

GREECE DISCOVERY + GREEK ISLANDS

SOLOS ONLY 40 Years and Over



GREECE DISCOVERY [9 DAYS] WITH GREEK ISLANDS EXTENSION [19 DAYS]

Travel the mainland from the north to the south on this 9 day tour, discovering Greece's ancient culture, stunning scenery, quaint towns, vibrant cities, traditional cuisine, friendly locals, mountains and the coast. All of this makes for a diverse and impressive touring country, and it's clear why Greece is the up and coming European destination that's now on many more traveller 'must visit' destinations list.

From Thessaloniki to Athens with delightful stops including Meteora, Delphi and more. Your visit includes an in depth discovery of the bustling city of Athens. It's a superb three night stay featuring a highlight day trip from Athens to the charming island of Hydra, a gastronomic walking tour with a grazing luncheon, an impressive visit to the Acropolis, along with stunning highlight dinner admiring the night time view to the Acropolis.

EXTENSION: GREEK ISLANDS

Don't stop at Athens! Carry on to the famous Greek Islands; a three island visit including Crete, Santorini and Paros. All with their own unique character and differences. There's the ideal blend of touring and time to relax and soak up the atmosphere of Greece's beautiful island lifestyle.

TRIP PACE - 3 OUT OF 5

This tour is rated 3 out of 5 as Greece mainland touring is graded as a moderate to faster pace. However the Greek Islands extension tour option is more leisurely and considered an overall moderate pace with more time at leisure.

FELLOW TRAVELLERS

This is a boutique small group experience exclusively for solo travellers. There is a maximum of 20 travellers.

There are lots of amazing highlight experiences on this unique tour with more details on the itinerary page.



GREECE DISCOVERY (9 DAYS)

HOTEL & MEALS & SIGHTSEEING

- 8 nights; **quality hotels**
- 8 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 4 dinners including **highlight dining**
- All sightseeing entry and participation fees as detailed by the itinerary
- English-speaking tour director
- English-speaking local guides

TRAVEL

- Arrival transfer; airport to hotel#
- Return ferry, Port of Piraeus to Hydra
- Air conditioned private group transport for all touring

WITH GREEK ISLANDS (19 DAYS)

HOTEL & MEALS & SIGHTSEEING

- 18 nights, **quality hotels**
- 18 breakfasts
- 3 lunches including a traditional farm lunch
- 6 dinners including **highlight dining**
- All sightseeing entry and participation fees as detailed by the itinerary
- English-speaking tour director (days 1-9), tour host (days 10-19)
- English-speaking local guides

TRAVEL

- Arrival Transfer; airport to hotel #
- Return ferry, Port of Piraeus to Hydra
- One way flight Athens to Chania, Crete
- One way ferry Heraklion to Santorini
- One way ferry Santorini to Paros
- One way ferry Paros to Port of Piraeus
- Air conditioned private group transport for land touring

APPLIES TO ALL TOURING

- Portage in and out of hotels where available

Small group, not more than 20 travellers

TOP 5 REASONS TO JOIN

1. Age-matched holiday groups
2. Travel with like-minded solo travellers
3. Small groups
4. Early bird savings with many tours
5. Roommate matching option

ABOUT US

At Encounter Travel we offer holiday groups for solo travellers. Trips are age-matched so there's more chance you'll share your journey with like minded travellers. Visiting destinations across Australia and around the globe, choose from short escapes to adventure trips and leisurely touring.

We are a multi award winning tour company; two time winner of the global Solo Travel Awards, winner in the Australian Travel Awards 2019 in the specialist category, LUXLife 2021 Hospitality Best Specialist Solo Travel Agency – Australasia, and LUXLife 2022 Travel & Tourism Best Solo Traveller Tour Operator - Australia. We are ATAS accredited and a member of the Australian Council of Tour Operators (CATO) .

Since 2006 we've paved the way for solo travellers to destinations in Australia and across the globe. ©

ATAS Accreditation: A10439
CATO Accreditation: 45818310

See Getting There on website for details

Tipping tour personnel in Greece is customary, please allow for this in your holiday budget.

Travel insurance is a mandatory requirement for joining this tour and is in addition to the package price.

