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**Day 1:**

**Depart**

**Meals: Subject to airline policy**

Depart on your overnight flight.

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**Tuesday, June 16, 2020—Day 2:**

**Meals: Dinner**

Arrive in Athens! You will meet your guide and start your tour to Cape Sounion where the Temple of God Poseidon lies. After the tour, have dinner on the way back to Athens. Your first day in Athens will begin to introduce you to the area's ancient history. Prepare for an exciting stay in one of the birthplaces of civilization!

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**Day 3:**

**Full Day Athens City Tour**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

After your breakfast, meet with your guide in the lobby and start your Athens City Tour. This tour will include visits to the Acropolis, the New Museum of the Acropolis, and other highlights of the city. See Athens through the ages! In the beginning, you may run a lap at the Panathinaikon Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games were held and then pass by the President's Palace on foot guarded by the Evzones. Continue with 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.



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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. Your tour of ancient Athens ends with 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 served in the past centuries of monarchy and 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 aesthetic. Visit the Nike Wingless temple, the Erechtheion, the Propylea and the very impressive Parthenon, and of course the Mars Hill, where St. Paul talked to the Athenians. On the slope of the Acropolis is the new masterpiece of Athens: the New Museum of the Acropolis! Ancient artefacts lie within, which will add to your interpretation of the local area.

Dinner will be served at a local, popular restaurant that specializes in tasty burgers.

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#### **Day 4:**

##### **Free Day**

##### **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

Have breakfast at your Athens hotel, then enjoy a free day for shopping in Athens. Dinner will be offered tonight at a restaurant with stunning, illuminated views of the Acropolis.

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#### **Day 5:**

##### **Transfer to Santorini**

##### **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

After breakfast at your hotel, head to the pier and transfer to Santorini. Upon arrival in Santorini, meet and greet with your local guide before transferring to your hotel. Dinner tonight will be served in a local restaurant. Delight in the delicious taste of local islander dishes!

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#### **Day 6:**

##### **Half Day Akrotiri Excavations & Fira Town**

##### **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**

After breakfast, meet and greet with your guide and begin your tour of the island. Fira, the capital town clings to the edge of a cliff, which is, in fact, the rim of a crater. It is 900 feet above the landing port and about 800 broad, zigzagged steps up from the port. Fira is a comparatively modern town, with houses built mostly during the 19th century when the old Venetian capital became unlivable due to the many earth-quakes of the area. The architecture is a jumble of Cycladic and Venetian. In Fira, a town of about 2,000 inhabitants, one gets the feel of the old-world charm blended in with the modern-day comforts.

The Monastery of Profitis Elias is 3km from the village. It is located on the peak of the mountain with the same altitude of 550 meters. The monastery's museum is full of ecclesiastical articles with incredible ties to religious history. Also, there are icons from 15th and 18th centuries, a 20th century icon cross, silver bound scriptures, and the diamond-adorned mitre of the Patriarch Gregory E. On this day you will also visit the Akrotiri digsite, which have uncovered some of the most important prehistoric settlements of the Aegean. Habitation at the site dates from the 4<sup>th</sup> millennium B.C. There is much to learn about the fantastic discoveries that have resulted from these digs. Dinner tonight will be served at a local sea-side restaurant.

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#### **Day 7:**

##### **Full Day Volcano Cruise**

##### **Meals: Breakfast, Dinner**



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After breakfast transfer to the pier for your cruise! Arrive at Athinios port, where you will embark on the traditional boat (caique). Traditionally it is a smaller wooden vessel that is brightly painted and rigged with sails. The first stop is at the islet of Nea Kameni, which is the volcano of Santorini. You will have the opportunity to climb to the crater of the still active, but dormant volcano, 127 meters above the sea level, which last erupted in 1950.

After 1 ½ hour, the boat will leave the volcano and head to the small islet of Palaia Kameni, or the hot springs, as it is better known, which was formed through the centuries by several volcanic eruptions. Along the coastline of the isle there are many hot springs, and clients have 30 minutes to swim in the warm yellow-green waters, which are considered to have healing powers!

The next stop is at Thirassia, the second largest island after Santorini in the caldera. It is located opposite of Santorini and it is quiet and unaffected by the large numbers of tourists arriving every day. You will have 2 hours free time to explore the island, have lunch on your own in one of the many small taverns, or swim in the crystal-clear waters. Return to Santorini and have dinner in a restaurant at the bay area close to your hotel.

#### **Day 8:**

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##### **Depart**

##### **Meals: Breakfast**

Enjoy breakfast at your hotel and prepare for your departure. Subject to your flight schedule, head to the airport and return to the United States with vivid memories of the incredible sights you've seen and food you've eaten here in Greece.



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#### Package Description

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

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#### **The tour includes:**

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Roundtrip airfare  
Deluxe air-conditioned bus for all transfers and tours  
English speaking escort for all the transfers  
Professional English-speaking guide for all the tours in Athens and Santorini  
Double/Triple Room at the Hotel CRYSTAL CITY or similar in Athens for 3 nights on BB Basis  
Double/Triple Room at the Hotel ROSE BAY or similar in Santorini for 3 nights on BB Basis  
Breakfast Daily  
Dinner on June 16th  
Dinner on June 17th  
Farewell Dinner in Athens on June 18th  
Dinner on June 19th  
Dinner on June 20th  
Dinner on June 21st  
High-Speed Tickets from Athens to Santorini  
All fees  
All Parking Fees  
All Road Tolls  
All Taxes

#### **The tour does not include:**

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Airport transfers to and from major airport for arrival and departure  
Meals unless specified, beverage during meals, water on coach  
Cancellation insurance  
Online portal for individual payment/registration (additional 3% fee)