

# Classical Greece

# Highlights...

Athens • The Acropolis and Parthenon • Metéora • Delphi • Olympia • Greek Farm Visit • Cooking Class • Greek Dance Class • Choice on Tour: Nafplio Walking Tour or Mycenae Archeological Tour



11 Days • 16 Meals: 9 Breakfasts • 1 Lunch • 6 Dinners

#### **Cultural Connections**

- Come to know two breathtaking Byzantine monasteries in Metéora, built over 600 years ago.
- Experience the Delphi Museum with its priceless collection of ancient artifacts.
- Broaden your knowledge of traditional Greek music with a delightful Greek dance class.

## Must-See Highlights

- Join a local expert to explore Athens and its famed sites.
- Explore the grandeur of Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games.
- View the Corinth Canal, one of the greatest engineering marvels of the 19th century.

# **Culinary Experiences**

- Taste olive oil and homemade jams at a local farm in the Peloponnese countryside.
- Partake in a Mediterranean cooking experience followed by a traditional Greek lunch.
- Visit a family-owned distillery producing ouzo since 1869.

### Day 1: Overnight Flight

Discover the beauty and timeless wonder found only in Greece. This fascinating tour of Greece begins with an overnight flight.

# Day 2: Athens, Greece

Arrive in Athens, cradle of Democracy and capital city of Greece. This evening, celebrate the beginning of your Greek experience with a delightful welcome dinner. *Today dinner will be included*.

### Day 3: Athens

Enjoy a panoramic tour of the highlights in Athens showcasing the city's ancient and glorious monuments, such as the Temple of Zeus, the Parliament, and the Olympic Stadium. Next, ascend the steep hill of the Acropolis. Greek for "highest city," the Acropolis was the religious center of ancient Athens and is crowned by the Parthenon, considered the pinnacle of classical Greek architecture. This evening, perhaps you'll choose to join an optional local food tour of Athens. *Today breakfast will be included.* 

# Day 4: Athens - Thermopylae - Kalambaka

Travel north through central Greece to Thermopylae. Stop to see a monument dedicated to Leonidas who died defending Greece against the Persians. End your day at a family-owned taverna and savor a delicious meal with recipes passed down from generations. Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

### Day 5: Kalambaka - Metéora - Arachova

This morning, visit Metéora and enjoy guided tours of two remote monasteries\* situated in a unique landscape of limestone rock "towers" that extend nearly 900 feet into the air. Over 600 years ago, Byzantine monks chose to build their monastic community perched atop these virtually inaccessible rocks. Continue on to charming Arachova, a popular ski resort town with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.* 

## Day 6: Arachova - Delphi - Olympia

This morning, tour the ancient city of Delphi, one of Greece's most important religious centers during Classical times. A local expert guides you on a visit to the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Doric Temple, the ancient theatre, and the Delphi Museum with its priceless collection of ancient artifacts. It was here that the famous Oracle was consulted to foretell the destiny of mankind. Then travel along the Gulf of Corinth, crossing into the Peloponnese to the historic city of Olympia, a testament to the grandeur of ancient Greek civilization. Visit a local farm in the countryside and meet with the owners to learn about everyday life. Following the tour, enjoy a tasting of local wines, olive oil, homemade jams, marmalades, and sweets. Today breakfast and dinner will be included.

## Day 7: Olympia

This morning, enjoy a guided visit to ancient Olympia, including a tour of the sanctuary of Zeus, the Olympic Stadium – where the first Olympic Games were held in 776 B.C. – and the museum. Next, learn how to cook some of the region's best dishes as you partake in a Mediterranean cooking experience followed by a traditional Greek lunch. This evening, broaden your knowledge of traditional Greek musical instruments and folkloric dances at a delightful Greek dance class. *Today breakfast, lunch and dinner will be included.* 

# Day 8: Olympia - Tolo

Enjoy spectacular scenery as you cross the Arkadian Mountains en route to the picturesque seaside hotel in Tolo. En route, stop at a family-owned ouzo distillery producing Greece's signature anise-flavored aperitif since 1869. Today breakfast will be included.

### Day 9: Tolo - Nafplio - Tolo

Today, it's your choice! Journey to ancient Mycenae, once ruled by mythological King Agamemnon, commander-in-chief of the Greeks during the Trojan War. Explore the excavations during a guided visit featuring the Beehive Tombs and the Lion Gate -OR- linger in Nafplio and join a walking tour of Greece's first capital city. Nafplio's mix of Venetian and Neo-classical architectural influences make it Greece's most elegant city. Today breakfast will be included.

#### Day 10: Tolo - Athens

This morning, stop for a view of the Corinth Canal en route to Athens. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure in Greece's capital. Perhaps you'll browse the myriad shops of the Plaka, Athens' historic district nestled at the foot of the Acropolis. Or, visit one of the city's world-class museums such as the National Archeological Museum with its majestic bronze statue of Poseidon or the Benaki Museum, which houses Greek works of art from prehistorical to modern times. Celebrate the end of a memorable trip to Greece by gathering with your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner at a local restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included*.

