



Tour:

Ancient Battlefields

Specialization:

World History, Military History, Art, Science & Culture

Itinerary:

Greece – Athens, Delphi, Salamis Island, Corinth Canal, Epidaurus, Nafplio & Eleusis

GREECE - ANCIENT BATTLEFIELDS				
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	
1	Travel overnight to Athens, Greece			
2	Arrive Athens; transfer to hotel and check-in	Welcome, Safety & Orientation	The National Archaeological Museum of Athens	Welcome Dinner
3	Guided Tour of Athens - The Acropolis, Acropolis Museum, lunch in Plaka, Ancient Agora, Agora Archaeological Museum, Poseidon Temple, Superior Court of Ancient Greece		Traditional Greek Tavern Dinner	
4	Delphi & the Battle of Marathon with Museum & Battlefield		Local Dinner	
5	The Corinth Channel & Museum + The Naval Battle of Salamis		Local Dinner + Greek Mythology & Storytelling	
6	Mycenaean & Classical Greece - Explore Epidaurus & Nafplio		Local Dinner	
7	Ancient Eleusis & The Eleusis Museum	Free time for Exploration		Greek Cooking Class & Dinner
8	Free time in Athens	Greek Food & Markets Tour		Local Dinner
9	Athens War Day - Visit the Athens War Museum, Parliament of the 1st World Democracy, plus Replicas of a WWII Battleship & Ancient Trireme		Farewell Dinner & Greek Dancing	
10	Transfer to airport; depart for home			



As with all sample itineraries, please be advised that this is an 'example' of a schedule and that the activities and hotels shown may be variable dependent upon dates, weather, special requests and other factors. Itineraries will be confirmed prior to travel.



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Greece: Few civilizations have left such a mark on our modern world. From the grand architecture, the philosophical discoveries and their widely-known mythology, Ancient Greece laid the foundation for much of our culture today. During our spectacular trip through the Ancient Greece, experience first-hand the wars and battlefields that led to the rise of this influential civilization.

Experience the Marathon and Salamis battlefields, two legendary battles fought during the Greek-Persian wars during 490 and 480 BC. The Greeks were, ultimately, victorious and their civilization preserved, giving the world incredible cultural contributions such as democracy, classical architecture, sculpture, theatre and the Olympic Games. For Greece, however, the victory not only guaranteed the freedom from foreign rule but also permitted, soon after, an astonishingly rich period of artistic and cultural endeavors.

While in Athens, visit the Athens War Museum and delve into the Peloponnesian War fought between Athens and its empire and the Peloponnesian League led by Sparta from 431 to 404 BC. Take a step back in time to experience the Sanctuary of Poseidon at Sounion, one of the most important sanctuaries in Attica. And, don't forget the Acropolis Museum, home to nearly 4000 artifacts ranging from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece, found on the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens.

Your chariot awaits you!



Day 1

Dinner in flight (based on air carrier)

Travel overnight to Athens, Greece. Rest up on the flight because tomorrow is the start of our fascinating journey through Greece!

Day 2

Breakfast in flight (based on air carrier); lunch on own, dinner included

Arrive in Athens, meet your transportation and transfer to your hotel. After arriving we'll get settled in our hotel, have our Welcome, Safety & Orientation meeting and then set off for a late lunch (pay on own). In the afternoon, we'll discover our first look at ancient Greek Archaeology and afterwards, we'll finish the day off with a fabulous Welcome Dinner.



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The National Archaeological Museum - The National Archaeological Museum in Athens houses some of the most important artifacts from a variety of archaeological locations around Greece from prehistory to late antiquity. It is considered one of the **greatest museums in the world** and contains the richest collection of artifacts from Greek antiquity worldwide.



Day 3

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Greece! Today after breakfast, we'll discover the historical side of Athens - the capitol, political and cultural center of Greece. We'll embark on a full-day guided tour to explore the **Acropolis** and the **Acropolis Museum**, have lunch in Plaka and explore the oldest part of the city, followed by visits to ancient **Agora** and the **Agora Archaeological Museum**. We'll also have an opportunity to visit the **Poseidon Temple** and the **Superior Court of Ancient Greece** (Areios Pagos).



This evening we'll enjoy a traditional Greek tavern dinner in Athens.

