

Full Day Trip Argolis

DESCRIPTION

Our tour starts from your hotel early in the morning (08:00-09:30am). The upcoming hour relax and enjoy our ride to the Peloponnese peninsula through the beautiful coastline of Saronic gulf and Agios Theodoros resort town with our first stop, Corinth canal.

Corinth canal is a 2700 years idea that started around 602 b.c and finished in 1893. This remarkable waterway saves money and time for all cargo and commercial ships as it connects the Ionian Sea with the Aegean Sea. A masterpiece of engineering that makes the Peloponnese peninsula the biggest island in Greece.

During our first short stop you will have the opportunity to walk on the bridge that passes over the magnificent canal to take some pictures. Plus, you will have the chance to visit the nearby cafeteria for a cup of coffee and enjoy the gallery of photo prints and texts that show us the evolution and history of the canal.

Shortly after that, it's the Ancient city of Corinth. Ancient Corinth was one of the greatest trading centers not only of ancient Greece but also of the whole world during the classical era. It is a nice opportunity to follow the steps of St. Paul through the agora, lechaion road, the spring of Periander and of course the temple of Apollo.

Up next is the Acropolis of Ancient Corinth, Acrocorinth castle. There you will have a perfect view of the ancient city of Corinth and the Corinthian gulf. The castle remains until today in a perfect condition.

Next stop, King Agamemnon's city, Mycenae. One of the greatest Greek civilizations that have ever existed and one of the most powerful military forces in ancient Greece known as Mycenaeus. Walk through the lion's gate and the Cyclopien huge wide walls and discover the palace and the royal tombs.

Continuing our trip, next stop is Epidaurus. There, we will visit the Asclepium sanitarium. A famous and well known to all the civilized world for its healing center. Among the highlights and the monuments there is, the best known for its acoustics, The Theater of Epidaurus. Make your own performance and discover it. The theater of Epidaurus is an UNESCO world heritage site and is preserved in a perfect condition. The theater accommodates famous Greek drama and comedy performances even nowadays.

Our last destination before our return to Athens is Nafplion. What can we say about this town? We need a full day just to see a part of this "one of a kind" city. The choices are endless. Fact? The first capital of modern Greek history for a period of seven years. We will visit Palamidi castle and enjoy an amazing panoramic view of the city, the Bourtzi (a prison that was built in the center of the harbor) and the Argolic gulf.

Then we will take you to the city center and give you time to walk by yourself, in order to discover the beautiful picturesque alleys, the market and taste favorite local flavors and recipes.

After a day full of history it is time to gather and start our way back to Athens

POINTS OF VISIT

1. CORINTH CANAL
2. AGORA OF ANCIENT CORINTH
3. TEMPLE OF APPOLO
4. ACROCORINTH CASTLE
5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE OF MYCENAE
6. LION'S GATE
7. CYCLOPEAN WALLS
8. ROYAL TOMBS (MYCANAE)
9. PALAMIDI CASTLE
10. NAFPLIO TOWN
11. ASCLYPIOS SANITARIUM
12. THEATER OF EPIDAUROS

Full day trip Meteora

DESCRIPTION

Escape from the big city buildings and embark for a wonderful journey to one of the most astonishing sites in Greece, the towering rock formations of Meteora. Your private tour starts from your hotel /preferred pickup point early in the morning (suggested 05:00-06:00 a.m.) in order to drive you to Northern Greece, through Thessaly lowlands, to the town of Kalampaka.

On our way to Kalampaka we will pass some towns which are a reference point in the history of Greece like Thebes, Lamia and Trikala. Thebes was an important Mycenaean centre in the middle to late Bronze Age and was a powerful city-state in the Classical period, participating in both the Persian and Peloponnesian Wars, reaching its peak of influence in the early 4th century BCE when it was the most powerful city in Greece. The original Lamía was founded in the 5th century BCE as the centre of the tribes of Malis, a semi-indigenous Dorian people who contributed to the construction of a temple at Delphi. The acropolis dominating the modern city has ruins that range from classical wall foundations to Roman, Catalan, and Turkish battlements.

The town of Trikala is built upon the ancient town “Trika” or “Triki” founded around the 3rd millennium d.c. The largest part of the town is inhabited since pre-historical times and the first signs of life in the cave of “Theopetra” reach till 49.000b.c. Few minutes after the town of Trikala we will reach our final destination Kalambaka and Meteora. There you will get on the top of the immense natural pillars and hill-like rounded boulders that dominate the local area to visit 2 (of an original twentyfour) historic monasteries that were built from monks that left Mount Athos. On this part of the tour you will go back in the 13th century to learn the story of the monks that were climbing the steep rocks by carrying materials to build the Great Meteoron monastery. A place which was perfect for the monks to pray and find peace away from the civil world. This was the beginning that laid the foundations of the monastic community of Meteora as we know it at present. At the moment only 6 of the monasteries are active and available to visit as they have been declared as UNESCO World Heritage Monuments.

