

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

(ADMISSION COSTS INCLUDED)

TOLO

MYCENAE: Palace Complex (Lion Gate, Grave Circle A, Royal Palace, Secret Stairway),
Treasury of Atreus

NEMEA: Nemea Museum, Temple of Zeus, Ancient Stadium of Nemea

CORINTH: Ancient Corinth, Acrocorinth

EPIDAUROS: Theater

DELPHI: Ancient Delphi (Sanctuary of Apollo, Sacred Way, Temple of Apollo), Delphi Museum

METEORA: Megalo Meteoro, Varlaam (Katholikon), Rousanou

OSIUS LOUKAS: Monastery (Crypt)

ELEUSIS: Ancient Eleusis (Greater Propylaia, Ploutonion, Lesser Propylaia, Telesterion, Anaktoron),

Museum

ATHENS: Monastiriki Walk, Acropolis (Propylaia, Temple of Athena Nike, Parthenon, Erectheion,

Theater of Herodes Atticus), Acropolis Museum, Ancient Agora (Hephaisteion, Stoa of Attalos),

Plaka Area, National Archaeological Museum, Hadrian's Arch, The Temple of Olympian Zeus,

N. P. Goulandris Foundation Museum of Cycladic Art (Stathatos Mansion)

SARONIC CRUISE: Aegina, Hydra, Poros

“CLASSICAL GREECE & METEORA”

DAY 1 DEPARTURE FROM SEATTLE

Enjoy full meal service on your scheduled wide-bodied flight to Athens.

DAY 2 ARRIVE ATHENS - TOLO (3 NIGHTS)

We will be met at the airport by our tour manager/guide who will accompany us to the holiday resort town of Tolon, which features the beauty and charm of a Greek fishing village as well as a beautiful sandy beach. This evening we will enjoy a **Welcome Dinner** in Tolon.

DAY 3 MYCENAE & NEMEA

We will make an early start, as we travel to Mycenae, a fortified **Palace Complex** uncovered by archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann in 1874. The complex is one of the earliest examples of sophisticated citadel architecture, and only the ruling class would have inhabited the hilltop palace. Highlights of our visit will include: the 13 century BC **Lion Gate; Grave Circle A**, with six royal family shaft graves; the **Royal Palace** situated at the acropolis summit; and the **Secret Stairway**, a flight of 99 steps dropping to a cistern deep beneath the citadel. We continue outside the palace complex, where we will visit the **Treasury of Atreus**, the most outstanding of the *tholos* tombs. Dating from the 14th century BC, it is one of only two double-chambered tombs in Greece. This afternoon we will visit the **Nemea Museum**, set on an uncharacteristically Greek green lawn, it is one of the most charming small museums in Greece. We will get an excellent sense of the history of the excavation of Nemea and the Nemean Games, as well as the early Christian village here, much of which was built from material pillaged from ancient Nemea. A display map just inside the museum's main gallery shows all the cities in the Greek world whose coins were found at Nemea and illustrates just how far people came to see these Games. According to legend, the Seven Theban Champions founded the Games in memory of the infant, who -- not as agile as Heracles (Hercules) -- was killed by a serpent. Because they were perceived as funeral games, the judges wore black mourning robes, just as they do today at the revived Nemean Games. Next we will walk along a raised stone path from the museum to the ancient site, passing a carefully preserved early Christian burial tomb and skirting a large Christian basilica and Roman bath before arriving at the **Temple of Zeus**. This temple was built of local limestone around 330 B.C. on the site of an earlier temple, which may have burned down. Our afternoon concludes with a visit to the **Ancient Stadium of Nemea**. We will enter the locker room, where athletes oiled their bodies with olive oil, and then entered the stadium through the vaulted tunnel. Once we pass through the tunnel, we will see where the judges sat while spectators sprawled on earthen benches carved out of the hillside itself. We return to our hotel for the evening.

DAY 4 CORINTH & EPIDAUROS

We continue to Corinth, one of the largest and most prosperous cities in ancient Greece and the site of an important Roman colony. This morning we travel to Corinth, one of the largest and most prosperous cities in ancient Greece and the site of an important Roman colony. Our day begins with a visit to **Ancient Corinth**, beginning with the most conspicuous and the most handsome surviving building, the 6th-century B.C. **Temple of Apollo**, which stands on a low hill overlooking the extensive remains of the Roman Agora. Only seven of the temple's 38 monolithic Doric columns are standing, the others having long since been toppled by earthquakes. From the temple we will walk along ancient Corinth's former main drag, a 40-foot-wide marble-paved road that ran from the port of Lechaion into the heart of the Agora. In the Agora, we will view the remains of the **Fountain of Peirene**, rebuilt by the famous Roman traveler, Herodes Atticus. When he was done, the spring was encased in an elaborate two-storied building with arches and arcades and a 50-square-foot courtyard. We will also view the **Bema**, the public platform where St. Paul had to plead his case when the Corinthians, irritated by his constant criticisms, hauled him up in front of the Roman governor Gallio in A.D. 52. Our morning will also include with a visit to the **Archaeological Museum**, featuring a particularly fine collection of the famous Corinthian pottery that is often decorated with charming red-and-black figures of birds and animals. In addition, there are a number of statues of Roman worthies and several mosaics, including

