

# Wendinger Travel

Presents Their

## *Journey to Ancient Greece* featuring Coastal Landscapes & Iconic Sites

### *July 11 - 20, 2023*

*\$3,998 Per Person, Double Occupancy from Minneapolis*



#### Tour Highlights

- 8 days touring Mainland Greece
- View the Corinth Canal
- Visit the elegant seaside town of Nafplio
- Tour Ancient Olympia & Mercuri Estate
- Visit Chlemoutsi Castle
- Tour Ancient Delphi
- Visit the Hanging Monasteries of Meteora
- Tour Athens & visit the Acropolis
- First-class hotel accommodations
- 14 Meals - 8 Breakfast & 6 Dinners



This is an exclusive travel program presented by *InterTrav Corporation*

## Day by Day Itinerary

### Tues., July 11 – MINNEAPOLIS / EN ROUTE

We depart Minneapolis this afternoon by scheduled airline service of Air Canada to begin our transatlantic overnight journey to Athens, Greece. (I)

### Wed., July 12 – ATHENS / Corinth / NAFPLIO

On arrival in Athens we'll meet our Tour Guide who will introduce us to Mainland Greece, the southernmost part of the Balkan peninsula. Leaving the airport, we'll travel along the seaside highway taking in scenic views of the Isles of the Saronic Gulf before stopping to view the Corinth Canal, separating the Aegean Sea from the Ionian Sea. Our destination is the Argolid peninsula where we'll spend the evening in the seaside destination of Nafplio. (I,D)

### Thurs., July 13 – NAFPLIO / OLYMPIA

This morning we'll tour Nafplio, considered the most elegant town in mainland Greece. As we'll soon see, Nafplio's ancient walls, medieval castles, monuments, Ottoman fountains and Venetian classical buildings mesmerize visitors with their unique architecture and beauty. Following our tour, we'll travel across the Peloponnese Peninsula to Olympia. Here lies the most celebrated sanctuary of ancient Greece, and the birthplace of the most important athletic mega-event of all times, the Olympic Games. (B,D)

### Fri., July 14 – OLYMPIA

#### (Ancient Olympia & Mercuri Estate)

Our day begins with a tour of the Sanctuary of Olympia, located in a valley set against the verdant slopes of Kronios Hill and the Alpheios River. We'll explore the impressive ruins where athletes trained and ran in the ancient stadium and see unbelievable sculptures within the temple of Zeus, including the renowned statue of Zeus, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. We'll also visit the Archaeological Museum, one of the richest museums in Greece showcasing the long history of the sanctuary of Olympia. Afterward, we'll travel to the Mercuri Estate for a tour of their wine and olive oil making process. Welcoming friends of nature and wine, a visit to the facilities, vineyards, and olive groves, will allow us to encounter the beautiful nature that surrounds the estate and, of course, sample their products. (B)



### Sat., July 15 – OLYMPIA / Kastro / DELPHI

This morning we depart Olympia and travel along the lush coastal plain of Ilia where we'll stop to visit Chlemoutsi Castle. Considered one of the best preserved castles in the Peloponnese, Chlemoutsi Castle was built sometime around 1220, boasting amazing views of nature and the Ionian Sea. Then, we'll set our sights on the Rion-Antirion Bridge, a marvel of modern engineering, taking us across the Gulf of Corinth to the Pilio region, a unique and inspiring landscape that is home to two of the country's prime attractions. Our destination is Delphi, a spiritual focal point for all Greeks and home to the most prestigious oracle in all ancient Greece. (B,D)

### Sun., July 16 – DELPHI (Ancient Delphi)

Today we explore the Sanctuary of Apollo, one of the most important sacred sites in the Greek world. Our day begins with a walk along the Sacred Way that was followed by ancient pilgrims, in its heyday every available space was filled with treasury buildings, statues and votive offerings, most notably the Treasury of the Athenians. The focus of Delphi, both in ancient times and today, is the Temple of Apollo, dating from the 4th century BC. The temple was destroyed by an earthquake in 373 BC and was replaced by the building whose remains can be seen today. It was here that the famous oracles of Delphi were given in a small chamber in the Temple of Apollo. In addition, we'll see the Sanctuary of Apollo, also known as the Sacred Precinct, which is the heart of the complex. Our tour will come to an end with a visit to the Delphi Museum. Full of archaeological treasures, the museum displays one of the greatest classical sculptures: The Charioteer, a life size bronze figure of compelling presence and beauty. (B)

### **Mon., July 17 – DELPHI / KALAMBAKA**

Today we depart Delphi and travel to Kalambaka to visit the Byzantine splendor of the monasteries of Meteora. The word Meteora means literally 'suspended in air.' What created this rare geological phenomenon is one of the mysteries of nature. But as amazing a marvel of nature as these giant rocks are, the buildings on the top of these are a marvel of man, seem just as miraculous and make Meteora one of the most spectacular places to visit in Greece. We'll visit St. Stephen's Monastery, the most accessible of the Meteora Monasteries, where instead of steps you simply cross a small bridge to reach the entrance. St. Stephen's Monastery includes two cathedrals; the old 16th century chapel which was severely damaged during WWII and the Greek Civil War, and the 18th century main cathedral that is dedicated to Saint Charalambos. **(B,D)**

