

HIGHLIGHTS OF GREECE

Thessaloniki – Kalambaka – Delphi – Olympia – Corinth – Mykonos –
Kusadasi – Patmos – Rhodes – Crete – Santorini – Athens

October 2–16, 2022 (15 days)



Highlights:

- Explore the birthplace of Western civilization where ancient myths and modern influences collide on a journey from Thessaloniki through Central Greece, the Peloponnese, the Greek Islands and Athens.
- Discover three of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World in Olympia, Ephesus and Rhodes, as well as the UNESCO-listed sites of the Acropolis in Athens, Delphi, the monuments of Thessaloniki, the Sanctuary of Asklepios at Epidaurus and breathtaking Meteora.
- Experience the spectacular beauty of Mykonos, Patmos, Rhodes, Crete and Santorini on a 4-night cruise, and enjoy the relaxed lifestyle, delicious cuisine and warm hospitality of these glorious islands.
- Optional 7-day extension to Turkey including Cappadocia, Istanbul and more.



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL

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Email: sti@sticanada.com website: www.sticanada.com

ITINERARY

Day 1 / Sun, Oct 2: DEPART CANADA

Depart for Greece.

Day 2 / Mon, Oct 3: ARRIVE THESSALONIKI

After arrival at Thessaloniki Airport, transfer to your hotel. Free time to relax before dinner. (D)

Day 3 / Tue, Oct 4: THESSALONIKI

The vibrant port city of **Thessaloniki** is considered Greece's cultural capital, with a continuous 3,000 year-old history, where old and new cohabit wonderfully. Embark on a panoramic tour of the city, starting with a drive to the upper part of the old city walls for the commanding view of Thessaloniki below. Then visit St. Demetrius Church, known for its early Byzantine mosaics.

Depart for **Vergina** and discover the unique museum created in the Great Tumulus covering the royal tombs of Macedonia. View the astonishing findings from the tomb of King Phillip II, Alexander's father, and feel the thrill of the greatest discovery of the 20th century. Return to Thessaloniki for dinner. (B,D)

Day 4 / Wed, Oct 5: THESSALONIKI – METEORA – KALAMBAKA

Start your journey south and stop in the charming village of **Palaios Panteleimonas**, on the slopes of Mount Olympus. Explore the picturesque village with its cobbled streets, stone houses, red-tile roofs, the square with the sycamore trees and the restored church of Aghios Panteleimonas.

Continue to breathtaking **Meteora** and visit one of the Byzantine monasteries perched on its stony peaks. Late afternoon arrival in **Kalambaka**. (B,D)

Day 5 / Thu, Oct 6: KALAMBAKA – DELPHI – ITEA

Drive through the towns of **Central Greece**, including Trikala and Karditsa, and cross the Thessalian plain. Stop at **Thermopylae**, where the statue of Leonidas commemorates the historic battle of 480 BC

between the 300 Spartans led by Leonidas and the Persian army of Xerxes composed of thousands.

Continue to **Delphi**, centre of the ancient world, where the priestess Pythia pronounced her famous oracles in the Temple of Apollo. Visit the Archaeological site of Delphi, including the museum. Overnight in the small waterfront town of **Itea**. (B,D)

Day 6 / Fri, Oct 7: ITEA – OLYMPIA

Cross the cable-stayed bridge from Antirion to Rion and travel via **Patras** to Olympia. Visit a local olive farm and olive grove.

This afternoon, discover the famous site of **Olympia**, home of the ancient Greek sanctuary site dedicated to the worship of Zeus, in whose honour the Pan-Hellenic Games were held every four years from 776 to 393 BC. (B,L,D)

Day 7 / Sat, Oct 8: OLYMPIA – CORINTH

Today drive through the central **Peloponnese** to **Corinth**, one of the major cities of antiquity. Corinth was protected by a 20km long wall and was made up of three parts – the acropolis on the hill (Acrocorinth), the city itself on a lower plateau, and its port Lechaion. Visit the museum and explore the remains of lower Corinth; see the Agora, with its archaic Temple of Apollo, vaulted shops, Roman temples, public latrines and fountain houses. Take the Lechaion Road to the North Harbour. Late afternoon arrival at a seaside hotel. (B,D)

Day 8 / Sun, Oct 9: CORINTH – NAFPLIO – MYCENAE – CORINTH

This morning, tour the ancient site of **Epidaurus** – the Sanctuary of Asclepius, ancient God of healing. See the best-preserved ancient theatre in all of Greece, famous for the harmony of its design and its remarkable acoustics, accommodating 12,000 people. Continue to the seaport town of **Nafplio**, the first capital of the newly born Greek-State (between 1823 and 1834) where Frankish, Venetian and Turkish conquerors left their mark on the town and influenced its culture, architecture and traditions throughout the centuries.



