



GREECE



GRAD TRIP July 5—15, 2015



**from \$3299.00
per person from LAX
plus \$650.00 tax**

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Roundtrip international air from LAX
- Hotel accommodations with private bath based on double occupancy
- Buffet breakfasts and some dinners
- Sightseeing and all entrance fees as per itinerary
- Touring by private, AC van
- Professional Tour Director
- All transfers & baggage handling
- Hotel taxes & service charges
- 3 day cruises to 4 Greek Islands & Turkey





GRADUATION TRIP to GREECE

3/23/15

July 5/Sunday/Day 1: Depart Los Angeles on our transatlantic flight to Athens, GREECE. Meals will be served in flight.

July 6/Monday/Day 2: Kalimera! Upon arrival in Athens, we are met by our local Tour Director and transferred to our hotel. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

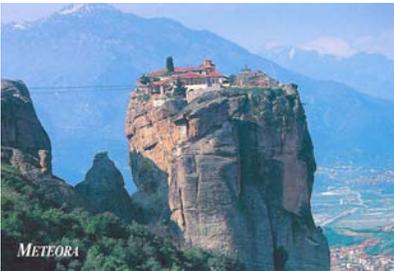
July 7/Tuesday/Day 3: Our city tour of **Athens** takes us to the Acropolis and the splendid ruins of the Parthenon, Mars Hill, the Erchthelon, the majestic Propylea, the Panathenaic Stadium (home of the modern day Olympics), the Temple of Zeus, Adrian's Arch, the Agora and other ancient sites as well as visiting one of the museums. The rest of the day is at leisure. Dinner and overnight in Athens.



July 8/Wednesday/Day 4: Today we travel north to **Delphi**, the centre of the ancient world known as the Omphalos (navel) of the earth. We walk to the slopes of Mount Parnassus, where we will find the ruins of the sanctuary of Apollo Pythios. See the Treasury, the Archeological Museum and the first monument built in the ancient world to "One God". Then we continue to Kalambaka for dinner and overnight.



July 9/Thursday/Day 5: After breakfast, we visit the world famous Byzantine Monasteries in **Meteora**, where we will ascend huge granite rock formations to view architectural wonders over 700 years old. We will visit one of the monasteries with its church and Museum containing priceless historic and religious treasures, and learn about the art of iconography and you might want to sample some oozo (just like in the movie "My Fat Greek Wedding")!



In the afternoon, we travel south back to Athens where upon arrival you may want to walk to the Plaka to meet the locals and pick up some souvenirs for your loved ones. A trip to Greece is not complete unless you try some Greek yogurt & honey! Dinner and overnight in Athens.

OPTION A:

July 10/Friday/Day 6:
3-day GREEK ISLAND CRUISE:
(shore excursions not included)

DAY	PORTS	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
7/10-Fri	Athens		11:00 AM
	Mykonos	6:00 PM	11:00 PM
7/11-Sat	Kusadasi	7:00 AM	1:00 PM
	Patmos	4:00 PM	9:00 PM
7/12-Sun	Crete	7:00 AM	11:30 AM
	Santorini	4:30 PM	9:00 PM
7/13-Mon	Athens	6:00 AM	

July 14/Tuesday/Day 10: Free day to do as you wish. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

July 15/Wednesday/Day 11: After breakfast, we depart for the airport for our flight back to the US.

6 passengers: \$3299.00 per person from LAX
8 passengers: \$3199.00 per person from LAX
10 passengers: \$3099.00 per person from LAX

OPTION B:

July 10/Friday/Day 6:
3-day GREEK ISLAND CRUISE:
(shore excursions not included)

DAY	PORTS	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
7/10-Fri	Athens		11:00 AM
	Mykonos	6:00 PM	11:00 PM
7/11-Sat	Kusadasi	7:00 AM	1:00 PM
	Patmos	4:00 PM	9:00 PM
7/12-Sun	Crete	7:00 AM	11:30 AM
	Santorini	4:30 PM	9:00 PM

DISEMBARK & OVERNIGHT IN SANTORINI

7/13-Mon Santorini FREE DAY

July 14/Tuesday/Day 10: Take ferry back to Athens. Rest of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight in Athens.

July 15/Wednesday/Day 11: After breakfast, we depart for the airport for our flight back to the US.

6 passengers: \$3599.00 per person from LAX
8 passengers: \$3499.00 per person from LAX
10 passengers: \$3399.00 per person from LAX

SHORE EXCURSIONS



Mykonos—take a stroll through the maze of narrow streets, marvel at the hundreds of tiny chapels and the white-washed houses with their flower-filled balconies. Take a walk up to the famous windmills or just relax on the waterfront and enjoy the sunset.