After exploring the famous monasteries we will get back to the town of Kalampaka to visit the “Cavern of Theopetra” and admire a 23,000 years old stone wall in front of the entrance which was probably built to protect its residents from cold winds. Maybe the oldest known manmade structure! There you will have the time to visit the town of Kalampaka and have a meal in an authentic Greek tavern. Once you feel ready and filled with amazing images from Meteora its time to get started for the return, with an important stop on the way. The battlefield of Thermopylae (or Hot gates/ Hot springs) where King Leonidas of Sparta with his army of 300 brave men, gave their last breath by fighting against thousands soldiers of Persian King Xerxes’ to save Ancient Greece. Their ‘motto’ was “Honor and Glory”. Their memory lasts over the centuries with Greece and Greeks honoring their loss. After a day exploring the Greek religion, monasteries and wonderful landscapes is time to relax and enjoy an afternoon drive back to your hotel.

POINTS OF VISIT

1. KALAMPAKA
2. METEORA MONASTERIES
3. AUTHENTIC TAVERN
4. VISIT TRIKALA TOWN
5. THERMOPYLES
6. ATHENS

Full Day Trip Olympia

DESCRIPTION

Grab the opportunity to visit one of the most famous and important places in Greece since 7th century B.C., Olympia, the birthplace of Olympic Games ! You will start early in the morning from your accommodation with your English speaking driver who will drive you to Olympia, which is located 290 kilometers from Athens and about 3½ hours drive, at Peloponnese peninsula.

On our way there you will first have a small stop at the Corinth Canal. A remarkable waterway that connects the Ionian sea with the Aegean sea and allows cargo and commercial ships to save time and money as they pass through it. A masterpiece of engineering that makes the Peloponnese peninsula the biggest island in Greece. There you will have the opportunity to stand on the bridge that passes over the magnificent canal and to take some memorable pictures. After this small stop for pictures and maybe a coffee break we will continue to our main attraction, at the archaeological/historic territory of Olympia. Olympia's history end of the final Neolithic period (4th millennium B.C.), and is considered one of the most important places to trace the roots of Western society due to its religious, political, and sports tradition where remarkable works of art and culture were created during that age.

Olympia was the center of worship to the Greek god Zeus, the father of the twelve Olympian gods, from about the 10th century BC. Great artists, such as Pheidias, have put stamps of inspiration and creativity here, offering unique artistic creations to the world such as the Temple of Zeus, the famous complex of Hermes by Praxiteles and the statue of Nike of Paeonius. But Olympia wasn't just a sacred place for God Zeus! It was also the birthplace of The Olympic Games and The Olympic Spirit. It was the most famous and important athletic event in the ancient world paid homage to the finest athletes. That's why during the Olympic Games any kind of war was ending. The Games represented peace and the nobility of competition. These ideals and elements of the events have continued to this day. The Olympic Games were celebrated regularly from 776 B.C. The Olympiad became a chronological reference and dating system which was used widely in the Ancient Greek world. The athletes were coming to Olympia from all the Greek cities in order to have a peaceful and loyal competition among free and equal men with their only ambition the symbolic reward of an olive wreath. The Olympic Games went through various phases of acme and decline, until they were banned in 393 A.D. by Theodosio the Great, emperor of the Byzantium, as idolaters. In 1896 through the efforts of Pierre de Coubertin, the revival of the Olympic Games was a mark in modern Olympic Games history.

Now is undoubtedly the world's most important athletic competition that illustrates the lasting nature of the ideals of peace, justice, and progress—the most fragile attributes of human heritage. The values of fair competition and sacred truce that were established during the ancient Games, remain among humanity's highest goals. Consequently, today's visitors can feel the same spiritual and ideological force that drove athletes thousands of years ago. You are going to have the opportunity to walk among the Ancient Stadium of Olympia, where the priestess lights up the torch only with the sunrays and gives the Olympic Flame at the beginning of the Olympiad, also visit The temple of Zeus and Hera, The Arch of Neron, The Academy complex, the Gymnasium and of course the monument where the heart of Pierre De Coubertin was buried after his death. A visit to both the Archeological museum of Olympia and the Museum of the Olympic games is depending on your will Then we can continue our journey, visiting the beautiful village of Archaia Olympia. There, you can have lunch in a Greek Tavern, buy traditional products made from olive trees and souvenirs. After all these you can get some rest inside the car while we will drive you back to your hotel/accommodation with safety and comfort.

POINTS OF VISIT

1. CORINTH CANAL
2. OLYMPIA
3. ANCIENT STADIUM
4. THE TEMPLE OF ZEUS AND HERA
5. THE ACADEMY COMPLEX
6. THE GYMNASIUM
7. THE ARCHAIOLOGICAL MUSEUM
8. THE MUSEUM OF OLYMPIC GAMES
9. ARCHAIA OLYMPIA
10. GREEK TAVERN LUNCH
11. ATHENS