Discover Nafplio's ancient walls, medieval castles, monuments, statues, Ottoman fountains and Venetian and neoclassical buildings. This afternoon, proceed to **Mycenae** and explore the remains of the prehistoric citadel fortified with the Cyclopean Walls, the Lionesses' Gate, the Mycenaean Palace and the Tomb of King Agamemnon. (B,D)

Day 9 / Mon, Oct 10: CORINTH – EMBARK PIRAEUS – MYKONOS

After an early breakfast, transfer to the port of **Piraeus** and embark on a **4-night cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey**.

Set sail before lunch for **Mykonos**, arriving by early evening. Mykonos combines the dazzling white beauty of a typical Cycladic island with a sophisticated international jet-set atmosphere and an active nightlife. Stroll at leisure through the whitewashed, flower-decked alleyways to the sculpture church of Paraportiani or along the waterfront of "Little Venice" to the well-known windmills for an unparalleled photo op. Sail for Kusadasi, Turkey at 11:00pm. (B,L,D)

Day 10 / Tue, Oct 11: KUSADASI – PATMOS

This morning, call at **Kusadasi**, starting point for your excursion to the ancient city of **Ephesus**. Tour the spectacular ruins of this once great city which was founded in the 10th century BC and is still being excavated. Walk through history along marble streets lined with wonderful public buildings – among them the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus, the Temple of Hadrian and the Theatre. The site of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the massive Temple of Diana, also attests to the scope and magnificence of this city under Greek and Roman rule. Stop at a local rug making facility before returning to the ship.

Set sail and arrive in the afternoon at the beautiful, rocky island of **Patmos**, Greece. Enjoy free time in the port of Skala or join one of the optional shore excursions to visit the island or the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist and the Grotto of the Revelation. Return to the ship and set sail for Rhodes at 9:00pm. (B,L,D)



Day 11 / Wed, Oct 12: RHODES

Morning arrival in **Rhodes**, famed for its medieval stronghold built by the Crusading Knights of St. John. In ancient times, another of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the legendary Colossus of Rhodes, bestrode the harbour entrance. Visit the Temple of Athina on the majestic Acropolis of Lindos, with the blue Aegan sea beneath it and the whitewashed artists' colony at its foot. Enjoy a short walking tour through the medieval city to the Citadel of the Knights. Free afternoon in Rhodes. Set sail for Heraklion, Crete at 6:00pm. (B,D)

Day 12 / Thu, Oct 13: HERAKLION – SANTORINI

Dock in **Heraklion**. Free time to walk to the town centre or join an optional excursion to the Minoan Palace of Knossos, legendary home of the Minotaur. Late morning departure to Santorini.

Arrive **Santorini** in the afternoon. You may walk up 584 steps or take a mule or the cable car up to the white-washed town of Fira, perched high on the rim of the ancient volcano, the eruption of which, in 1600 BC, literally buried a flourishing Bronze Age town which has now been excavated at Akrotiri. Free time to explore **Fira** or join the optional excursion to the picturesque village of Oia with its famous blue domed churches. Return to the ship for your 9:30pm sailing for Piraeus. (B,L,D)

Day 13 / Fri, Oct 14: PIRAEUS DISEMBARKATION – ATHENS

Disembark after breakfast and depart for **Marathon**, where the citizen soldiers of Athenian won a legendary victory over a powerful invading Persian army in the first Persian War in 490 BC. View the burial mound, which marks the last resting place of 92 victorious Athenian defenders.