MYKONOS SHORE EXCURSION COST: \$70.00 per person

Choose between Walking Tour and Mykonian Feast or Mykonian Countryside Tours with Hora & Little Venice

MYK #01—WALKING TOUR and MYKONIAN FEAST:

This delightful excursion takes you on foot and up close to the wonders of Mykonos Towns, one of the world's best-loved destinations. We'll start with a stroll along its narrow cobbled streets, past chic boutiques and white-washed churches and elegant cafes, until we arrive at Kastro, home of the famous Paraportiani Church. Next to Paraportiani is the Folklore Museum*, which is found in an old two-story captain's house. We will visit the museum, which houses interesting costumes, furniture and household items typically found in the island's homes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries alongside jewelry and textiles. The Folklore Museum is an in-depth tour of life of Mykonian life as it was more than 100 years ago. While in Kastro, we will also visit the smaller chapels of Paraportiani. We walk from Kastro to Alefkhandra and Windmills. Alefkhandra, also known as "Little Venice," is a charming corner of Mykonos Town. The houses here, the homes of wealthy merchants and sea captains, were built on the sea in the 18th century, and their wooden balconies evoke the homes along the canals of Venice. From here we will walk to the windmills for a magnificent sunset and one of the best spots to take photos on this splendid island. Your stroll through the picturesque little streets of Chora will bring you to a local tavern, where you are welcome to savor the tastes, aromas and essence of genuine Greek spirit through Greek favorite flavors, drinks, music and dances.

*In the event the Folklore Museum is closed, we will visit the Aegean Maritime Museum, which displays scale models of various rowing boats, sailing vessels and steam-powered ships from prehistory through the 20th century.

MYK #06—MYKONIAN COUNTRYSIDE TOURS with HORA & LITTLE VENICE:

The excursion with the coach and your tour guide sets off from Chora. Next stop at the south, the leeward beach of Ornos, a picturesque fishing harbour which is a popular anchorage and then on to the small beach of Agia Anna and Kalafatis beach. During the trip back to Chora, you will visit the traditional village of Ano Mera and the monastery of Panagia Tourliani, founded in 1542. The pretty village square is perfect spot for a short break. Returning to Chora you will stop at Paraportiani. A few meters down you will meet the Mykonos Folklore Museum, which is housed in an old two-storied merchant baron's house. You continue towards the "Little Venice" of Mykonos, Alefkandra, with its windmills and the almost other worldly sunsets.



KUSADASI SHORE EXCURSION COST: \$100.00 per person

KUS #01—Before his crucifixion, Jesus entrusted the safety of the Virgin Mary to St. John the Evangelist. St. John moved Mary to Ephesus for safety. Virgin Mary lived here until the 101st year of her life. In 1957 the Vatican recognized the "House of the Virgin Mary" as the place where the Virgin spent the last years of her life and since then it is an important pilgrimage site for both Christians and Muslims. Next stop the city of Ancient Ephesus, the Ionian colony, which is one of the largest open-air archaeological museums in the world. Together with your tour guide, you will pass the Magnesian Gate. Traces of the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian period are scattered everywhere: the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of the Kouretes, the Thermal Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Houses of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, Hadrian's Temple, the Great Theatre. The excursion is completed at the Covered Bazaar of Kusadasi with some free time for shopping and ... bargaining! During the excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.



KUS #02—At Ancient Ephesus you find immortal relics of the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian era. At the archaeological site you will be given a guided tour among the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of Kouretes, the Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Residences of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, the Temple of Hadrian, the Great Theatre, built in the 4th century B.C., could accommodate 24,000 spectators and it is famous even nowadays for its acoustics. The finds from the excavations, which have yet brought to light only 13% of ancient Ephesus, reside in the Archaeological Museum of Ephesus, in the city of Selcuk. Your day couldn't close in a better way than a beautiful walk through the Covered Bazaar in Kusadasi. Here, you will be able to ramble, bargain for jewelry, cosmetics or leather products at the little shops. During the excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.

SHORE EXCURSIONS



KUS #07—ANCIENT EPHEBUS and the TERRACE HOUSES

Passing with your tour guide through the Magnesian Gate you will wander, feeling awe in time and space, through the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of Kouretes, the Baths of Scholastica, the Great Theatre, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Houses of the Patricians, the Prytaneum and the Temple of Hadrian. Opposite Hadrian's Temple, at the foot of the Bulbul Hill and the covered part of the archaeological site, protected by the heat and natural elements lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses. Here lived the rich families of Ancient Ephesus and you will be surprised by the excellent state of preservation of these comfortable villas, especially their interior décor. The oldest unearthed houses date since the 1st century B.C. and were two-

storied and built based on the city planning and they even had "heating", and hot and cold water. The excursion

comes to a close at Kusadasi with the colorful Covered Bazaar and the little shops that brimming with the jovial energy of bargaining. During the excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.

