



9 Muses Tour

Duration: 9 days

Suggested Itinerary

5 overnights in Athens

3 overnights in Delphi

The Muses in Greek mythology, poetry and literature, are the goddesses of the inspiration of literature, science, and the arts.



Sites and Places of Interest in Athens

Acropolis of Athens

The Acropolis, and the Parthenon in particular, is the most characteristic monument of the ancient Greek civilization.

Put the best of science, art and philosophy together in one creation and you have the definitive monument of human civilization.

UNESCO calls it the symbol of World Heritage. The world calls it the Athenian Acropolis!



New Acropolis Museum

The new Acropolis Museum has a total area of 25,000 square meters, with exhibition space of over 14,000 square meters, ten times more than that of the old museum on the Hill of the Acropolis.

The Acropolis Museum is an archaeological museum focused on the findings of the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens. The museum was built to house every artifact found on the rock and on its feet, from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece. It also lies on the archaeological site of Makrygianni and the ruins of a part of Roman and early Byzantine Athens.

National Archaeological Museum of Athens

The National Archaeological Museum of Athens is the largest archaeological museum in Greece and one of the most important museums in the world devoted to ancient Greek art.

Its abundant collections, with more than 11,000 exhibits, provide a panorama of Greek civilization from the beginnings of Prehistory to Late Antiquity.



Sites and Places of Interest in Athens



Artemis of Vravrona

Vravrona was dedicated to goddess Artemis, protector of hunters, animals and people's safe birth. Being enraged from the killing of two small female bears, Artemis caused epidemic in Athens. Then she asked an oracle to tell Athenians that all girls living in Attica aged from 5 up to 10 years should devote their lives to her. Athenians obeyed her command and brought all girls to her temple, where they spend big period of their childhood serving her and participating in celebrations organized in there. The girls staying in the temple were called arkti (bears). The celebrations in honor of the goddess were called Vravronia and included music events, sports, games, and recitation of poems.

Archaeological Site: Here you will see the ancient ruins of Artemidos temple. The only still preserved part of the ancient temple is the podium, therefore we do not know the original shape of the initial ancient Greek temple. If you walk on the bridge built during the classic period and leading to the temple, you can visit the partially restored Porch.

The Museum: It is a small but remarkable museum housing exhibits that were found not only in Vravrona but also in Anavissos, Perati and other parts of Attica.

One-Day-Cruise to the Greek Islands of Poros, Hydra and Aegina



Escape now for a day and enjoy the islands, the sun and the sea with one day cruise on the crystal waters of the Saronic Gulf.

POROS:

- Arrive at Poros, a picturesque island within a small distance of the Peloponnese mainland, a green paradise with lemon and pine trees. Don't forget to visit the Clock Tower, a short climb from the main port where you will have a great panoramic view of the island.

HYDRA:

- Arrival at Hydra, one of the most beautiful Greek islands. The amphiteatrical port of Hydra offers a colourful collage of outdoor tavernas, cafés and shops. Cars are not allowed in Hydra so don't miss a donkey ride -one of the island's most famous attractions.

AEGINA:

- Arrive at Aegina. There you will visit the magnificent Temple of Aphaia, and you'll have an option to go on a panoramic excursion of the island.

The cruise itineraries are indicative and subject to change depending on weather conditions and port traffic.



Sites and Places of Interest in Delphi



Oracle of Delphi

The site of the oracle of Delphi is really astonishing. At first glance you can understand why this place is the navel of the earth. Once you come here you have to visit first the museum, where you will see many important findings and you will obtain useful information for your tour. In the museum of Delphi you can admire sculptures and objects of art from the sanctuary. Among them are the statues of the two kouros designed by Polymidis the 6th century BC and reflect either the Kleovi and Vitona or Kastor and Polidephki (Dioskouroi). Of the most valuable and famous sculptures in the museum are the famous Hniohos of Delphi oracle, which was donated by Polyzalos, tyrant of Gelas. The artist is unknown.



Delphi Archaeological museum

The treasure of artifacts brought to light by the excavations in the sanctuary of Delphi found shelter in the museum that was built on site in 1903 with funds by Andreas Syggros. Successive expansions of the exhibition areas from the 1950s onwards led to the contemporary museum, which was last refurbished in 2000.

Today the museum accommodates one of the most valuable collections of ancient Greek art. These works, along with the architectural monuments, once adorned Apollo's sanctuary, which must have resembled a vast open-air museum.



