

GREECE

15 DAYS | HISTORY

PROGRAM ITINERARY

Take a trip to the cradle of Western civilization on this 15-day tour of Greece. From ancient sites in Athens to natural wonders in Kalambaka, beaches in Spetses to culture in Thessaloniki, there's an immense amount to experience in this Mediterranean country. Students will see ancient sights they've read about in history class and learn about Greek mythology back where it began – all while getting a taste for a culture distinct from their own. Our trip begins in the capital Athens and ends in the port city of Thessaloniki, with four educational and exciting stops in between.

1

DEPART AUSTRALIA

Arrive at the Airport ready to board your flight to the capital of Greece, Athens.

2

ARRIVE ATHENS

Today we arrive in Athens, the Greek capital and one of the world's oldest cities. In a city rich in history and stories, with ancient streets once roamed by Plato and Aristotle, there's a great deal to discover. But for now, take time to settle in and rest up for a week of learning and exploration.

Dinner at a local restaurant

3

ATHENS

A full-day guided tour with a private coach will give us a comfortable overview of Athens's main sights, as well as an immersive history lesson. We'll visit the Acropolis where our guide will take us through the site's ancient buildings, including the Parthenon and its museum.

Breakfast at the hotel

We'll also visit Plaka, the nearby neighbourhood filled with shops and cafes; Hadrian's Arch and the Temple of Zeus (a great opportunity for students to refresh their mythology); and Kallimarmaro Stadium, built for the Panathenaic Games and the only stadium in the world made entirely of marble.

4

ATHENS

Students will get the opportunity to recreate the ancient Athens parliament – where democracy was born – through a workshop that puts them in the thick of the action. They will learn how ancient democracy worked, hear about the politics of ancient Greece and how they compare to today, and try their hand at standing up for their ideas in parliament. In the evening, we'll attend the Orthodox Greek Mass at St. John the Baptist church.

Breakfast at the hotel

5

ATHENS – EPIDAUROS – SPETSES

We start the day with a trip from Athens to Epidaurus, a small town with a hilltop sanctuary to Apollo's son, Asclepius, as well as a still-in-use ancient theatre. We'll tour the historic sites with a guide before moving on to Port Heli, where we catch an afternoon ferry to beautiful Spetses island.

Breakfast at the hotel

Dinner at a local restaurant

6

SPETSES

Wake to views of whitewashed houses and the sparkling sea on Spetses, where we're in for a relaxing day. We'll visit the Bouboulina Museum in the morning to learn about Laskarina Bouboulina, the naval commander and heroine of the Greek War of Independence. Though she was born in what was then Constantinople, Bouboulina grew up in Spetses and is beloved across the island. After the museum, students and teachers will have time to explore the island, dine at a local seafood restaurant, and relax on the beach.

Breakfast at the hotel

7

SPETSES – NAFPLIO – MYCENAE – OLYMPIA

Today is a busy day of travel and sightseeing. We will ferry back to Port Heli and continue via private transport to Nafplio, considered one of the most beautiful towns in Greece. According to myth, it was founded by Poseidon's son, Nafplios. A local guide will show us around the town, which was the capital of Greece between 1823 and 1834 and is lined with stunning Venetian and Ottoman buildings, as well as a castle with gorgeous views over the water. Next, we'll visit Mycenae, an archaeological site with a fortified citadel and the place from which the "Mycenaean" civilization got its name. Finally, we'll continue via private transport to Olympia.

Breakfast at the hotel

Dinner at a local restaurant

8

OLYMPIA – DELPHI

Perhaps one of Greece's most famous monuments, Olympia has been inhabited since prehistoric times and served for many years as a sanctuary to Zeus, the Olympian god of the sky and the king of all other gods and men (impressive job title). We'll start our morning with a visit to the Olympia archaeological site, where we'll learn about the ancient temples and the structures completed for the Olympic Games in 776 B.C. The site has the highest concentration of archaeological relics in Greece and is truly a place of wonder. Once we have had our fill, the group will move on to Delphi, the sanctuary ancient Greeks considered the centre of the world.

Breakfast at the hotel

Dinner at a local restaurant

9

DELPHI – KALAMBAKA

Today we'll travel to the small town of Kalambaka, home of the Meteora monasteries. After arriving, we'll spend the afternoon exploring the town in advance of tomorrow's Meteora visit.

Breakfast at the hotel

Dinner at a local restaurant

10

KALAMBAKA

UNESCO refers to the Meteora monasteries as “columns of the sky”. These spectacular and almost inaccessible sandstone peaks were settled by monks from the 11th century onwards. Today, they are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On an early morning tour, we’ll learn about their history of site and take in stunning views over the cliffs and the city below.

Breakfast at the hotel

11

KALAMBAKA – EDESSA - THESSALONIKI

Today we move to Thessaloniki via private coach, with a stop at Edessa en route. The northern town of Edessa is known for waterfalls and streets with ancient columns. We’ll spend some time exploring the city, then continue onto Thessaloniki, where students and teachers will spend the evening.

Breakfast at the hotel

Dinner at a local restaurant

12

THESSALONIKI

We learn all about Thessaloniki today on a locally guided tour. The Mediterranean city had real significance throughout multiple eras, and has the Roman, Byzantine, and Ottoman buildings to prove it. We’ll visit the 4th-century palace housing the ruins of Roman Emperor Galerius, the Byzantine Hagia Sophia Church (modelled after the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul), and the Ottoman White Tower. The city’s seafront walkway with cafes and shops can be explored in the evening.

Breakfast at the hotel

13

THESSALONIKI

Students and teachers can spend the morning wandering around Thessaloniki and discovering other sides of the pretty port city. Then, in the afternoon, we will join a cooking class to learn how to prepare traditional Greek dishes. Olive oil, tomatoes, eggplant, fish, and various other Mediterranean staples are prominent in Greek cooking, so it’s certain to be a delicious meal!

Breakfast at the hotel

14

DEPART THESSALONIKI

After 14 days of traveling, learning, and exploring the heart of Greece, our trip comes to an end today. We'll depart from Thessaloniki to Athens for our international flight home.

Breakfast at the hotel

15

ARRIVE AUSTRALIA