TOUR EXCLUSIONS

- International airfares (unless requested)
- Airport departure transfer
- Travel insurance
- Excess baggage
- Visa fees
- Any tips or portage at airports, hotels, drivers & local staff
- Meals and beverages not specified on itinerary
- Items of a personal nature such as laundry & medical expenses
- Incidental expenses such as taxi fares, telecommunications

CONTACT US

Encounter Travel
Monday to Friday
9:30am to 5pm (Sydney time)

Tel (AU) : 1300 653 692
Tel (NZ) : 0800 653 692
E: holidays@encountertravel.com.au
W: encountertravel.com.au

PO Box A1088 Sydney South
NSW 1235 Australia



GREECE DISCOVERY WITH GREEK ISLANDS EXTENSION OPTION

Our website has full trip details and content in this flyer is only a part of the information. For full details please refer to our website.

TRAVEL DATES:

GREECE DISCOVERY 9 DAYS
2 - 10 MAY 2023

WITH GREEK ISLANDS 19DAYS
2 MAY - 20 MAY 2023

TOUR PRICE :

9 DAYS \$5285 with own room
19 DAYS \$10435 with own room

SHARE & SAVE:

Ask us about our share and save option with our roommate matching option.

HIGHLIGHTS - GREECE DISCOVERY

- City tour of Thessaloniki
- Welcome group dinner at a **local restaurant featuring local cuisine, Thessaloniki**
- Stroll the streets on a guided tour of the village of Litochoro including a walk along the Enipeus River and its gorge
- Visit **14th and 15th monasteries of Meteora**; high up in the cliffs.
- Visit Amfissa to see its beautiful olive trees and stone houses
- A fully guided tour of the **remarkable archaeological site of Delphi**
- Visit the village of Arachova with time at leisure
- A panoramic Athens guided city tour
- A **guided tour of the magnificent Acropolis**
- Free time in Athens to stroll and explore the narrow streets of Plaka and the Old Town
- A special **Athens highlight dinner with a view to the Acropolis**
- A day trip by ferry to the **charming island of Hydra**, with no cars and where donkeys are still used for transport
- Experience an **Athens foodie's tour**;



a **gastronomic walking tour** with a grazing luncheon en route.

HIGHLIGHTS – GREEK ISLANDS

- Arrive to Chania, Crete to enjoy a local lunch
- Time at leisure in Chania to absorb all the local charm and scenery
- Visit **Souda Bay Allied War Cemetery**.
- Visit the Tsagarolon Monastery; one of the major historical monuments of the island, and also a vibrant monastery with an active industry exporting Greek products.
- Visit the **traditional village of Axos** including a traditional lunch; and be treated to Cretan hospitality with various treats such as raki and other local products
- Relax over a delicious traditional farm lunch
- Free time to take in the delightful town of Rethymnon.
- **Visit Knossos Palace**, the centre of

the magnificent past Minoan civilization dating back to some 4000 years, to 2000 BC.

- A beautiful **two night stay on the island of Santorini**
- Enjoy a panoramic island tour of Santorini, including a visit to the picturesque villages of Pyrgos and Profitis Ilias, and Oia
- **Highlight dinner Santorini** restaurant with a sunset view at the village of Oia.
- Visit an island winery, taste 3 local wine varieties
- **Three leisurely nights on the island of Paros**, and enjoy the crystal clear waters of the Aegean
- Explore Paros, with a panoramic island tour including a walk of the old town
- A ferry ride to cross over to Antiparos for a visit and relaxing walk through the picturesque little town
- A **farewell dinner on your return to Athens** for your final night in Greece



GREECE DISCOVERY WITH GREEK ISLANDS EXTENSION OPTION

PRE TOUR STAY

Consider arriving a day before the tour starting date, or enjoy a stopover. You can relax and refresh after your flight. The cost of the additional night/s of stay applies. Ask our travel team about this option, and the additional costs.

DAY 1 Thessaloniki

Welcome to Greece! Arrive to Thessaloniki International Airport. After passing customs and entering the arrivals hall where you will be meet and transferred to our group hotel*. There is time at leisure for the rest of the day. In the early evening there is a tour briefing with your group guide and a group welcome drink.

Meals: a welcome drink

* transfer included if you booked your airfare with us and are arriving on the group nominated tour flight. If you've made your own airfare arrangements, please ask us about your transfer options.

DAY 02 Thessaloniki

Start with breakfast at the hotel before departing for a city tour of Thessaloniki. You will visit byzantine churches, the famous White Tower (the city's trademark) as well as the Arch of Galerius and the ancient murals, ending with a beautiful panoramic view from the top of the Old Town. After the guided tour, there's time at leisure. In the evening, we come together for a beautiful welcome dinner at a local restaurant where you will taste the famous local cuisine.

