



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Athens and the Greek Islands

Crete, Santorini, Mykonos and three-night Aegean Cruise
Friday, September 4 - Saturday, September 19, 2009

Whether you're intrigued by Greek antiquity or awestruck by the natural, ageless beauty of this Mediterranean region, this ultimate holiday combining **Athens** and a **Greek Island cruise** strikes the perfect balance. In Athens you'll marvel at the ancient ruins of the **Acropolis** and its fascinating museum. During your three-night Aegean cruise you'll visit **Patmos**, the Turkish seaport of **Kusadasi**, with its ruins of ancient Ephesus, and **Rhodes**. On **Crete**, home to Greece's earliest known civilization, you'll tour Heraklion and visit the ancient royal complex of **Knossos**. Ferry to the picturesque volcanic island of Santorini and visit the museum of **Akrotiri** on your guided tour; in **Mykonos** you'll have free time for an optional tour to ancient **Delos**. If you want this incredible journey to continue you might consider an optional three-night extension to Istanbul, the nexus of Eastern and Western civilizations.

Includes...

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Athens
- 11 nights three & four star hotel accommodations
- Three-night Louise Cruise Lines Aegean Cruise
- Twenty-three meals: 14 Breakfast, 2 lunches, 7 dinners (dinners on land include wine & beer)
- Round-trip, airport/hotel/ dock transfers
- Sightseeing and touring
- Services of a bilingual Tour Director

Highlights...

Guided Athens tour including the Acropolis, guided tour of Heraklion and visit to Palace of Knossos on Crete, guided tour of Santorini, tour of Mykonos; Cruise ports of call: Patmos, Kusadasi, Turkey, Rhodes; OPTIONALS: Athens—Cape Sounion half-day, Greek Evening with dinner, Delphi full-day, Crete—Rethymnon and Hania full-day with lunch, Santorini—Wine Tasting with lunch, Mykonos—Delos half-day; ISTANBUL 3n post-tour extension, pp/do \$519, single \$669, plus \$21 air tax; OPTIONALS: Istanbul by Night, Bosphorus Straits Cruise

Rates...

\$4,229 per person double occupancy

\$4,909 for single reservations

Outside cabin on cruise

Triple accommodations are unavailable. Add \$166 for current air taxes, fees charges and surcharges and \$90 port charges. Passport required.

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Flight to Athens

Journey to Greece aboard an overnight transatlantic flight.

Day 2 - Athens

Our representative greets you as you clear customs and escorts you to your hotel. Meet the other travelers in your group at tonight's dinner. (*B in flight, D*)

Day 3 - Athens

See the ruins of the ancient Acropolis during your guided tour of Athens. You'll also visit the Acropolis Museum, which still houses some of the original Caryatid statues. This afternoon, opt for an excursion to nearby Cape Sounion and the Temple of Poseidon. (*B*)

Day 4 - The Aegean Islands

Travel to the port of Piraeus, where you'll board your Louis Cruise Lines' ship for a three-night cruise of the Aegean Islands. **(B, D)**

Day 5 - The Aegean Islands

Your first port of call is Patmos, where you'll spend a relaxing morning. Then cruise to the Turkish seaport of Kusadasi with its bustling harbor lined with inviting cafes. Nearby find the ruins of Ephesus, one of the best-preserved cities from ancient times. **(B, L, D)**

Day 6 - The Aegean Islands

Dock in Rhodes, once the domain of the Knights of St. John. It's irresistible combination of beautiful beaches and rich history has lured the travelers the world over. **(B, L, D)**

Day 7 - Crete

Your cruise ends this morning in Heraklion, a historic seaport on the island of Crete. Crete, home to Greece's earliest known civilization, thrived in 2000 B.C. Dinner is included tonight. **(B, D)**

Day 8 - Crete

Today's guided tour of Heraklion includes a visit to the ancient royal complex of Knossos, ruled over by the wealthy King Minos. **(B)**

Day 9 - Crete

With a free day in Heraklion, you might relax on the beach or visit the Minoan ruins at Faistos or Gortys. Alternatively, opt for an excursion to Venetian- and Turkish-influenced Rethymnon and the harbor of Hania. **(B)**

Day 10 - Santorini

In Heraklion, board a day ferry for a scenic journey to the volcanic island of Santorini, with its black-sand beaches, sprawling vineyards and cliff-lined shores. **(B, D)**

Day 11 - Santorini

Admire splendid views of Santorini as you discover the sights on your guided tour. Visit the museum of Akrotiri, a Minoan colony buried in volcanic ash 3,600 years ago. This afternoon, partake in an optional Greek Wine Tasting and Lunch. **(B)**

Day 12 - Mykonos

A ferry takes you to Mykonos, known for its picturesque windmills and the winding streets that once sheltered pirates. **(B, D)**

Day 13 - Mykonos

This morning, you might opt for an excursion to nearby Delos, once a worship mecca for the cult of Apollo. Later, spend the afternoon on the Mykonos beaches. **(B)**

Day 14 - Athens

Board a ferry in Mykonos this morning for your return trip to Athens. Tonight, savor the culinary traditions of Greece at our optional Traditional Greek Evening Dinner. **(B)**

Day 15 - Athens

With a full day at your leisure, plan to visit any of the city's excellent museums or take a walk in the National Gardens. Or consider joining an optional excursion to the Temple of Apollo in Delphi. **(B)**

Day 16 - Athens

Fly home or continue to Istanbul for our tour extension. **(B)**

Extend Your Stay - Istanbul

Add 3 nights, \$519 USD per person double occupancy, single \$669 add .The undisputed cultural, economic, and historical capital of Turkey, Istanbul has enough monuments and attractions (as well as enticing restaurants and shops) to keep you busy for days. Straddling Europe and Asia, the city once known as Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine and then the Ottoman Empire, has for centuries been a bustling and cosmopolitan crossroads. The

Byzantine-built Aya Sofya and the Ottoman-era Blue Mosque and Topkapi Palace are within walking distance of each other, while other historic mosques and churches are sprinkled throughout the city.

Optional Tours:

Cape Sounion \$49

The Temple of Poseidon is one of Greece's most famous landmarks. Set high above the Aegean Sea, on a clear day you can see five Aegean islands.

Rethymnon & Hania \$99

Travel to Rethymnon, where your tour director leads you through the historical Old Town, boasting many relics from Venetian and Turkish rule.

Greek Wine Tasting with lunch \$65

While on Santorini, attend a tasting at a local winery to sample the white wine for which the resort island is best known.

Delos \$69

Journey to the captivating island of Delos, an ancient island which was a bustling port more than 2000 years ago

Traditional Greek Evening with dinner \$79

Travel back in time 1200 years to a unique Roman era, to enjoy an ancient recreated meal. Be prepared to eat with your fingers like the Caesars did, as forks were not considered an appropriate dining accessory in those days!

Delphi \$95

Travel through Greek vineyards en route to the slopes of Mount Parnassus and the town of Delphi, home to the mystical oracle.

Proof of Citizenship is required for all trips outside the United States. U.S. citizens require valid Passport. Passports are the responsibility of each client.

PLEASE NOTE: *This pre-departure itinerary is designed to give you an idea of how this itinerary is structured.* We reserve the right to make any changes to your final itinerary if deemed necessary, at any time prior to departure.

PLEASE NOTE: *This is not your final itinerary. You will receive final documents (itinerary, tickets (if applicable), etc.) approximately 2–3 weeks prior to departure. Although we try our best to ensure that information is accurate at the time of publication, we are not responsible for any error, omission, misprint or liability that results from the use (or misuse) of this information.*