

A classic journey back to the 5C BC, when the Athenians erected the Parthenon, Delphi was in its heyday and the games at Olympia was the talk of the Mediterranean.



Step back in time on a guided visit to the Parthenon, atop the Acropolis

## Glories of Greece

### TOUR PACE

This feature packed tour of mainland Greece is well paced and expertly planned. In fact, it is so successful that it has operated, due to popular demand, virtually unchanged for over 20 years. Two nights in Athens at the start allows you time to adjust before the regional touring begins.

### HOTELS

With rooftop views to both the Acropolis and the Aegean Sea the Metropolitan hotel is well situated in the coastal area of Athens and within easy reach of the city centre. The other hotels on tour are conveniently located near the archaeological and ancient sites.

### FELLOW PASSENGERS

Suited to visitors with limited holiday time or those combining with a cruise. Visits to the Parthenon, the ancient sites of Mycenae, Olympia and Delphi, provide a unique history lesson for those interested in the birth of Western Civilisation.

### INSIGHT FACT

Meteora: The Metéora ("suspended rocks" or "suspended in the air") is one of the largest and most important complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries in Greece. The monasteries are built on top of huge columns of grey rock rising out of the trees in the flat Peneios valley. This place 'between heaven and earth' has been a religious refuge since the 11th century.

**🍷 DAY 1 – ATHENS AT LEISURE.** Welcome to Athens, 'City of the Gods', and the cradle of European civilisation! There's so much in Greece to delight you, and this Insight tour makes sure you don't miss any of it. You are *met at the airport and transferred* to your tour hotel for a two night stay. Then there is time to settle in and relax or start exploring this ancient and thriving city. Later, get to know your fellow travellers and Insight Representative over a *Welcome Drink*. Hotel: Metropolitan. (D)

**🏛️ 📷 DAY 2 – ATHENS SIGHTSEEING.** All the glories of Athens are on display on *your sightseeing tour* this morning. *Highlight of the tour, of course, is a visit to the Acropolis, that mighty rock formation standing 230 feet above the city and still dominating the frantic bustle of modern Athens with its serene presence. Admire the Parthenon, built atop the Acropolis to house the long vanished statue of the goddess Athena Parthenos, and still amazing in its grace, despite the ravages of time and the loss of the Elgin Marbles.* You also see *the Temple of Zeus, the Temple of the Wingless Victory and Hadrian's Arch* - a magnificent list of treasures from the Classical age. This evening, why not join your fellow guests for a night of traditional Greek food in a lively atmosphere, accompanied by dancing and music? (BB)

**📷 🏛️ DAY 3 – ATHENS – MYCENAE – OLYMPIA.** Leave Athens to follow the shores of the Saronic Gulf to the breathtaking *Corinth Canal*. This amazing rock-cut channel dividing the Peloponnese from mainland Greece was begun in the 1st century BC by the emperor Nero, but not completed until the 19th century. Now on to the ancient ruined city of *Mycenae*; featured in epics of Homer, its 3500 year old monuments were only discovered in 1876 by the controversial archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann. Walk through the *Lion Gate* and see *the giant Cyclopean stones* which were used to build the city walls. Visit the royal *'beehive' tombs* where Schliemann uncovered golden treasure and hear tales of Agamemnon (hacked to death in his bath by his wife Klytemnestra!). Heading west, a *delightful drive* takes you through the mountains of Arkadia to arrive at *Olympia*, birthplace of the Olympic Games. Hotel: Antonios. (BB,D)

**📷 🏛️ DAY 4 – OLYMPIA – DELPHI.** In Olympia this morning, *see the Olympic Stadium* where the original games were first held in 776BC, plus the athletes' *gymnasium* and the city's *ancient temples*. Then head north to Patras on the tip of the Peloponnese and cross the soaring *Rio-Antirio bridge* to the mainland. Follow the coast road before climbing into the foothills of *Mount Parnassus*. Stay overnight in your hotel in the centre of Delphi. Hotel: Amalia. (BB,D)

**📷 🏛️ DAY 5 – DELPHI – KALAMBAKA.** With its elevated site on the slopes of a mountain terrace and dwarfed on either side by the ominous crags of *Parnassus*, it's easy to see why the ancients believed *Delphi* to be the centre of the universe. *Ascend the Sacred Way*, once lined with offertory temples and statues to the honour of Apollo. See the splendid Parian marble *Treasury of the Athenians* which has been recreated by modern archeologists, (though without the riches that once filled it!) Pass the superb *Polygonal Wall*, its stones so perfectly interlocked, that even thousands of years have not harmed it. Now you approach the legendary *Temple of Apollo* itself, where the mysterious Oracle of Delphi breathed her enigmatic 'words'. Now head north into the heart of Greece. Stop at the pass at *Thermopylae*, famous for its heroic defence by *Leonidas* and his courageous Spartans. In 480BC, this was the main route from Thessaly into Southern Greece. Over several days, Leonidas and his 8,000 Greek soldiers held out to the very last man against a great invading army of Persians, believed to be some 30,000 strong. Continue through the market

town of Trikala, renowned in ancient times for its sanctuary to Asklepios. Your destination is the town of *Kalambaka*. Hotel: Divani. (BB,D)