one in which Pan is shown piping away to a clutch of cows. Next we explore the **Acrocorinth**, beyond the main city. We will explore the remains of the huge rock fortress, which could withstand lengthy sieges due to the presence of the upper Peirene spring on the southeast side of the ramparts. In addition to the fascinating remains of the Acrocorinth, we will also be afforded one of the most sweeping views in all of Greece. Our panoramic views stretch over 35 miles in all directions, from the Geraneia range in the northeast to the peaks of the Ziria in the southwest. We conclude our afternoon with a scenic drive to Epidaurus, an extensive therapeutic and religious center, dedicated to the healing god Asklepios. We will visit the **Theater of Epidaurus**, the most famous and best-preserved of all the ancient theaters in Greece. The theater could accommodate up to 14,000 spectators, and the acoustics are still a marvel of engineering.

DAY 5 TOLO - DELPHI AREA (1 NIGHT)

This morning we travel to the Delphi area and explore **Ancient Delphi**, which to the Greeks was one of the most sacred spots in their world. Its setting is dramatic, a natural amphitheater that faces the sea and lies under the shadow of Mt. Parnassus. At the center of Delphi stands the **Sanctuary of Apollo**, for many centuries antiquity's largest center of pilgrimage. Our exploration of ancient Delphi will include the following: a walk up the **Sacred Way**, which winds up the hill to the Temple; the treasury buildings of the various ancient city-states; and the spectacular ruins of the Doric **Temple of Apollo**, the home of the Pythia, the oracle who would deliver the prophecies of the gods. After exploring the sacred site, we will visit the **Delphi Museum**, with a collection of sculptures and architectural remains of an importance second only to those of the Athenian Acropolis.

DAY 6 DAY TRIP TO METEORA

This morning we will make an early start and journey into northern Greece for a visit to the natural sandstone towers of **Meteora**, which means "suspended rocks." Our day will include visits to: **Megalo Meteoro**, the first and highest monastery founded in the region; **Varlaam**, including its magnificent church, **Katholikon**, which features beautiful frescoes; and **Rousanou**, the most spectacularly located of all the monasteries. This afternoon we return to Lamia.

DAY 7 DELPHI AREA - OSIOUS LOUKA - ELEUSIS - ATHENS (3 NIGHTS)

This morning we begin our journey to Athens. We will stop en route for a visit to the **Monastery of Osios Loukas**, dedicated to the local hermit and healer, Holy Luke. The monastery was, architecturally, one of medieval Greece's most important buildings, built by Emperor Romanos in 1011. Inside, we will be treated to some of Greece's most impressive and beautiful mosaics, highlighted by *Washing of the Apostles Feet*, as well as spectacular painted dome and the **Crypt**, which is a 10th century shrine with the sarcophagus of Holy Luke. We next stop in **Ancient Eleusis**, which was a center for religious devotion that culminated in the Annual Eleusian Mysteries. Existing from the Mycenaean period, thousands of people from around the world would come to be initiated. Our visit to the ancient sight will be highlighted by: the remains of the **Greater Propylaia**, built by the Roman Emperor Antoninus Pius; the **Ploutonion**, the sanctuary of Hades; the **Lesser Propylaia**; the **Telesterion**, a 5th-century temple; and the **Anaktoron**, the holiest portion of the sight. Our visit will also include a visit to the small **Museum** with artifacts from the ancient sight. We continue to Athens, the ancient and historic capital of Greece. Upon our arrival we will take a **Walking Tour through the Monastiraki**, the old area which takes its name from a sunken monastery. This section of Athens is highlighted by: the Fethiye Mosque, Tsistaraki Mosque, the Roman Agora, the remains of Hadrian's Library and the unique Tower of the Winds.

DAY 8 ATHENS (BIRTHPLACE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION)

Our morning commences with a visit to the **Acropolis**, which has dominated the skyline of Athens for over 2,000 years. A citadel was built on the rock in Mycenaean times, and was the first of a series of temples that honored Athena, the city's divine patroness. In 480

BC the Persians captured the Acropolis, and the Athenian leader Pericles rebuilt the site according to his plan of unsurpassed beauty and grandeur. During our tour of the Acropolis, we will view: the **Propylaea**, the monumental entrance to the complex; the **Temple of Athena Nike**; the **Parthenon**, the temple to Athena which crowns the Acropolis; the **Erectheion**, dedicated to Poseidon and Athena; and the **Theater of Herodes Atticus**, originally built in AD 161. Our time on the Acropolis concludes with a visit to the **Acropolis Museum**, featuring a superb collection of treasures excavated from the area. Our day continues with a visit to the **Ancient Agora**, or marketplace, which formed the political heart of Athens from 600 BC. Socrates was indicted and executed here in 399 BC. The theater, schools and stoas filled with shops also made this the center of social and commercial life. We will explore the vast remains of the ancient complex, which have been excavated since the 1930s, including **Hephaisteion**, the best-preserved Temple, and the **Stoa of Attalos**, a reconstructed, colonnaded building, which houses a small museum with the finds from the Agora. This evening we will explore and dine in the lively **Plaka Area**, the historic heart of Athens.