PATMOS SHORE EXCURSION COST: \$75.00 per person



PAT #01—RELIGIOUS VISIT to ST. JOHN's MONASTERY & GROTTTO of the APOCALYPSE

The picturesque alleyways wind upwards, towards the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist, founded in 1088 by St. Christodoulos. The visit will open the doors for you of the Monastery's yard, the place where the monks take their meals and the old bakery. Of exquisite beauty is the tour of the Byzantine Church of St. John, which is adorned with a wood-carved icon screen, important frescoes from several periods, with both mosaic and other icons. Next stop, the small museum which hosts religious treasures of inestimable value, like manuscripts, medieval textiles, sacerdotal vestments and others. Walking down the stairs, the religious energy that you will experience is soul touching. Behind the chapel of St. Anne lies the entrance to the Grotto of the Apocalypse. You will see the cross engraved by St. John the Evangelist, according to tradition, the triple fissure in the wall of the cave, from where St. John heard God dictating to him the Apocalypse. And also the spot where he lay down to sleep.

PAT #02—PATMOS COUNTRYSIDE TOUR with HORA and GROTTTO

Thanks to its religious value but also for its particularities, in 1999 Patmos was proclaimed a "World Heritage Monument" by UNESCO. The panoramic excursion begins at the port of Scala heading towards the centre of the island, to Chora. At the main town you will visit the Grotto of the Apocalypse and at the top of the "castle" behind the walls, you will see the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist, of Byzantine architecture. The silent windmills in Chora have witnessed important events on the island which attracts thousands of tourists for religious, and also recreational, tourism. The tour of the island continues towards more desolate landscapes, which are the trademark of the Dodecanese. Rocky hills, barren, dry soil, promontories which, like earthly tongues, delve into the sea, dozens of bays and coves, and an intricate coastline. After this enlightening excursion through the island, the tour will conclude at Scala, the port, where the atmospherical café "Arion", the oldest and most picturesque of the area, will be waiting for you for coffee, refreshments or juice.

PAT #03—TRADITIONAL FEAST IN PATMOS



Join us for an unforgettable feast served in a traditional Patmos taverna. Your friendly hosts are eager to feed you the traditional dishes of their island in one of the loveliest of the island's classic hillside villages. We board an air-conditioned bus in Skala for a scenic drive into the hills of Patmos. Patmos comprises three main, mountainous segments linked by two isthmuses at the center of the island. Although its infrastructure rivals that of its Dodecanese neighbors, Patmos still feels off the beaten path, esoteric, thanks to its unstudied natural beauty, its picture-perfect villages, its postcard-quality vistas and its sacred sites. In 2009, Forbes named the island one of the world's most idyllic places to live: words such as "dreamlike," "homey" and "virginal" are often used when describing this Aegean haven. We'll drive through many of the island's picturesque villages – be sure to look down for stunning views of the Aegean. The scent of wildflowers greets you as you exit the bus for a short, scenic walk to the taverna, where our

feast awaits. You'll have to decide where to look: at the incredible view toward the Aegean or at the taverna's tables, which seem to be overflowing with traditional Patmian delicacies. A local orchestra and dance troupe will perform for us while we tuck into this delicious, hearty meal. Welcome to the authentic heart of countryside Patmos. Kali Orexi!

SHORE EXCURSIONS

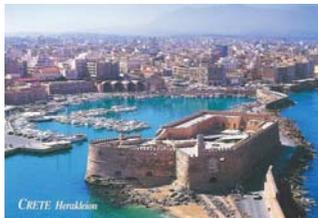
CRETE SHORE EXCURSION COST: \$80.00 per person



HER #02—MINOAN PALACE of KNOSSOS

The ancient city of Knossos, with constant habitation from the Neolithic era until the 5th century A.D., is beyond doubt the land that “gave birth” to the first civilization of Europe, the Minoans. The first excavations were begun in 1878 by the Heraklian Minos Kalokairinos. A bit later (1900-1913 & 1922-1930) the excavations by the British Sir Arthur Evans were to complete the scientific research, bringing to light the Minoan palace in its entirety, which was, according to tradition, the residence of the wise King Minos. The palace of Knossos spreads around the large Central Court. You will reach the awe inspiring Throne Room, the fresco of the “Prince of the Lilies”, the imposing Grand Staircase, the Queen’s Megaron in the east. Walking through the apartments of the Knossos

palace and observing the finds even as passers-by, you will feel part of this cultural heritage.



