GREECE: ANCIENT WORLD & CURRENT CHALLENGES
JUNE 8–16, 2019

Few places rival Greece as a destination of great beauty and culture amid the historic landmarks of western civilization.

JUNE 8: DEPARTURE

Depart the US for Athens.

JUNE 9: ATHENS

• Arrive in Athens and make your own way to the Herodion/Fresh Hotel, located in Athens’ historical center.

• This evening meet fellow travelers for a cocktail reception at the hotel’s rooftop terrace, with sweeping views of the Acropolis, before enjoying a welcome dinner.

JUNE 10: ATHENS

• Begin today with a discussion “Athens Through the Ages” which traces the development of the city’s civilization as manifested in its political, intellectual, and creative achievements.

• Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

• After lunch, continue on for an in-depth guided tour of the Acropolis, known as one of the wonders of the ancient world that symbolizes Greece’s Golden Age. We will first visit the Theatre of Dionysius, located just outside of the Acropolis, to marvel at the site where dramas such as Sophocles’s Oedipus Rex were performed for the city. Enter the Acropolis complex through the Beule Gate, composed of marble fragments from the destroyed monument of Nikias.

• Continue on to explore the Temple of Athena Nike, designed by Kallikrates in 427 B.C., which commemorates the Athenian’s victory over the Persians. Marvel at the site of Erechtheion, the most sacred of the Acropolis. Legend has it that as Athena and Poseidon vied for control of Athens, it was at this spot that Poseidon plunged his trident into the rock, dramatically producing a spring of water, whereas Athena created a simple olive tree from the touch of a spear. The olive
was, and still is, a main staple of Greek society, and thus she was declared the winner and the city was named Athens.

- We will end our visit of the Acropolis exploring the Parthenon, an architectural masterpiece designed by Pericles and built in the fifth century B.C. Dedicated to the goddess Athena and inaugurated at the Panathenais Festival of 438 B.C., the Parthenon served primarily as the treasury of the Delian League, an ancient alliance of cities formed to defeat the Persian incursion.

- This evening enjoy dinner at a local restaurant.

**JUNE 11: ATHENS**

- Attend a morning briefing focusing on Greece and its economy. Much has been written about the state of Greece’s economy and the austerity cuts the country has seen in recent years. We’ll try to learn why the economy is in such a troubled state and discuss options to combat austerity measures. Was joining the European Union a mistake on the part of Greece? Can smaller countries like Portugal, Ireland and Greece fare well within the rigid framework of the EU?

- Continue on for a visit to the Acropolis Museum. Housed in a spectacular building located just down the hill from the Acropolis, the building’s design boldly sets the tone for Greece’s modern era. Examine the treasures, sculptures and artifacts of ancient Greece on display at the museum.

- Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

- After lunch, continue to the ancient Agora, the political and cultural center of the Athenian city-state, the place where philosophy and democracy were born. Admire the historical ruins of the Theseion and nearby smaller temples. Visit the 19th century Observatory and the Hill of Pnyx, an area used in Classical Athens as the meeting place for the democratic assembly. Continue to Filopappou Hill, also known as the Hill of the Muses, from where the Venetians launched the shell that destroyed the roof of the Parthenon in 1687.

- End the day with a guided visit of the Dimitris Daskalopoulos Collection, one of Athens’s most prominent collections of contemporary art works, comprising over 500 works by 220 leading international and Greek artists.

- Enjoy dinner this evening at a local restaurant. Joining the group for dinner will be Dr. Apostolos Veizis, a leader working at Medecins Sans Frontières in Greece since 2004.

**JUNE 12: ATHENS/HYDRA**

- This morning meet with Dimitris Christopoulos, Professor at the Department of Political Science and History of Panteion University & President of the International Federation for Human Rights. Professor Christopoulos will address the emergence of a “post-fascist” style of governance in many countries; the importance of a total reconfiguration of EU political structures; the negative effect of the economic and refugee crisis on political and human rights in Greece and the continuing vital work on relocation and resettlement of refugees within the European Union.

- From the hotel head to the island of Hydra, located an hour and half boat ride from Athens’ port of Piraeus. As we arrive into Hydra’s picturesque harbor, shaped like an amphitheater carved into the rocky slope overlooking the Saronic Gulf, one
can immediately notice the islands unique charm, characterized by the absence of cars on the island.

- Upon arriving to Hydra’s small, boat-filled harbor surrounded by a village of stone houses and mansions, climb a series of steps up the hill to visit nearby Lazaros Koundouriotis Mansion. Built in 1780, the old gray-stone mansion facing the harbor is one of the finest examples of Hydriot architecture.

- Enjoy a traditional Greek lunch at a local restaurant.

- Spend the remainder of the day at leisure to explore Hydra Town or take a watertaxi to the nearby beaches.

- Return by boat to Athens and enjoy dinner this evening on your own.