Continue to **Athens**, birthplace of Classical Greece, and therefore of Western civilization. Explore the **Acropolis**, the ancient "high city" of Athens. Built in the 5th century BC, it is the most accurate reflection of the splendour, power and wealth of Athens at its greatest peak, the golden age of Perikles. Visit the iconic Parthenon, dedicated to the city's goddess Athena. (B,D)



Day 14 / Sat, Oct 15: ATHENS

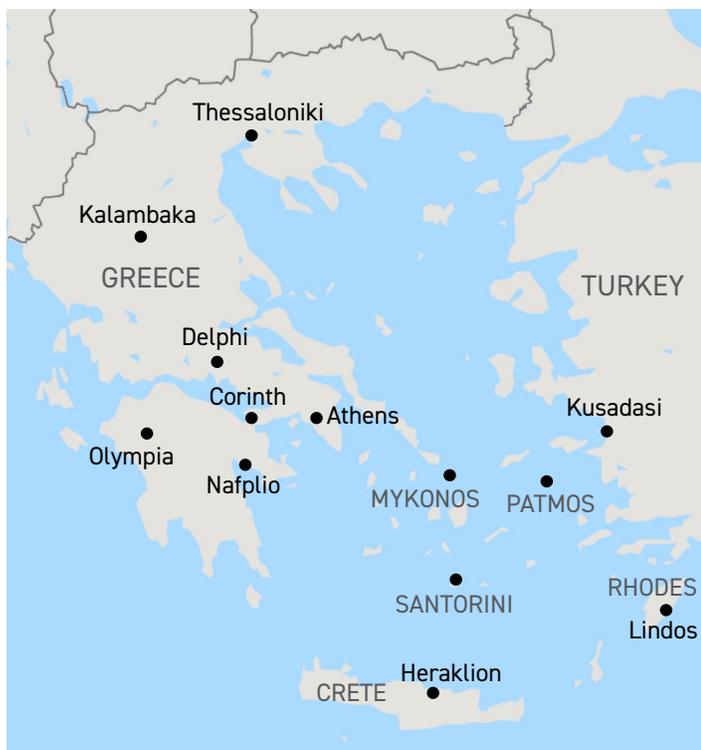
Morning tour of the **National Archaeological Museum**, which houses the world's finest collection of Greek antiquities. Then discover the highlights of **modern Athens**: pass by the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Parliament House, the Presidential Palace, Panathenaic Stadium, Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Academy, the University and the National Library.

Afternoon at leisure; stroll around the cobblestone streets of historic Plaka, or relax in Greek style with a beer or Ouzo. Celebrate the conclusion of the tour with a farewell dinner at the hotel. (BD)

Day 15 / Sun, Oct 16: DEPART ATHENS – ARRIVE CANADA

Transfer to Athens International Airport for your flight(s) home.

Those joining the optional extension to Turkey will fly to Istanbul to connect onto your flight to Kayseri. (B)



TOUR COSTS in CAD

Per person, based on twin occupancy:

From Vancouver	\$5,890
From Toronto	\$5,690
<i>From other cities, please contact our office for a quote.</i>	
Land only (if booking your own flights)	\$5,060
Upgrade to outside cabin (per person)	\$250
Single supplement (inside cabin)	\$1,090
Single supplement (outside cabin)	\$1,400

INCLUDED

- Return economy airfare Canada – Greece
- Airport transfers on arrival in Thessaloniki and on departure in Athens (if travelling on group flights)
- 9 nights in comfortable superior tourist class hotels
- 4-night Greek Island cruise with all services on board (basic drinks package, port taxes, entertainment etc.) and 2 excursions (Ephesus and Rhodes)
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation
- Comprehensive sightseeing incl. local guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Gratuities for guides, drivers, ship staff and meals

NOT INCLUDED

- Air taxes (approx. \$700, depending on departure city)
- Travel insurance (please contact our office for a quote)
- Baggage handling
- Drinks with meals (except during cruise)
- Items of a personal nature



Knossos, Crete



Acronauplia, Nafplio © G. Filippini, GNTO

RESERVATION FORM

HIGHLIGHTS OF GREECE

Oct 2-16, 2022

TURKEY (optional extension)

Oct 16-22, 2022

Please complete this form and return it to us with your deposit of \$600.00 per person. Please write name(s) exactly as listed in passport (e.g.: William, not 'Bill'). Travel insurance is optional but strongly recommended.

