

Journeys of Discovery Travel

Splendors of Greece

Plus Magical Greek Islands - Santorini, Mykonos and Delos!

Oct. 1 – 12, 2019

Join Susan Duval – Susan Duval Seminars, and other like-minded souls as you nourish mind, body and spirit on a magical journey to explore the Splendors of ancient Greece! The timeless legends of the Aegean Islands evoke the adventures of Homers heroes, while lively harbors and charming towns showcase today's vibrant Greek culture. Here, dazzling white-washed villages and lively ports serve as a backdrop to classical archaeological sites that have continued to lure travelers and scholars since ancient times. The Acropolis, perched on a high hill in the center of Athens is stunning. The mystical mountains of Greece hold the mysteries of the Oracle at Delphi and many other extraordinary sites. The food is fabulous, the local folks friendly, Ancient Sacred Sites energetically powerful and the sunsets on Santorini are incredibly spectacular!

Oct 1 Day 1: Depart evening flight USA for Athens

Oct 2 Day 2: Arrive Athens – Welcome Dinner

Arrive Athens, a group transfer time will be scheduled which accommodates the flight arrival time of the majority of the group. A local representative will meet the group and transfer you to the hotel. In the evening enjoy a welcome dinner together.

Overnight [Elia Ermou Hotel or similiar](#)

Oct 3 Day 3: Athens City Tour

Meals: B L D

This morning enjoy a tour pf Athens and visit the center of the city, Constitution Square, the House of Parliament, the Memorial to the Unknown Soldier and the National Library. On your way to the Acropolis you will see the Hadrian's Arch, visit the Temple of Olympian Zeus and stop at the Panathenaico Stadium where the first Olympic Games of the modern era were held in 1896. Then continue to the Acropolis and visit the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally the harmony between material and spirit, the monument that puts order in the mind, the Parthenon. Finally visit the Acropolis Museum. Lunch at a local restaurant. The afternoon is free to shop and explore more of Athens on your own. Overnight Elia Ermou Hotel or similiar

Oct 4 Day 4: Morning Departure for Meteora

Meals B L D

Your journey on mainland Greece continues as you depart for Western Thessaly in central Greece to visit the unique monasteries of Meteora. The Greek word *Meteora* means "suspended in the air". The conglomerate rock at Meteora has eroded into fantastic rock towers upon which medieval monks built incredible monasteries. The isolated monasteries of Meteora helped keep Greek Orthodox religious traditions and Hellenic culture alive during the turbulent Middle Ages. In 1988, UNESCO declared Meteora to be a World Heritage Site. In the afternoon you will visit some of these amazing monasteries with your guide.

Overnight [Hotel Meteora](#) or similiar

Oct 5 Day 5: Morning Departure for Delphi

Meals: B L D

After breakfast check out of the hotel and begin your scenic drive into the mountains to Delphi.. This breathtaking place was believed to be the "navel" (omphalos) of the world and Apollo's most important

and famous oracle was here. Follow the Sacred Way up to Apollo's Temple, where his priestess Pythia delivered her oblique prophecies, marvel at the beauty of the landscape and consider the never-ending search of mortal people for the truth and the real meaning of life. Discuss the ideas of the last philosophers of the pagan world (neo – Platonism and neo-Aristotelianism) and their effect on the early "fathers of the Christian Church". We will visit the exquisite Museum which is full of masterpieces, all of them "ex votos" (images produced as a sign of thanks for an answered prayer or favor granted) of the pilgrims who came to consult Apollo. The pride of this museum is the bronze "Charioteer", one of the finest examples of classical sculpture of the "severe style". Enjoy an included lunch at a local Greek restaurant with delicious food. Overnight [Nafiska Palace Hotel](#) or similiar

Oct 6 Day 6: Return to Athens Meals B L D

Enjoy a leisurely morning and enjoy more of Delphi on your own before a relaxing drive back to Athens passing through a number of beautiful places on the way. Enjoy some free time this afternoon in Athens before dinner.

