A Night in the Plaka





Experience the famous **nightlife of Athens** with an opportunity to encounter great Greek music, traditional folklore dances, and delicious Mediterranean cuisine. Start with a **leisurely drive** through the city en route to a traditional venue in the Plaka (the **Old Town**). In this part of the capital, you'll discover an atmosphere rich in traditional epicurean tastes and redolent with the flavor of Greek life. Watch a **fantastic show** and listen to typical Greek music as you enjoy a flavorful **Mediterranean dinner** and local wines. By the end of the evening your spirits will be soaring—feel free to try on your dancing shoes during the show's magnificent finale—Zorba the Greek!

Ancient Agora, Plaka, & Greek Mezedes





The ancient agora, or marketplace, in Athens was once an eclectic mix of private housing and public spaces, until it was thoroughly re-organized by Peisistratus in the 6th century BC. As one did in the ancient world, Peisistratus pulled rank and continued to live on the agora, but he wasted no time evicting the other residents turning the area into the epicenter of Athenian government. He also built a drainage system, fountains and a temple to the Olympian gods. Cimon later improved the agora with new buildings, trees, and temples to Hephaestus, Zeus and Apollo. The law courts were located here as well, and ancient custom dictated that when a court case was being heard, any citizen who happened to be passing by could be forced to serve as a juror. The Scythian Archers—an early version of a mercenary police force—often wandered through the agora specifically looking for jurors. Needless to say, the area was given a wide berth by those who were at all gainfully employed. Because history repeats itself, during Byzantine times, Athens' agora once again became a residential area and now is one of the city's most visited landmarks. You will take a leisurely stroll with your guide to see the main highlights and absorb the remarkable and fascinating history of this location, but keep an eye out for Scythian Archers! Next, you will continue to the historical center of Athens, the Old

Town area known as the *plaka*. Its labyrinthine streets are full of endless fascination. You will step inside a local restaurant for a chance to sample Greek *mezedes* (**appetizers**) and the licorice-flavored *ouzo* liqueur (keep an open mind—even if licorice is not top of your taste preferences, you might be surprised!) before you return to the port.

Notes:

Available for Vista-class ships only. Use of an audio headset (included) will enhance your tour experience.

Ancient Corinth & Canal





Visit the famous **Corinth Canal**, which is four miles long, 70 feet wide and has sloping sides 170 feet in height. It connects the Ionian and Aegean seas to provide a maritime shortcut. Your next stop will be at **Ancient Corinth**. The ruins that lie in this area are a surprising mix of an ancient 6th-century BC Greek city and a 44 BC Roman city—the latter was built after Julius Caesar placed a colony on this desolate site. See the **ruins and excavations** of both, including where

the Christian Basilica, the starting lines of a Greek racetrack, a sacred spring with its bronze lion's-head spouts, and the elaborate Roman fountain of Peirene were located.

Ancient Corinth & Mycenae



Approximately 8½ hours





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Athens & the Acropolis





Milton wrote that **Athens** was "the eye of Greece, mother of arts and eloquence." Your visit today will begin with the most famous temple of the Ancient City—**the Parthenon**, dedicated to Athena, the patron goddess of Athens. **Walking** up a winding path towards the Acropolis, you will pass through the **Propylaea**, and see the Erechtheum temple and the Porch of the Caryatids in the distance. Reinforced by the hand of man, the natural fortress of the **Acropolis** stands 230 feet above the city. You cannot help but be in awe of the view below. On a **drive through the city**, some of the highlights you will see include Constitution Square, the Royal Palace where the Evzones keep watch in their traditional costumes, the Temple of Zeus and the Olympic Stadium. **Notes:**

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking with an uphill climb to the Parthenon. The marble steps are slippery, especially when it rains. Wear comfortable, rubber-soled shoes. Shade is limited; please dress accordingly. Bring a hat and wear sunscreen. Expect dense

crowding at the site. Use of an audio headset (included) will enhance your tour experience.

Athens & the Acropolis with Airport Transfer





No one introduced **Athens** to the world as elegantly as Milton did—"Athens, the eye of Greece, mother of arts and eloquence." Your visit today will begin with the most famous temple of the Ancient City—the **Parthenon**—dedicated to Athena, the patron goddess of Athens. Walking up a winding path towards the **Acropolis**, you will pass through the Propylaea, and see the Erechtheum temple and the Porch of the Caryatids in the distance. Reinforced by the hand of man, the natural fortress of the Acropolis stands 230 feet above the city. You cannot help but be in awe of the view below. On a **panoramic drive** through the city, some of the highlights you'll see include Constitution Square, the Royal Palace where the Evzones keep watch in their traditional costumes, the Temple of Zeus and the Olympic Stadium.

