



PILGRIMAGE ROUTES IN MOUNT ATHOS AREA

This is a historical and cultural journey filled with various types of entertainment. Mount Athos or Agion Oros, as it is locally known, is the oldest surviving monastic community in the world. It dates back more than a thousand years, to Byzantine times. It is a unique monastic republic, which although part of Greece, it is governed by its own local administration. Men will have the opportunity to sleep for one night at one of the monasteries of Mt. Athos, while women will experience it from a ferry. In addition, the journey includes a visit to Ouranoupoli, Arnea, and Vrastama. Here, you will have the opportunity to learn the history and significance of each area.



DAY 1: Arrival at the Mount Athos Area

Travel time from the Macedonia airport of Thessaloniki to Arnea will take 60 minutes and 90 minutes travel time from Arnea to Ouranoupolis. Upon arriving to Ouranoupolis, you will have the opportunity to enjoy lunch or dinner depending on arrival time.



DAY 2: Pilgrimage to the Holy Peninsula

For men: Visiting Mount Athos

The men will take a journey to the holy peninsula of Athos where they will spend an entire day and be accommodated at night at the dormitories of the monastery. The men will choose to visit different monasteries in which they desire. On the actual grounds of the holy land, the men will be directed by residential monks showing them their daily life style. They will have a once in a life time experience to be part of an isolated land away from modern society; giving them the opportunity to experience tranquility and spirituality.

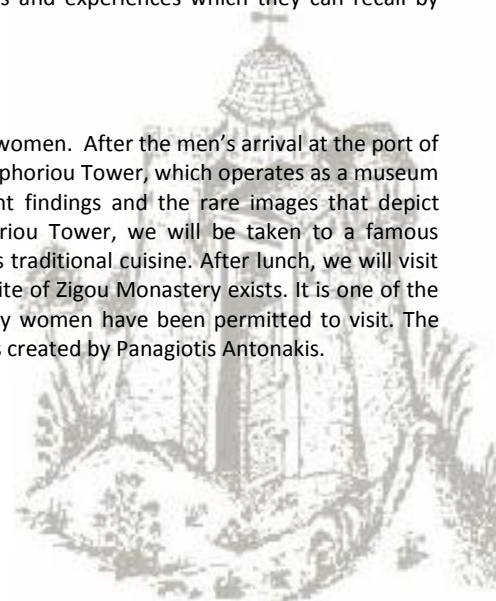
For women: Round Cruise of Mount Athos

Although women are prohibited to visit Mount Athos, the women will have the opportunity to see all the monasteries of the west and the southwest side of the Mount Athos Peninsula by a ferry. The 3 hours cruise includes a detailed but very interesting presentation of Mount Athos. In the afternoon, the women will visit Lerissos and the Cultural Center, where they will watch a three-dimensional film based on the life of the Mount Athos' monks. The last stop will include dinner at the hotel. The women will inevitably be full of images and experiences which they can recall by enjoying Greek food and a glass of Mount Athos wine.



DAY 3: Pilgrimage Routes at the area of Ouranoupoli

Today's tour will be enjoyed together by both men and women. After the men's arrival at the port of Ouranoupoli (app. 14:00), the first visitation will be Prosfhoriou Tower, which operates as a museum and exhibition space. Here, we will admire the ancient findings and the rare images that depict scenes from Mount Athos. After visiting the Prosfhoriou Tower, we will be taken to a famous restaurant where we'll enjoy the delicious Mount Athos traditional cuisine. After lunch, we will visit the borders of Mount Athos where the archaeological site of Zigou Monastery exists. It is one of the oldest monasteries of Mount Athos which only recently women have been permitted to visit. The day will end with an artistic workshop of Byzantine icons created by Panagiotis Antonakis.





DAY 4: Pilgrimage Routes at the areas of Arnea and Megali Panagia

After breakfast, we will set off to the area of Megali Panagia to visit the Holy Shrine and the Holy Icon of Virgin Mary. Wandering around Arnea, we will visit the Cathedral of St. Stephan which is a unique monument where visitors can watch through the glass floor archaeological findings dating back from the 4th to 17th century. In the end of the day, we will enjoy lunch or dinner in the verdant forest of St. Paraskevi.



DAY 5: Pilgrimage routes at the area of Vrastama

After breakfast and having checked-out of the hotel, we will depart for the city of Thessaloniki. On the way to Thessaloniki, we will visit the cave of St Efstathios at Vrastama. Around noon time we will check-in to our new hotel. Later in the day, we will visit the exhibition of Agioritiki Estia (Mount Athos Center) where you will find a huge variety of books concerning Mount Athos. We will end the day by eating dinner at the hotel and simultaneously be presented authentic Mount Athos wines produced by the monks.



DAY 6: Departure

The day will start with breakfast at the hotel and then be transferred to Makedonia airport.

CATEGORY: RELIGIOUS

DURATION: 6 days / 5 overnights

INCLUDED: accommodation on BB, needed 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.

