

Ultimate Experience

Day 1: Thursday - Depart USA

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

Day 2: Friday - Arrive in Istanbul

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

Day 3: Saturday - Tour Istanbul

Enjoy a full-day classical tour of Istanbul, including the Blue Mosque, the Basilica of St. Sophia, the Covered Bazaar, the world's largest covered market featuring over 58 streets and more than 4000 shops, and the Topkapi Palace, whose Treasury Rooms house 700 years of priceless Endurun Treasures, making for the largest national trove in the world. Enjoy the balance of the day at leisure in the "Capital of the Greatest Empires".

Day 4: Sunday - Day at Sea

Morning at leisure. This afternoon, transfer to the pier for embarkation. The ship departs for Mykonos at 6:00 p.m.

Day 5: Monday - Arrive in Mykonos

En route to Mykonos (Greece), awake to breakfast on the Aegean Sea and prepare for an afternoon and evening (3 p.m. to midnight) on one of Greece's most adored islands. Aside from Mykonos' landmark windmills and whitewashed homes, the island is most famous for its unique architecture, particularly the Paraportiani (molded) church, first begun in 1475, and for Delos, one of Greece's oldest archaeological sites. Upon boarding your ship for an overnight cruise to Patmos, be sure to bid farewell to the island's celebrity mascot, Petros the Pelican.

Day 6: Tuesday - Patmos & Kusadasi

Morning in Patmos (Greece) from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Enjoy breakfast on board and time at leisure in Patmos, before an afternoon in Kusadasi, Turkey (2:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.), a city reputed for its beaches and attractive view of the Aegean. Situated on Turkey's west coast, Kusadasi is close to several historical sites, including Ephesus, the Temple of Artemis and the House of the Virgin Mary. Sail to Rhodes this evening.

Day 7: Wednesday - Full Day Rhodes

Enjoy a full day on the island of Rhodes (Greece) from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is the largest island of the Dodecanese archipelago. Explore the island's medieval Old Town, preserved in and around the walls of a Venetian castle, built by the 14th century Knights of St. John. Declared by UNESCO a World Heritage Site, the citadel of Rhodes, located at the far northern end of the island, is considered one of the best preserved medieval towns in the Mediterranean. Cruise in the early evening to Heraklion.

Day 8: Thursday - Crete & Santorini

Arrive this morning in Heraklion (Crete, Greece) at 7:00 a.m., the capital town of one of the four prefectures, that constitute the island of Crete. Enjoy half a day at leisure to explore the island on your own. At noon, cruise to Santorini, and enjoy an evening on Santorini Island. Known for its breathtaking caldera, Santorini is also famous for its sandy beaches, colorful sunsets, and whitewashed buildings along the sea-cliffs.

Day 9: Friday - Disembark in Athens

Disembark cruise in Piraeus (Athens, Greece) at 6:00 a.m. Transfer to your hotel in Athens with the balance of the day at leisure.

Day 10: Saturday - Olympia

Depart Athens via the scenic coastal road to the Corinth Canal, where you stop for photos. Continue to Epidaurus where you visit the 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," and 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 11: Sunday - Visit 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 the Nike of Paionios and terracotta statues date 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 12: Monday - Kalambaka

In the morning, visit the excavated Site and the museum of Delphi. On your tour of the museum you will see such finds as the sacred Omphalos, once kept in the Adyton of Apollo's Temple, along with the Kourus 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 13: Tuesday - Visit Meteora, Return to 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 14: Wednesday - Tour Athens

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

Day 15: Thursday - Depart for USA

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.