



Tour: Arts Academy in Greece
Destination: Athens & Poros, Greece with excursions to Epidaurus, Nafplion & the Corinth Canal
Tour Type: Drama & Dance
Itinerary: 8-days / 7-nights total trip

Arts Academy in Greece						
Day	Morning	Afternoon			Evening	
1	Travel overnight to Athens, Greece					
2	Arrive Athens, Greece; clear Customs	Board transport, excursion to Corinthian Canal, transfer to the Island of Poros			Meet Your Tutor	Welcome Dinner
3	Master Class 1	Free Time	Master Class 2	Free Time	Dinner	Free Time
4	Classical Tour Day Trip - Nafplion & Epidaurus				Dinner & Greek Dancing Evening	
5	Master Class 3	Master Class 4	Free Time	Master Class 5	Dinner	Free Time
6	Ancient Athens Day - Acropolis Guided Tour, Acropolis Museum, National Archaeological Museum of Athens, Ancient Agora and more				Dinner	Dora Stratou Greek Dancing Show
7	Greek Cooking Class & Market Visit		Off the Beaten Track Athens Walking Tour		Farewell Dinner - Traditional Greek Dinner in Athens	
8	Transfer to the Athens International 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... Our Arts Academy offers the delights of the Greek mainland and the culturally rich region of the Peloponnese all wrapped up in one fantastic tour. Here, our groups are offered a wealth of culture matched only by the spectacular landscape, lapped by sparkling blue seas and covered in lemon groves. Greece produced some of the greatest philosophers, artists and poets of the ancient world and this unique trip enables students to take a step back in time and appreciate this mythical country.



Our Academy base is situated in the Peloponnese region of Poros. Poros is a small, volcanic island of great beauty. It's very close to Athens and a popular summer resort for both Greeks and visitors. The island's name means 'narrow strait,' and it is separated from the Peloponnese and the picturesque town of Galatas by a 370-meter canal. It is considered a very romantic place, but is also wonderful for people of all ages. Poros is a very green island and as the ferry approaches you can admire the pines that cover the small hills and the beaches.

The god Poseidon was especially worshipped on Poros which was called 'Kalavria' during the Greek Antiquity. An ancient Myth tells that Poseidon gave Delphi to Apollo in exchange for Poros because the island firstly belonged to the god of the Sun. Several excavations show that the island was inhabited from the prehistoric times and also during the Mycenaean times. Poros had a peak period in the 6th-5th century BC, especially when the Temple of Poseidon became the main place of worship during the times of the Kalavrian union, a league between Athens, Naflion, Aegina and other city-states of that era.

Because of its closeness to the mainland, Poros had commercial and political connections with both Athens and the Peloponnese. Demosthenes, the orator, took his life here according to tradition.

Drama – Academy drama courses can be specially devised for school curriculum, enriching their knowledge and understanding of Drama and giving students the opportunity of a lifetime in the oldest theatre in the world. Our practical workshops incorporate Greek choral movement, use of masks, Greek choral speech work and mime.

The earliest origins of drama are to be found in Athens where ancient hymns, called dithyrombs, were sung in honor of the god Dionysus. These hymns were later adapted for choral processions in which participants would dress up in costumes and masks. Eventually, certain members of the chorus evolved to take special roles within the procession, but they were not yet actors in the way we would understand it.

That development came later in the 6th century BC, when the tyrant Pisistratus, who then ruled the city, established a series of new public festivals. One of these, the 'City Dionysia', a festival of entertainment held in honor of the god Dionysus, featured competitions in music, singing, dance and poetry. And most remarkable of all the winners was said to be a wandering bard called Thespis.

According to tradition, in 534 or 535 BC, Thespis astounded audiences by leaping on to the back of a wooden cart and reciting poetry as if he was the characters whose lines he was reading. In doing so he became the world's first actor, and it is from him that we get the world thespian.