	TRAVELLER #1	TRAVELLER #2 <small>(if different address/payment method than Traveller #1, please fill out a separate booking form)</small>
Title (Mr / Mrs / Ms etc.)		
First name		
Middle name(s)		
Last name		
Date of birth (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
City + country of birth		
Passport #		
Passport expiry (dd/mmm/yyyy)		
Passport issuing country		
Preferred first name (for name tag)		
Dietary restrictions		

ADDRESS

Street:

City:

Province/State:

Postal code:

Country:

Cell #:

Home #:

Email:

TRAVEL PREFERENCES

Accommodation: Single* Double Twin Sharing with:

*Please contact us if you would like to be paired up with another traveller and we will do our best to assist. If we are unable to arrange a twin-share, you will be accommodated in a single room and invoiced accordingly.

Upgrade to Outside Cabin on ship: Yes No

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Next of kin's name:

Next of kin's phone #:

TRAVEL INSURANCE

I/we would like to receive a travel insurance quote. I/we have arranged my/our own travel insurance.

PAYMENT

Please make cheques payable to: **SPECIAL TRAVEL INTERNATIONAL**

Visa / MasterCard / American Express (a 2% service fee applies to payments made by credit card)

Card #:

Expiry date:

Name on card:

Amount to be charged: \$

I/we acknowledge that I/we have read and agree to the terms and conditions outlined in the brochure.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

\$600 pp deposit due at time of booking
2nd installment of \$800 pp due by March 2, 2022
3rd installment of \$1,000 pp due by May 2, 2022
Balance due by August 2, 2022
Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI).

Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, we have put in place a special scale of charges in case of cancellation, to protect the traveller as much as possible:

Until May 1, 2022	\$600
May 2 – Aug 1, 2022	\$1,000
From Aug 2, 2022	100%

(a cancellation/interruption insurance policy should be purchased to cover these cancellation charges)

We are also offering the following consideration: if you cancel PRIOR to August 2, 2022, YOU may find a traveller to take your place on the tour, and only forfeit \$300 (instead of \$1,000).

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels. Travel insurance companies are offering packages that include Cancellation and/or Medical coverage should you fall ill before or during your trip. Premiums are based on the age of the traveller(s). Should you be unable to travel because of contracting COVID-19, or ANY other insurable reason, you will be entitled to compensation by your travel insurance company.

COVID-19 consideration: Some insurance companies offer an optional add-on benefit allowing you to cancel for ANY reason. These specific CANCEL FOR ANY REASON (CFAR) policies will reimburse you up to 80% of your monies, depending on when you cancel. Cost of the premium is usually about 25% higher than a standard insurance policy. CFAR policies can only be purchased at the time of booking your trip. Standard policies (All Inclusive / Cancellation / Medical) can be purchased later – at the time the 2nd payment is due, for instance. Please note travel insurance does not cover everything. It is designed to cover losses arising from sudden and unforeseeable circumstances due to emergencies. For further details, please call our office or an insurance company specialized in travel insurance.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

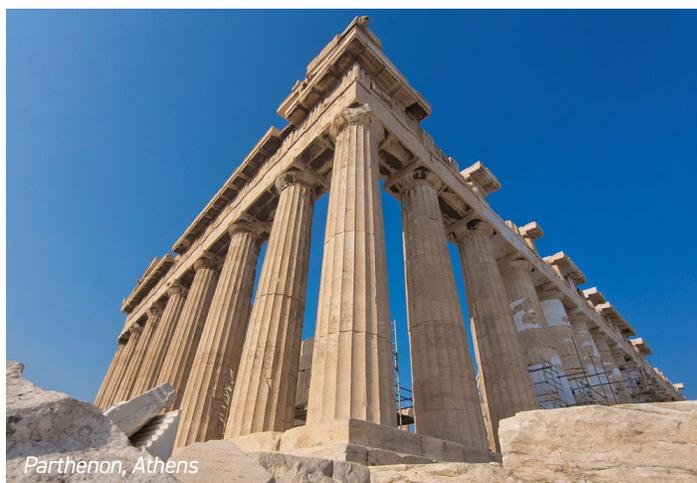
It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



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