



THE TRAVEL CLUB

Pre-Departure Itinerary

Ancient Greece & its Islands

Featuring Classical Greece, Mykonos & Santorini

Saturday, September 26 - Saturday, October 10, 2009

This unique holiday combines the amazing history of Classical Greece with the colorful beauty of two of her famous Aegean Islands—**Mykonos** and **Santorini**! This euphoric journey begins in Athens with visits to the incredible **Acropolis** and ruins of the **Temple of Zeus**. History comes alive at the site of the ancient city of **Thermopylae** and its monument dedicated to Leonidas. At a local artists' studio you'll watch Byzantine icons being created before arriving in the typical Greek town of Kalambaka. In the ancient city of Delphi you'll visit the **Temple of Apollo**, the Doric Temple and the Theatre while in Olympia, testament to the ancient Greek civilization, you'll see the sanctuary of Zeus and the Olympic Stadium—site of the first Olympic Games in 776 BC. A guided tour of ancient **Mycenae's** excavations features the Beehive Tombs and the Lion Gate. In Epidaurus you'll view the 2,300-year-old open-air theater before arriving in charming, seaside Tolo. Perhaps, saving the best for last, you'll cross the brilliantly blue Aegean for some time on the most famous of the **Cyclades Islands**—Mykonos and Santorini where you'll have free time, a cultural tour and a chance to see one of the most spectacular sunsets in the world!

Includes

- Round-trip air transportation on regularly scheduled flights from Boston to Athens
- Ferry service from Athens port to Mykonos, ferry from Mykonos to Santorini, flight from Santorini to Athens
- 13 nights first class hotel accommodations
- Twenty four meals: 13 Breakfast, 11 Dinners
- Round-trip, private airport/hotel transfers with assistance
- Sightseeing and touring

Rates

\$3,679 per person double occupancy

\$3,629 per person triple occupancy

\$4,729 for single reservations

Singles are limited on this tour. Add \$400 for current air taxes, fees charges and surcharges

Cancellation waiver and travel insurance is \$200.

Although not required we recommend purchasing the waiver, Purchase must be made at time of booking.

Passport required.

Highlights

Welcome taverna dinner with entertainment, tour of Athens including the Temple of Zeus and the Acropolis, site of ancient Thermopylae, Byzantine icons painters' studio, tour of Delphi and Sanctuary of Apollo, historic city of Olympia and the Olympic Stadium, ancient city of Mycenae and visit of excavations of Beehive Tombs and the Lion Gate, Santorini Archaeological Museum; **OPTIONALS:** Athens—Athens by Night, Mykonos—Delos Excursion, Island Tour, Santorini—Sunset dinner in Oia Village

Trip Planner

Day 1: Overnight flight

Days 2-3: Divani Palce Acropolis, Athens

Days 4-5: Hotel Famissi Eden, Kalambaka

Day 6: Hotel Anemolia, Arachova

Day 7: Europa Hotel Olympia

Days 8-9: Hotel King Minos, Tolo

Days 10-11: Royal Myconian Collection, Mykonos

Days 12-13: Hotel Hermes, Santorini

Day 14: Holiday Inn Attica, Athens

Day 15: Return to Boston

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Saturday, September 26, 2009 - Overnight Flight

Discover the beauty and timeless wonder found only in Greece. From historic classical Greece to the colorful Greek Islands, every day is filled with new and wonderful experiences. This fascinating tour of Greece begins with an overnight flight.

Day 2: Sunday, September 27, 2009 Athens, Greece - Tour Begins

Your tour begins in the capital city of Athens. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner in Athens' historic district, known as the Plaka. **In a traditional taverna you will feast on local cuisine and wine, and enjoy Greek entertainment. (D)**

Day 3: Monday, September 28, 2009 - Athens

★**LANGUAGE DISCOVERY: Today, your Tour Manager will help you discover the origin and history of the language(s) you will experience on your tour along with key words and phrases that will help you communicate with the locals.**★ A comprehensive tour of Athens brings the past to life as it showcases the city's ancient and glorious monuments. See the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, the Royal Palace, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Olympic Stadium. You'll also visit the incredible Acropolis. Enjoy time at leisure this afternoon to further explore this captivating city. **(B)**

Day 4: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 - Athens - Thermopylae - Kalambaka

From Athens you will head north through central Greece. Visit the site of the ancient historic city of Thermopylae where you will stop to see a monument dedicated to Leonidas, who died defending the city against the Persians. Then, stop at a local studio to see painters at work creating beautiful Byzantine icons. End your day in Kalambaka, a typical Greek town at the foot of the Pindos Mountains. **(B, D)**