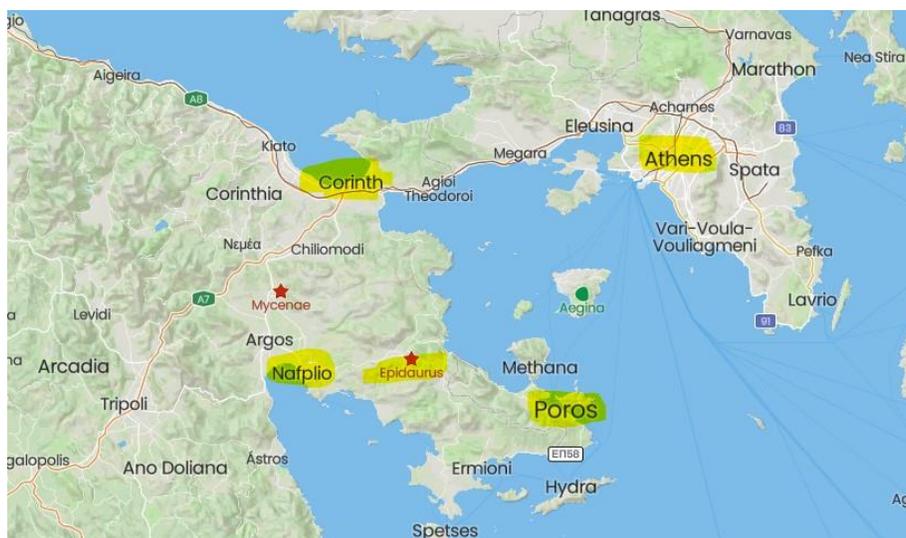


Dance – Your choice of dance styles and genres is vast, with the professional guidance from our dancers and teachers, who can excite and motivate students with the latest dance opportunities.



The Arts Academy: Our Greek Arts Academy tours include 5 tailor-made Master Classes. Schools may elect to participate in variety of selections that incorporate multiple disciplines, or may elect to study only one discipline for all Master Class sessions. Workshop contents are developed between you and our European team of professional tutors to provide the specific training and instruction in the areas you are seeking, creating a personalized program to suit your individual needs. Classes are 1.5 to 2-hours in length.

All of our Greek Academy tours start and finish in mystical Athens! The most famous ancient city in the world houses the Acropolis, one of the Ancient Wonders of the World. The heritage of the classical era is still evident in the city, portrayed through a number of ancient monuments and artworks. All tours also include an excursion to Nafplion and Epidaurus. Known as the ‘Venice of Greece,’ groups will enjoy a half-day at splendid Nafplion. This lively, beautifully sited town was the capital of Greece until replaced by Athens in 1834. Afterwards, groups will travel on to Epidaurus and the magnificently preserved 14,000-seat theatre, home to Drama!



Day 1

Meals in flight, dependent upon carrier

Start your outbound journey across the pond! In most instances, flights will be an overnight option. Meals are generally served in flight however it is dependent upon your airline. In some cases, meals will be available for purchase. Bring a good book and an eye mask so you can get some shut eye! Tomorrow we'll wake up in Greece!



Day 2

Dinner

Arrive at The Athens International Airport in the morning of day 2. After boarding our motorcoach, your school will make your first sightseeing stop at the Corinth Canal en route to our hotel located on the stunning island of Poros.



The Corinth Canal – The construction of the Corinthian Canal began in 1882. Small ships travel from Piraeus and go to the Ionian Sea after passing first through the canal. Before the construction of the canal, boats were dragged from one side of the isthmus to the other with the help of Diolkos (this was done up until the 13th century). Diolkos was a road of stones that connected the Saronic Gulf with the Corinthian Gulf and was built in 6th century BC by the tyrant Periandros. Ancient Corinth fought the first naval battle on record against the Hellenic city of Corcyra. The Corinthians were known for their wealth due to their strategic location on the isthmus,

through which all land traffic had to pass en route to the Peloponnese, including messengers and traders. Corinth is well known to readers of the Bible because of its importance in the missionary activity of the apostle Paul: he visited Corinth at least three times, founded Christian assemblies there, and wrote at least four letters to Christians in Corinth

Upon arrival in Poros, your Ambassador will conduct your Welcome & Safety Orientation, you'll have an opportunity to meet your tutor, and we'll have a fabulous welcome dinner.

Sample Hotel: Kalimera Hotel & Apartments – Kalimera is a modern complex in Poros, operating year-round. Kalimera offers integrated services under a hospitable and friendly atmosphere, in good EU 3-star, student-friendly units. All studios and apartments are furnished and have balconies with a fantastic view of Poros harbor. Room amenities include private bathrooms with hair dryers, fully equipped kitchen with refrigerator, telephone, television, radio, central heating, air conditioning, balconies with sea view and more. Hotel amenities include a reception area, lounge, breakfast area, lift, and daily maid services.



