

ATHENS, ARGOLIS & CYCLADES, GREECE

14 NIGHTS / 15 DAYS program

Day 1: October 1stWELCOME TO ATHENS

Arrival in Athens at Venizelos International Airport. We meet and greet our English speaking **escort** and transfer to our hotel.

Balance of day free. First night in Athens.

Day 2: October 2nd / Athens – One day cruise

After breakfast we will be picked up from our hotel and transferred to the **Marina of Floisvos** for a one day cruise. This is a full day boat tour visiting 3 small picturesque islands of the Argo Saronic Gulf: Hydra, Poros and Aegina.

HYDRA: Hydra is one of the Saronic Islands of Greece, located in the Aegean Sea between the Saronic Gulf and the Argolic Gulf. It is separated from the Peloponnese by a narrow strip of water. Horses, mules and donkeys, and water taxis provide public transportation. The inhabited area, however, is so compact that most people walk everywhere.

POROS: Poros is a small Greek island-pair in the southern part of the Saronic Gulf. Like other ports in the Saronic, it is a popular weekend destination for Athenians with beautiful coffee shops, gift shops and eateries along the port area.

AIGINA: Aegina is a lovely island in close proximity to Athens. This is why it gets very popular as a weekend destination for Athenians. A place with rich history, Aegina Island was a great naval power in ancient times and a capital of Greece for a short time. The most important sight in Aegina, is the Ancient Temple of Athena Aphaia, constructed in the 6th century BC. This island is also very famous for the large production, great quality and taste of pistachios.

Enjoy a buffet lunch on board the ship and a show with Greek dances.

Return to the port and then back to our hotel. Second night in Athens.

Day 3: October 3rd /Argolis Tour

After breakfast depart for our tour to Argolis via the Corinth Canal. Arrive in Nafplion. Upon arrival, we visit the Palamidi Fortress & Karonis Ouzo Distillery, and then check in to our hotel.

In the afternoon we meet with our guide and enjoy a walking tour in the Old Town. First night in Nafplion.

Day 4: October 4th / Argolis tour

We depart for our visit to Epidavrus, the theatre & the museum. The ancient theatre of Epidavrus is a theatre in the Greek city of Epidavrus, located on the southeast end of the sanctuary dedicated to the ancient Greek God of Medicine, Asclepius. The theatre is regarded as the best preserved ancient theatre in Greece in terms of its perfect acoustics and fine structure. After our visit, we will stop at a local Greek *taverna* for those that wish to have lunch or some refreshments on our way to the town of Lygourgio. Lunch on our own. Return to the hotel. Leisure time. Second night in Nafplion.

Day 5: October 5th / Argolis –Athens

After breakfast we meet with our guide and depart for Athens. On arrival in Athens we enjoy a city tour which will include the Acropolis and Acropolis Museum. Our Athens half day tour begins with a panoramic drive around Syntagma Square, passing many points of interest, such as the National Garden, Hadrian's Arch, St. Paul's Church, Parliament and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Catholic Cathedral and Schliemann's House. We will then drive past the Athens Trilogy, which includes the University of Athens, the Academy of Athens, and the National Library. We make a photo stop at the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Game took place in 1896. We pass by Zappeion and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. Last but not least, we make our way to the archaeological site of Acropolis, a UNESCO world heritage monument where we visit Propylae, as well as the small Temple of Athena Nike. Of course, our visit shall not be complete without the Parthenon and Erechtheion. Our Athens guided tour continues with a pleasant short walk passing the Herodion and Dionysos Theatre to visit the New Acropolis Museum.

Arrival at our hotel in late afternoon. Free time. In the evening – **optional**- if you choose you may dine at a local restaurant with folklore dancing and music (cost of dinner & refreshments on your own). Overnight in Athens.

Day 6: October 6th / Athens – Syros

Breakfast, check out, meet our escort & transfer to the port for the ferry to Syros. Arrival in Syros. Our hotel is walking distance from the port and city hall as well as many *tavernas*, and shops. Check in and time on our own. First night in Syros.

Day 7: October 7th / Syros

After breakfast, we will meet our local tour guide and enjoy the island tour.

Tour description: The tour starts from the Customs building at the port and moves on to the historical buildings on Apollonos Street and then reaches Vaporia Quarter, where we will admire the neoclassical mansions, Little Venice area and the majestic St. Nicholas church. Continuing, we visit the unique monument of the Unknown Soldier, a marble sculpture by G. Vitalis, and Apollon Theatre, the first opera house in Greece. Then we will visit the famous Town Hall and finally, passing through the market, we will reach Dormition (Assumption), where we will admire the authentic works by El Greco.