HER #04—EXPERIENCE the CRETAN COUNTRYSIDE and LIFESTYLE

We leave the Venetian walls of Heraklion behind us and drive deep into the beautiful Cretan countryside, through the villages of Episkopi and Sgourokefali, until we arrive at Agarathos, one of the oldest Orthodox monasteries in Crete. We’ll tour the church and the famous library at Agarathos, then we’ll return to the breathtaking country roads of Crete for our drive to the traditional village of Stironas. Take a deep breath here, and enjoy the fresh mountain air as you take in the majestic view – you are 550 meters above sea level. Stironas comprises traditional stone buildings arranged amphitheatrically, with a view toward the mountains. Here we’ll show you how traditional Cretans lived centuries ago. We’ll also visit a botanical parterre which is home to various aromatic and

medicinal herbs from the mountains of Crete. Wine has been made in Crete since the Minoans, and we’ll have a chance to literally put our lips to the deep cup of traditional Cretan winemaking when we visit a raki distiller and sample traditional raki directly from the barrels in his cellar! We’ll learn about wine production and bottling, followed by Cretan meze with pure Cretan olive oil and other local products, and traditional Cretan dancers will perform for us during our meal! This is a deep, satisfying draught of the countryside of Crete. Enjoy!

HER #07—VENETIAN HERAKLION and the UNIQUE ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Heraklion was founded in 824 and is an important homeland of many contributors to Literature and Art, some examples of which are the Nobel winning poet Odysseas Elytis, the Renaissance painter Domenikos Theotokopoulos (El Greco) and the writer Nikos Kazantzakis. Heraklion is also endowed with some wonderful edifices: the “Koules” fortress, the award winning Venetian structure of the Loggia, the Morosini Fountain, the Basilica of Saint Mark, the Church of Agios Titos, the medieval monastery of Saint Catherine, the Cathedral of Agios Mina, the Historical Museum of Crete and of course the Palace of Knossos are some exceptional examples. The tour will come to an end at the Archaeological Museum of the city. Through the exhibits of the Museum, the history of the Cretan culture will unfold and be visualized before you.

SANTORINI SHORE EXCURSION COST: \$100.00 per person



SAN #01—SPECTACULAR OIA VILLAGE PERCHED on the CALDERA RIM

First you head up to the monastery of Prophet Ilias, for a breathtaking view, deep inhalations of clean, pure, Cycladic air and memorial photos, so as to be the envy of all who didn’t come along. The tour continues its passage towards the north. To the east, in the background, you will have settlements like Kamari and Monolithos, while you will pass through Fira, the small traditional villages of Firostefani and Imerovigli with delicate architecture and beauties, to eventually arrive at the settlement of Oia. During the entire route, to the west you will have before your eyes the lace-like caldera, the little islands of Thirasia, Palea and Nea Kameni and an unsurpassable panoramic

view. In Oia, you will have plenty of time to stroll through the marble-paved alleys, to gaze at the adorably cute shops, to take pictures, to become acquainted with the characteristic buildings, carved into the rocks and the unusual captains’ manors, the settlement Ammoudi at the foot of the caldera. After your curiosity has been sated of the area which is characterized as being of “exceptional natural beauty”, your return begins ...

SAN #02—CRUISE to SANTORINI’s ISLANDS and VOLCANOES

The little islands of Palea and Nea Kameni are of particular geological interest, since underneath them lightly slumbers an active volcano. From the cruise ship you will be transported easily within a few minutes by small boat to Nea Kameni which resembles a moon landscape! You will walk up to the verge of the crater, the heart of the volcano, a unique geological phenomenon which will overwhelm you with awe. In Nea Kameni nowadays there is gas-steam activity at the top of the crater, while its beaches are embraced by thermal springs. The next stop of this

SHORE EXCURSIONS

special excursion, is Palea (or Palia) Kameni with its therapeutical, warm waters. The sea temperature here is 5°C higher than in the rest of the locations and the green-yellow water contains sulphur. After the trip to the volcano, you will have the chance to walk, take keepsake photos, to touch the magic and energy of Fira. Finishing your trip in the main town of Santorini, you will descend by funicular (the ticket is included in the fee of this excursion) to the Old Port to reach the cruise ship by small boat.



SAN #10—OFF THE BEATEN TRACK SAFARI ADVENTURE

This alternative excursion combines the wild, more desolate beauty of the south (SW) with the generally more touristic eastern Santorini. You have your driver's license, you have the wheel in your hands, of course the camera in the glove compartment and your tour guide, a useful and informative compass, as your co-driver and... off we go! You start from Akrotiri, at the south western part of the island. The light-house, next stop, the virgin Vlychada beach then the popular Perissa beach with its black sand, Prophet Ilias, the little village Exo Gonia, which is built amphitheatrically on a slope, the penultimate stop will be the peaceful Monolithos with its hidden beauties and its long beach. This unforgettable excursion comes to a close at Fira.