Day 4

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Athens! After breakfast, we're off on a full-day tour to the **Delphi Archaeological site** and museum, plus the **Battlefield of Marathon**. Delphi is the ancient sanctuary that grew rich as the seat of the oracle (a person considered to provide insightful counsel of the future, inspired by the gods). The Oracle was consulted on important decisions throughout the ancient classical world; hence Delphi was considered the 'navel of the world' by the Greeks as represented by the **Omphalos**. Delphi is thought to be the most important ancient oracle where all the city-states visited to take constitutions about their political actions and decisions concerning the Battles. Marathon is the area where the ancient Greek army decisively defeated the Persians and stopped their invasion into Greece and consequently into Europe.



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This evening we'll have a local dinner with free time to explore. Get ready for amazing Greek food!

Day 5

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Greece! Today we'll have a full day tour to **Ancient Corinth**. We'll see the **Corinth Canal** - the ancient channel site and the **Ancient Corinth Museum**. We'll see the distant view of the straits between the mainland and the island of **Salamis**, where the famous naval battle between the Greeks and the Persians took place and where the Greek navy crashed off the Persian coast. A number of historians believe that a Persian victory would have hamstrung the development of Ancient Greece, and by extension western civilization, and this has led them to argue that Salamis is one of the most significant battles in human history.



In the same glorious spot, nowadays is the largest naval base in Greece.

This evening we'll have another fabulous Greek dinner followed by an evening of **Greek Mythology & Storytelling**.

Day 6

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Athens! After breakfast, we'll set off to explore **Classical Greece**. We'll have a full-day tour to the ancient theatre of Epidaurus and the lovely seaside city of Nafplio.

The **Epidaurus Theatre** is one of the most important ancient sites in Greece, with an almost perfectly preserved Amphitheatre built 2,500 years ago and still hosting Greek dramas today. This World Heritage site is located at the eastern end of the Peloponnese, and according to Greek mythology, Epidaurus was the birthplace of **Asclepius**, the god of healing and son of **Apollo**. The site later became one of the most important centers of healing in the ancient world and by the 4th century BC, the sick traveled from far and wide to seek medical and mystical cures at the sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius.



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Nafplio is overlooked by the **Palamidi & Akronafplia Castle** on the hill which runs down to the sea, gathering the historic buildings on its way. A testimony to Nafplio's beauty and strategic location is that the Venetians made it the capital of their lands in Greece. There are fabulous surrounding areas, vistas, views and tiny villages to venture towards and explore!

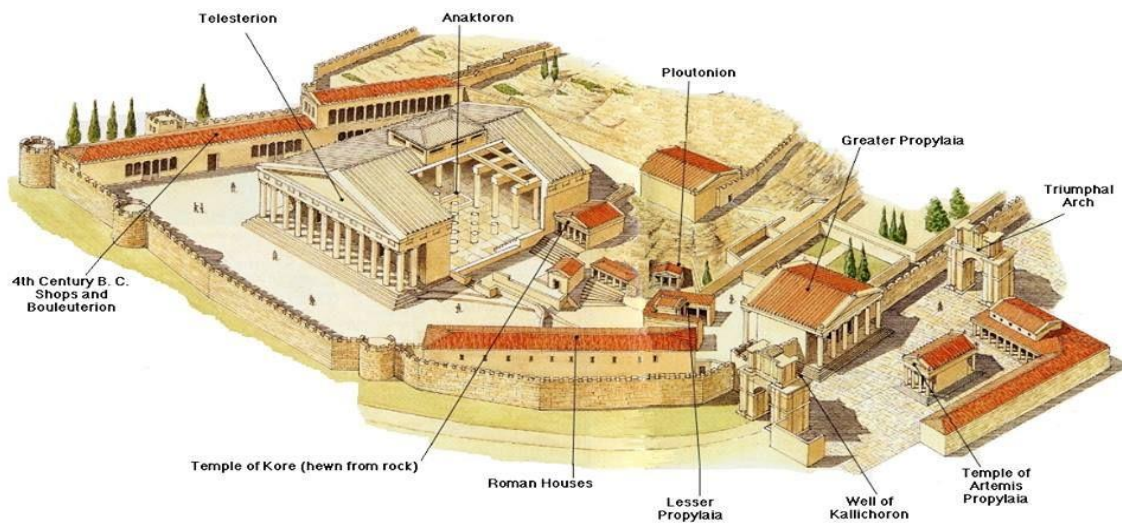


This evening we'll have a local dinner.