Notes:

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking with an uphill climb to the Parthenon. The marble steps are slippery, especially when it rains. Wear comfortable, rubber-soled shoes. Shade is limited; please dress accordingly. Bring a hat and wear sunscreen. Expect dense crowding at the site. This tour is available only to guests with flights departing Athens after 3pm.

If you have already purchased an airport transfer with your cruise booking, you will be refunded onboard, as this excursion already includes a transfer.

Athens & the Acropolis with Ship Transfer



Approximately 3½ hours \$\$

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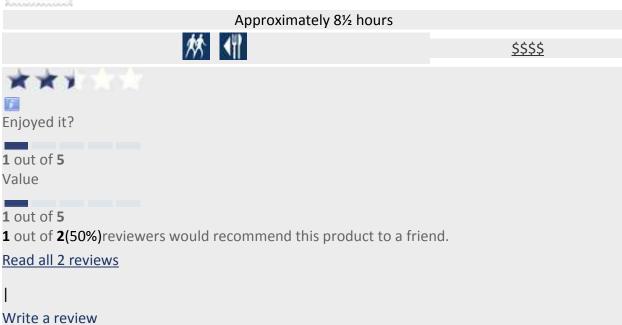
No one introduced **Athens** to the world as elegantly as Milton—"Athens, the eye of Greece, mother of arts and eloquence." Your visit today will begin with the most famous temple of the Ancient City—the **Parthenon**—dedicated to Athena, the patron goddess of Athens. Walking up a winding path towards the **Acropolis**, you will pass through the Propylaea, and see the Erechtheum temple and the Porch of the Caryatids in the distance. Reinforced by the hand of man, the natural fortress of the Acropolis stands 230 feet above the city. You cannot help but be in awe of the view below. On a **panoramic drive** through the city, some of the highlights you'll see include Constitution Square, the Royal Palace where the Evzones keep watch in their traditional costumes, the Temple of Zeus and the Olympic Stadium.

Notes:

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking with an uphill climb to the Parthenon. The marble steps are slippery, especially when it rains. Wear comfortable, rubber-soled shoes. Shade is limited; please dress accordingly. Bring a hat and wear sunscreen. Expect dense crowding at the site. This tour is available only to embarking guests with flights arriving Athens before 11am. You must meet the motor coach at the airport Exit B at 12 noon. If you have already purchased a ship transfer with your cruise booking, you will be refunded onboard, as this excursion already includes a transfer.

Athens, the Acropolis & Cape Sounion





Begin your tour with a drive past marinas and resort towns en route to the Temple of Poseidon at Sounion, built in the 5th century BC. The temple's location, 180 feet above the sea, affords a magnificent view of the blue Aegean and distant islands. Even today, many cruise ships passing Sounion still pay their respects to Poseidon by lowering the ensign, blasting the ship's whistle, and pouring a libation over the side of the ship. On your way to Athens, you will stop at a leading hotel for lunch; then, continue to the natural fortress of the Acropoliswhich rises from the city. Its symbolic ruins have survived for 25 centuries and have remained a part of the Greek culture for the entire world to appreciate. Pass Hadrian's Arch, indicating the border between the Greek and the Roman cities in ancient times. You will pass the Temple of Olympian Zeus, which took 700 years to complete, Constitution Square, the Presidential Palace and the all-marble Olympic stadium built in 1896.

Notes:

This tour involves a considerable amount of walking with an uphill climb to the Parthenon. The marble steps are slippery, especially when it rains. Wear comfortable, rubber-soled shoes.

Shade is limited; please dress accordingly. Bring a hat and wear sunscreen. Expect dense crowding.

Corinth Canal Crossing



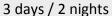


Depart the pier and drive to the famous four-mile-long and 70-foot-wide **Corinth Canal**. It has sloping sides that are 170 feet tall and it is 26 feet deep. The canal was built to replace an earlier and rather unique method of connecting two seas—it consisted of a wooden "road" with special grooves greased throughout with animal fat and ships were simply dragged from the one end to the other. The Roman Emperor Nero made the first serious attempt to build a canal but it was never completed due to Nero's death a year after the planning of the project. The present-day canal was built from 1881 to 1893, and the engineers closely followed the designs made by Nero's engineers. Board the *Canal Vista* **boat** for a **ride through the canal** and listen to the interesting narrative on the history and infrastructure of the canal whose origins date back to 600 BC. Refreshments will be offered before you return to the pier onboard during the Canal crossing.

Please note: Tour does not operate on Tuesdays.

