

# *Ancient Greece*

## **Day 1: Tuesday - Depart USA**

Depart the USA to Greece. Your flight includes meals, drinks and in-flight entertainment for your journey.

## **Day 2: Wednesday - Arrive in Athens**

Arrive and transfer to your hotel. Balance of the day at leisure.

## **Day 3: Thursday - Athens, Nauplion, Olympia**

Depart Athens via the scenic coastal road to the Corinth Canal, where you stop for photos. Continue to Epidaurus where you visit the spectacular Theater, still used today. After envisioning Thespis singing the purest of dithyrambs, continue via Nauplion to Mycenae, the heartland of Greek mythology. Visit the archaeological site known as the "Treasury of Atreus" or the "Tomb of Agamemnon", built around 1250 B.C. From here, drive through the Central Peloponnese Peninsula, whose primary cities were Corinth and Sparta in classical times, passing the towns of Tripolis and Megalopolis. Continue to Olympia, birthplace of the first Olympic Games.

## **Day 4: Friday - Tour Olympia, Arrive Delphi**

Visit the archaeological site of Olympia, including the Sanctuary of Olympian Zeus, the ancient Stadium and the Archaeological Museum, where Greek works of art such as Nike of Paionios and terracotta statues date back to the 5th century B.C. Drive north through the plains of Elis and Achaia, crossing the Patras Straits via a cabled bridge from Rion to Antirion. Pass the towns of Nafpaktos and Itea en route to the city of Delphi, home of the ruins of the Tholos Temple.

## **Day 5: Saturday - Delphi, Kalambaka**

In the morning, visit the excavated Site and Museum of Delphi, where you will find the sacred Omphalos, once kept in the Adyton of Apollo's Temple, along with the Kouros statues, Kleobis and Viton, and the 32-foot-high Sphinx of Naxos, sitting on an Ionic column (circa 560 B.C.). Continue to the small town of Kalambaka, situated amidst smooth sandstone cliffs in the foothills of Meteora.

## **Day 6: Sunday - Meteora & Athens**

Visit Meteora, meaning "suspended in the air," with its mystical Monasteries, nestled perilously close to the edge of the bizarre rock formations. View exquisite artifacts of Byzantine art and then continue, past Thermopylae and arrive in Athens in the early evening.

## **Day 7: Monday - Tour Athens**

Your morning tour of Athens includes visits to the Acropolis and its Museum, the Panathenian Stadium, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the ruins of the Temple of Zeus. Enjoy the balance of the day at leisure.

## **Day 8: Tuesday - Depart for USA**

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.