**🏛️ DAY 6 – KALAMBAKA – ATHENS.** This morning after breakfast, *visit the amazing monasteries known as Metéora, which means 'in the air', incredibly perched on top of pinnacles of rock. Visit one of the monasteries and enjoy stunning views over the Peneios Valley and Pindos Mountains.* Afterwards, cross *fertile Thessaly*, once described as the 'bread basket of ancient Greece'. Enjoy a scenic drive along the coast to return to Athens for your final night in this fascinating city. Perhaps round off your tour with a celebration Greek style dinner at a local taverna? Hotel: Metropolitan. (BB)

**DAY 7 – ATHENS.** Sadly, your tour comes to an end today. Perhaps time to buy those last minute souvenirs before *transferring to Athens airport* for your onward flight. (BB)



Visit the amazing 'hanging' monasteries of Meteora

## 7 DAYS ~ GREECE CLASSICAL TOUR



### Included Premium Highlights

- Climb the Acropolis to admire the Parthenon and enjoy amazing views over Athens
- Visit one of the monasteries of Metéora perched atop towering pinnacles of rock

### Included Additional Excursions & Sights

- See Hadrian's Arch, the Temple of the Wingless Victory and Temple of Zeus in Athens
- Cross the breathtaking Corinth Canal
- Walk through the Lion Gate past the Cyclopean Stones to the 'beehive' tombs at Mycenae
- Tour the original Olympic Games site seeing the Gymnasium and Olympic Stadium
- Ascend the Sacred Way past the Treasury of the Athenians to the Temple of Apollo in Delphi
- Hear tales of Leonidas and his heroic Spartans at the pass of Thermopylae

### Included First Class Services

- Services of Insight's professional multilingual Tour Director Days 2 - 6
- Luxury air-conditioned 40 seat coach with extended leg room and onboard restroom
- Insight hotels include all service charges, taxes and portage
- Insight Traveller document wallet, map book journal and information pack
- Services of Insight's resident manager in Athens
- Arrival & departure transfers between the airport and your Insight tour hotel

### Included Quality Dining

- 6 Breakfasts (BB), and 4 special-menu Dinners, or Buffets, plus tea or coffee (D)

**TOUR CODE:** 1951AW **Save up to US\$135 p.p. - see reductions below**

Starts	Ends	Twin Share	Single Supp.	Starts	Ends	Twin Share	Single Supp.	Starts	Ends	Twin Share	Single Supp.
Athens		p.p.	Option	Athens		p.p.	Option	Athens		p.p.	Option
Nov 06	Nov 12	\$1,465	\$390	Feb 12	Feb 18	\$1,299	\$345	Mar 12	Mar 18	\$1,465	\$390
Nov 20	Nov 26	\$1,465	\$390	Feb 19	Feb 25	\$1,299	\$345	* Mar 15	Mar 21	\$1,465	\$390
Dec 04	Dec 10	\$1,465	\$390	* Feb 22	Feb 28	\$1,299	\$345	Mar 19	Mar 25	\$1,465	\$390
Dec 11	Dec 17	\$1,465	\$390	Feb 26	Mar 04	\$1,299	\$345	* Mar 22	Mar 28	\$1,465	\$390
Dec 18	Dec 24	\$1,465	\$390	* Mar 01	Mar 07	\$1,465	\$390	Mar 26	Apr 01	\$1,465	\$390
<b>2011</b>				Mar 05	Mar 11	\$1,465	\$390	* Mar 29	Apr 04	\$1,575	\$445
Feb 05	Feb 11	\$1,299	\$345	* Mar 08	Mar 14	\$1,465	\$390				

### Supplements

Pre & post tour accommodation	Twin	Single	Triple
Per person, per night			
Metropolitan, Athens			
01 Nov - 31 Dec '10	\$132	\$213	\$120
01 Jan - 07 Apr '11	\$106	\$158	\$102

### Notes

Insight's room mate matching is not available on this tour.  
\* Tours start on Tuesdays and end on Mondays. All other departures start Saturdays and end on Fridays. Due to local schedules, religious festivals and other unforeseen circumstances the order of this itinerary may change at short notice.  
Check with your Travel Agent about visas for this tour.

### Reductions

Triple Room Reduction  
SAVE \$60 per person from 05 Feb -26 Feb '11  
SAVE \$140 per person 29 Mar '11  
SAVE \$125 per person all other departures  
**Insight's Great Savings & Discounts**  
SAVE \$135 per person with Young Traveller Discount  
SAVE up to \$79 per person with 2nd Tour Discount  
SAVE up to \$79 per person with Frequent Traveller Discount  
For additional information regarding Insight's great Savings & Discounts, please see page 7.

**DEF**  **Definite Departures (DEF)** are our dates guaranteed to operate. These are regularly updated and listed on our website [www.insightvacations.com](http://www.insightvacations.com) (see page 7 for details).

**Included** 🍷 🚗 🏠 are worth approximately US\$61



For news, views & info visit our 'Bulletin Board' at [www.insightvacations.com](http://www.insightvacations.com)