Delphi & Ancient Olympia Overland Adventure (Double)











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Day 1 (L/D)

Departing the port of Piraeus you'll take a panoramic drive through Athens and its Old Town area. Visit the Cathedral of Athens, where you will see the decoration of the Epitaph—an Easter celebration. You will then depart Athens and proceed to the Shrine of Apollo at Delphi, located nearly 2,000 feet up the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the physical and spiritual center of the earth. This shrine of Apollo housed the most respected oracle of antiquity, and Delphi grew fabulously rich with offerings left here. You will also see the Castalian Spring, the Sacred Way, the Grand Temple of Apollo, the theater with its excellent acoustics, and the well-preserved stadium with its marble starting blocks still in position. In the **Delphi Museum** examine such treasures as the Omphalos, which marked the center of the world, and the magnificent bronze Charioteer—one of the finest pieces surviving from the 5th century BC. A Greek lunchwill be served at the village of Arachova. The day's touring will end back at the village of Delphi, where your hotel is located and you will have the evening at leisure. Dinner is served at the hotel. If you wish, you can join your guide and the local community in the **procession of the Epitaph**—the most sacred of the Orthodox traditions.

Day 2 (B/L)

After breakfast, you'll leave Delphi and take the coastal road through the town of Nafpaktos, stopping briefly here to stretch your legs. Then, proceed to Antirio and Ancient Olympia. Olympia is one of the foremost sites of ancient Greece and is the birthplace of the Olympic Games. These were first held in honor of Zeus in 776 BC, and they took place every four years without interruption until they were banned by the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius in AD 393. You will see the remains of the gymnasium and the sports arena, where the athletes, particularly the wrestlers, were trained. The Olympian Temple of Zeus was once the richest and largest sanctuary in Greece, and it contained the giant Statue of Olympian Zeus—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Today, the temple lies in ruins and the statue is long gone, but you can see the stadium where the marble starting blocks are still in position. Walk from here over to the Archaeological Museum, which will increase your understanding of the context of the site. You will stay overnight at a four-star hotel. **Dinner** is included.

Day 3 (B/L)

After breakfast, you will join in the Greek Easter festivity at the Touris venue where you will see the preparation of various roasts (lamb on a spit, Kokoretsi and Kontosouvli), participate in Greek Dancing celebrating the resurrection of Christ, and experience a traditional Easter Feast. You will then proceed to Katakolón to meet the ship.

Notes:

The hotels are four-star properties. **Important:** It is each guest's sole responsibility to obtain (before traveling) any visas, vaccinations and/or tourist cards that are required for participating in overland adventures or overnight tours, unless noted otherwise in the description. Please be aware that you may need a visa for any and/or all countries that you will depart from and travel through as part of your overland adventure or overnight tour, and for the country in which you will re-join the ship.

Delphi & Ancient Olympia Overland Adventure (Single)



3 days / 2 nights







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Day 1 (L/D)

Departing the port of Piraeus you'll take a panoramic drive through Athens and its Old Town area. Visit the Cathedral of Athens, where you will see the decoration of the Epitaph—an Easter celebration. You will then depart Athens and proceed to the Shrine of Apollo at Delphi, located nearly 2,000 feet up the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the physical and spiritual center of the earth. This shrine of Apollo housed the most respected oracle of antiquity, and Delphi grew fabulously rich with offerings left here. You will also see the Castalian Spring, the Sacred Way, the Grand Temple of Apollo, the theater with its excellent acoustics, and the well-preserved stadium with its marble starting blocks still in position. In the **Delphi Museum** examine such treasures as the Omphalos, which marked the center of the world, and the magnificent bronze Charioteer—one of the finest pieces surviving

from the 5th century BC. A Greek **lunch**will be served at the village of Arachova. The day's touring will end back at the village of Delphi, where your hotel is located and you will have the evening at leisure. **Dinner** is served at the hotel. If you wish, you can join your guide and the local community in the **procession of the Epitaph**—the most sacred of the Orthodox traditions.

Day 2 (B/L)

After **breakfast**, you'll leave Delphi and take the coastal road through the town of Nafpaktos, stopping briefly here to stretch your legs. Then, proceed to Antirio and **Ancient Olympia**. Olympia is one of the foremost sites of ancient Greece and is the birthplace of the Olympic Games. These were first held in honor of Zeus in 776 BC, and they took place every four years without interruption until they were banned by the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius in AD 393. You will see the remains of the gymnasium and the sports arena, where the athletes, particularly the wrestlers, were trained. The Olympian Temple of Zeus was once the richest and largest sanctuary in Greece, and it contained the giant Statue of Olympian Zeus—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Today, the temple lies in ruins and the statue is long gone, but you can see the stadium where the marble starting blocks are still in position. Walk from here over to the Archaeological Museum, which will increase your understanding of the context of the site. You will stay overnight at a four-star hotel. **Dinner** is included.

Day 3 (B/L)

After breakfast, you will join in the **Greek Easter festivity** at the Touris venue where you will see the preparation of various roasts (lamb on a spit, Kokoretsi and Kontosouvli), participate in Greek Dancing celebrating the resurrection of Christ, and experience a traditional **Easter Feast**. You will then proceed to Katakolón to meet the ship.