We then board the bus and drive through the beach villages of: Syros, Kini, Galissas, Foinikas, Poseidonia (where we are going to have a short photo stop), Megas Gialos, Variand Azolimnos.

Optional stop in one of the villages for coffee or refreshments (cost not included).

Return to our hotel. Rest of the day on our own. Second night in Syros.

Day 8: October 8th / Syros

The day is a free day for us to explore or relax. Third night in Syros.

Day 9: October 9th / Syros –Naxos

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and walk to the port for the ferry to Naxos. Upon arrival we will be met by our escort and then transferred to our hotel. Check in and time on our own. First night in Naxos.

Day 10: October 10th / Naxos

After breakfast, meet with our guide and enjoy the island tour. Galanado, the first village we come across, offers a view of the fertile fields which produce the well-known Naxian potato. First stop is the small village of Damalas, where we visit a traditional ceramic workshop. We continue through the fertile valley of Tragaia, passing through age old olive and oak trees, vines and fruit groves surrounded by towering summits. We stop at the village of Halki with its mansions and the interesting Byzantine church of Panagia Protothroni. There we will visit the citrus distillery which produces the homonymous local liqueur. We visit the Byzantine church of Panagia Drosiani. Our next stop is Apiranthos which is built at the foot of Mt. Fanari. Venetian towers, pretty, old, two-storey houses, marble paved alleys with arches above them, picturesque squares combine to create a rare atmosphere.

Return to the hotel and the rest of the time is at our leisure. Second night in Naxos.

Day 11: October 11th / Naxos -Santorini

After breakfast check out of the hotel and transfer to the port for the ferry to Santorini.

Upon arrival, we will be met by our escort and then transferred to our hotel.

Check in and time on our own. First night in Santorini.

Day 12: October 12th / Santorini

After breakfast, we meet our local tour guide and enjoy an island tour, visiting the most important villages of the island:

Profitis Ilias, the highest peak of Santorini with a short panoramic stop to admire the view and take pictures; Megalogori one of the most beautiful villages with typical small cave houses; Red Beach, Perivolos black sand beach and free time for lunch and leisure.

In the afternoon we visit a vineyard where we will taste the famous Santo wines. We will have the opportunity to taste very distinct wines and learn more about the uniqueness of Santorini wines. Back to hotel, time for leisure.

Second night in Santorini.

Day 13: October 13th / Santorini

Enjoy breakfast. Leisure time on our own. Third night in Santorini.

Day 14: October 14th / Santorini – Athens

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel, check out & board the bus for the port where we board the ferry to Athens.

Arrival at the port of Piraeus where we meet our escort. Transfer by bus to our hotel.

Check in. Leisure time. Overnight in Athens

Day 15: October 15th / Athens

Breakfast and check out of the hotel. Meet our escort and bus.....transfer to Athens airport and proceed to the AIR CANADA ticket counter for our flight back home full of unforgettable memories from a trip of a life time in Greece.

Package includes:

Round trip airfare with AIR CANADA

Breakfast 14 days

One lunch on the one day cruise

Stay at Central 3* www.central.gr hotel near Plaka – Syntagma for 4 nights with breakfast

Stay at Rex 3* www.rex.gr hotel in Nafplion –for 2 nights with breakfast

Stay at Kamari Beach 3* hotel in Santorini for 3 nights with breakfast

Stay at Naxos resort 4*www.naxosresort.gr in Naxos for 2 nights with breakfast

Stay at Diogenis hotel 4* www.diogenishotel.com/gr/ in Syros for 3 nights with breakfast

Luxurious coach throughout itinerary.

Escort at the arrival & departure transfers.

Professional English speaking guide in Athens city tour and Argolis tour.

Boat tickets PIRAEUS – SYROS-NAXOS-SANTORINI-PIRAEUS in economy class.

One day cruise, including lunch with round trip transfers.

Entrance fees: Athens: Acropolis, Acropolis museum;

Argolis: Epidaurus , Palamidi fortress, small komboloi museum;

Santorini: winery, visit & tasting.

Guided island tours in Syros, Naxos & Santorini.

Resident taxes at all hotels. (CENTRAL, REX, KAMARI BEACH , NAXOS RESORT, DIOGENIS)

Package does not include:

Personal expenses

Gratuities

Lunches (except on 1 day cruise)

Dinners