Day 5: Wednesday, September 30, 2009 - Kalambaka - Metéora - Kalambaka

Today you will tour Metéora, a unique landscape of limestone rock "towers" that stand nearly 900 feet into the air. Over 600 years ago, Byzantine monks chose to build their monastic community perched atop these virtually inaccessible rocks. As you travel through the dazzling Peneios Valley you will stop and visit one of these remote holy places. Return to Kalambaka this afternoon for some leisure time to relax or explore the town. **(B, D)**

Day 6: Thursday, October 01, 2009 - Delphi

Continue on to the ancient city of Delphi, one of Greece's most important religious centers during Classical times. It was here that the famous Oracle was consulted to foretell the destiny of Man. A local expert guides you on a visit to the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Doric Temple and the Theatre. **(B, D)**

Day 7: Friday, October 02, 2009 - Arachova - Olympia

Travel along the Gulf of Corinth before crossing into the Peloponnese. Continue south to the historic city of Olympia, a testament to the grandeur of ancient Greek civilization. Your guided visit includes a tour of the sanctuary of Zeus and the Olympic Stadium, where the first Olympic Games were held in 776 BC. **(B,D)**

Day 8: Saturday, October 03, 2009 - Olympia - Mycenae - Epidauros - Tolo

Enjoy spectacular scenery as you cross the Arkadian Mountains en route to the ancient city of Mycenae. A guided visit of the excavations features the Beehive Tombs and the Lion Gate. Continue to Epidauros to view the spectacular 2,300-year-old open air theater. End your day in the charming seaside village of Tolo. **(B, D)**

Day 9: Sunday, October 04, 2009 - Tolo - Nauplion - Tolo

Spend a leisurely day experiencing the seaside charms of Nauplion. Explore the old town and the imposing Palamedes Fort, situated high atop the city with commanding views over the town and the Argolic Gulf. **(B, D)**

Day 10: Monday, October 05, 2009 - Athens - Mykonos

This morning you will transfer* to the port of Athens where you will board the high-speed ferry to Mykonos, the whitewashed jewel of the Cyclades Islands. Enjoy magnificent views as you sail across the brilliant Aegean Sea to this island paradise. **(B, D)**

Day 11: Tuesday, October 06, 2009 - Mykonos

Enjoy a relaxing day to independently explore the charms of Mykonos. The beautiful island beaches beckon for a day spent relaxing in the Mediterranean sunshine. Don't miss Mykonos Town, where mazes of narrow streets link the whitewashed buildings and traditional life continues amidst the bustling activity. You will want to stroll through the island's elegant shops and enjoy the fresh seafood offered in the waterfront tavernas. **(B)**

Day 12: Wednesday, October 07, 2009 - Mykonos - Santorini

Bid farewell to Mykonos as you sail to the most spectacular destination in the Mediterranean, the fabled island of Santorini. Upon arrival, visit an island winery that produces the unique and famous wines of Santorini. **(B, D)**

Day 13: Thursday, October 08, 2009 - Santorini

Spend the morning exploring the cultural wonders and history of Santorini, one of the world's most beautiful islands. Begin the day with a visit to the Archaeological Museum** with its impressive collection of frescoes, Byzantine works of art and sculptures of the Hellenistic period. Next, travel through a fascinating landscape of vineyards, whitewashed chapels and volcanic cliffs to the spectacular town of Oia, where the best views of the crater are found. Later you will travel to the northern part of the island to Oia (pronounced 'Ia'), the most famous and picturesque of all Santorini's villages. Known throughout the world for its quiet life and fantastic sunsets, this beautiful village is situated on top of an impressive cliff, and offers spectacular views over the volcano of Palia and Nea Kameni and the island of Thirassia. Oia is a traditional village with charming houses in narrow streets, blue domed churches, and sun-bathed verandas. Many artists fell in love with the area and settled there and their studio's dot the village today. Enjoy some free time to visit the old castle, wander the streets, stroll through some of the many art galleries or take some breathtaking photos. Your day concludes with a delightful sunset dinner of Greek specialties and wine at a local restaurant while you enjoy the magnificent views of Santorini. **(B, D)**

Day 14: Friday, October 09, 2009 - Santorini - Athens

Bid farewell to the Greek Islands and fly back to Athens for your overnight stay. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner celebrating the end of a memorable trip to Greece. **(B, D)**

Day 15: Saturday, October 10, 2009 - Athens - Tour Ends

Today breakfast is included before transferring to the airport for your return flight to Boston. **(B)**

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.*