

Capital Region Chamber presents...

Exploring Greece and Its Islands

with Optional 3-Night Rome Pre Tour Extension
with Optional 3-Night Istanbul Post Tour Extension

April 8 – 23, 2024

Book By
Oct 02, 2023
& Save
\$150
Per Person



Upgrade to Elite Airfare! see inside for details

Plaza Travel Center



For more information contact
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(518) 785-3338
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16 Days • 24 Meals: 14 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, 8 Dinners

HIGHLIGHTS... Athens, The Acropolis, Parthenon, Metéora, Delphi, Olympia, Greek Farm Visit, Cooking Class, Greek Dance Class, Choice on Tour: Mycenae or Nafplio, Mykonos, Santorini, Ancient Akrotiri

ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Day 1	Overnight Flight
Days 2, 3	Crowne Plaza Athens City Center, Athens
Day 4	Grand Hotel Meteora, Kalambaka
Day 5	Nafsika Palace, Arachova
Days 6, 7	Europa Hotel Olympia, Olympia
Days 8, 9	Nafplia Palace, Nauplia
Days 10, 11	San Marco Hotel, Mykonos
Days 12 – 14	El Greco Hotel, Santorini
Day 15	Crowne Plaza Athens City Center, Athens
<i>On some dates alternate hotels may be used.</i>	

Day 1: Monday, April 8, 2024 Overnight Flight Discover the beauty and timeless wonder found only in Greece. This fascinating tour of Greece begins with an overnight flight.

Day 2: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 Athens, Greece - Tour Begins Your tour begins in the capital city of Athens. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner featuring Greek specialties at a local restaurant in Athens. (D)

Day 3: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 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. (B)

Day 4: Thursday, April 11, 2024 Athens - Thermopylae - Metéora - Kalambaka Travel north through central Greece to Thermopylae. Stop to see a monument dedicated to Leonidas who died defending the city against the Persians. Arrive in Metéora and visit 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. End your day at a family-owned taverna where you will savor a delicious meal with recipes passed down from generations. (B, D)

Day 5: Friday, April 12, 2024 Kalambaka - Delphi - Arachova This morning, visit a local studio to see painters at work creating beautiful Byzantine icons. Continue to 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 Man. Continue on to charming Arachova, a popular ski resort town with breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. (B, D)

Day 6: Saturday, April 13, 2024 Arachova - Olympia 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 in rural Peloponnese. Following the tour, enjoy a light lunch including a tasting of local wines, olive oil, homemade jams, marmalades and sweets. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Sunday, April 14, 2024 Olympia Your guided visit to ancient Olympia includes 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 with a delightful Greek dance class. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Monday, April 15, 2024 Olympia - Nafplio Enjoy spectacular scenery as you cross the Arkadian Mountains on your way to the picturesque seaside resort of Nafplio. En route, stop at a family-owned ouzo distillery producing Greece’s signature anise-flavored aperitif since 1869. (B)

Day 9: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 Nafplio 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. (B)



Book Now & Save \$150 Per Person:

Double ~~\$6,099~~; **Double \$5,949***
 Single ~~\$6,999~~; **Single \$6,849;**
 Triple ~~\$6,049~~ **Triple \$5,899**

For bookings made after Oct 02, 2023 call for rates.

Included in Price: Round Trip Group Pickup to/from Newark Intl Airport, Round Trip Air from Newark Intl Airport, Inter-flights from Santorini Thira Is., Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$449 per person

** All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change, based on air inclusive package from EWR*

Upgrade your in-flight experience with Elite Airfare

Additional rate of: Business Class \$3,990

† Refer to the reservation form to choose your upgrade option

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. (See registration form for consent.)

Day 10: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 Nafplio - Athens - Mykonos - Chora Early this morning, transfer to the port of Athens for the high-speed ferry* ride to Mykonos, the whitewashed jewel of the Cyclades Islands. Enjoy magnificent views as you cruise across the brilliant Aegean Sea to this island paradise. Spend time in Chora (Mykonos Old Town), where mazes of narrow streets link the whitewashed buildings and traditional life continues amidst the bustling activity. (B, D)

Day 11: Thursday, April 18, 2024 Mykonos Enjoy a relaxing day to independently explore the charms of Mykonos. Or join an optional excursion to the nearby island of Delos,** the fabled birthplace of Apollo and Artemis. (B)