Meals: Breakfast, Welcome Dinner (with a welcome drink)

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED: City Tour of Thessaloniki

- Welcome dinner at a local restaurant

DAY 03 Thessaloniki – Litochoro – Kalambaka

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we head south towards Litochoro, to have a beautiful stroll around the village streets and admire the pretty landscape featuring the imposing mount Olympus and the Aegean Sea view. Walk along the Enipeus River and its gorge and take stunning photos of the nearby lake. After



the guided tour, we will set off towards Kalambaka for our next overnight stay and a relaxed dinner at our hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Visit Litochoro
- Transfer to Kalambaka
- Dinner at our hotel

DAY 04 Kalambaka (Meteora) – Amfissa – Delphi

After breakfast at the hotel we set off first thing to visit three of the monasteries of Meteora. Built high up in the cliffs, they're amongst the most beautiful sights in Greece: high on top of granite rocks, suspended between the sky and the earth, are monasteries of the 14th and 15th centuries. It's a picture-perfect postcard setting. Then, we shall drive towards Amfissa, characterised by beautiful olive trees and stone houses, before we reach the roots of Mount Parmassus, where Delphi is located. Delphi is incredibly charming and has a magical setting high up in the hills.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Visit 3 monasteries of Meteora
- Drive to the ancient town of Amfissa for a visit
- Arrive to Delphi for an overnight stay

DAY 05 Delphi – Arachova – Athens

Breakfast at the hotel. Today, we visit the archaeological site of Delphi that includes the famous Sanctuary and Oracle of Apollo, the theatre and the Museum which hosts wonderful exhibits such as the famous Charioteer of Delphi. After the visit, we transfer to the nearby village of Arachova, a favourite weekend destination for Athenians and tourists from abroad, mostly known for its traditional architecture, artisanal produce and ski centre. There will be some time at leisure in Arachova, before we continue to Athens.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

GREECE DISCOVERY WITH GREEK ISLANDS EXTENSION OPTION

- A guided tour of the archeological site of Delphi
- Free time in the village of Arachova
- Transfer to Athens
- A group dinner in Athens

DAY 6 Athens

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart this morning for a panoramic guided city tour that'll give you an opportunity to observe the striking contrasts that make Athens such a fascinating city. On the Acropolis you'll visit the Architectural Masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally "the harmony between material and spirit", the monument that "puts order in the mind", the Parthenon. Our expert guide will take you to see the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympic Games of modern times were held in 1896 (short photo stop). As we continue, pass by the Temple of Olympian Zeus, Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the University, the National Library, the Constitution Square (Syntagma).

After sightseeing today there's time at leisure. You could take a stroll through the narrow streets of Plaka, the Old Town; full of shops, restaurants and cafes. In the evening, we have dinner at a local restaurant in the city center, enjoyed at a terrace with a beautiful view.

Meals: Breakfast, Highlight Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Athens guided panoramic city tour
- A fully guided visit on the Acropolis including The Parthenon
- Leisure time for roaming around Athens
- A special highlight dinner

DAY 07 Athens – Hydra – Athens

Breakfast at the hotel. Transfer to port of Piraeus, from where you'll embark on ferry to Hydra.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHT:

Hydra is a small island of about 55 Km² where no cars are allowed and most people wander about its picturesque

streets and alleyways on foot. The island offers great views of stone-built white houses in front of the blue sea. Hydra is quite a rich island, home of various Greek ship owners that played an important role in the Greek Independence War against the Ottoman Empire.

You will have time at leisure for walks, lunch, shopping or even swimming. In the evening, you will catch a ferry back to Athens. Upon arrival back to Piraeus, we transfer back to our Athen's hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Transfer to the port of Piraeus
- Return ferry port of Piraeus to Hydra
- Free time to explore Hydra
- Leisure time for roaming around Athens

DAY 08 Athens Food Tour

Breakfast at the hotel. Today, we will focus on food and wine, two quintessential elements of Greek culture. Some say that the best way to emerge oneself to a local culture is by walking down a city's streets and tasting local produce. That's why today, we will do a gastronomic walking tour, passing through Athens' central market, as well as from food stalls and cheese counters. We do not plan to skip desert, so we'll be taking you to one of the oldest pastry shops in Athens. Today it's a grazing lunch en route. Our expert foodie guide will share lots of interesting food culture anecdotes with you, giving you an insight on Greek culinary traditions. After the tour, rest of the afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Gastronomic foodie's walking tour, Athens
- Lunch as part of foodie's walking tour
- Free time to explore Athens

DAY 09 Athens (with option to extend to Crete)

Breakfast at the hotel.

