

# ARCHAEOLOGY IN GREECE

SAIL FROM ANTIQUITY TO BYZANTIUM

## OVERVIEW

Discover the extraordinary world of ancient and Aegean Bronze-Age Greece, from the palaces of Minoan Crete and monumental tombs of the Mycenaeans to the incomparable museums of Athens.

On this 17-day tour by land and sea, you'll get to know the deep history of the cultures that made Greece the cradle of western civilisation. We'll travel from Crete to the Peloponnese, Olympia, Delphi and Athens, enjoying the dramatic landscapes—mountains, spectacular coastlines and rocky islands—of the Greek world.

We'll visit fascinating museums and archaeological sites, from the sprawling palace of King Minos at Knossos to the Athenian Acropolis and ancient Agora. In Athens, we'll board the 25-cabin Motor Sailer *Galileo* for an eight-day cruise circumnavigating the Peloponnese. Upon docking each day, we'll delve into places like Mycenae, Venetian Pylos, ancient Olympia and mystical Delphi before finishing the remainder of our tour in Athens.



## TOUR LEADER

**Dr John Tidmarsh** is currently Chairman of the Australian Archaeological Institute in Athens. He has served as a Lecturer in Greek and Roman archaeology at the University of Sydney.

## TOUR DATES

**November 5-21, 2023**

## TOUR PRICE

**\$17,950** per person, twin share  
**\$3,494** single supplement

## TOUR DEPOSIT

A **\$1,000** non-refundable deposit is required per person to confirm your booking on tour.

## GROUP SIZE

Maximum number of **16** in group

## ITINERARY

Athens (1 night), Heraklion (3 nights),  
Chania (1 night), Cruise (7 nights),  
Athens (4 nights)

## INCLUSIONS

**9** nights' accommodation in 4-star hotels, all breakfasts and 5 lunches or dinners. **7** nights aboard the MS *Galileo*, with all meals onboard and shore excursions. Athens-Crete-Athens flight, all ground transport, entrance fees and tipping, including the group tip for cruise staff.



## DETAILED ITINERARY

### Start & Finish

The tour starts at 6.00pm on Sunday 5 November, in the lobby of the Divani Palace Acropolis Hotel, Athens. The tour ends after breakfast on Tuesday 21 November, at the Divani Palace Acropolis Hotel, Athens.

Included meals are indicated with B, L, D.

### Sunday 5 November

#### Arrive

The tour commences at the hotel in Athens at 6pm. Meet the group in the lobby for introductions and drinks, followed by dinner in the hotel. Overnight Athens (D)

### Monday 6 November

#### To Heraklion

This morning we transfer to Athens Airport for a flight to Heraklion. Upon arrival in Crete, we transfer to our hotel before a walking tour of this Venetian city. An introductory talk in the hotel is followed by dinner at a local restaurant. Overnight Heraklion (B, D)

### Tuesday 7 November

#### Phaistos and Heraklion Archaeological Museum

This morning we stroll to the excellent Archaeological Museum in Heraklion. The collection includes Minoan artefacts and wall paintings from Knossos and other Minoan palaces as well as the mysterious Phaistos Disk. This afternoon we travel to the site of Bronze Age Phaistos, a Minoan royal palace complex on a dramatic hilltop site overlooking the Messara Plain. Overnight Heraklion (B, L)

### Wednesday 8 November

#### Archanes and Knossos

We visit the rustic village of Archanes, a treasure house of neoclassical architecture and a likely summer retreat for the Knossos Kings. There we'll tour the delightful Archaeological Museum. In the afternoon, we'll visit the Minoan palace complex of Knossos, Crete's most famous site. A complex of administrative, residential, and religious structures, it offers an excellent idea of life in Minoan Crete. Overnight Heraklion (B)

### Thursday 9 November

#### Rethymno and Souda Bay

This morning we depart for the elegant town of Rethymno, which flourished under Venetian rule in the 16th century. Our walking tour includes the massive Venetian Fort, the Nerantzis Mosque (built originally as a church, now the city's concert hall), the Great Gate, and Venetian mansions. We continue

## TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

### The Palace of Knossos

Explore Crete's most famous site, the administrative and political centre of Minoan civilization. According to myth, it was home to the labyrinth of the terrible Minotaur.

### Caves of Diros

Marvel at Greece's most spectacular natural attraction, a complex of caves that can be explored by boat. The dramatic formations of stalactites and stalagmites reflect in the brackish lake.

### Mystical Delphi

Stand in the cliffside site of the ancient world's most revered oracle. See treasures like the Marble Sphinx of Naxos in the adjacent archaeological museum.

### Ancient Olympia

Imagine the rhythms of ancient life in this complex, the birthplace of the Olympic Games. Wander through the Pan-Hellenic sanctuary, the stadium, and more.

