

Greece: From Farm to Table

9 days, 7 nights hotel, 1 night on the plane



Day 1

Depart

Meals: On flight, subject to airline

Depart on your international flight, which may be a connecting flight. Total travel time will be determined based on final flight schedule and dates.

Day 2

Meet and Greet at Airport

Meals: Dinner

Arrive in Athens, subject to flight schedule. You will be met by your private tour leader, who will be with you through the remainder of the trip and then begin your Grecian experience. Enjoy dinner at your hotel then check-in. Take the rest of your day to recover from your trans-Atlantic flight.

Day 3

Half Day Athens City Tour

Admission to New Acropolis Museum and Acropolis Site

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Breakfast at your hotel, then prepare to see Athens through the ages! You may run a lap at the Panathinaikon Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games were held, then pass by the President's Palace on foot. The Palace is guarded by a uniformed group of elite Greek soldiers who are trained to perform ceremonial duties called

30 Jericho Executive Plaza, Suite 500E, Jericho, NY 11753 – Tel. (516) 334-2400 or (800) 896-3858 Fax (516) 334-2466

Email info@FourWindsTours.com – Web www.FourWindsTours.com

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the Evzones. Continue to the city's center, Syntagma Sq. and see the House of the Parliament and the monument of the Unknown Soldier. The University avenue that follows is full of Neoclassic palaces and buildings, the fine house of Heinrich Schliemann, the impressive National Academy, the conservative State University of Athens and the very rich and symmetrical National Library.

The closer you come to the Acropolis, the more the ancient monuments become: the fine Temple of Zeus with its Corinthian pillars and the Arch of the Emperor Hadrian. Mastering all of the above, you will visit the imposing Acropolis! The six million-year old (geological age) high point of ancient Athens was, for the first time, fortified in the Mycenaean's times, and has served in the past centuries as a sanctuary of the Greek goddess Athena. The marble monuments and temples built in the classical times remind us that the Acropolis is more than the living history of Greece: it is the western world's prototype of aesthetic. Visit the Nike Wingless temple, the Erechtheion, the Propylea and the very impressive Parthenon.

Day 4

3-hour Athens Food Tour with Tastings

Cycling Tour—Includes Guide, Helmets, and Bikes

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

After breakfast meet your private guide for a 3-hour walking tour of Athens' central market and the surrounding gastronomic quarter, gaining an in-depth and immersive experience of Athenian food, a tale from farm to fork. Athens' distinctive food culture revolves around Varvakios, the central market. Here nut vendors vie with butchers and fishmongers in a heady, exciting atmosphere for the attention of passersby, while on the surrounding streets specialists in honey, cheese, and pastries offer a fantastic array of foodstuffs that demonstrate the intricacies and complexities of Greek cuisine.

Begin your exploration on Athinas Street in the city center, not far from the Monastiraki train station – an intoxicating, crowded part of town famous for its housewares stores. Here you'll explore the quintessential basics of the Greek kitchen, such as the coveted tools like the traditional mortar and pestle, or dowel-like rolling pins. Meander through the neighborhood, visiting several local bakeries. Discuss with your guide the centrality of grains to the Greek diet as you continue through the vegetable market to explore seasonal offerings. You'll even find a street dedicated entirely to cheese and spices – a perfect setting to leave behind the one-dimensional stereotype that feta is the essence of Greek food. Sample the variety of different cheeses on offer and expand your culinary knowledge. Depending on the day of the week, visit with a variety of different local merchants, many of whom specialize in one item or another. You may run into the garlic merchant, who keeps an ad-hoc seed museum of local edible plants, or the medicinal herb purveyor – make sure to nibble along the way.

End your culinary journey in the Varvakios Central Market. Walk through the fresh meat and fish markets to learn about the various uses of meat and seafood in Greek food, right down to the animals' innards. This will be a noticeable contrast compared to North American butchers and fishmongers. You may also walk through one of the market restaurants to get a glimpse of local fare in its least "manicured" state. Take away a better appreciation for the nuances, history, and depth of Greek culinary traditions – and don't be shy to bring home some fresh herbs and spices as a souvenir. After lunch you will enjoy a biking tour in Athens center. The tour highlights include Acropolis Museum, Acropolis hill, Ancient Greek Cemetery of Kerameikos, Thission, Ancient Greek Agora, Roman Agora, Athens City Cathedral, Plaka neighborhood, National Gardens, Presidential Mansion, Panathenaic Stadium,

Zappeion Exhibition Hall, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Hadrian's Arch. Return to your hotel for dinner with a new appreciation for Greek cuisine. Relax after a full day of touring in your Athens hotel.