MAINLAND TOUR CONCLUSION:

Our tour of Greece mainland comes to an end and for those travellers ending their Greece visit here, a group transfer is provided to the international airport for the nominated tour flight. Or, there is the option to extend your stay in Athens with additional nights of stay.

Meals: Breakfast

EXTENSION TOUR – GREEK ISLANDS:

For travellers who have opted to extend their visit to the Greek Island, at the appointed time, there is a group transfer to Athens Airport to catch your domestic flight to Chania, Crete. On arrival we transfer to a local Chania restaurant for lunch. In the afternoon, check into our hotel with free time explore this delightful town of Crete.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED – WITH EXTENSION TOUR:

- Transfer to the airport to connect with the one-way flight to Chania, Crete
- Local lunch, Chania
- Free time to explore Chania

DAY 10 Chania

Breakfast at the hotel, then depart for our Chania city tour. We start with a visit of the Souda Bay Allied War Cemetery, of special significance to Commonwealth countries as it's the resting place of fallen Commonwealth soldiers of World War II and some World War I soldiers. Our tour continues to Aghia Triada of Tsagarolon Monastery. The monastery plays an important role in the ecclesiastical life of Crete and the local economy. You will see an incredibly well-preserved and vibrant monastery that produces and exports organic olive oil, wine, honey, vinegar and olive oil soap best quality. We visit Venizelos' Graves, a location that has magnificent views from a hilltop above Chania, across the town. It's the location of the graves of the charismatic Greek politician, and seven times Prime Minister of Greece, Eleftherios Venizelos, and his son, Sofoklis Venizelos, who was also Prime Minister of Greece from 1943 to 1952. There's free time in the afternoon and evening to make your own relaxed discoveries of charming Chania.

Meals: Breakfast

GREECE DISCOVERY WITH GREEK ISLANDS EXTENSION OPTION

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Chania tour with Souda Bay Allied War Cemetery & Aghia Triada of Tsagarolon Monastery.
- Free afternoon & evening

DAY 11 Chania – Rethymnon

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning we drive to the nearby town of Rethymnon, and visit the traditional village of Axos where we get to experience cheese making and enjoy a traditional lunch. You'll experience the Cretan nature and way of living through this local farm visit, while enjoying impeccable Cretan hospitality with various treats as raki and other local products. A delicious traditional lunch awaits at the farm's restaurant. After, we transfer to the city centre with time at leisure to explore Rethymnon.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Transfer Chania to Rethymnon
- Visit the traditional village of Axos
- Free time to explore Rethymnon

DAY 12 Rethymnon – Heraklion – Rethymnon

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning visit, Knossos Palace for a step back in time some 4000 years, to 2000 BC. Knossos and its Palace, famous throughout the world through the myths of Europa, the Minotaur, the Labyrinth and Theseus, Daedalus and Ikarus, opens a window to the most ancient civilization of Europe. Knossos' architectural feats include several storey buildings (the first in the world) with light wells and bathrooms, impressive pillars and an ingenious drainage system, aqueducts, irrigation systems, paved roads and magnificent frescoes. After the visit, there is time at leisure when we return to Rethymnon.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Transfer to Knossos Palace
- Guided tour of Knossos Palace
- Free time in the afternoon, Rethymnon

DAY 13 Heraklion – Santorini

Breakfast at the hotel. At the appointed time, transfer to the port of Heraklion to embark on a ferry to Santorini and transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. You can visit the archeological site of Akrotiri (also known as Minoic Pompeii) or check out the colourful beaches of the island. The sand in Santorini is actually volcanic rock and ash and depending on the soil type, they're called "the Red", "Black" and "White" beach. In the evening, we join together for dinner at a restaurant with sunset view at the village of Oia and then transfer back to the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Transfer to the port of Heraklion
- One way ferry Heraklion to Santorini.
- Transfer port to hotel, Santorini
- Dinner with sunset view at the village of Oia, Santorini

DAY 14 Santorini

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning we embark on a panoramic island tour. You will have the chance to visit the picturesque villages of Pyrgos and Profitis Ilias, as well as the wonderful village of Oia, with its breath-taking views, the blue domes that you've seen in post-cards and calendars around the world. Then visit one of the island's wineries, taste some local wine varieties and learn more about the island's tradition in winemaking and the special flavours the volcanic ash gives to the grapes. In the evening, free time to explore the bustling capital of Fira at your own pace.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Santorini panoramic island tour including the villages of Pyrgos, Profitis Ilias and Oia
- Winery visit and wine tasting
- An evening at leisure