**JUNE 13: ATHENS**

- This morning take part in a discussion about the Greece’s current immigrant crisis – “The Impact of Immigration”. Speaking to the group will be Lefteris Papagiannakis, Athens’ vice-mayor on Migrant and Refugee Affairs. As a result of the increasingly dire situation in Syria and beyond, Greece has become a frontline for refugees seeking safety in Europe.

- Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant with photographer Eirini Vourloumis for an overview of the arts scene in Athens. Her current personal work combines a documentary and conceptual photographic approach, in which she explores social and political environments to reflect their dynamic within the context of the economic crisis in her home country.

- After lunch take part in an Athens Street Art tour led by a local street artist. Wander the small streets of up and coming neighborhoods like Metaxourgeio and discover why Athens is known as the mecca of underground street art.

- End the day with a unique culinary experience learning how to cook mouthwatering traditional Greek dishes led by a local chef.

**JUNE 14: PELOPONNESE**

- Depart the hotel this morning for a one hour bus ride towards Corinth, the great city serving as the gateway into the Peloponnese region. Home to six UNESCO World Heritage sites and an amazing wine and olive-making tradition, the Peloponnese
features magnificent ancient sites amongst a stunning landscape.

- Just an hour’s drive from Athens we will stop first at the Corinth Canal, a feat of engineering.

- Continue on to Corinth. Its remarkable ruins offer an opportunity to examine the rise and fall of an ancient city and the human frailty that accompanied it. Corinth first emerged in the 9th century BC. In 146 BC the Romans sacked the city, selling its citizens to slavery. Afterward Corinth lay in ruins until Julius Caesar rebuilt much of the original Greek city. Walking along the ancient paths, discover the Peirene Fountain, the major source of water for Corinth, along with the remains of Temple of Apollo and its seven standing columns.

- Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

- Drive through a landscape of rolling hills covered in grape vines, a reminder that this area has been a producer of wine since ancient times. Stop at the site of Nemea, a sanctuary dedicated to Zeus which was one of the four city-states that held athletic games. Every two years athletes and spectators gathered for the Nemean Games, which became a sporting event to rank alongside the other three major pan-Hellenic athletic games held at Olympia, Isthmia and Delphi.

- Visit the nearby Gaia Winery. This is the largest wine producing area of Greece with a reputation for exceptional local wines. Enjoy a walk through the vineyard of Gaia Estate, before touring the winery and the cellar. We will end the visit with a wonderful wine tasting focusing on Nemea’s native grape varieties.

- Check into the hotel Hotel Perivoli.

- Enjoy a spectacular dinner this evening at the hotel restaurant.

**JUNE 15: PELOPONNESE**

- As we explore the site, marvel at the Temple of Zeus, whose three original columns have stood since the time of their original construction in 330 BC. Stop by the stadium and explore the Bath house, a shrine to Opheltes, which has a large central pool flanked by two tub rooms. This building was a forerunner of the later Greek gymnasium complexes present at other sites such as Olympia and Delphi. End with a visit to the on-site museum.

- Pending availability, we will be accompanied by Professor Stephen Miller, from the University of California, Berkeley, who directed the Nemea excavations between 1971-2004. He will talk with the group about the role of the Nemean Games and his most recent role in the Revival of the Nemean Games, which currently takes place in the original ancient stadium.

- Greece is the number one producer of extra virgin olive oil worldwide and in the Peloponnese olive trees outnumber residents nearly 100 to 1. Enjoy an olive oil tasting at a nearby family-owned facility and learn about...
the fascinating process, from harvesting to bottling, before enjoying a wonderful tasting.

• Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

• Travel through the orange and lemon tree fields of the Argolis Plain to the ancient citadel of Mycenae. Located on an imposing site on the top of a rocky hill, this was the center of power in the Late Bronze Age and was celebrated by Homer as “rich in gold.”

• Here we will visit the Acropolis of Mycenae, with its famous Cyclopean walls. This is the fortified royal residence of King Agamemnon – leader of the Trojan War. Enter the city through the Lion Gates, followed by a steep path through ancient buildings and pathways which lead to the Palace of Agamemnon. The king was famously murdered by his wife Clytemnnesia and her lover after he had returned victorious from the Trojan War.

• Enjoy a farewell dinner this evening.

JUNE 16: ATHENS

• After breakfast this morning, drive 2 hours to return to Athens for your onward flight home.

PRICING

GROUND PACKAGE PRICING*

Per person based on double occupancy: $5,620

Single room supplement: $940

*Rates are based on standard accommodations. Suites, superior rooms and other upgrades carry an additional fee.

INCLUDED

• Accommodation as listed in the itinerary based on double occupancy
• Meals as listed in the program
• Bottled water on the bus
• Sightseeing and excursions as listed with all entrances as listed included
• Transportation in a deluxe motor-coach with air-conditioning
• Services of a local Greek guide and tour manager
• All gratuities
• Welcome and farewell receptions with wine

DOES NOT INCLUDE

• International airfare to/from Athens
• Luggage charges
• Drinks excluding wine at welcome and farewell receptions
• Personal insurance for health, baggage, and trip cancellation
• Items of a purely personal nature
• Any items not listed