

Glories of Greece

Tour Pace - This feature packed tour of mainland Greece is well paced and expertly planned. In fact, it is so successful that it has operated, due to popular demand, virtually unchanged for over 20 years. Two nights in Athens at the start allows you time to adjust before the regional touring begins.

Hotels - With rooftop views to both the Acropolis and the Aegean Sea the Metropolitan hotel is well situated in the coastal area of Athens and within easy reach of the city centre. The other hotels on tour are conveniently located near the archeological and ancient sites.

Fellow Passengers - Suited to visitors with limited vacation time or those combining with a cruise. Visits to the Parthenon, the ancient sites of Mycenae, Olympia and Delphi, provide a unique history lesson for those interested in the birth of Western Civilization.

Highlights - In Athens your highlight is the first sight of the Parthenon atop of the Acropolis. In Olympia, it's standing on the hallowed ground where the Olympic games began. Delphi was once considered the centre of the Greek world and the Meteora monasteries are truly unique.

The amazing monasteries of Meteora incredibly perched on pinnacles of rock



DAY 1 – ATHENS AT LEISURE. Welcome to Athens, 'City of the Gods', and the cradle of European civilisation! There's so much in Greece to delight you, and this Insight tour makes sure you don't miss any of it. You are **met at the airport and transferred** to your tour hotel for a two night stay. Then there is time to relax or explore this ancient and thriving city. Later enjoy a **Welcome Drink** to get to know your fellow travellers and Insight Representative. **Hotel: Metropolitan.** (D)

DAY 2 – ATHENS SIGHTSEEING. All the glories of Athens are on display on **your sightseeing tour** this morning. **Highlight of the tour, of course, is a visit to the Acropolis, that mighty rock formation standing 230 feet above the city and still dominating the frantic bustle of modern Athens with its serene presence. Admire the Parthenon, built atop the Acropolis to house the long vanished statue of the goddess Athena Parthenos, and still amazing in its grace, despite the ravages of time and the loss of the Elgin Marbles.** You also see **the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of the Wingless Victory and Hadrian's Arch** - a magnificent list of treasures from the Classical age. This evening, why not join your fellow guests for a night of traditional Greek food in a lively atmosphere, accompanied by dancing and music? (BB)

DAY 3 – ATHENS – OLYMPIA. Leave Athens to follow the shores of the Saronic Gulf to the breathtaking **Corinth Canal**, begun in the 1st century BC by the emperor Nero but not completed until the 19th century - an amazing rock-cut channel dividing the Peloponnese from mainland Greece. Now on to the ancient ruined city of **Mycenae**, its 3000 year old monuments only discovered in 1874 by the controversial archaeologist Schliemann. Walk through the **Lion Gate** and see **the giant Cyclopean stones** which were used to build the city walls. Visit the royal **'beehive' tombs** where Schliemann uncovered golden treasure and hear tales of Agamemnon (hacked to death in his bath by his wife Klytemnestra!). Heading west, a **delightful drive** takes you through the Arcadia Mountains to arrive at **Olympia**, birthplace of the Olympic Games. **Hotel: Antonios.** (BB,D)

DAY 4 – OLYMPIA – DELPHI. In **Olympia** this morning, see the **Olympic Stadium** where the original games were first held in 776BC, plus the athletes' **gymnasium** and the city's ancient **temples**. Then, heading north, reach Patras on the tip of the Peloponnese and set sail for the mainland. Follow the coast road before climbing into the foothills of **Mount Parnassus**. With its elevated site on the slopes of a mountain terrace and dwarfed on either side by the ominous crags of **Parnassus**, it's easy to see why the ancients believed **Delphi** to be the centre of the universe. **Ascend the Sacred Way**, once lined with offertory temples and statues to the honour of Apollo. See the splendid Parian marble **Treasury of the Athenians** which has been recreated by modern archeologists, (though without the riches that once filled it!) Pass the superb **Polygonal Wall**, its stones so perfectly fitted together that even thousands of years have not harmed it. Now you approach the legendary **Temple of Apollo** itself, where the mysterious Oracle of Delphi breathed her enigmatic 'words'. Stay overnight in your hotel in the centre of Delphi. **Hotel: Amalia.** (BB,D)