Notes:

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Delphi & Greek Easter Overnight Tour (Double)



2 days / 1 night





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Be the first to write a review

Day 1 (L/D)

Departing the port of Piraeus, you will proceed to the Shrine of Apollo at Delphi, located nearly 2,000 feet up the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the physical and spiritual center of the earth. This shrine of Apollo housed the most respected oracle of antiquity, and Delphi grew fabulously rich with offerings left here. You will also see the Castalian Spring, the Sacred Way, the Grand Temple of Apollo, the theater with its excellent acoustics, and the well-preserved stadium with its marble starting blocks still in position. In the **Delphi Museum** examine such treasures as the *Omphalos*, which marked the center of the world, and the magnificent bronze Charioteer—one of the finest pieces surviving from the fifth century BC. A Greek lunch will be served at the village of Arachova. The day's touring will end at the village of Delphi, where your hotel is located and you will have the evening at leisure. Dinner is served at the hotel.

Day 2 (B/L)

After breakfast, you'll leave Delphi and take the coastal road through the town of Nafpaktos, stopping briefly here to stretch your legs. Then, proceed to Antirio and the village of Ancient Olympia, where you will join in the Greek Easter festivity at the Touris venue. See the preparation of the various roasts (lamb on spit, Kokoretsi & Kontosouvli) and participate in Greek dancing, celebrating the resurrection of Christ. You will also experience a traditional Greek Easter feast. Completing your visit you will proceed to the port of Katakolón to re-board the ship.

Notes:

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Delphi & Greek Easter Overnight Tour (Single)



2 days / 1 night







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Be the first to write a review

Day 1 (L/D)

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Delphi Overnight Tour (Double)



Approximately 13% Hours



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Be the first to write a review

Day 1 (L/D)

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Day 2 (B/L)

After **breakfast**, you'll leave Delphi and take the coastal road through the town of Nafpaktos, stopping briefly here to stretch your legs. Then, proceed to Antirio and **Ancient Olympia**. Olympia is one of the foremost sites of ancient Greece and is the birthplace of the Olympic Games. These were first held in honor of Zeus in 776 BC, and they took place every four years without interruption until they were banned by the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius in AD 393. You will see the remains of the gymnasium and the sports arena, where the athletes, particularly the wrestlers, were trained. The Olympian Temple of Zeus was once the richest and largest sanctuary in Greece, and it contained the giant Statue of Olympian Zeus—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Today, the temple lies in ruins and the statue is long gone, but you can see the stadium where the marble starting blocks are still in position.

Continue to **Agriturismo Magna Grecia** and visit the olive grove. Learn the history of the olive tree and see the vineyards and farm animals. The highlight here is a country-style **lunch**, accompanied by **wine**and **Syrtaki dancing**. Completing your visit you will proceed to the port of Katakolon to re-board the ship.

Notes:

Wear comfortable, non-skid shoes for your visit to Delphi. <u>Important:</u> It is each guest's sole responsibility to obtain (before traveling) any visas, vaccinations and/or tourist cards that are required for participating in overland adventures or overnight tours, unless noted otherwise in the description. Please be aware that you may need a visa for any and/or all countries that you will depart from and travel through as part of your overland adventure or overnight tour, and for the country in which you will re-join the ship.

Delphi Overnight Tour (Single)



2 days / 1 night





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Be the first to write a review

Day 1 (L/D)

Departing the port of Piraeus, you will proceed to the **Shrine of Apollo** at **Delphi**, located nearly 2,000 feet up the slopes of Mount Parnassus. Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the physical and spiritual center of the earth. This shrine of Apollo housed the most respected oracle of antiquity, and Delphi grew fabulously rich with offerings left here. You will also see the Castalian Spring, the Sacred Way, the Grand Temple of Apollo, the theater with its excellent acoustics, and the well-preserved stadium with its marble starting blocks still in position. In the **Delphi Museum** examine such treasures as the *Omphalos*, which marked the center of the world, and the magnificent bronze *Charioteer*—one of the finest pieces surviving from the fifth century BC. A Greek **lunch** will be served at the village of Arachova. The day's touring will end at the village of Delphi, where your hotel is located and you will have the evening at leisure. **Dinner** is served at the hotel.

Day 2 (B/L)

After **breakfast**, you'll leave Delphi and take the coastal road through the town of Nafpaktos, stopping briefly here to stretch your legs. Then, proceed to Antirio and **Ancient Olympia**. Olympia is one of the foremost sites of ancient Greece and is the birthplace of the Olympic Games. These were first held in honor of Zeus in 776 BC, and they took place every four years without interruption until they were banned by the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius in AD 393. You will see the remains of the gymnasium and the sports arena, where the athletes, particularly the wrestlers, were trained. The Olympian Temple of Zeus was once the richest and largest sanctuary in Greece, and it contained the giant Statue of Olympian Zeus—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Today, the temple lies in ruins and the statue is long gone, but you can see the stadium where the marble starting blocks are still in position. Continue to **Agriturismo Magna Grecia** and visit the olive grove. Learn the history of the olive tree and see the vineyards and farm animals. The highlight here is a country-style **lunch**, accompanied by **wine**and **Syrtaki dancing**. Completing your visit you will proceed to the port of Katakolon to re-board the ship.