Day 12: Friday, April 19, 2024 Mykonos - Santorini - Oia Cruise to the most spectacular destination in the Mediterranean, the fabled island of Santorini. Next, travel through a fascinating landscape of vineyards, whitewashed chapels, and volcanic cliffs to the spectacular town of Oia, where the best views of the crater are found. (B, D)

Day 13: Saturday, April 20, 2024 Santorini - Akrotiri - Wine Tasting Begin your day with a visit to the excavation site of ancient

Akrotiri, the most important prehistoric settlement found anywhere in the Eastern Mediterranean. Known as the "Minoan Pompeii," the flourishing town was at once destroyed and preserved by a volcanic eruption around 1450 B.C. End your morning with a visit to a local winery that produces the unique and famous wines of Santorini. (B)

Day 14: Sunday, April 21, 2024 Santorini Your day is at leisure to relax or independently explore Santorini, considered one of the most stunning landscapes in the world. Shop in Thira's charming town center, take in the breathtaking scenery, visit a local museum or simply enjoy the amenities of your hotel. Perhaps you'll join an afternoon optional tour of Megalochori, one of the most picturesque villages on the island, followed by a dinner of flavorful regional cuisine. (B)

Day 15: Monday, April 22, 2024 Santorini - Athens Bid farewell to the Greek Islands and fly back to Athens for your overnight stay. Celebrate the end of a memorable trip to Greece with a delightful farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 16: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 Athens - Tour Ends Your tour ends today. (B)

For more information on extensions and options for this tour visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1140216>

PLEASE NOTE:

Book Now rates valid until Oct 02, 2023, valid on air inclusive packages only.
IDENTIFICATION

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require a minimum of 6 months passport validity from date of return home. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that our clients traveling abroad 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.

Effective for travel after November 2023, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS travel authorization, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit <https://www.etiasvisa.com/>

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Luggage handling is not available when getting on and off the ferries in Mykonos and Santorini.

Due to the nature of this itinerary, both 3- and 4-star hotels that may be located in the vicinity of historic centers will be utilized.

Hotel accommodations while in Nafplio will be confirmed 60 days prior to departure at either Nafplia Palace Hotel & Villas, Amphitryon Hotel or Amalia Hotel.

To complete your tour, we include roundtrip 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 prescheduled times.

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 (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, ferries, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

In order to access the Acropolis archeological site, you will be required to climb about 30-40 uneven steps and walking over rugged terrain with loose stones and without railings. Due to the driving distances and ferry schedules, there are 3 days on your itinerary when the lunch break will occur between 1:15pm and 2pm. You will be travelling by public ferryboats between Athens, Mykonos and Santorini. In addition to handling your own luggage on and off the ferries, you must be prepared to climb 1 or 2 flights of steep steps to access the passenger section of the ferryboats. Due to the ferry schedule and availability, you may be required to depart Nafplio at 3:30 AM. If you require a walker or wheelchair, or have difficulty walking, you may find these transfers challenging and may want to consider an alternate program with us. Our travel counselors can provide additional information or assistance to help you determine the perfect trip for you.



*Due to ferry schedules on some departures, you may be required to depart the hotel as early as 3:30 a.m. Should this be the case, a boxed breakfast will be provided in place of the regular hotel breakfast.

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.

**The "Ancient Delos: Apollo's Sacred Island" option must be purchased at least 10 days prior to departure. This option is subject to weather and sea conditions.

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

A deposit of \$698 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of October 02, 2023 are based upon availability. Final payment due by February 01, 2024. Deposits are refundable up until October 02, 2023.

CST#2006766-20 UBN#601220855 Nevada Sellers of Travel Registration No. 2003-0279

For important reservation information visit
<https://gateway.gocollette.com/link/1140216>.
You can also find this information on your tour documents.

Extend your vacation with

Optional 5 Days 3-Night Rome Pre Tour Extension

Rate: \$1,399.00 USD per person, double, land & air inclusive

4 Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Travel to the eternal city of Rome.

