

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 all conveniently located near the ancient and archeological 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 Metéora incredibly perched on pinnacles of rock



DAY 1 – DEPART CANADA. Board your overnight flight.

DAY 2 – 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 3 – ATHENS SIGHTSEEING. All the glories of Athens are on display on *your sightseeing tour* this morning. *Visit to the Acropolis, the mighty rock formation standing 230 feet above the city and still dominating the frantic bustle of modern Athens with its serene presence. On top of the Acropolis is the Parthenon, built 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 4 – 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 5 – 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 6 – 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 Asklepios. Your destination is *the amazing monasteries known as Metéora, 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 7 – 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 8 – RETURN TO CANADA. 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)

8 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

Locally Guided Sightseeing Tour



DEMAND WILL BE GREAT SO TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT **BOOK EARLY**

8 days from C\$187 per day

| Starts - Ends | Price | PD | PD | PD |
|----------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|----------------------|
| Canada Canada | | May 15 - May 22 | \$1775 | Aug 21 - Aug 28 |
| Feb 06 - Feb 13 | \$1499 | * May 18 - May 25 | \$1775 | PD * Aug 24 - Aug 31 |
| Feb 13 - Feb 20 | \$1499 | PD May 22 - May 29 | \$1775 | PD Aug 28 - Sep 04 |
| Feb 20 - Feb 27 | \$1499 | PD * May 25 - Jun 01 | \$1775 | PD * Aug 31 - Sep 07 |
| * Feb 23 - Mar 02 | \$1499 | PD May 29 - Jun 05 | \$1775 | PD Sep 04 - Sep 11 |
| Feb 27 - Mar 06 | \$1499 | PD * Jun 01 - Jun 08 | \$1775 | PD * Sep 07 - Sep 14 |
| * Mar 02 - Mar 09 | \$1699 | PD Jun 05 - Jun 12 | \$1775 | PD * Sep 11 - Sep 18 |
| Mar 06 - Mar 13 | \$1699 | PD * Jun 08 - Jun 15 | \$1775 | PD * Sep 14 - Sep 21 |
| * Mar 09 - Mar 16 | \$1699 | PD Jun 12 - Jun 19 | \$1775 | PD Sep 18 - Sep 25 |
| Mar 13 - Mar 20 | \$1699 | PD * Jun 15 - Jun 22 | \$1775 | PD * Sep 21 - Sep 28 |
| * Mar 16 - Mar 23 | \$1699 | PD Jun 19 - Jun 26 | \$1775 | PD Sep 25 - Oct 02 |
| Mar 20 - Mar 27 | \$1699 | PD * Jun 22 - Jun 29 | \$1775 | PD * Sep 28 - Oct 05 |
| * Mar 23 - Mar 30 | \$1699 | PD Jun 26 - Jul 03 | \$1775 | PD Oct 02 - Oct 09 |
| Mar 27 - Apr 03 | \$1699 | PD * Jun 29 - Jul 06 | \$1775 | PD * Oct 05 - Oct 12 |
| * Mar 30 - Apr 06 | \$1699 | PD Jul 03 - Jul 10 | \$1775 | PD Oct 09 - Oct 16 |
| Apr 03 - Apr 10 | \$1775 | PD * Jul 06 - Jul 13 | \$1775 | PD * Oct 12 - Oct 19 |
| * Apr 06 - Apr 13 | \$1775 | PD Jul 10 - Jul 17 | \$1775 | Oct 16 - Oct 23 |
| Apr 10 - Apr 17 | \$1775 | PD * Jul 13 - Jul 20 | \$1775 | * Oct 19 - Oct 26 |
| * Apr 13 - Apr 20 | \$1775 | PD Jul 17 - Jul 24 | \$1775 | Oct 23 - Oct 30 |
| PD Apr 17 - Apr 24 | \$1775 | PD * Jul 20 - Jul 27 | \$1775 | * Oct 26 - Nov 02 |
| PD * Apr 20 - Apr 27 | \$1775 | PD Jul 24 - Jul 31 | \$1775 | Oct 30 - Nov 06 |
| PD Apr 24 - May 01 | \$1775 | * Jul 27 - Aug 03 | \$1775 | * Nov 02 - Nov 09 |
| PD * Apr 27 - May 04 | \$1775 | Jul 31 - Aug 07 | \$1775 | Nov 06 - Nov 13 |
| PD May 01 - May 08 | \$1775 | PD * Aug 03 - Aug 10 | \$1775 | Nov 20 - Nov 27 |
| PD * May 04 - May 11 | \$1775 | PD Aug 07 - Aug 14 | \$1775 | Dec 04 - Dec 11 |
| PD May 08 - May 15 | \$1775 | PD * Aug 10 - Aug 17 | \$1775 | Dec 11 - Dec 18 |
| PD * May 11 - May 18 | \$1775 | PD Aug 14 - Aug 21 | \$1775 | Dec 18 - Dec 25 |
| | | PD * Aug 17 - Aug 24 | \$1775 | |

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

Supplements

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------|-------|
| Single room | 06 Feb - 27 Feb '09 | \$425 |
| | 02 Mar - 30 Mar '09 | \$480 |
| | All other dates | \$515 |

Pre & post tour accommodation in Athens

| | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Per person per night | Twin | Single | Triple |
| | \$148 | \$239 | \$134 |

Reductions (details & conditions page 182)

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Triple Room Discount | |
| 06 Feb - 27 Feb '09 | SAVE \$75 p.p. |
| 02 Mar - 30 Mar '09 | SAVE \$155 p.p. |
| All other dates | SAVE \$160 p.p. |
| Young Traveller Discount | SAVE \$175 |
| Extra Tour Discount | SAVE up to \$89 |

Additional visa requirements

Ask your Travel Agent about visas for this tour.

Notes

REF: I951A. Prices are per person sharing a twin.
 *Tours depart and return Mondays. All other tours depart and return Fridays
 Due to local schedules, religious festivals and other unforeseen circumstances, the order of this itinerary may change at short notice.

Insight's Low Airfare Promise

Insight Promises we will provide the best airfare available to us at the time you make your reservation. Please see page 181 for full details. Airfares are not included in the prices listed above.

Included 🏰 🍷 🍷 are worth approximately C\$68

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 3 - 7
 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)