DAY 9 SARONIC GULF ISLAND HOPPING - AEGINA, HYDRA & POROS

We will journey today through the Islands of the Saronic Gulf. The first port of call is Ancient **Aegina**. The harbor with its fishing vessels and the pink and white houses that line the seafront make a picturesque site. We will have time to shop for the local specialties: pistachios, marzipan and pottery. We continue to **Poros**. Here at the temple of Poseidon, Demosthenes committed suicide. The temple affords remarkable views over the island and the Saronic Gulf. Last stop is **Hydra**, known for centuries for the quality of the ships built there and whose inhabitants figured prominently in the Greek War of independence. We will stroll along the lively waterfront whose former sailors' houses have been converted into tavernas and shops before sailing back to Athens

DAY 10 ATHENS (TREASURES OF THE GREEK CIVILIZATIONS)

Our morning commences with a visit to the **National Archaeological Museum**, one of the world's most important museums, which houses treasures collected from many small museums in and around Athens. Highlights of the extensive collection include: the **Mycenaean Hall**, with gold masks, cups, dishes, and jewelry unearthed from the site of Mycenae by Heinrich Schliemann in 1876; the **Cycladic Figurines**, which are among the earliest known Greek sculpture; the large sculpture, including the tiny jockey and the magnificent Zeus or Poseidon. Our day continues as we view **Hadrian's Arch**, an enormous triumphal arch built by the Roman Emperor, which is still a symbolic entrance to Athens. We continue with a visit to **The Temple of Olympian Zeus**, built by Hadrian and one of the largest temples in the ancient world. The 1356-foot-high Pentelic marble columns that remain standing, as well as the one sprawled on the ground, give a good idea of how impressive this forest of columns must have been. Our afternoon concludes with a visit to the **N. P. Goulandris Foundation Museum of Cycladic Art**. This handsome museum houses the astonishing collection of Nicolas and Aikaterini Goulandris, the largest collection of Cycladic art outside the National Archaeological Museum. There are some 230 stone and pottery vessels and figurines from the 3rd millennium BC are on view. The galleries are small and well lit, with labels throughout in English, and the collection of Greek vases is exquisite. At the end of our visit we will walk through the courtyard into the museum's newest acquisition: the elegant 19th-century **Stathatos Mansion**, with some of the original furnishings, providing a glimpse of how wealthy Athenians lived a hundred years ago.

Seattle Lutheran High School - 110267J	Participants	Free Places	Price in USD
(a) All airport taxes are included and there are no registration fees, optional excursions or adult supplements to be added.	21 - 22		

Rooming will be two to a room (with an occasional triple).	18 - 19	3	3,667
(b) This proposal is valid until 15 October 2009 and this tour cannot be operated in its present format with fewer than 10 full paying participants.	16 - 17	3	3,799
	14 - 15	2	3,861
	12 - 13	2	3,924
	10 - 11	2	4,225
		2	4,349

DAY 11 DEPARTURE FROM ATHENS

TOTAL TOUR COSTS BASED ON THE NUMBER OF FULL PAYING PARTICIPANTS

Your currency level is guaranteed up to 1 Euro = \$1.470

What is Included:

- * Round trip airfare with a major carrier on scheduled flights and guaranteed dates
- * Airport taxes/fuel surcharges (**currently \$427.00 but subject to change until ticketed** 45 days prior to departure)
- * Accommodation in three star (occasional 4 star or superior 2 star) tourist class hotels with private facilities guaranteed throughout
- * Continental breakfast and dinners throughout your touring program
- * The exclusive services of a full-time tour manager/guide to accompany the group daily
- * Transportation by private coach for airport transfers and touring
- * All admissions, activities and excursions as per the itinerary
- * Free places in shared twin rooms for group leaders (as per number of full paying participants stated above)
- * All Taxes

This Does Not Include:

- * Lunches or personal beverages with meals
- * Visas (if required)

* Tips and gratuities for the guide and driver (or cruise staff if applicable)

* Any fees that might be imposed by the airlines at the airport for checked baggage

* Travel insurance - Casterbridge offers a comprehensive Travel Insurance Policy to all participants. This Policy includes **Health, Cancellation and Property** coverage and costs **\$102** for those 30 years or below and **\$133** for those aged 31 years or above. This travel insurance is **gratis** for all free group leaders. **Each passenger must be covered by a Health Insurance policy whilst on a Casterbridge tour.**