#### Day 11: Athens - Tour Ends

Your tour ends today. Today breakfast will be included.

#### Experience It! Monasteries in Metéora

Atop towers of limestone rock that reach almost 900 feet in the air, the remote monasteries of Metéora seem like a direct line to the Divine. From early Christian times, Metéora's cliffs were heralded as the place to achieve peace and harmony, and thus, spiritual revelation, thanks to the isolation they provide. It's no surprise that the monasteries were erected here among the overwhelming rock formations and inspiring setting. These monasteries, and the monks who reside in them, are living out Byzantium history in their monastic communities built high on the vertical rocks and tucked away inside pristine natural beauty. Today, Christians from all over the world make their holy pilgrimage to these monasteries, and Metéora has become a preservation site for the 2,000-year-old Christian Orthodox creed.

| Your itinerary at a glance                  |  |
|---|--|
| Day 1                                       | Overnight Flight                                       |
| Days 2, 3                                   | Crowne Plaza City Center, Athens                       |
| Day 4                                       | Grand Meteora Hotel, Kalambaka                         |
| Day 5                                       | Domotel Anemolia Mountain Resort,<br>Arachova          |
| Days 6, 7                                   | Europa Hotel, Olympia                                  |
| Days 8, 9                                   | King Minos Hotel, Tolo or Amphitryon<br>Hotel, Nafplio |
| Day 10                                      | Crowne Plaza City Center, Athens                       |
| On some dates alternate hotels may be used. |  |

Collette's Flagship: Collette's tours open the door to a world of amazing destinations. Marvel at must-see sights, sample regional cuisine, stay in centrally located hotels and connect with new and captivating cultures. These itineraries offer an inspiring and easy way to experience the world, where an expert guide takes care of all the details.

# Important Tour Information:

Economy air rate and schedule are applicable for groups of 10 or more traveling on the same flights and dates.

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

### Travel with an average of 37 people (maximum of 44).

In order to access the Acropolis archeological site, you will be required to climb about 50-60 steep uneven steps and walk over rugged terrain with loose stones and without railings. Accessing one of the two monasteries in Meteora requires climbing approximately 200 steps.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

\*In order to enter the monasteries in Metéora, all travelers must have their shoulders covered. Women must wear skirts or dresses that cover the knees or must bring a scarf to tie around your waist if wearing pants. Men must wear long trousers. You may be denied entry to the monasteries if this dress code is not followed.

Due to a limited number of tickets for the Acropolis, travelers who book within 60 days of departure may be waitlisted until tickets can be confirmed.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

To complete your tour, we include round-trip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised, many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

# Travel Requirements:

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit <a href="https://www.travel.state.gov">www.travel.state.gov</a> for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

# Optional Hotel Upgrade Available

June 1, 2025 - May 31, 2026 \$50.00 per person, double, land only

You may choose to upgrade your room at King Minos Hotel in Tolo to a sea view room overlooking the waters of Tolo Bay. Please inquire about this upgrade at time of booking.

# Important reservation information:

\*Airfare: For your convenience, we offer airfare for purchase with all tour packages. If you purchase an air inclusive program, your airfare will be quoted inclusive of all fuel, taxes and fees. Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Preassigned seats are limited and may not be available on every flight or departure date.

Checked Baggage Charges: Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

Cancellation Charges for this tour: After your seat reduction date has passed, a non-refundable deposit will be retained. For Cancellation between 90-16 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 15-1 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 75% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 40% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: 60% of total price. 30 or fewer days prior to departure: 100% of total price. For River Cruises: including Europe, Russia, Egypt and China, 90-61 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 50% of total price. For cancellation between 60-31 days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 85% of total price. For cancellation 30 or fewer days prior to departure: cancellation fee of 100% of total price. For Galapagos and Antarctica: A cancellation fee of 60% will apply for cancellation between 120-90 days prior to departure; A cancellation charge of 100% will apply for cancellation less than 90 days prior to departure. Cancellation protection is highly recommended and must be purchased at time of deposit. Air rates are subject to change until tour is paid in full. If Travel Protection Plan has not been purchased and a reservation is cancelled for any reason prior to departure - Air

