

Athens - Thessaloniki

During this trip you will have the opportunity to discover a big part of Greece's main land, and many pages of its history. You will do so by visiting Greece's to biggest cities, a great number of Enesco's world heritage monuments, and by experiencing Greece's country site. Thessaloniki is a young and modern city where life never stops.

A few words about Athens: Treat yourself to a trip to Athens and find the sun of Attica (it's sunny 300 days in Athens), travel to the source of Western civilization with the famous ruins of the ancient Athenian world (where you can admire the Acropolis the Parthenon, the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion, the Odeon of Herod and the theater of Dionysos). Visiting Athens is also a discovery of a modern city and its recent history. You can admire, among others, the University of Athens, the National Library, the old parliament, the Cathedral, the Parliament and the famous Changing of the Guard. Athens is a city where you can get a taste of all the seasons, the good life. Take your time enjoying a coffee sitting on a terrace, mingle with the bustling and field with crowd shopping streets, choose picturesque neighborhoods of Monastiraki and Plaka for a walk and enjoy the Mediterranean cuisine throughout your stay in the countless restaurants of the city. And if you enjoy nightlife, Athens will not disappoint.

A few words about Thessaloniki: A city where it is nice to walk in the busy shopping streets or to enjoy the waterfront and its open horizons that stop at the foot of Mount Olympus. Visiting Thessaloniki is discovering a long history of more than two thousand years and making a trip to the Eastern Roman Empire, the Byzantine empire and the Ottoman empire, but also understanding the contemporary Balkans and Greece .Discovering Thessaloniki is discovering a unique culture of its own, the result of all the centuries it has been through, and all the people who have inhabited in. A stay in Thessaloniki can be an opportunity to visit northern Greece and to discover other pages of history and exceptional sites.

01 First day Athens

Arrival at Venizelos airport. After your installation at the hotel discover the city. For your first night do not hesitate to get lost in the picturesque streets of Plaka, at the foot of the Acropolis.

02 Second day Athens

Start your day with a visit to the Acropolis. Admire Propylaea , the Temple of Athena Nike, the Parthenon (one of the masterpieces of international cultural heritage) and Erechtheion. A short walking tour will then take you to the amazing new Acropolis Museum, past the Odeon of Herod and the theater of Dionysus. Continue your walk through the marble stadium of Panathinaikos, site of the first modern Olympic Games which took place in 1896. You will pass by the Prime Minister's residence, the former royal palace and Zappeion (congress and exhibition center), before going to the Roman Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch. You will walk through the National Gardens, you will stop in front of the parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier where you can watch the changing of the guard of Evzones. You will

also see the house of Schliemann (Museum of Coins), the cathedral, the Academy, the University, the National Library and the old parliament.

03 Third day

(2 different programs possible)

Day cruise from Athens to Aigina – Ydra – Spetses

or

Epidauros - Mikines - Nauplio

Departure for the Peloponnese, short stop at the Corinth Canal, made in the nineteenth century by Ferdinand de Lesseps, and which separates the Peloponnese from the rest of the Greek mainland. Crossing the Argos to Epidauros theater (world heritage monument), without a doubt the most beautiful theater that antiquity has left us, a true masterpiece of sound. Departure for Mycenae, the ancient kingdom of Agamemnon surrounded by cyclopean walls. Visit the Acropolis with the door of the Lionesses and Hearst gate Treasury or tomb of Agamemnon. We return to Athens to spend the night.

04 Fourth day Delfi

We start in the morning headed for Delfi where we will visit the magnificent site of Delphi, heritage listed by UNESCO, the grandiose scenery dominated by Mount Parnassus and overlooking a forest of olive trees. Considered the center of the world in ancient Greece, Delphi was a Panhellenic sanctuary where people came from around the world to seek advice from the oracle of Apollo. You will find the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Treasury of the Athenians, the theater. Visit the museum that houses the famous statue of the Charioteer, the Sphinx of Naxos and Omphalos "Navel of the World". After a stroll around the picturesque village of Araxova, and lunch. We depart for Kalampaka, at the foot of the Meteors, where we will spend the night.

05 Fifth day Kalampaka

The Meteors, amongst the most important Orthodox monastic tradition in Greece after those of Mount Athos. At the western end of the plain of Thessaly, Meteora offer a unique natural phenomenon in the world: 24 virtually inaccessible crags. Approximately 600 years ago, Byzantine monks withdrew to found the monastic communities of Meteora. The meteors are gigantic rocks, dark stalagmites rising to the sky. The monasteries with their wooden galleries and projecting roofs crown from the rocky peaks. They contain relics, art objects, and rare manuscripts. They are decorated with frescoes, gilded wood and precious icons. A wonder to the visitor. After this visit, we move on to Thessaloniki where we will spend the night.

06 Sixth day Thessaloniki

City Tour.

We will visit the White Tower, symbol of the city, where you will be told the history of Thessaloniki. We will go up to the top of the city, of amazing historic and architectural

interest along the ramparts dating back to the birth of the city in 315 BC. From the acropolis of the city, Eptapyrgion, we will enjoy a panoramic view of the city, the harbor and the Thermaic Gulf. We will then visit the church of Saint Dimitrios, patron saint of the city (IV century). This church, originally built on the site of the martyrdom, became during the VIIth century a basilica with five naves of the Hellenistic type. We will visit the crypt of the church and discover the remains of an early Christian church. We will discover the ancient agora dated to the founding of the city (III century BC). It was the social, religious and commercial center until the fourth century of our era. A few steps away from Aristotelous street we will walk through the colourful markets of Modianou or Kapani that will awaken all our senses. We will walk along the remains of the palace complex of the Roman Emperor Galerius (III and IV century AD) covering an area of 150,000 square meters. We will find the Triumph Arch of Galerius (305 AD) built to celebrate the victory of Emperor Galerius over the Persians. The Rotonda, one of the oldest buildings of the city, was also part of the complex. Built in Roman times, it was a church in the Christian era and a mosque during the Ottoman era.

07 Seventh day Thessaloniki

Royal Tombs of Vergina, Tomb of Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great. Just an hour away from Thessaloniki we offer you the visit of an exceptional archaeological site located in Vergina. It is here that Aigai was discovered in the nineteenth century, the first ancient capital of the kingdom of Macedonia. The most important remains are the monumental palace, lavishly decorated with mosaics and painted stucco, and the burial ground with more than three hundred burial mounds, some dating back to the eleventh century BC. Among the royal tombs in the Great Tumulus is included that of Philip II. He conquered all the Greek cities, paving the way for his son Alexander and for the expansion of the Hellenistic world. This exceptional archaeological discovery is proposed to the visitor in an equally exceptional setting. Vergina is an outstanding example of a significant milestone in the history of Western civilization, the passage of the city-state of classical times to the imperial organization of the Hellenistic and Roman world, as illustrated by the remarkably impressive series of the royal tombs at Vergina in Macedonia and in particular, with their rich furniture. Vergina paintings are of high quality and of considerable historical significance.

08 Eight Day

Enjoy your last moments in the city of Thessaloniki, before departing for the Airport.