Day 2: Rome

Get settled into Rome for your 3-night stay. Take time to get acquainted with the area on your own. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner featuring regional delicacies. *Today dinner will be included.*

Day 3: Rome

Start your morning with a locally guided tour of Classical Rome. Discover the city's famous sights such as the legendary Aventine and Palatine Hills, the ancient Circus Maximus, and the Arch of Constantine. During an in-depth visit to the Colosseum, your guide recounts its rich history. The remainder of the day is yours. Perhaps you will join an optional dinner in a popular restaurant, where you'll indulge in a hearty meal accompanied by wine and local entertainment. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 4: Rome

Make the most of a free day in Italy's capital city. Perhaps you will join an optional tour* to the Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica, taking in world-renowned wonders such as the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's mural of the Last Judgment. In the afternoon, consider strolling through the Borghese Gardens for views of the city's skyline or meander through Rome's bohemian *Trastevere* district. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 5: Rome - Athens

Your Roman sojourn comes to a close today. Say *Arrivederci Roma* as you transfer to the airport for your flight to Athens. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Please Note:

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

The space on this extension is limited and will be available on a first come, first served basis. Applicable charges may apply at time of request.

Fully-guided extensions are a great way to explore a new destination. Enjoy sightseeing and local experiences led by a Tour Manager or local expert.

*The Vatican Museums are not available on Sundays and holidays so this optional tour may operate on a different day on select departures. The Vatican Museums' dates and times are all subject to change based on availability of reservations.

We reserve the right to cancel this extension if a minimum of 4 passengers is not met to operate.

The internal flights for this extension are not included in the land price of your tour. The purchase of an additional air segment is required. Please enquire for air rate at time of booking.

Effective for travel after November 2023, all visitors who do not need a visa to enter Europe will be expected to apply for an ETIAS travel authorization, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit <https://www.etiasvisa.com/>

The overall activity level of this extension is a level 3. This means walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal for you. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

Extend your vacation with

Optional 4 Days 3-Night Istanbul Post Tour Extension

Rate: \$999.00 USD per person, double, land & air inclusive

4 Meals: 3 Breakfasts, 1 Dinner

Day 16: Athens - Istanbul, Turkey

Depart Greece and make your way to Istanbul, Turkey's most popular city. Considered to be the bridge between the East and the West, Istanbul is a central hub for intermingling cultures, complicated history, and legendary architecture. The city was the former capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires – which is seen through its blend of times-gone-by nostalgia and ever-evolving modernity. This evening, kick-start your exploration of Istanbul by sampling Turkish cuisine during dinner at a local restaurant. *Today dinner will be included.*

Day 17: Istanbul

Discover the city with a local guide. Start your morning at the famous Hagia Sophia,* the Church of the Holy Wisdom. At the time it was built, this massive cathedral was the largest in the world. Continue on to the Blue Mosque,** where vibrant blue tiles line the building's opulent interior walls. After free time for lunch, continue exploring Istanbul with your local expert. Make your way through the lively Grand Bazaar and Spice Market, surrounding yourself with artisan crafts, buzzing energy, and exciting vendors. Enjoy an evening at leisure. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 18: Istanbul

The day is yours to spend however you choose! Explore the local boutiques or maybe taste the culture through Turkish favorites. Perhaps you will choose to go on an optional excursion to a Hammam Turkish bath, where you'll enjoy an authentic scrub and foam bath. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 19: Istanbul - Tour Ends

Your tour ends today. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Please Note:

*The Hagia Sophia is closed on Mondays. Should your visit fall on a Monday, the order of sightseeing will be rearranged in order to accommodate your schedule.

**No shoes are allowed when entering any mosque. Shoes are to remain outside and socks are recommended during this visit. Women will also be required to wear a head scarf; these are available at each Mosque at no charge. Modest clothing is also required for mosque visits.

During this extension, you can expect to have a **hosted** experience or two, with a local representative revealing more of what this destination has to offer. Enjoy a mix of independent exploration and guided sightseeing and experiences.

This extension is offered on select dates and subject to availability and applicable charges at time of request. Please inquire at time of booking.

We reserve the right to cancel this extension if a minimum of 4 passengers is not met to operate.

The internal flights for this extension are not included in the land price of your tour. The purchase of an additional air segment is required. Please inquire for air rate at time of booking.

A visa is required for travel to Turkey and needs to be obtained in advance in E-Visa form at <https://www.eviza.gov.tr/en/>. Rates are approximate and can be changed at any time based on governing authority. Please consult with your embassy/consulate for proper documentation.

The overall activity level of this extension is a level 3. This means walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal for you. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, Zodiac, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free-time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.