### **Tues., July 18 – KALAMBAKA / ATHENS**

Today we depart Kalambaka, but first we will visit the Great Meteoro Monastery or "Megalo Meteoron" founded in the 14th century by Saint Athanasios the Meteorite. The first and highest monastery to be founded features a main cathedral in the central courtyard that is embellished with beautiful 16th century frescoes, featuring some of the best samples of Greek Byzantine art. This afternoon we depart for Athens. As we'll soon learn, Athens is the oldest surviving capital of the modern world and is built around the Acropolis and the pinnacled crag of Mt. Lycabettus, which the goddess Athena was said to have dropped from the heavens as a bulwark to defend the city. **(B,D)**

### **Wed., July 19 – ATHENS**

Our day begins with a sightseeing tour of Athens that will show us the city's major attractions. Featured is our visit to the Acropolis, the sacred hill of Athens and home to the ruins of the Parthenon, considered the world's most perfectly proportioned building. We'll also see the Propylaea, the Temple of the Wingless Victory, the Erechtheum, as well as the Agora, and visit the National Archeological Museum. Afterward, the remainder of the day will be free to explore the Plaka



with its winding cobblestone streets that are lined with colorful houses, gardens, and quaint shops, it is the perfect location to spend the afternoon. It is here where we'll discover the old-fashioned tavernas and antique shops while enjoying the atmosphere of a traditional neighborhood. Tonight, we'll enjoy an evening of dinner and entertainment at Palia Taverna, considered Athens oldest taverna. Operating during the first modern Olympics in 1896, the taverna played host to many of the organizers, dignitaries, and athletes of that milestone in athletic history. **(B,D)**

### **Thurs., July 20 – ATHENS / MINNEAPOLIS**

This morning we return to Athens International Airport in preparation for the journey home. No better time to reflect on memories to last a lifetime and to celebrate the beginning of new friendships made along the way! **(B,I)**

**\* \* \* Welcome Home \* \* \***

**B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner**



#### **The Vacation Price Includes:**

- Economy airline transportation from Minneapolis St. Paul International Airport by scheduled service of Air Canada.
- Transportation by deluxe private motor coach with accompanying Tour Guide.
- First-class hotel accommodations.
- All meals as shown in the Day by Day Itinerary.
- Sightseeing as detailed in the Day by Day Itinerary including applicable entrance fees.
- Luggage handling and portage charges for one suitcase per person at hotels.
- Taxes for included ground services and airline fuel surcharge and taxes totaling \$500 per person.

**The Vacation Price Does Not Include:** Items of a personal nature such as passport fees and destination entry requirements; gratuities to the Motor Coach Driver(s) and Tour Guide, luggage handling at airports; meals other than those stated above; and Travel Protection.

## TOUR CONDITIONS

**TOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT:** Reservations may be made by check or major credit card. Credit cards can be accepted for payment(s); however, the vacation price reflects a 4% cash discount. Please call InterTrav at 630-377-5840 to arrange payment by credit card; 4% of the payment amount will be assessed on credit card payments. You will be invoiced for the balance of payment due on or before **Friday, April 7, 2023**. Reservation requests received after **Friday, April 7, 2023**, are subject to tour availability.

**TOUR PRICING:** The tour price is based on a minimum participation of 20 persons and includes planning, handling and operational charges and is quoted on the current rate of exchange, tariff rates and airfares in effect as of October 1, 2022.

**CANCELLATION:** If after making your initial deposit you find it necessary to cancel from the tour for any reason, there is a cancellation charge equal to the per person deposit up to 100 days prior to departure. For cancellation between 99 and 60 days prior to departure, there is a cancellation charge equal to 50% of the tour cost. For cancellation within 59 days of departure, the cancellation charge is 100% of the tour cost. **IMPORTANT:** Cancellations will not be accepted by telephone and must be sent in writing to: Wendinger Travel, P.O. Box 386, New Ulm, MN 56073, or emailed to [sdhowk@yahoo.com](mailto:sdhowk@yahoo.com).

**TRAVEL PROTECTION:** For your convenience, we offer a Travelex Insurance Services protection plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. For more information and rates, please review the product flyer enclosed. If you would like to enroll, fill out the enrollment form and return it with your tour reservation form. The full coverage terms and details, including limitations and exclusions, are contained in the insurance Policy. To view/download the policy, go to: [policy.travelexinsurance.com/GPB-0521](http://policy.travelexinsurance.com/GPB-0521). Travelex Insurance Services, Inc. CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company; NAIC #22276. S6N

**PASSPORTS AND VISAS:** Your tour requires a passport valid for at least three months beyond the period of stay. If you do not already have your passport, or it will expire before your return date, we suggest you apply for it immediately. No visas are required for your tour. However, if you are a citizen of a country other than the United States, you must advise us in writing with your Reservation Application, as other travel documents may be required.

## RESPONSIBILITY

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The above tour conditions are provided in addition to the full terms and conditions of travel which can be found here [grouptripsandtravel.com/booking-agreement-terms-conditions/](http://grouptripsandtravel.com/booking-agreement-terms-conditions/). By booking this trip you are agreeing to be bound by the full terms and conditions of travel in addition to the tour conditions above. It is therefore vital that you read the full terms and conditions before making any booking. Making a booking is indicative of your agreement to be bound by all of the terms and conditions.