DAY 5 – DELPHI – KALAMBAKA. Leave Delphi and head north into the heart of Greece, crossing **fertile Thessaly**, once described as the 'bread basket of ancient Greece'. You pass the market town of Trikala, famous in ancient times for its sanctuary to Asclepius. Your destination is **the amazing monasteries known as Meteora, which means 'in the air', incredibly perched on top of pinnacles of rock. Visit one of the monasteries and enjoy stunning views over the Peneios Valley and Pindos Mountains**, before continuing to your hotel in nearby **Kalambaka**. **Hotel : Divani.** (BB,D)

DAY 6 – KALAMBAKA – ATHENS. This morning enjoy a scenic drive along the coast to the pass at **Thermopylae**, famous for its heroic defence by **Leonidas** and his courageous Spartans. In 480BC, this was the main route from Thessaly into Southern Greece. Over several days, Leonidas and his 8,000 Greek soldiers held out to the very last man against a great invading army of Persians, believed to be some 30,000 strong. Return to Athens for your final night in this fascinating city. Perhaps round off your tour with a celebration Greek style dinner at a local taverna? **Hotel: Metropolitan.** (BB)

DAY 7 – ATHENS. Sadly, your tour comes to an end today. Perhaps time to buy those last minute souvenirs before **transferring to Athens airport** for your onward flight. (BB)

7 DAYS ~ GREECE CLASSICAL TOUR



Visit one of the Metéora monasteries, perched on a pinnacle of rock, offering superb views of the Pindos Mountains

Locally Guided Sightseeing Tour



Ascend the Acropolis to visit the Parthenon built to the honour of the goddess Athena
Locally Guided Sightseeing Tour



Key
 PREMIUM HIGHLIGHTS
 PERSONAL INSIGHTS
 CENTRAL HOTELS & NIGHTS
 SCENIC HOTELS & NIGHTS
 See hotel details on pages 175-179

BOOK EARLY
 DEMAND WILL BE GREAT SO TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT

Locally Guided Sightseeing Tour



Enjoy Your Included Tour Features

Premium Highlights

Climb the Acropolis to admire the Parthenon and enjoy amazing views over Athens
Visit one of the monasteries of Metéora perched atop towering pinnacles of rock

Additional Excursions & Sights

See Hadrian's Arch, the Temple of the Wingless Victory and Temple of Zeus in Athens
Cross the breathtaking Corinth Canal
Walk through the Lion Gate past the Cyclopean Stones to the 'beehive' tombs at Mycenae
Tour the original Olympic Games site seeing the Gymnasium and Olympic Stadium
Ascend the Sacred Way past the Treasury of the Athenians to the Temple of Apollo in Delphi
Hear tales of Leonidas and his heroic Spartans at the pass of Thermopylae

Insight's First Class Services

Services of Insight's professional multilingual Tour Director Days 2 - 6
Travel by luxury 40 seat air-conditioned coach
Athens hotel including service charges, taxes and portage
Insight Traveller document wallet, map book journal and information pack
Services of Insight's resident manager in Athens

Complimentary Transfers

Athens arrival and departure transfers between the airport and your Insight tour hotel