Day 5

Visit Cape Sounion

Visit Local Farm

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast depart Athens for the southernmost point of Attica, Cape Sounion, where the white marble pillars of the Temple of Poseidon stand. On the way, you have a splendid view of the Saronic Gulf and the little islands offshore. After visiting the Temple of Poseidon, you have time to walk at leisure on the rocky promontory of Sounion. Proceed for a visit to a local farm which provides seasonal vegetables and fruits, olive oil, fresh eggs and goat milk. Everything is rationally produced at the farm. Selected seeds and plants grow in the most natural way. The soil is enriched with manure, fertilized with organic compost and the water sources from their private drilling. Dinner and overnight in Athens hotel.

Day 6

Island Cruise

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

You will be picked up from your hotel early in the morning in order to transfer by coach to the port for boarding on your cruise ship. At approximately 8:15 the cruise ship departs and sails for the first stopover on the island of Hydra. You will spend approximately one hour, giving you free time to explore the unique island. Then sail to the island of Poros, separated from Peloponnesse by a narrow strait. Leisure time in Poros will be approximately one hour. After two hours of sailing, you shall arrive at the last port, the island of Aegina, where you have time either to make an optional tour visiting the Athena Afea Temple or to swim at the nearest beaches of the island. Total time to be spent one hour and a half. Lunch is served on board during the voyage. Return to Athens after a day of island hopping! Arrive late in the afternoon and transfer by coach back to your hotel to enjoy another delicious dinner before settling in for the night.

Day 7

Guided Tour of Delphi

Admission to Delphi Archaeological Site and Museum

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, drive through the fertile plain of Beotia, crossing the town of Thebes, indelibly connected with the tragedy of King Oedipus, and Levadia and Arachova (short stop on the way back). Arrive at Delphi, the center of the ancient world - the "Omphalos" (Navel of Earth) – whose prestige extended far beyond the boundaries of the Hellenic World. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo, the most famous oracle of the ancient world. Visit the Treasury of the Athenians, the Temple of Apollo and the Museum containing masterpieces of the ancient Greek sculpture such as the bronze Charioteer, the famous athlete Aghias and the Sphinx. Gather for lunch in the village of Delphi before you return to Athens by the same route. Dinner and overnight accommodations at your Athens hotel.

Day 8

Guided Tour of Argolis

Olive Oil Tasting

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast, leave again by the coastal road along the Saronic Gulf to the Corinth Canal, which connects the Aegean Sea with the Ionian Sea (short stop). Drive to Mycenae, the Homeric city of Atreides, the city “rich in gold”. Visit the Lion's Gate, the Cyclopean Walls and the Royal Tombs. Lunch-break in Mycenae. Depart for Nafplio through the fertile plain of Argolis nestled at the foot of a cliff crowned by the mighty ramparts of the Palamidi Fortress (short photo stop), then leave for Epidaurus to visit the Theatre (4th century B.C.) famous for its astonishing acoustics. Return back to Athens by the coastal road connecting Epidaurus with Corinth. On the way visit a local farm for olive oil tasting. Dinner and overnight accommodations at your Athens hotel.

Day 9

Depart

Meals: Breakfast, subject to airline availability

Enjoy breakfast, followed by free time in until your local guide escorts you to the airport for your return flight home. Today's schedule is subject to your final flight schedule. It is important to arrive at the airport at least three hours before your international flight is scheduled to depart.

Package Description

Types of activities and order of activities subject to change based on availability.

The tour includes:

Roundtrip international airfare
Transportation to fulfill the itinerary
Arrival and departure transfers in Athens (airport – hotel – airport).
7 nights hotel accommodations
7 breakfasts
3 lunches
7 dinners
Half Day Athens City Tour
Cycling Tour—Includes Guide, Helmets, and Bikes
Admission to New Acropolis Museum and Acropolis Site
3-hour Athens Food Tour with Tastings
Visit Cape Sounion
Admission to Temple of Poseidon
Visit and Tour of Local Farm
Island Cruise
Guided Tour of Delphi
Admission to Delphi Archaeological Site and Museum
Guided Tour of Argolis
Olive Oil Tasting
Online portal for individual payment/registration (additional 3% fee)
Additional night security at hotel

The tour does not include:

Personal expenses (snacks, souvenirs, etc.)
Visa Fees
Unspecified meals (lunches, etc.)
Tip for guides and drivers
Cancellation Insurance