is 100% non-refundable once paid in full. Cancellation charges also apply to reservations made for "pre" and "post" night accommodations. Payment of a Per Person Travel Protection Plan Fee guarantees a full refund of all payments (including deposit), except the Travel Protection Plan Fee itself, made to Collette for travel arrangements in case of cancellation of your travel plans for any reason prior to the day of departure. The Travel Protection Plan Fee with Air only covers airline tickets you have purchased from Collette. Exception: If you originally purchased nonrefundable airline tickets, Part B of the Travel Protection Plan may provide a refund for the airline tickets, taxes, or fees in the event of a cancellation for a covered reason (see Part B for more details). The Travel Protection Plan Fee does not cover any single supplement charges which arise from an individual's traveling companion electing to cancel for any reason prior to departure. However, the Part B travel insurance includes a single supplement benefit of \$1,500 for certain covered reasons as detailed in Part B. In this case, the single supplement will be deducted from the refund of the person who cancels. Division of this charge between the two passengers involved is solely their responsibility. If insufficient funds are deducted from the canceling client, the traveling client will be charged the remaining portion of the single supplement. Cancellation waiver protects you from penalties in the event you have a need to cancel your entire inclusive tour package up to the day prior to departure. Cancellation waiver does not indemnify you from penalties if you chose to cancel partial tour components or air. If you chose to partially cancel your vacation, you will be responsible for a revision fee as well as any penalties that are incurred at the time of the cancellation. Upon cancellation of transportation or travel services where you, the customer, are not at fault and have not canceled in violation of the terms and conditions above, you will

Responsibilities: Collette monitors security situations around the world as well as government travel advisories. Conditions may require Collette to change or even cancel trips. You accept the risks involved in travel, both foreign and domestic, and accept responsibility for your own travel decisions. Travelers may be required to review and sign a participation agreement prior to engaging in certain activities on the trip.

Neither Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, shareholders, officers, directors, successors, agents, and assigns (collectively "Collette"), own or operate any person or entity which is to or does provide goods or services for these trips. You agree to be bound by the conditions of carriage for all transportation providers. Collette does not maintain control or operate the personnel, equipment, or operations of these suppliers it uses and as such Collette assumes no responsibility for and cannot be held liable for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience, or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of (1) any wrongful, negligent, willful or unauthorized acts or omissions on the part of any of the suppliers or other employees or agents, (2) any defect in or failure of any vehicle, equipment, or instrument owned, operated or otherwise used by any of these suppliers, or (3) any wrongful, willful or negligent act or omission on the part of any other party. Client shall indemnify and hold harmless Collette Travel Service, Inc., its affiliated entities and its and their employees, agents, shareholders, officers, successors and assigns (collectively "Collette"), from all suits, actions, losses, damages, claims or liability for any personal injury, death, property damage or other loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity which is occasioned by any negligent acts or omissions of Collette arising out of any goods or services provided for this or these trips. Additionally, responsibility is not accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, lack of appropriate medical facilities or practitioners, weather, strikes, theft or other criminal acts, war, terrorism, computer problems, or other such causes. Other risks may arise such as, but not limited to, hazards of traveling in foreign countries including undeveloped areas, the hazards of travel by aircraft, bus, van, train, automobile or other motorized vehicle, differing safety standards, sickness, criminal acts committed by others, allergic reactions, and/or animal encounters. You are voluntarily participating in the tour and Collette, and as lawful consideration for the agreement to travel with Collette, you agree not to make a claim against Collette, its related companies, officers and employees for injuries, death, or any other claim and agree to release Collette, its related companies, officers and employees from any such claim. This release is binding on all members of your traveling party, as well as your Estate and heirs and this provision shall be enforceable even after your trip has ended. If you make your own air reservations, Collette is not responsible and shall provide no refund if your flight schedule changes so that you are not able to enjoy the entirety of your tour. All services and accommodations are subject to the laws of the country in which they are provided. Collette reserves the right to make changes in the published itinerary whenever, in their sole judgment, conditions warrant, or if Collette deems it necessary for the comfort, convenience, or safety of the tour. Collette reserves the right to withdraw any tour announced. Collette reserves the right to decline to accept any person as a member of the tour, or to require any participant to withdraw from the tour at any time, when such action is determined by the Tour Manager to be in the best interests of the health, safety, and general welfare of the tour group or of the individual participant. If you are traveling with children, you are solely responsible for their behavior and monitoring them throughout the tour. Neither does Collette accept liability for any carrier's cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable airline or other ticket to the tour departure city and return or otherwise. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owner at all times. Collette is not responsible, and will not be bound by, representations made by third party representatives, travel agents, unaffiliated websites, or any other party. Participants may be photographed for the promotional purposes of Collette. In addition, any comments that you submit as a review or your social media posts may be used for Collette's promotional purposes.

Payment of the deposit to Collette constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Collette reserves the right to modify these terms and conditions at any time, without notice.

Consumer Protection Plans: Collette Travel Service holds membership in the following highly reputable industry organizations: the United States Tour Operators Association and the American Society of Travel Agents. Each association operates a consumer protection plan to cover deposits made by travelers. Full details are available from the organizations or Collette Travel Service. Collette is pleased to give this additional protection to our clients. Our California Sellers of Travel registration number is 2006766-20. Our State of Washington Unified Business Number is 601-220-855. Florida Seller of Travel registration number. ST35613