Quality Dining & Entertainment

6 Breakfasts (BB), and 4 special-menu Dinners, or Buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

7 days from US\$200 per day

Starts - Ends	Price	PD	Starts - Ends	Price
Feb 07 - Feb 13	\$1399	PD	May 16 - May 22	\$1665
Feb 14 - Feb 20	\$1399	PD*	May 19 - May 25	\$1665
Feb 21 - Feb 27	\$1399	PD	May 23 - May 29	\$1665
* Feb 24 - Mar 02	\$1399	PD*	May 26 - Jun 01	\$1665
Feb 28 - Mar 06	\$1399	PD	May 30 - Jun 05	\$1665
* Mar 03 - Mar 09	\$1599	PD*	Jun 02 - Jun 08	\$1665
Mar 07 - Mar 13	\$1599	PD	Jun 06 - Jun 12	\$1665
* Mar 10 - Mar 16	\$1599	PD*	Jun 09 - Jun 15	\$1665
Mar 14 - Mar 20	\$1599	PD	Jun 13 - Jun 19	\$1665
* Mar 17 - Mar 23	\$1599	PD*	Jun 16 - Jun 22	\$1665
Mar 21 - Mar 27	\$1599	PD	Jun 20 - Jun 26	\$1665
* Mar 24 - Mar 30	\$1599	PD*	Jun 23 - Jun 29	\$1665
Mar 28 - Apr 03	\$1599	PD	Jun 27 - Jul 03	\$1665
* Mar 31 - Apr 06	\$1599	PD*	Jun 30 - Jul 06	\$1665
Apr 04 - Apr 10	\$1665	PD	Jul 04 - Jul 10	\$1665
* Apr 07 - Apr 13	\$1665	PD*	Jul 07 - Jul 13	\$1665
Apr 11 - Apr 17	\$1665	PD	Jul 11 - Jul 17	\$1665
* Apr 14 - Apr 20	\$1665	PD*	Jul 14 - Jul 20	\$1665
PD Apr 18 - Apr 24	\$1665	PD	Jul 18 - Jul 24	\$1665
PD* Apr 21 - Apr 27	\$1665	PD*	Jul 21 - Jul 27	\$1665
PD Apr 25 - May 01	\$1665	PD	Jul 25 - Jul 31	\$1665
PD* Apr 28 - May 04	\$1665	*	Jul 28 - Aug 03	\$1665
PD May 02 - May 08	\$1665		Aug 01 - Aug 07	\$1665
PD* May 05 - May 11	\$1665	PD*	Aug 04 - Aug 10	\$1665
PD May 09 - May 15	\$1665	PD	Aug 08 - Aug 14	\$1665
PD* May 12 - May 18	\$1665	PD*	Aug 11 - Aug 17	\$1665
		PD	Aug 15 - Aug 21	\$1665
		PD*	Aug 18 - Aug 24	\$1665
			Aug 22 - Aug 28	\$1665
			* Aug 25 - Aug 31	\$1665
			PD Aug 29 - Sep 04	\$1665
			* Sep 01 - Sep 07	\$1665
			PD Sep 05 - Sep 11	\$1665
			* Sep 08 - Sep 14	\$1665
			PD Sep 12 - Sep 18	\$1665
			* Sep 15 - Sep 21	\$1665
			PD Sep 19 - Sep 25	\$1665
			* Sep 22 - Sep 28	\$1665
			PD Sep 26 - Oct 02	\$1665
			* Sep 29 - Oct 05	\$1665
			PD Oct 03 - Oct 09	\$1665
			* Oct 06 - Oct 12	\$1665
			PD Oct 10 - Oct 16	\$1665
			* Oct 13 - Oct 19	\$1665
			Oct 17 - Oct 23	\$1665
			* Oct 20 - Oct 26	\$1665
			Oct 24 - Oct 30	\$1665
			* Oct 27 - Nov 02	\$1665
			Oct 31 - Nov 06	\$1665
			* Nov 03 - Nov 09	\$1665
			Nov 07 - Nov 13	\$1665
			Nov 21 - Nov 27	\$1665
			Dec 05 - Dec 11	\$1665
			Dec 12 - Dec 18	\$1665
			Dec 19 - Dec 25	\$1665

PD: Preferred Departures (details page 182) See www.insightvacations.com for updated Lists

Supplements

Single room	
07 Feb - 28 Feb '09	\$395
03 Mar - 31 Mar '09	\$445
All other dates	\$485

Pre & post tour accommodation in Athens

Per person per night	Twin	Single	Triple
Metropolitan	\$138	\$223	\$125

Reductions (details & conditions page 182)

Triple Room Discount	
07 Feb - 28 Feb '09	SAVE \$70 p.p.
03 Mar - 31 Mar '09	SAVE \$145 p.p.
All other dates	SAVE \$150 p.p.

Reductions

Young Traveller Discount SAVE \$165

Notes

REF: 1951A. Prices are per person sharing a twin.
*Tours depart Tuesdays and return Mondays. All other tours depart Saturdays and return Fridays
Due to local schedules, religious festivals and other unforeseen circumstances, the order of this itinerary may change at short notice.

Additional visa requirements

Ask your Travel Agent about visas for this tour.

Included 🏰 🍷 🍴 are worth approximately US\$66