DAY 15 Santorini – Paros

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we transfer to the port to catch a ferry to Paros. Upon

arrival, we transfer to the hotel. There's a day at leisure to do as you please. Enjoy the crystal clear waters of the Aegean, taste the local cuisine or wander about the village, taking in the local colours.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Hotel to port transfer
- One way ferry Santorini to Paros.
- On arrival, the day at leisure on Paros

DAY 16 Paros

Breakfast at the hotel. Then, we'll explore the island with a panoramic island tour. We walk through the old town of Parikia towards the Venetian castle (13th century). Then, we'll take a short walk towards the most famous and one of the oldest churches in Greece, Panagia Ekatonapyliani, built around 400 AC. From there, we'll drive through the villages of Alyki and Drios. Then we reach Pissos Livadi, at the east part of the island, where we have our break with free time to eat or swim. Then, onto Lefkes, the former capital of Paros, and gorgeous views. We continue our tour by passing through Marathi, where the ancient marble quarries were located. In the afternoon we arrive in Naoussa, the beautiful fishermen's village. We take a little walk through its small streets and the port with the colorful fishing boats. Then we return to our hotel for the rest of day and evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Panoramic island tour
- Free time at Pissos Livadi
- End of day and evening at leisure

DAY 17 Paros

Breakfast at the hotel. A day to make your own discoveries or just relax and soak up the atmosphere of Paros before we head back to Athens tomorrow.

Meals: Breakfast

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

GREECE DISCOVERY WITH GREEK ISLANDS EXTENSION OPTION

- A free day for your own plans, enjoying Paros

DAY 18 Paros – Athens

Breakfast at the hotel. Today, we make our way by ferry from Paros to Athens. Upon arrival, transferring to the hotel. In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner at a traditional restaurant.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

SNAPSHOT – WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Hotel to port transfer
- One way ferry Paros to Athens
- A farewell dinner at a local Athens restaurant

DAY 19 Athens (Departure)

Breakfast at the hotel. All your wonderful solo travels comes to end for now. There is a group transfer to Athens International airport*. You'll go home a Greek Salad expert – something you will notice when you are there – there's even Greek Salad for breakfast!

Meals: Breakfast

Itineraries may be subject to change, due to circumstances outside of our control. If there is any itinerary change prior to departure of significance we aim to inform you prior to travel. Itinerary changes while on tour will be informed by your tour leader/guide while on tour.

ABOUT THE MEALS

Enjoy some fabulous Greek dining on this small group boutique tour. Local cuisine is a part of any travel experience, and this is why we place an emphasis of including dining experiences that will showcase the local cuisine and restaurants.

It's regular that our trips include welcome dinners and farewell dinners for our groups. In addition, we include other group dining experiences to ensure that everyone can enjoy the benefit of travelling and dining as a group. There's nothing better than to share a meal with new friends and discuss the day's adventures.

TOUR DIRECTOR & TOUR HOST

This is a private group tour with a professional tour director while on Greece mainland, and a tour host for the Greek Island optional extension tour

GREECE DISCOVERY

Your tour director is a professional guide who also escorts the group for the duration of the Greece mainland tour. There are also some local guides at major sights included as part of the touring arrangements.

EXTENSION: GREEK ISLANDS

Your tour host escorts the group and local guides are included at sightseeing locations.

Your Tour Director and Tour Host lead the group, and take charge of all the trip logistics on tour, and of course, make sure the trip runs as smoothly as possible so ultimately you have the best possible experience.

From time to time, as is the nature of travel, 'hiccups' can occur, such as unexpected delays to due to traffic congestion, unexpected weather conditions that make a change of plans necessary, and many other things that go hand in hand with travel. In these circumstances your group leader will do their utmost to make the best possible alternative plans – please be ready to accept that these situations are out of the control of anyone and trust in your group leader to assist as best as possible.

DISCLAIMER

Any content in this publication maybe subject to change or correction, and without notice.

We have taken great care to prepare and publish the trip information and in good faith we believe it to be accurate at the time we published the information. However, as is the nature of travel, plans may need to change from time to time and often unexpectedly.

If trip details need to change, in most cases your final documentation issued prior to your departure will be updated. However, it's also possible that an itinerary change may be necessary while on the trip. It could be related to unexpected weather or road conditions or another example could be an announcement of a closure of a facility we planned to use. In these cases, we will make all best endeavours to provide an alternative, of equivalent or similar standard.

Information in this publication is in part, and for full trip details please refer to our website.

Full terms and conditions are available on our website and provided when a quote is issued.

Encounter Travel
ABN: 23 119 642 992