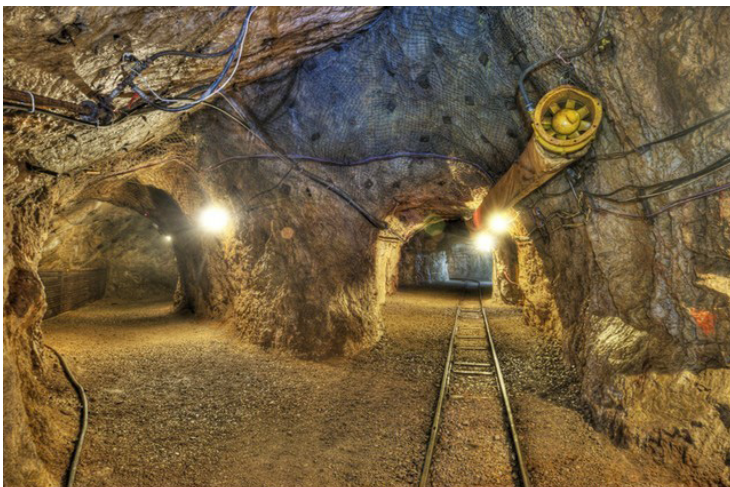
Sites and Places of Interest in Delphi

Fokis Mining Park–Vagonetto

Fokis Mining Park–Vagonetto is a unique theme park, situated on the 51st km. of the Lamia-Amfissa National Road in Greece, between mountains Ghiona and Parnassos, within the broader area of S&B Industrial Minerals S.A. premises.

Vagonetto aims at presenting the operation areas of a mine, but also at informing, recreating, and educating the new generations on the history of the exploitation of bauxite, and on the people who worked in mines, honoring and promoting the mining history of Fokis.

A tour through Vagonetto gives the visitor the chance for a step-by-step introduction to the bauxite mining process. The acquaintance with the history of bauxite begins in the exhausted underground Gallery 850, continues in the Exhibition Area and the Interactive Digital Technology Wing, and is completed at the Open-air Machinery Exhibition.



Sites and Places of Interest in Delphi



Valley of the Muses - Thespies

The history of the famous Valley of the Muses on the eastern slopes of Mt. Helikon began in the 6th c. B.C. Its floruit period began from the 3rd c. B.C. onwards because of the "Mouseia", festivals established and organised every 5 years by the Thespians. Poets and musicians from all over Greece also participated in various games (epic, poetry, rapsodia, kithara, aulos, satyric poetry, tragedy and comedy). In the 2nd and 1st B.C. were also added in the list game in honour of the roman emperor who from that time sponsored the whole organisation. The festivals were called onwards "Great Kaisareia" because the emperor was honored at first place and not the Muses. The winners dedicated their tripods to the sanctuary. Hesiod did the same after his victory in Chalkis. Many statues depicting the Muses, famous poets and musicians stood in the open-air space of the Valley.

In 1882, A. Stamatakis made the first test trench in the little church of Ayia Triada and noted the rectangular foundation of the small temple or altar of the Muses. He also indicated the remains of the theatre on the mountain slope. The French Archaeological School under P. Jamot excaated systematically in 1888, 1889 and 1890 at the site and discovered all the antiquities.

Suggested Hotels in Athens

Grande Bretagne Hotel

5*****

With breathtaking views of the fabled Acropolis, regal Syntagma Square and the Parliament, lush Lycabettus Hill or the original Olympic Stadium, the multi-awarded 5 star Hotel Grande Bretagne offers an unrivalled perspective of Athens' mythical history.

Situated right in the heart of the city, since 1874, the landmark hotel is within walking distance of exclusive shopping areas, museums and the business district.

Not only do our interiors pay homage to celebrated Greek culture, with intricate moldings and classic décor, but also each of the 320 hotel rooms and suites provide enchanting views of our courtyard, or entrancing, panoramic scenes of our Athens' timeless landmarks.