Tonight, we'll have a wonderful welcome dinner to celebrate our arrival in Greece!

Day 3

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Good morning Greece! After a leisurely breakfast, we'll embark upon our first Master Class!

Master Class 1 – Before the start of the tour, teachers will have spoken to our Arts Academy specialists to discuss and agree upon the program contents of all Master Classes, the goals and the specific instruction given. Teachers may opt to have all classes in one discipline, or may elect to have a selection of disciplines.



After lunch at the hotel, students will embark upon their second Master Class.

Master Class 2 – Choose from multiple disciplines instructed by our European team of professional tutors. We encourage all school groups to delve into the unique culture of Greece and sample some traditional Greek Arts!



After our workshops, we'll be able to enjoy dinner in the hotel leaving the late evening open for a moonlit walk or evening activities!

Day 4

Breakfast, packed lunch & dinner

Rise and shine Poros! Today is a day for incredible sightseeing and history. After our breakfast, we'll grab our packed lunches, board our transportation and travel for a morning in beautiful Nafplion, followed by exciting afternoon in Epidaurus.

Nafplion – Nafplion is named after its founder Nafplieus, son of Poseidon. In 1828-1833 it was *the capital of the newly established state of Greece* and in 1862, it led the dethronement of the Bavarian Dynasty. It is now a Greek city filled with history, charm, local food dishes, old churches, historical squares and neo-classical buildings.



Nafplion is overlooked by the Palamidi and Akronafplia castle on the hill which runs down to the sea, gathering the historic buildings on its way. A testimony to Nafplion's beauty and strategic location is that the Venetians made it the capital of their lands in Greece. Those old, period houses and buildings... The slope of the town's small roads and cobblestone streets leading past mouth-watering offerings in food shops, cafes and tavernas... The fabulous surrounding areas, vistas, views and tiny villages to venture towards and explore... Whether you are a history buff or just a lover of beautiful places, enjoy this sampling of stunning Nafplion!

And then, Epidaurus!

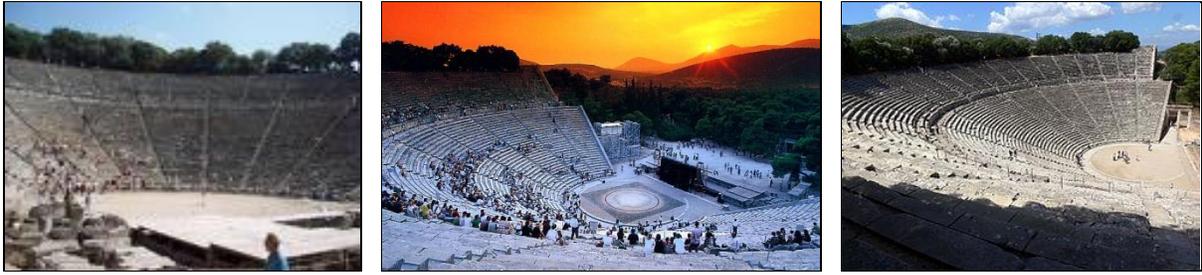
Epidaurus – The Epidaurus Theater is one of the most important ancient sites in Greece with an almost perfectly preserved amphitheatre built 2,500 years ago and still hosting Greek dramas today. This **World Heritage** listed site is located at the eastern end of the Peloponnese, approximately 38 miles south of the Corinthian Canal. 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 were traveling from far and wide to seek medical and mystical cures at the sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius.



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The ruins of Epidauros include the foundations of the Temple of Asclepius, a sanctuary of Egyptian gods, a sports stadium, odeon and bath complex. But without doubt the major attraction is the wonderful theatre, with its legendary acoustics which amaze and delight 21st century audiences. If you drop a matchstick in the center of the original beaten earth stage it can be heard by people sitting in the highest of the 55 tiers. The awe-inspiring acoustics are down to the mathematical precision with which the 14,000-seat theatre was constructed in the 4th century BC. It was used for music, poetry contests and theatrical performances. The theatre is one of the best-preserved structures from Classical Greece, having lain hidden and protected beneath layers of earth for centuries.

Later, we'll have dinner and then kick up our heels as we learn some authentic Greek Dancing!