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Deluxe Archaeological Athens



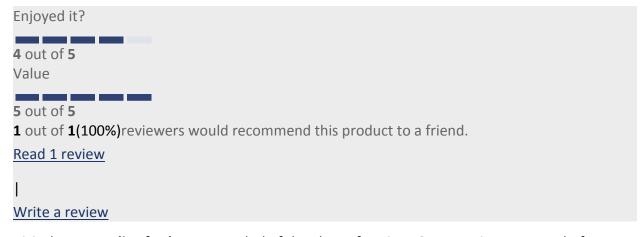
Approximately 8 hours





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Visit the Acropolis of Athens, a symbol of the glory of ancient Greece. History opens before you as you reach the Propylaea, one of the masterpieces of classical architecture, serving as the entrance to the complex of buildings. You'll see the Temple of Athena Nike (Wingless Victory) and the Erechtheum, with its classical Porch of the Caryatids. Stand in awe of what is considered the most perfect example of classical architecture in the world—the Parthenon designed as a shrine to Athena and at one time housing a massive gold and ivory statue of the warrior goddess. Next, visit the National Archaeological Museum, which boasts the world's finest collection of Greek antiquities. The highlights include the golden mask of Agamemnon, Minoan frescoes unearthed at Akrotiri, and the superb bronze Poseidon. Now, for the first time ever, the surviving treasures of the Acropolis can be seen all in one place at the **New Acropolis** Museum. Works previously held in storage, in other Athenian museums, and in museums abroad, have been reassembled and displayed in this remarkable facility that is close to the original location. The collections on display are finds from the Acropolis, post-Parthenon and Roman Periods, and from the excavation site when the new museum was built. The highlight of the museum is the display of the Parthenon Frieze, located on the top floor. Leaving the Acropolis area, you will board your coach and head towards your lunch venue. Enjoy a Greek lunch and relax before you complete your day with a scenic drive through Athens and past some of the most important sites of the city. Watch for the marble Olympic Stadium, where the Olympic Games were revived in 1896, Hadrian's Arch, and the former Royal Palace. Notes:

Use of an audio headset (included) will enhance your tour experience. Tour does not operate on Mondays.

Meteora, Delphi & Greek Easter Overland Adventure (Double)





Day 1 (L)

Leave the ship immediately after breakfast for the drive from Athens to Meteora. Along the way you'll stop at a typical Greek village where lunch will be served. Meteora is the largest and most important group of monasteries in Greece after those of Mount of Athos. The rock monasteries at Meteora are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Meteora means 'hovering in the air' and, of course, perched atop their rocky spires, the monasteries do indeed seem to hover. What created the rare geological phenomenon of the spires is a mystery of nature. But as amazing as these giant rocks are, the buildings on top of them are perhaps even more astonishing. The area was originally settled by monks who lived in rock caves in the 11th century. But during the turbulent times of Turkish occupation, they climbed higher and higher up the rock face until they were living on the most inaccessible peaks. Here they built the first monasteries. There were no steps then, and the main access was by means of a net that was hitched over a hook and hoisted up by rope and a hand-cranked windlass, to winch towers overhanging the chasm. The monks used the nets or retractable wooden ladders up to 130 feet long. In the 1920s roads, pathways and steps to the top were built. You will see examples of these nets, still used today for bringing up provisions. Back in the days when these nets were the only way to get to the monasteries a nervous pilgrim asked his monk host if they ever replace the rope. "Of course we do" he replied. "Whenever it breaks!" Of the original 24 original monasteries, only six are still inhabited, and today you will visit two of them. There are

many steps involved, but the views over the other monasteries and the landscape are dramatic and well worth the climb. You will stay overnight at the village of **Kalambaka**, in a four-star hotel. The evening is at leisure and you will find a choice of restaurants offering quintessential Greek food for dinner (at your own expense). If you wish you can join your guide and the local community in the **procession of the Epitaph**—the most sacred of the Orthodox Easter traditions.

