

Greece Initial Itinerary

<u>Day</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Hotels</u>
6/29 and 6/30	<p>Day 1 and 2: Athens: Depart from New York on an overnight flight to the land of myth and legend. Arrive in Athens in the late afternoon and transport to a centrally located hotel complete with a rooftop pool to cool you off from the hot Greek summer. Take time in the early evening to explore the nearby sites in this bustling city. Dinner tonight is quite an experience complete with ambience, views of the Acropolis and tasty traditional Greek foods. (D)</p>	<p>Arion Athens Hotel Agiou Dimitriou 18, Athina 105 54, Greece Tel: +30 21 0324 0415</p>
7/1	<p>Day 3-Acropolis Tour and Acropolis Museum Visit Visit the most famous and popular sites in Athens: the prominent Acropolis sitting atop the hill and the renowned Acropolis Museum. As you ascend the slope of the Acropolis, you will take in the breathtaking views of the city below. Along the way, visit the Dionysus Sanctuary and the Dionysus Theatre built in the 5th century BC. Upon reaching the top, you will wander through iconic monuments like the Parthenon, Nike Temple, and Ancient Agora. All along the way, your guide will mesmerize you with stories and legends from ancient Greece. The tour ends with a visit to the world-famous Acropolis Museum. Here you can watch the ongoing excavations and examine more than 4,000 artifacts portraying daily life in ancient Greece.</p> <p>Lunch will be served in downtown Athens at an authentic restaurant owned by a charismatic family who treats every customer like members of their own family. The delicious meal will be followed by a stop at the Plaka to visit local shops and eateries.</p> <p>In the afternoon, the group will head to the authentic mountain village of Arachova. Arachova is a quaint village sitting on the slopes of Mount Parnassusand. The village boasts a wonderful view of the mountainous landscape. (B, L, D)</p>	<p>Domotel Anemolia Resort Delphi Valley, Arachova 320 04, Greece Tel: +30 2267 031640</p>
7/2	<p>Day 4- Delphi In Delphi, you will feel Greek mythology come to life as you hear tales of the ancient oracle. The ancients believed this sacred spot to be the center of the world. According to Greek mythology, Delphi is the place where Zeus' eagles landed after flying from the end of the universe in search of the "navel of the world."</p> <p>You will explore the ruins of Delphi, its temples and its museums. Your guide will share myths and legends of the Greek gods as you become immersed in the history and atmosphere of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. A stop at the Castalian Spring brings you to the fountains where pilgrims that came to see the oracle once stopped before the columns of the Temple of Apollo, where the high priestess would deliver her prophecies. There is also a visit to the Sanctuary of Athena Pronoia, a unique circular temple perched on a hill. Stopping at a museum will provide an opportunity to see archaeological treasures discovered throughout this area. (B, L)</p>	<p>Domotel Anemolia Resort Delphi Valley, Arachova 320 04, Greece Tel: +30 2267 031640</p>
7/3	<p>Day 5- Piraeus and Mykonos Transfer to Piraeus (Athens), Greece where you will board your cruise ship, Celestyal Olympia. Later in the day you arrive at the first stop, the island of Mykonos. This island is a unique blend of the cosmopolitan with the typical Greek. In its beautiful, scenic, dazzling whitewashed villages one finds international fashion brands alongside souvenir shops, charming taverns and authentic kafeneia (Greek coffee shops). The island is blessed with beautiful, sandy beaches and is the gateway to one of the most important historical sites of the country, the sacred island of the antiquity, Delos. Some of the places of interest: the nearby island of Delos, the archaeological museum, the old city quarters called "Little Venice", the Folk museum, the monastery of Tourliani. (B, L, D)</p>	<p>Celestyal Olympia</p>

7/4	<p>Day 6- Ancient Ephesus (Kusadasi, Turkey) and Patmos, Greece Founded by the ancient Greeks, the City of Ephesus served as one of the key centers for Christianity and, due to its strategic location, was a significant trade center of the ancient world. It remains one of the most well-preserved sights in history and is a truly memorable highlight for visitors to Turkey. Stroll between marble colonnades up to Hadrian’s Temple, Trajan’s Fountain and the Great Theater carved into the side of Mt Pion for an experience that’s out of this world. You’ll be whisked back in time through centuries and glory days of the Roman Empire in a journey to one of the most complete Classical cities in Europe.</p> <p>Patmos is a popular island with spiritually minded people, there is no denying the feeling of sacredness here. Patmos is where the Apocalypse of John, or Revelation was written. A must visit is the monastery of Saint John the Theologian above Skala and the Monastery of the Apocalypse built around the cave where John had his vision of the end of times. (B, L, D)</p>	Celestyal Olympia
7/5	<p>Day 7-Heraklion and Santorini Sailing into Heraklion port, the intimidating walls of Koules Fortress emerge from the sea to guard the ancient treasures found within the city. Capital of Crete, Heraklion is brimming with landmarks, world-class museums, golden beaches and a stylish nightlife scene that shape a destination to please everyone’s taste.</p> <p>Pedestrianized streets wind their way around the historic center connecting squares, ornate Ottoman fountains and arcaded walkways within the secure Venetian walls. Strolling along the picturesque harbor-front promenade, you’ll spot traditional fishing boats coming and going, old vaulted shipyards in the distance as well as tavernas spilling out onto the seafront grilling freshly-caught fish and serving ice-cold drinks.</p> <p>As the birthplace of Minoan civilization, Heraklion shows you the best of Crete history and culture. Exploring the Archaeological Museum, you’ll lose track of time looking at exhibitions covering more than 5,000 years, and you’ll soon uncover the city’s rich artistic heritage having given the world El Greco, poet Odysseus Elytis and novelist Nikos Kazantzakis.</p> <p>Santorini is probably the most popular destination in Greece and one of the 10 most popular destinations worldwide. Thanks to its active volcano, the island has a spectacular landscape of breathtaking beauty, an archaeological site of paramount historical importance, Akrotiri. If you also add the charming villages that are perched on the cliffs and the glorious sunsets, you have a hard to match combination. (B, L, D)</p>	Celestyal Olympia
7/6	<p>Day 8-Temple of Poseidon and Dinner Show Travel outside Athens to the remarkable Cape Sounion and see the ruins of the Greek temple of the sea god, Poseidon. This temple stands beside the Aegean Sea, providing breathtaking views of the water and the Cyclades Islands. Hear about the history of this temple including the harrowing tale of Aegeus, the king of Athens, who leapt to his death off the cliff after believing his son was dead.</p> <p>After visiting the Temple of Poseidon, the group will stop at a nearby beach. This is the time to spend swimming in the waters of the beautiful Aegean Sea. The soft beach sand and the unique color of the water makes this a highlight of the trip.</p> <p>Your evening begins with a short, panoramic drive through the city center and on the slopes of the sacred hill you will be able to see, admire and take photos of te illuminated Acropolis. Then a pleasant walk through the narrow picturesque street of Plaka, the old city, will bring you to a Typical Greek Tavern where you will enjoy your dinner. This is followed by a floor show with live Greek music and Greek Folk dances in traditional costumes. (B, L, D)</p>	<p>Acropolis Hill Hotel 7, Mousson Street, Athens, Greece, Athens 117 42, Greece Tel: +30 21 0923 5151</p>
7/7	<p>Day 9: Departure: As your journey comes to a close, you can reflect on all you've seen and done over the last week. Your immersion into the ancient and modern aspects of Greece will leave you with memories of a lifetime. (B)</p>	