

Greece on a Shoestring

Country(ies): Greece

Tour type: Shoestring

Transport: AC minibus/coach

Group size: Min: 2 | Max: 45

Days: 5 days

Start Location: Athens, Greece

End Location: Athens, Greece

Meals: Breakfasts - 4, Lunches - 0, Dinners - 1

Highlights:

Athens tour including the Panathenaic Stadium, Acropolis & Parthenon, Thebes, Levadia, picturesque village of Arachova, Temple of Apollo at Delphi, spectacular mountain scenery & monasteries at Meteora



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Athens, airport to hotel transfers included

Upon arrival into Athens airport (ATH) you'll be met by one of our representatives who will then transfer you to your hotel. The rest of the day is then free for you to settle in, relax after your flight, and have a look around the area independently before meeting the group and starting the first sightseeing tours tomorrow morning.

OVERNIGHT: Athens hotel

MEALS: None

EXTRAS: Single room supplement (GRSHTG) Extra day in Athens - pre-tour (EXGR2S)

Day 2: Exploring Athens

Our first full day of our Greece tour will see us head out on a city tour of Athens. Our first stop is at the Panathenaic Stadium, which hosted the very first modern Olympics in 1896 and is the only stadium on the planet built entirely of marble. We'll also make our way to the Temple of Olympian Zeus and Hadrian's Arch - which was built in 131 AD by the Roman Emperor Hadrian as part of a wall separating the old and new cities of Athens.

Our journey through Athens also takes us to the Parliament and the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the University, the National Library and the Constitution Square.

Later in the day, we'll make our way to the Acropolis, which is an ancient citadel perched on a rocky outcrop above the city and houses some of Greece's most famous architectural masterpieces such as the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and the Parthenon - which was built to honour the goddess Athena, whom the people of Athens considered their patron.

OVERNIGHT: Athens hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 3: Travel to Delphi

After spending the day exploring the beauty of Athens, we leave early as we make our way to the town of Delphi. The journey to Delphi takes you through Thebes, Levadia and Arachova - a mountainous village nestling picturesquely at the foothills of Mount Parnassus.

Once we arrive in Delphi, we'll make our way to its famous archaeological site, which houses the remains of the sanctuaries of Apollo and Athena Pronaia, as well as an ancient stadium and theater. Delphi Archaeological Museum displays artifacts found among the ruins. We'll also visit the marbled Treasury of the Athenians, which was used to store the rich offerings of the kings.

Later in the day, we'll say goodbye to Delphi as we make our way to the traditional Greek village of Kalambaka, the gateway to the ancient Meteora monuments. We'll spend the rest of the evening in Kalambaka.

OVERNIGHT: Kalambaka hotel

MEALS: Breakfast, Dinner

EXTRAS:

Day 4: Exploring Meteora

Our day starts with a trip to the unique rock formations at Meteora - A UNESCO World Heritage Site. Home to over twenty mountaintop and cliffside monasteries, some which are still in use today, these places of worship were used by Monks in the 14th century who were searching for a safe place to live and worship. As a result, the only way to access many of the monasteries was by rock climbing or being carried up in a basket. The scenery here is spectacular and a photographer's dream.

Note: The monasteries at Meteora have a strict dress code. Women need to wear a long skirt, dress or sarong (trousers or shorts covering the knees are not enough). Men must wear long trousers. Sleeveless shirts are not allowed. Please ensure you have appropriate clothing ready for this day.

Later in the day, we'll return to Athens by travelling through Trikala, Lamia, Thermopylae, stopping along the way to see the statue of Leonidas, which was erected to commemorate the Battle of Thermopylae.

OVERNIGHT: Athens hotel

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS:

Day 5: Your Greek adventure ends, hotel to airport transfers included

Unfortunately, all good things come to an end. If your flight is later in the day, feel free to do some last minute shopping or exploring in Athens, before we transfer you to the airport to board your flight back home. You could also extend your tour by heading into the Aegean Sea to visit one or more of the famous Greek islands.

OVERNIGHT: N/A

MEALS: Breakfast

EXTRAS: Extra day in Athens - post-tour (EXGR2E) Greek island extensions

Included:

- All accommodation as stated in the itinerary in approx. 4-star level hotels
- All transport and transfers in AC non-smoking vehicles
- 24-hour airport arrival & departure transfer service
- Services of a professional local tour guide for all sightseeing tours
- Entrance fees to sites visited during the tour
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (4 breakfasts, 1 dinner)
- Tips except driver and guide

Excluded:

- International flights (available on request)
- Visa fees (if applied)
- Travel insurance (compulsory, available on request)
- Meals not indicated in the itinerary
- Optional tours
- Any other items not mentioned above

- Hotel residence tax (see tour notes)
- Drinks, snacks and other personal expenses (e.g. laundry)
- Tips for guide & driver

Notes

Please note that whilst the above itinerary reflects our preferred routing, we may occasionally operate the Athens sightseeing at the end of your trip rather than on day 2.

Options

Our tours are designed to include all that you need to enjoy a really special time in the destination you're visiting. However, we do also offer some extra options to complement the tour and add some additional sightseeing or activities, or some extra time at either end of the tour.

All accommodation based options (e.g. Single supplements, extra nights, cruise upgrades) should be booked and paid for in advance so that we can make the appropriate arrangements. Other options may either be booked and paid for in advance or while you are on the tour, though we recommend booking in advance to ensure there are no issues with availability.

Many options are priced the same throughout the year, but some may incur single or high season supplements - full details are given on the tour reservation form or on request.

Single room supplement (GRSHTG)

Min numbers: 1

This tour is based on sharing of twin/double rooms. We do not arrange room shares between different people booking onto the group on this trip. Any solo travellers, or other travellers who wish to have a single room for the duration of the tour, will need to add this option to their booking.

Note: Single supplement prices may vary seasonally.

1. Group Size/Tour Leaders/Guides

This Greece shoestring level tour is designed to allow you to explore Greece in comfort but on a budget. To achieve this, we share departures on this tour with other operators and work with a larger potential maximum group size than on our small-group tours. The minimum group size is 2, and the maximum 45, with average numbers generally around 25-30. This is a 'seat in coach' style tour so some other travellers in the group may be doing a slightly different itinerary or not be with you for the entire trip. Pick ups and drop-offs may be required from more than one hotel in Athens subject to the final size and make-up of the group.

Please do not book any connecting travel (eg. international flights) until we confirm your booking.

This tour includes a professional multilingual tour guide to escort you on all the sightseeing tours in and around Athens, Delphi and Meteora.

2. Dates & Prices

We run weekly group departures on this tour all year round starting on a Monday between January and March, and on Saturday throughout the summer months from April to October. All departures are guaranteed to run with a minimum of 2 travellers (maximum 45).

Departure dates and prices are listed on our website and on a separate dates and prices sheet available on request.

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Note: Please [download an up-to-date copy](#) of these tour notes shortly before you travel as itineraries and information does change from time to time.