Day 7

Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning Greece! After breakfast, we're off to tour the ancient site of **Eleusis** and its museum, famous for the **Eleusinian Mysteries** and secret religious ceremonies. Initiations were held every year for the **cult of Demeter and Persephone** based at Eleusis in ancient Greece. They are the most famous of the secret religious rites of ancient Greece. Eleusis is also the birthplace of **Aeschylus**, an ancient Greek tragedian and often described as 'The father of tragedy.'



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In the afternoon, we'll have free time to continue to explore Athens on our own. If you would like to include a specific group activity or transportation, simply let us know and we can determine associated costs on your behalf. Maybe a chance to see **an Olive Oil production house** and learn more about this incredible fruit?

This evening, we'll get our hands moving with a **Greek Food Cooking Class**. Get ready to dive in and cook up something great for dinner!

Day 8

Breakfast, lunch food tour, & dinner included

Rise and shine Athens! Today will be another fun day to explore Athens. We'll have breakfast and then some free time this morning. Later, we'll get to participate in a guided food tour of the Greek markets.

In the **Greek Food & Markets Tour** we'll eat our way around Athens with this 3-hour guided walking tour. We'll have the opportunity to visit some of Athens' best-loved foodie hotspots – rubbing shoulders with the locals at **Varvakios Agora Market** and wandering around the streets filled with eateries, stores and smaller markets, sampling local delicacies from cheese, bread and wine to olive oil, herbs and garlic.



In the late afternoon, we'll have free time for extra excursions. Perhaps you may want to add on a special history tour, or maybe just rest and relax. We'll have dinner locally.

Day 9

Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Greece! Our last full day in Athens, we'll start with breakfast and then have the day to wrap up some key historical sightseeing. We'll have a full-day tour starting with the **Athens War Museum** to link the battlefields (air, sea, land) with the 'Greek warrior' and his basic characteristics. We'll start to understand the background of the warrior from this time period and the courage and passion needed in the battlefields as he was fighting to protect and defend altars and families.

Later we'll visit the **Parliament of the first world's Democracy**, or so said; followed by viewing of a **WWII battleship** and an incredible replica of an **ancient trireme**.

This evening, we'll have a farewell dinner followed by an evening of **Greek Dancing!**



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Day 10

Breakfast included (if available due to departure flight times)

After breakfast and our fabulous explorations, we'll prepare to leave fabulous Greece, saying goodbye to our new friends and taking away memories that will last a lifetime. Dependent upon airport check-in times, we'll have breakfast at our hotel if time allows.

ΕΙΣ ΤΟ ΕΠΑΝΙΔΕΙΝ

(Until we meet again)



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ANCIENT BATTLEFIELDS

Minimum Booking Numbers:

16 students

What's Included:

Roundtrip international flights (ask us about adding NYC pre/post trip)
8-nights' accommodation in Greece + 1-overnight air
Greece airport transfers & group transportation to activities shown in the itinerary
Meals in destination - Breakfasts daily, 6 lunches (includes lunch tour on Day 8), plus 8 dinners
National Archaeological Museum of Athens
Athens Guided Tour to include:

- The Acropolis
- The Acropolis Museum
- Ancient Agora
- Agora Archaeological Museum
- Poseidon's Temple
- Superior Court of Ancient Greece

Full-day tour to Delphi to study the Battlefield of Marathon; museum and battlefield included
Full-day tour to Corinth (includes museum visit) and Salamis
Full-day tour to Classical Greece including Epidaurus and Nafplio
Excursion to Ancient Eleusis with Museum visit included
Greek Cooking Class
Greek Food & Markets Tour
Greek Mythology & Storytelling
Full-day tour to review Athens Wars including:

- Athens War Museum
- Parliament of the 1st World Democracy
- WWII Battleship Replica
- Ancient Trireme Replica

Personal Tour Director
24-hour emergency cover

What's Not Included:

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Luggage fees if not included with airline ticketing
Transfers to/from home airport
Meals not shown as 'included' above
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment Options not shown in Itinerary
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – meals, mini-bar items, recreation charges, purchases billed to room, etc.
Any gratuities – coach drivers, maid/ bellman services, Ambassador, Local/specialty guides

As always, our staff are always available to you to answer any questions you may have regarding programming. If we may serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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