Greek Dancing – Greek dance is a very old tradition, being referred to by ancient authors such as Plato, Aristotle, Plutarch and Lucian. There are many different styles and interpretations from all of the islands and surrounding mainland areas. Each region formed its own choreography and style to fit in with their own ways. For example, island dances have more of a 'watery' flow to them, while Pontic dancing closer to the Black Sea, is very sharp. There are over 4,000 traditional dances that come from all regions of Greece. There are also Pan Hellenic dances, which have been adopted throughout the Greek world. These include the tsamiko, syrtos and kalamatianos. Traditional Greek dancing has a primarily social function. It brings the community together at key points of the year, such as Easter, the grape harvest or patronal festivals, and at key points in the lives of individuals and families, such as weddings. For this reason, tradition frequently dictates a strict order in the arrangement of the dancers, for example, by age.



Day 5

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Good morning Greece! After a great breakfast, we'll start the day off with our final Master Classes. Today is our last full day on Poros so we'll be sure to make it wonderful!

Master Classes 3, 4 & 5 – choose from multiple disciplines instructed by our European team of professional tutors. Following our workshops, we'll have a leisurely lunch. This afternoon, we'll have a bit of free time to explore this lovely island!



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This evening we'll have dinner in our hotel, pack our bags and get ready for an incredible day of sightseeing tomorrow!

Day 6

Breakfast, packed lunch & dinner

Rise and shine Poros! After breakfast we'll check-out of our hotel and say goodbye to our new friends on Poros as we head to the incredible city of Athens, Greece.

Athens - The city with the most glorious history in the world, a city worshipped by gods and people, a magical city! The enchanting capital of Greece has always been the birthplace for civilization. It is the city where democracy and most of the wise men of ancient times were born. The most important civilization of the ancient world flourished in Athens and relives through some of the world's most formidable edifices. Who hasn't heard of the Acropolis of Athens? Photos and history of the most famous archaeological monument in Europe have made the world tour causing feelings of admiration by thousands of people. Athens met times of bloom and decline, but it still shines under the Attic sky gazing towards the future!



Athens has consistently been inhabited since the Neolithic Age. The 5th century was the time of its ultimate bloom, when moral values and civilization surpassed city limits and became the mother land of western civilization. In the centuries that followed, many conquerors tried to take over Athens. In 1834 Athens was chosen to be the capital of the newly established Greek State. The city that now hosts more than 4.5-million people was constructed around the Acropolis walls. Today it is the political, social, cultural, financial and commercial center of Greece.

We have a full day of sightseeing in store for you. Get ready to for a fantastic history lesson!

The Acropolis - The Acropolis hill, so called the 'Sacred Rock' of Athens, is the most important site of the city and constitutes one of the most recognizable monuments of the world. It is the most significant reference point of ancient Greek culture, as well as the symbol of the city of Athens itself as it represents the apogee of artistic development in the 5th century BC. During Perikles' Golden Age, ancient Greek civilization was represented in an ideal way on the hill and some of the architectural masterpieces of the period were erected on its ground.



The first habitation remains on the Acropolis date from the Neolithic period. Over the centuries, the rocky hill was continuously used either as a cult place, as a residential area, or both. The inscriptions are numerous and precious offerings to the sanctuary of Athena (marble korai, bronze and clay statuettes and vases) indicate that the cult of the city's patron goddess was established as early as the Archaic period (650-480 B.C.).



The Acropolis Museum - The Acropolis Museum, located on the sacred rock, east of the Parthenon, houses some of the most important sculptures of ancient Greek art. It is one of the most important museums in the world and exhibits include sacred sculptures from the temple of Athena Polias on the Acropolis, architectural sculptures of Archaic buildings, parts of the pediments, metopes and frieze of the Parthenon, sculptures from the temple of Athena Nike, as well as the Caryatids from the Erechtheion. It temporarily houses masterpieces of the ancient Greek civilization, dedicated to the most important of the Athenian sanctuaries, the 'temenos' of Athena Parthenos.

National Archaeological Museum of Athens - It is the most important archaeological museum in Greece and one of the richest in the world concerning ancient Greek art. Its collections are representative of all the cultures that flourished in Greece. The construction of the museum begun in 1866 and completed in 1889 with the gradual addition of the west wing in 1874, of the north in 1881, of the south in 1885 and finally of the east wing.



