure. Kalambaka is the picturesque town that sits at the foot of Meteora. After check-in your dinner will be served at the hotel and the evening will be at your leisure.

Overnight at the Divani Meteora Hotel or similar hotel

DAY 4

After breakfast you will board your coach for the visit of the Meteora Monasteries. Admire the extraordinary rocks of Meteora which were formed as a result of the force of the nature and they appear to be suspended in the sky, crested with the celebrated monasteries. Today only six monasteries are inhabited, two of which have become nunneries. You are

invited to delve into two of these remarkable phenomena, seemingly floating in the sky and serving as an example of the post-Byzantine era.

After the visit of the Monasteries you will commence your drive to the port of Piraeus in order to board your vessel for your cruise.