Day 2 (B, L)

After breakfast you will depart for Delphi. Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the physical and spiritual center of the earth. This shrine of Apollo, set nearly 2,000 feet up on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, exerts a potent grip on the imagination of visitors. Apollo was the most respected oracle of antiquity. Even the most intelligent men—the very brightest in the brilliant civilization of Athens—believed implicitly in the responses of the god. These were given by the inspired priestess, the Pythia, and were interpreted, usually with an ambiguous touch, by the priests. Delphi grew fabulously rich with offerings, and though it has almost all disappeared now, you can admire the ruins and try to picture it as it was during its thousand-year heyday. You will see the Castalian Spring, in which the supplicant first purified himself; the Sacred Way, once lined with statues and treasures; the Grand Temple of Apollo, beneath which the Pythia sat; the theater with its excellent acoustics; and the well preserved stadium with the marble starting blocks in position. To complement the ancient ruins there is a view of genuine splendor. In the **Delphi Museum** you will see such treasures as the Omphalos, which marked the center of the world, and the magnificent bronze Charioteer—one of the finest pieces surviving from the fifth century BC. Enjoy lunch at a local village and stay overnight at the village of **Delphi** in a four star hotel, where you will have the evening free to purchase dinner (at your own expense) at a nearby restaurant.

Day 3 (B, L)

Departing from Delphi after **breakfast**, you will take the coastal road passing by the town of Nafpaktos and its charming little harbor. Stop briefly here for photos; then, proceed to Antirio. The famous cable-stay bridge here was completed prior to the 2004 Olympics and is worth a quick photo stop. Continue to Ancient Olympia where you will join in the **Greek Easter festivity** at the Touris venue where you will see the preparation of various roasts (lamb on a spit, Kokoretsi and Kontosouvli), participate in Greek Dancing celebrating the resurrection of Christ, and experience a traditional **Easter Feast**. You will then proceed to Katakolón to meet the ship.

Notes:

Dress modestly to visit the monasteries. Ladies must wear skirts covering their knees, no trousers; gentlemen must wear long trousers. Shoulders and midriffs must be covered. The hotels are four-star properties. **Important:** It is each guest's sole responsibility to obtain (before traveling) any visas, vaccinations and/or tourist cards that are required for participating in overland adventures or overnight tours, unless noted otherwise in the description. Please be aware that you may need a visa for any and/or all countries that you will depart from and travel

through as part of your overland adventure or overnight tour, and for the country in which you will re-join the ship.

Meteora, Delphi & Greek Easter Overland Adventure (Single)



3 days / 2 nights







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Day 1 (L)

Leave the ship immediately after breakfast for the drive from Athens to Meteora. Along the way you'll stop at a typical Greek village where lunch will be served. Meteora is the largest and most important group of monasteries in Greece after those of Mount of Athos. The rock monasteries at Meteora are a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Meteora means 'hovering in the air' and, of course, perched atop their rocky spires, the monasteries do indeed seem to hover. What created the rare geological phenomenon of the spires is a mystery of nature. But as amazing as these giant rocks are, the buildings on top of them are perhaps even more astonishing. The area was originally settled by monks who lived in rock caves in the 11th century. But during the turbulent times of Turkish occupation, they climbed higher and higher up the rock face until they were living on the most inaccessible peaks. Here they built the first monasteries. There were no steps then, and the main access was by means of a net that was hitched over a hook and hoisted up by rope and a hand-cranked windlass, to winch towers overhanging the chasm. The monks used the nets or retractable wooden ladders up to 130 feet long. In the 1920s roads, pathways and steps to the top were built. You will see examples of these nets, still used today for bringing up provisions. Back in the days when these nets were the only way to get to the monasteries a nervous pilgrim asked his monk host if they ever replace the rope. "Of course we do" he replied. "Whenever it breaks!" Of the original 24 original monasteries, only six are still inhabited, and today you will visit two of them. There are many steps involved, but the views over the other monasteries and the landscape are dramatic and well worth the climb. You will stay overnight at the village of Kalambaka, in a four-star hotel. The evening is at leisure and you will find a choice of restaurants offering quintessential Greek food for dinner (at your own expense). If you wish you can join your guide and the local

community in the **procession of the Epitaph**—the most sacred of the Orthodox Easter traditions.

Day 2 (B, L)

After breakfast you will depart for Delphi. Delphi was considered by the ancients to be the physical and spiritual center of the earth. This shrine of Apollo, set nearly 2,000 feet up on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, exerts a potent grip on the imagination of visitors. Apollo was the most respected oracle of antiquity. Even the most intelligent men—the very brightest in the brilliant civilization of Athens—believed implicitly in the responses of the god. These were given by the inspired priestess, the Pythia, and were interpreted, usually with an ambiguous touch, by the priests. Delphi grew fabulously rich with offerings, and though it has almost all disappeared now, you can admire the ruins and try to picture it as it was during its thousand-year heyday. You will see the Castalian Spring, in which the supplicant first purified himself; the Sacred Way, once lined with statues and treasures; the Grand Temple of Apollo, beneath which the Pythia sat; the theater with its excellent acoustics; and the well preserved stadium with the marble starting blocks in position. To complement the ancient ruins there is a view of genuine splendor. In the Delphi Museum you will see such treasures as the Omphalos, which marked the center of the world, and the magnificent bronze Charioteer—one of the finest pieces surviving from the fifth century BC. Enjoy lunch at a local village and stay overnight at the village of **Delphi** in a four star hotel, where you will have the evening free to purchase dinner (at your own expense) at a nearby restaurant.