Overnight Elia Ermou Hotel or similiar

Oct 7 Day 7: Morning Ferry to Mykonos Meals: B, L, D

This morning board the ferry which takes you across the Aegean Sea to Mykonos Island. Upon arrival the day is yours to make the most of Mykonos's sunshine by lounging on one of the island's idyllic golden sand beaches such as Elias Beach, Psarou or Paradise. Or, if culture is more your interest, Mykonos boasts several museums as well as the beautiful Church of Panagia Paraportiani, probably the most photographed church in Greece. Admire the church's interior and then stroll down to the quaint neighborhood of Little Venice, where pretty blue-and-white house's teeter on the water's edge. Experience the proud windmills, and a multitude of other chapels, busy back streets with balconies full of flowers, small café's and a multicolored fleet of fishing boats at the port.

Overnight [Petinos Beach Hotel](#) or similiar

Oct 8 Day 8: Morning Half Day Tour to Delos Meals B

After breakfast take a 30 minute boat ride to the small island of Delos, one of the most sacred sites in Greece. Due to its mystical location, it was the center of the Cyclades islands in the ancient world and the birthplace of the Greek gods Apollo and Artemis. Despite the islands small size, there is a lot to see such as the Agora (ancient market place), the famous Terrace of the Naxos Lions and the Sacred Lake. Awarded with the UNESCO World Heritage status in 1990 for its array of ancient temples and sanctuaries, the island is well worth a visit to complement your Mykonos experience. Return to Mykonos and the rest of the afternoon is free to explore more of Mykonos.

Overnight Petinos Beach Hotel or similiar

Oct 9 Day 9: Morning Ferry to Santorini Meals B,L,D

After breakfast and transfer to the port and board the ferry to Santorini. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon enjoy a panoramic bus tour of the island with your guide; ending in Oia, which is where you can see the most stunning sunsets in all of Greece.

Overnight [Daedalus Hotel](#) or similiar

Oct 10 Day 10: Free day Santorini Meals: B

Sleep in, rest and enjoy your last day on Santorini doing exactly as you please. The shopping is fantastic; the bus system to the southern tip of the island beaches is very user friendly so go exploring. Take a boat ride to the Caldera or other tour options (additional cost) or do nothing but relax.. Late afternoon enjoy a Greek coffee as you watch a breath taking sunset from the cliffs of Santorini and enjoy dinner on your own at a local restaurant.

Overnight Daedalus Hotel or similar

Oct. 11 Day 11: Santorini to Athens**Meals B, Farewell Dinner**

After breakfast transfer to the port and board the ferry back to Athens and check into the Athens. The afternoon is yours to enjoy some shopping in the Plaka area which is full of wonderful shops and restaurants where you can enjoy lunch and do some people watching. Tonight enjoy a Farewell Group Dinner.

Overnight Elia Ermou Hotel or similar

Oct 12 Day 12: Depart for Home**Meals B**

There will be a Group transfer to the airport which accommodates the majority of the group's departure times. Connect with your flight back to your home city. Welcome Home from a Magical Journey to Greece.

Tour Cost: \$3,670.00 / minimum of 10 guests / double occupancy
Single supplement private room: \$891.00

Includes:

Private tour bus, personal driver and Greek, English speaking local guide
All meals as listed in the itinerary
10 nights lodging at noted hotels or similar
High speed ferry to Mykonos, Delos and Santorini
All tours and archeological site entrance fees as noted in the itinerary
VAT taxes and all local taxes

Not included:

International airfare to Athens, Greece
Tips to guides, drivers and hotel staff
Meals not listed in the tour itinerary
Beverages with meals / any alcoholic beverages
Personal items, room service, phone calls, laundry etc.
Anything not specifically noted in the tour itinerary
Travel insurance

To Register Contact:
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