Ancient Agora - The Agora was the heart of ancient Athens, the focus of political, commercial, administrative and social activity, the religious and cultural center, and the seat of justice. The site was occupied without interruption in all periods of the city's history. It was used as a residential and burial area as early as the Late Neolithic period (3000 B.C.). Early in the 6th century, in the time of Solon, the Agora became a public area. After a series of repairs and remodels, it reached its final rectangular form in the 2nd century B.C. Extensive building activity occurred after the serious damage made by the Persians in 480/79 B.C., by the Romans in 89 B.C. and by the Herulians in A.D. 267. From the Byzantine period until after 1834, when Athens became the capital of the independent Greek state, the Agora was again developed as a residential area.

Please know that while in Athens, the above activities are included, however you may customize what you would like to see and when, paying for any extra admission fees once there. A professional guide is included while in Athens.

After viewing Athens in all its splendor, we'll check into our new hotel, have dinner locally and then we're off for a night of professional Greek Dance!

Dora Stratou Greek Dancing Show - Since 1953 the national Greek Dances Theatre of "Dora Stratou" is the living museum of Greek dance and is unique in the world. Dances, songs and music are presented in their original forms as they were or as they are still performed in the respective villages or islands of Greece. All the costumes worn by the performers are authentic museum pieces, handmade in those villages more than a century ago. The theatre's wardrobe contains 2,000 such historical costumes from all over Greece, complete with jewelry and accessories. Extensive field studies by a team of researchers under the direction of professor Alkis Raftis supports the fidelity of performances to the original.



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Day 7

Breakfast, lunch & dinner

Good day Athens! Today is our last full day in Greece so we'll dive into culture. Our first activity – a market visit and authentic Greek cooking class!

Greek Cooking Class & Market Visit - Immerse yourself in the culinary history and practices of Greece during this half-day traditional cooking class. Tour Athens' Central Food Market to purchase produce, then head back to the kitchen with your guide to prepare mouthwatering dishes using the local, fresh ingredients. Your menu includes: Dolmades - delicious vine leaves wrapped around herb-infused rice; Spanakopita - spinach pies with a touch of creamy, salty feta all wrapped up in pastry; Tzatziki - a classic Greek yogurt infused with garlic, cucumber and herbs; Imam Bialdi – a dish of roasted eggplant topped with a rich sauce and feta cheese; Portokalopita – a sticky, soft orange "pie" is made from phyllo pastry, oranges and cinnamon. YUM!!



After our fabulous hand-crafted lunch, we'll set off for a look behind the scenes of Athens, off the beaten track!

Off-the-Beaten-Track Athens Walking Tour - Discover a side of Athens beyond the ancient monuments and crowded tourist spots with a private guide well-versed in the Greek capital's counterculture. Check out hip cafes, art galleries, bookshops, and public spaces tucked into lively neighborhoods that most tourists miss. Learn about the social and political movements that inspired vibrant street art, enjoy the views from a secret lookout point, and taste a treat from a favorite local bakery.



This evening, we'll have our farewell dinner, a traditional Greek dinner. Enjoy!



Day 8

Breakfast, dependent upon departure times

Good morning Athens! After breakfast and dependent upon travel times, we'll start packing our bags and begin to say goodbye to this awesome region as we head off for home, taking memories with us that will last forever!



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ARTS ACADEMY IN GREECE

Minimum Booking Numbers:

20 students

What's Included:

Round-trip flights with a scheduled carrier
6-nights' accommodation in Greece (4-nights Poros + 2-nights Athens) + 1-overnight air
Breakfasts, lunches and dinners daily starting with Dinner on Day 2 and ending with Breakfast on Day 7, dependent upon departure time
Airport transfers and motorcoach/shuttle transportation
5 Master Classes with professional European tutors
Nafplion & Epidaurus with private guide
The Corinth Canal
Ancient Athens with a private guide
Dora Stratou Greek Dance Show
Greek Dancing Experience on Poros
Greek Cooking Class & Market Tour
Off-the-Beaten Track Athens Walking Tour
Admission to The Acropolis
Admission to The Acropolis Museum
Admission to The National Archaeological Museum
Personal Tour Ambassador
24-hour emergency services

What's Not Included:

Fully comprehensive insurance (mandatory)
Transfers to/from home airport
Transportation to activities not shown in the itinerary
Cost of visas, full or collective passports
Cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
Sightseeing / Entertainment options not shown
Hotel incidental deposits & bills – mini-bar, purchases billed to room, etc.
Any gratuities – coach/shuttle drivers, maid services, area Guides (3), tour ambassador

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.