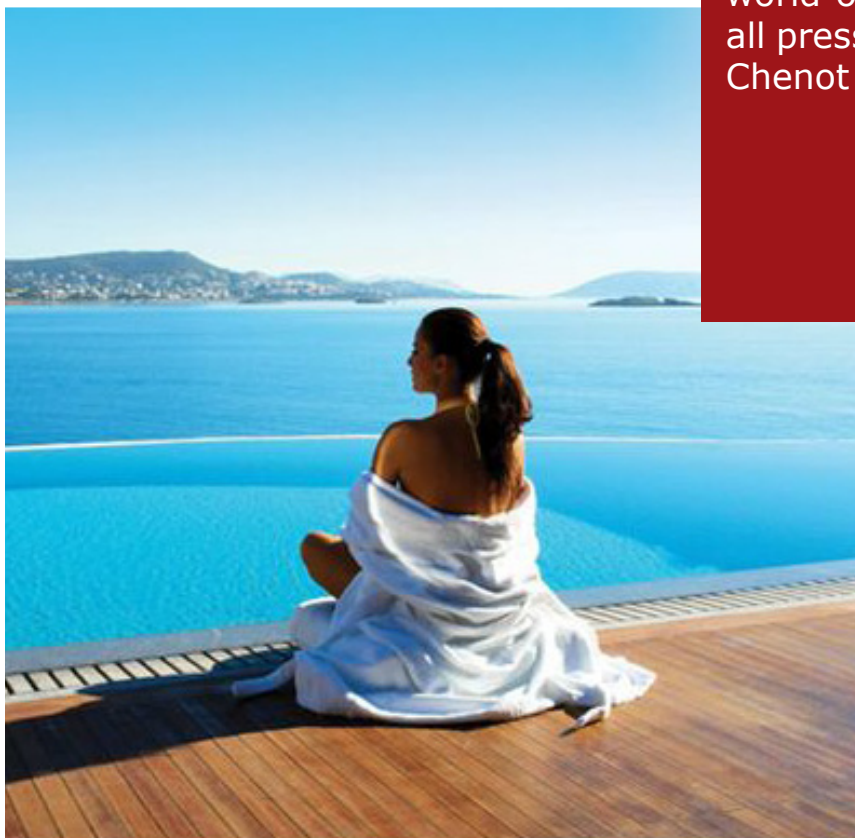
Escape to the GB Spa Athens for a GB Collection Exclusive Massage or an indulgent respite in the Thermal Suite. The GB Roof Garden Restaurant & Bar serves the finest champagne – the ideal compliment for the setting sun beyond the imposing Acropolis. The Cellar stocks more than 3,000 bottles of the finest vintages – allow us to create the finest wine tasting has never been so exquisite.

<http://www.grandebretagne.gr/>

✓ Spa



Suggested Hotels in Athens



Grand Resort Lagonissi

5*****

Grand Resort Lagonissi welcomes you to enjoy a seafront paradise, set on a 72-acre verdant peninsula. Boasting twenty exclusive sandy beach coves and lush natural beauty the resort is nestled in a magnificent private peninsula offering breathtaking sunsets and views to inspire.

The resort provides endless choices of luxurious accommodations, all on the waterfront with direct access to sandy beaches or to the sea. Deluxe rooms with stunning sea views, bungalows with private pools, suites with gym quarters and villas with private spa areas, compose the Grand Resort's luxurious scenery. The latest in comfort of technology pervade every single room combined with sleek interiors creating an ambience of residential charm and unparalleled beauty

The THALASPA Chenot at the Grand Resort Lagonissi offers a complete range of services for body, mind and spirit. Rediscover the world of natural rules and free yourself from all pressures and tensions through the unique Chenot Method.

<http://www.lagonissiresort.gr/>

- ✓ Spa
- ✓ Mini-golf



Suggested Hotels in Delphi

Tagli Resort & Spa 5*****

The stone-built Tagli Resort & Spa is situated in Livadi area, between Arachova Village and Parnassos Ski Centre. The restaurant serves gourmet Greek cuisine and the lounge café with fireplace is an ideal place to relax and meet other guests. The scenic village of Arachova, where several traditional taverns and café bars can be found, is approximately 4 km away.

www.tagliresort.gr
✓ Spa



Aegli Resort & Spa 5*****

Set at the foot of Parnassus Mountain, at 1050 metres, the modern Aegli Resort & Spa offers views of Delphi. Guests enjoy free access to the hotel's pool, sauna, gym and ice-skating rink. The 4000-m² accommodation at Aegli Resort & Spa consists of 2-storey houses with rooms boasting a view of the surroundings. The Aegli Resort provides facilities including an artificial ice skating rink, a playground for children, ski shop and ski school. This boutique hotel provides the ideal retreat after a day on the ski slopes or a visit to the museum of Delphi.

<http://www.koutras.gr/>
✓ Spa