

Classical Highlights of Greece & Turkey

Day 1 Fly To Athens

Depart from the UK and arrive in Athens. On arrival, your tour guide will be present to welcome you. The group will then be transferred to the hotel where you can enjoy dinner and an overnight stay in Athens.

Day 2 Athens

In the morning we will discover the exciting sights of Athens with a sightseeing City tour that includes the Parthenon, which is a magnificent Doric Temple dedicated to the Goddess Athena. The Acropolis Museum contains an outstanding collection of sculptures from the area. We will roam through the Plaka, which is the oldest and most charming quarter in Athens. Here you will have free time for shopping. Later, you will have a special Greek dinner and show.

Day 3 Athens-Corinth-Mycenae-Epidaurus-Olympia

This morning we will visit the Acrocorinth of Corinth. During ancient and medieval times this stood at the top of the pinnacle of Acrocorinth, which is the oldest and largest fortress in the Peloponnese. Our sightseeing continues in Mycenae. We will pass through the famous Lion Gate and inside the walls of the Acropolis, where excavations have uncovered the Palace Complex. Our next stop is the Theatre of Epidaurus, the most famous and best preserved of all the ancient theatres in Greece. The acoustics are still a marvel of engineering. In the late afternoon we will drive through some spectacular mountain gorges to Olympia. This was the home of the original Olympic games, held in 776 BC. Built on the banks of the River Alfios, Olympia is beautifully green and peaceful location. You will then enjoy your dinner and overnight stay in Olympia.

Day 4 Olympia-Delphi

This is the site of the first Olympic Games, where we will tour the ancient stadium and witness sights that include the magnificent Temple of Zeus, which one of the Seven wonders of the Ancient World.

You will then depart for Delphi where we will be visiting the Historic sights and monuments commemorating great events. The Sacred Way winds up the hill to the Temple, past the treasury buildings of the various ancient city states to the ruins of the Doric Temple of Apollo. After exploring the sacred site, we will visit the treasures found in the Delphi Museum.

Day 5 Delphi - Thessaloniki

This morning we will drive to Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece. After checking into your hotel you can take an orientation walk around the archaeological sites and monuments, where you will be able to see the remains of the Roman Market, Theatre and Baths. Dinner and overnight stay will be in Thessaloniki.

Day 6 Thessaloniki - Philippi - Alexandroupolis

The day will begin with travelling to Philippi, named by Philip II of Macedonia after himself. Philippi guards a narrow gap in the Via Egnatia and was the site of a momentous battle in AD42 between Antony and Octavian against Brutus and Cassius. We will amble through the archaeological site before driving to Alexandroupolis for dinner and hotel.

Day 7 Alexandroupolis - Troy- Assos

This morning we cross the Dardanelles by ferry and proceed to the ancient city of Troy, the legendary city which was the setting for Homer's Iliad. In the afternoon we visit Assos antique city on the Aegean coast. Located on top of a hill on the Aegean coast, its temple has a magnificent view. You will then experience dinner and overnight in Assos.

Day 8 Assos – Pergamum - Thyatira -- Izmir

After breakfast we will proceed to Pergamum to visit the Asklepium Sanctuary and the Acropolis including the Altar of Zeus, the Trojan Temple and the world's steepest ancient-theatre. After lunch we depart for Thyatira, with visits to the remnants of the Christian Church and the Temple. We will then travel to Izmir for dinner and your overnight stay.

Day 9 Izmir – Ephesus - Pamukkale

This morning we drive to Selcuk to visit the world-famous Ancient City of Ephesus, including the Marble Street (Arcadian Way), the Antique Theatre, the Roman Baths, and the Celcus Library. Proceed to Pamukkale for dinner and overnight.

Day 10 Pamukkale - Hieraplois – Aphrodisias - Sardis - Bursa

After breakfast your first visit is to see Pamukkale's thermal cascades, and the Roman spa city Hierapolis which was Philip the Evangelist's home. We will tour the necropolis, churches and baths. You will then proceed to Aphrodisias, the city of marble and the centre of worship where you will have the opportunity to visit the temple, one of the largest and best-preserved archaeological sites in Turkey. You will proceed to Sardis, a picturesque antique city and one of the 7 churches; here we visit the Artemis Temple, the Byzantine Church, the Synagogue and the Acropolis. Later you will have dinner and an overnight stay in Bursa.

Day 11 Bursa - Istanbul

Bursa was the second capital of the Ottomans and visits to the 14th Century Great Mosque and the 15th Century Green Mosque are included on our tour this morning. We will then transfer to Istanbul. This evening we can visit the Grand Bazaar, which is the world's largest covered bazaar with 4000 shops.

Day 12 Istanbul, Fly To UK

Our sightseeing will begin at the Blue Mosque. We then visit the Sunken Palace, a huge 6th century Byzantine cistern, before walking to Istanbul's first and greatest mosque, Hagia Sofia. We will continue to the Topkapi Palace, an opulent preserve that was the imperial seat of the Ottoman Empire. This afternoon we fly back to the UK.