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Panoramic Athens



Approximately 3 hours





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Enjoyed it?

1.7 out of 5 Value

1.3 out of **5**

1 out of 5(20%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

Read all 5 reviews

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The remains of ancient Athens constitute one of the brightest jewels of the Mediterranean—a city that stood for more than 25 centuries. On this **panoramic tour**, which involves**sightseeing from the motor coach**, you will pass the Arch of Hadrian, the statue of Lord Byron, and the Temple of Olympian Zeus, which took 700 years to complete. Continuing on towards Constitution Square, view the former Royal Palace where the Evzones National Guard keep watch in their traditional costume over the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. See the all-marble Olympic Stadium built for the modern Olympic Games in 1896. Pass by the National Gardens and drive along University Street, whose numerous neo-Classical buildings include the University and the Library. You will stop to snap a few photos at the foot of the Acropolis. **Shopping** time is included at the end of the tour.

Notes:

There is a walk of 180 - 300 yards from the ship to the motor coach.

Panoramic Athens & the Benaki Museum





Approximately 3½ hours



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You will drive through the heart of **Athens** passing numerous points of interest such as Constitution Square, the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior, the Royal Palace, Hadrian's Arch and the Olympic Stadium. From the Herodion Theatre, admire a magnificent view of the Acropolis. The **Benaki Museum** has recently undergone thorough modernization and has been extended with the addition of a new wing. There are more than 30,000 items here illustrating the character of every period of Greek history—antiquity, Roman domination, medieval and Byzantine times, the fall of Constantinople, the Ottoman and Frankish occupation, the war of Independence, and the formation of the modern state.

Notes:

There is a walk of 180-300 yards from the ship to the motor coach. Available for Vista-class ships only. Tour does not operate on Tuesdays.

Piraeus Private Touring - Full Day (Car)





Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.





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Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private vehicle, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters. The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for guests with mobility limitations. Capacity: 2 guests. Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity. Notes:

Private cars are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private vehicle reservation as early as possible.

Piraeus Private Touring - Full Day (Minivan)



Approximately 8 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.





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Enjoyed it?

5 out of 5

Value

5 out of **5**

1 out of 1(100%) reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

Read 1 review

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Write a review

Explore at your own pace with a private vehicle, driver and English-speaking guide at your service. This exclusive tour is designed to allow you the chance to customize your time ashore and discover the most interesting sights in the comfort and privacy of your own vehicle. With your private minivan, and the personalized attention of your driver and English-speaking guide, you will have the flexibility and independence to design your itinerary ashore according to your own interests, and take in the sights at your own pace. See the famous sights, or go beyond to create your own intimate connections and unique cultural encounters.

The Signature Collection is recommended for the single/solo traveler, couples, family, friends, and special interest groups traveling together. It can also be an excellent choice for physically challenged guests.

Notes:

Private minivans are ordered per vehicle (not per person), so only one person in the party needs to order the vehicle. The price shown is the total cost for the vehicle, driver, and English-speaking guide. Entrance fees for attractions are not included. In many destinations, the

number of vehicles available is extremely limited, so guests are encouraged to secure their private minivan reservation as early as possible.

Capacity: 10 guests (Maximum 8 for guests who are disembarking, to allow room for luggage). Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Piraeus Private Touring - Half Day (Car)



Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.





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Piraeus Private Touring - Half Day (Minivan)





Approximately 4 hours - Price is per vehicle, not per person. See additional NOTES below.





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Be the first to write a review

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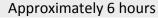
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Capacity: 10 guests (Maximum 8 for guests who are disembarking, to allow room for luggage). Your private party may be of any size up to the maximum capacity.

Scenic Athens & the Plaka on Foot









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Enjoyed it?

2 out of 5 Value

2 out of 5

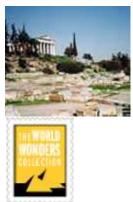
0 out of **1**(0%)reviewers would recommend this product to a friend.

