



TREASURES OF GREECE

Classical Greece from Thessaloniki to Athens



DAY 1: Arrive to Thessaloniki. Check in and Overnight in Thessaloniki.

DAY 2: "The pearl of Macedonia"

City tour of Thessaloniki. Thessaloniki is a city of 2320 years of age, named after the wife of Kassandros, founder of the city and step-sister of Alexander the Great. Contemporary Thessaloniki is a modern city of about 1.500.000 inhabitants. It is the second largest city in Greece, a crossroad between East and West, North and South. Thessaloniki is a coastal city, rich in Byzantine churches, museums as well as numerous other important history and civilization monuments. The city's most attractive places are: Archaeological and byzantine museum, White Tower, St. Demetrius cathedral, the Galerius Arch, Rotonda and the ancient City Walls, called, 'Kastra'. Free time will be given later on in the day. Overnight in Thessaloniki.



DAY 3: "Holy Mountain"

We will first drive to Ouranoupoli through Trypiti and Nea Roda. We will then aboard the fun and exciting 'Athos Cruise'. Ouranoupoli is the threshold of Mount Athos, a self-governed monastic state known as Agion Oros - Holy Mountain. The presence of females is forbidden in whole area. The Athos Cruise around the mountain gives everyone a chance to see it from afar. This "Holy community" with 20 Eastern Orthodox monasteries and capital of Karyes is considered a World Heritage Site. Overnight in Thessaloniki.



DAY 4: Veria and Vergina

We will first drive to Veria, one of the most important archeological sites in North Greece. A stop will be made in Veria to view the ancient synagogue. Then, we will visit the archeological sight of Aigai, one of the most important villages in Greece. Here, we will explore the Royal tombs and admire the world famous gold findings. The city of Aigai was the first ancient capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia. We shall proceed to Kalambaka. Overnight in Kalambaka.



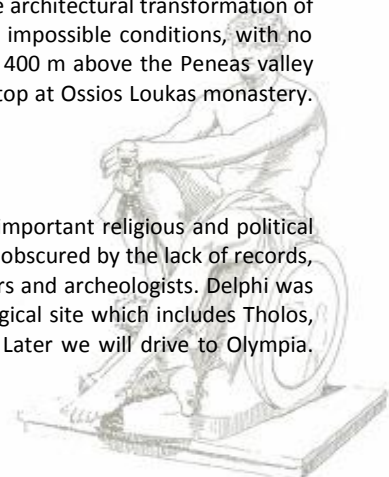
DAY 5: "Suspended in the air"

We will drive across Macedonia through Tempi, which is called the "Garden of Europe". Tempi valley is actually an enormous gorge separating the Olympic Mountains from Kissafos. We will stop at a small church called Agia Paraskevi. Then we will drive to Meteora and visit the monasteries. The monasteries represent a unique artistic achievement and are one of the most powerful examples of the architectural transformation of a site into a place of retreat, meditation and prayer. Meteora is built under impossible conditions, with no possible roads and on rock pinnacles of deltaic origin which rise starkly over 400 m above the Peneas valley and the small town of Kalambaka. Later we will drive to Delphi with a short stop at Ossios Loukas monastery. Overnight at Delphi area.



DAY 6: Delphi

Delphi was inhabited as far back as the Neolithic era and it had become an important religious and political center of influence. While the function of the oracle during prehistoric time is obscured by the lack of records, the importance of Delphi during historical times is well documented by writers and archeologists. Delphi was known in ancient times as the navel of the world. We will visit the archaeological site which includes Tholos, the theater, the stadium, the Temple of Apollo and the museum of Delphi. Later we will drive to Olympia. Overnight in Olympia.





DAY 7: Olympia: The birthplace of the Olympic Games

Sightseeing of Olympia which is the birthplace of the Olympic Games. We will explore the archaeological ruins of the Olympic Village, including the running track and original Olympic Stadium, where the historic Olympic Flame started its journey for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games. We will view the remains of the sacred Temple of Zeus, where it once stood as a seventh wonder of the ancient world. We will then head for the new Archaeological Museum that houses some of the most magnificent and famous examples of ancient Greek sculpture in the world today. Overnight in Olympia.



DAY 8: Sparti

We will visit the following destinations: Mani, Pyrgos, Dirou, Glyfada caves, Vathia and Cape Tainaro. Mani is the southernmost and middle peninsula of the Peloponnese, straddling the districts of Lakonia and Messenia in southern Greece. It is a treasure trove of Byzantine and post Byzantine churches, Frankish castles and stunning scenery. We will then visit Pyrgos Dirou – Dirou Tower , Glyfada caves such as Alepotripa, Katafigi, Vlichada, Vathia and Cape Tainaro. Overnight in Sparti.



DAY 9: Mystras and Mycenae.

We will first have a short visit to Mystras known as the 'wonder of the Morea'. Then we will visit Mycenae, which is one of the oldest cities in Greece that flourished in about 1,200 BC. It is famous for the Lion Gate and the Cyclopean Walls. Mycenae reveals the urban plan of a well-developed town. We will visit the archeological site and the museum which contains finds from the Citadel and the surrounding area and reflects the history and prosperity of Mycenae from the earliest times to the Hellenistic period. We will then drive to Tolo. Overnight in Tolo.



DAY 10: Epidaurus and Ancient Corinth.

We will visit the ancient theatre, the sanctuary of Asclepius. The UNESCO'S world heritage listed monument is reputed to be the birthplace of Apollo's son Asklepios, the healer. It was the most celebrated healing center of the classical world. Epidaurus is probably most famous for its theatre, one of the best preserved classical Greek buildings and still used today due to its amazing acoustics. We will reach The Corinth Canal which connects the Aegean Sea with the Ionian Sea and make a short stop. Then we will visit Ancient Corinth, the remains of the Ancient Greek architecture. Here, we will visit the museum. Later we will proceed to driving to Athens. Overnight in Athens.



DAY 11: Athens where democracy was born.

Today, we will have a city tour around Athens by experiencing the most significant spots of the city. Athens, the largest city and capital of Greece, is the most glorious historical city around the world. It is the city where democracy was born and the wisest men of ancient times. The name of the city was named after the goddess of wisdom, Athena. The heritage of the classical era is still evident in the city, represented by a number of ancient monuments and works of art which we will visit. In addition, we will explore the Acropolis which is nominated to be one of the 7 wonders of modern world.

DAY 12: Free time and departure.

CATEGORY:	HISTORICAL, ARCHEOLOGICAL & CULTURAL TRAILS
DURATION:	12 days / 11 overnights
INCLUDED:	accommodation on BB, bus transportation, local guides, entrances fees, all taxes
PRICE:	Please contact: info@melitours.gr

The tour can be generally rearranged depending on your needs. Arrival and departure are flexibly amended and the duration can also be shortened or extended. More services can be added.