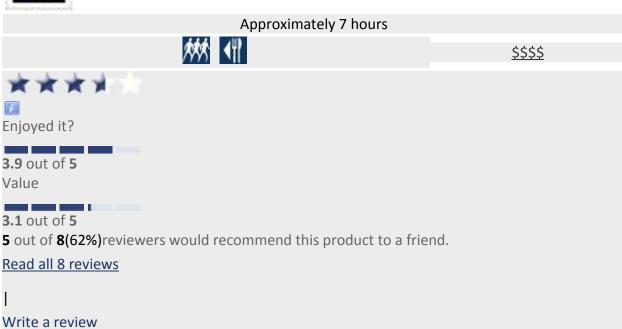
Read 1 review

Write a review

Depart the pier for a panoramic drive to Athens. Once in the city, you will pass Adrian's Arch, the statue of Lord Byron and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. The latter took 700 years to complete. Continue towards Constitution Square and view the former Royal Palace where the Evzones National Guard keep watch, in their traditional costume, over the Tomb of the Unknown Warrior. See the all-marble Olympic Stadium built for the modern Olympic Games in 1896. Pass by the National Gardens and drive along University Street, whose numerous neo-Classical buildings include the University and the Library. You will stop for photos at the foot of the Acropolis. The agora (gathering place) in Athens was once an area private housing until it was reorganized by Peisistratus in the 6th century BC. Although he may have lived on the agora himself, he removed the other houses and closed the wells, turning it into the center of Athenian government. The **Old Town** area of Athens, known as the *plaka* awaits you. Here, you will enjoy a traditional **lunch** before you return to the port.

The Best of Athens





If you are visiting **Athens** for the first time, this outing provides an excellent introduction to one of the great cities of the ancient world. Visit the **Acropolis**, a symbol of the glory of ancient Greece. History opens before you as you reach the Propylaea, one of the masterpieces of classical architecture, serving as the entrance to the complex of buildings. You'll see the Temple of Athena Nike (Wingless Victory), and the Erechtheum with its classical Porch of Maidens, the Caryatids. Stand in awe as you visit what is considered the most perfect example of classical architecture in the world—**the Parthenon**—designed as a shrine to Athena and at one time housing a massive gold and ivory statue of the warrior goddess. Re-board your coach and head towards your lunch venue. You will enjoy a Greek **lunch** and have some time to relax. Then, you'll head to the **National Archaeological Museum**, which boasts the world's finest collection of Greek antiquities. The highlights here include the golden mask of Agamemnon, Minoan frescoes unearthed at Akrotiri, and the superb bronze Poseidon. Complete your introduction to Athens with a **scenic drive**through the city, passing some of the most important landmarks of the city. Watch for the marble Olympic Stadium, where the Olympic Games were revived in 1896, Hadrian's Arch and the former Royal Palace. Your coach will park close to the *plaka* (**Old**

Town) area, and you'll disembark for a guided **walking** tour of the historical center of Athens. **Free time** will be allocated for**shopping** and watching everyday life in Greece before you return to the port.

Notes:

Use of an audio headset (included) will enhance your tour experience.

The New Acropolis Museum & Acropolis Visit





Your visit today will begin with the most famous temple of the ancient city of **Athens—the Parthenon**, dedicated to Athena, the patron goddess of Athens. **Walking** up a winding path towards the Acropolis, you will pass through the **Propylaea**, and see the Erechtheum temple and the Porch of the Caryatids in the distance. Reinforced by the hand of man, the natural fortress of the **Acropolis** stands 230 feet above the city. You cannot help but be in awe of the view below. Now, for the first time ever, the surviving treasures of the Acropolis can be seen all in one place at the **New Acropolis Museum**. Works previously held in storage, in other Athenian museums, and in museums abroad have been reassembled and displayed in this remarkable facility that is close to the original location. The collections on display are finds from

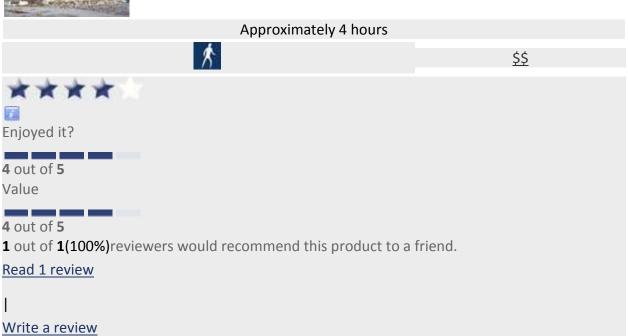
the Acropolis, post-Parthenon and Roman Periods, and from the excavation site when the new museum was built. The highlight of the museum is the display of the Parthenon Frieze, located on the top floor. Upon completion of your **guided tour** of the new museum you will set out on a **scenic drive** through Athens. Along the way, watch for the Greek Parliament, the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and the stadium used for the modern Olympics. Enjoy **lunch** at a local venue before you return to the ship.

Notes:

Use of an audio headset (included) will enhance your tour experience

Transfer to Athens





This **transfer** may suit you if you would like to **explore on your own**. It consists of a motor coach ride from the ship to the city. You will be dropped off at a central location, and your escort will show you to the Old Town (*plaka*) area and advise you of the pick-up time for the return journey. You will have approximately two hours and twenty minutes to shop and explore on your own.

Notes:

Guide service, taxi transfers, entrance fees and lunch are not included in the transfer price. It will be your responsibility to be at the drop-off point at the given return time. An English-speaking escort will be aboard the transfer motor coach to answer questions en route. Travel time to Athens is approximately 40 minutes each way. Most shops are closed on Sundays.