### Cycladic Art

Admire the private collection of over 3000 artefacts in the Museum of Cycladic Art. These pristine, austere marble figurines with folded arms influenced many significant 20th-century artists.

to Souda Bay to pay our respects at the Allied War Cemetery and the many Australian and New Zealand soldiers who died in the Battle of Crete and the First World War. Our day concludes in Chania, a strategic location for the Minoans who founded Kydonia here in the Bronze Age and for many other civilisations afterward. We explore its layers of history, including the fortified Venetian harbour and the Mosque of the Janissaries. Overnight Chania (B)

### **Friday 10 November To Athens**

Today we depart Chania and fly to Athens. Upon arrival we transfer to Marina Zea where we board the MS Galileo, meet the crew and set sail for Epidaurus. Overnight MS Galileo (B, D)

### **Saturday 11 November Epidaurus**

We disembark early today for the impressive site of Epidaurus, home of Asclepeion, one of the most famous healing centres of the Classical world. The well-preserved theatre, still in use today, has perfect acoustics and a 13000-seat capacity. We return to the ship for lunch and set sail for Nafplion. Overnight MS Galileo (B, L, D)

### **Sunday 12 November Mycenae**

After a short walk through Nafplion we visit Mycenae, seat of the legendary Agamemnon and a site that lent its name to a whole civilization. We'll enter through the famous Lion Gate, then climb to the Megaron Palace where the Mycenaean king held sway over much territory. The ruins of this ancient powerhouse blend into the rocky hills atop the citadel, ringed by well-preserved Cyclopean walls. After lunch back on board we sail to Gythion. Overnight MS Galileo (B, L, D)

### **Monday 13 November Mani Peninsula**

This morning we visit ancient Gythion, used by the Spartans as a port and naval base. At the tip of the Peloponnese, we reach Diros and explore the famous caves by boat. After a stroll through the nearby town of Areopolis we reboard our vessel and head to Pylos. Overnight MS Galileo (B, L, D)

### **Tuesday 14 November Palace of Nestor**

The seaside town of Pylos is the site of an important Greek naval battle where the Venetian fleet defeated the Ottomans, leading to Greece's independence in 1829. We begin with a visit to the Mycenaean 'Palace of Nestor', the hillside seat of power for the wise

king in Homer's Iliad. In Hora, we'll visit the superb archaeological museum. This afternoon we sail for Katakolon. Overnight MS Galileo (B, L, D)

### **Wednesday 15 November Olympia**

Disembarking the ship early this morning, we head to Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games, where the Olympic flame is still lit every four years. Home to the Temple of Zeus, the Pan-Hellenic sanctuary, the Temple of Hera, the gymnasium, and the stadium, the well-preserved remains help us visualise this complex during its heyday. The archaeological museum contains treasures like the superb architectural sculptures from the Temple of Zeus. We reboard the ship at Patras and depart for Itea in the Gulf of Corinth. Overnight MS Galileo (B, L, D)

### **Thursday 16 November Delphi**

Today we travel to mystical Delphi, for ancient Greeks the navel of the Earth and home to the most important and influential oracle of the ancient world. Located on the spectacular cliff face of Mount Parnassus, the archaeological site includes the Temple of Apollo, treasuries, theatre and stadium. The adjoining Archaeological Museum houses the marble Sphinx of Naxos and the marvellous Charioteer, one of the finest extant bronze statues from the classical world. Returning to the ship, we traverse the Corinth Canal and sail to Marina Zea outside of Athens. Overnight MS Galileo (B, L, D)

### **Friday 17 November Disembark - Dafni**

This morning after breakfast, we bid the MS Galileo farewell. On our way to Athens we stop at the Byzantine Monastery at Dafni. Founded in the 6th century on the site of the Sanctuary of Apollo, its restorations resulted in the familiar cloisonné exterior. The interior holds an important mosaic of Christ the Pantocrator gazing down sternly from his place in the heavens atop the dome. In Athens we'll take a short orientation walk before dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Athens (B, D)

### **Saturday 18 November Acropolis and Benaki Museum**

This morning we explore the Acropolis and its monuments, the greatest architectural and artistic complex of Greek antiquity. The Parthenon, Erechtheion, and exquisite temple of Athena Nike are the centrepieces, encapsulating both the beauty and achievements of ancient Greek spirit and civilisation. Our visit will conclude with a visit to the superb Acropolis museum. This afternoon we

## HOTELS

### Athens, Divani Palace Acropolis

(5 nights)

### Heraklion, GDM Megaron Hotel

(3 nights)

### Chania, Kydon Hotel

(1 night)

### Cruise, MS Galileo

(7 nights)

Category B cabins on the MS Galileo are included in the tour price. All cabins include air-conditioning, flat-screen TV, mini fridge, safe deposit boxes, hair dryer and en suite bathroom with shower. An upgrade to a Category A Cabin is available on request.

#### Category B: Lower Deck Cabin

The Category B cabins are located on the Lower Deck and have portholes. Cabins are a compact 11-13m square.

#### Category A: Upper Deck Cabin

Cabins are located on the Upper Deck and have large portholes. Cabins are a compact 12-13m square.

## WEATHER

November is an enjoyable time to visit Greece. The summer hordes have departed, but temperatures are still mild: in the high teens on the mainland and up to an average of 21°C on Crete. Evening temperatures drop to around 12°C and the sea temperature is a pleasant 20°C. Cloud cover has increased but with only a slight chance of rain.

## FITNESS REQUIREMENTS

### Grade Two

This tour is physically demanding. To participate on this tour, you should be able to:

- keep up with the group at all times
- walk for 5-7 kilometres over the day at a moderate pace
- stand and slow walk for up to 90 minutes galleries and museums
- negotiate walking over uneven ground on dirt tracks
- walk up and down steps and slopes
- get on and off a coach and boat with steps, unassisted

visit the Benaki Museum, a neoclassical Athens mansion with an extraordinary collection of Greek, Roman and Byzantine antiquities. Overnight Athens (B)

### Sunday 19 November

#### Athens Agora and Archaeological Museum

We'll take a guided walking tour through the Agora, centre of the ancient city where citizens assembled for a wide variety of administrative, cultural, religious and political purposes. This afternoon we visit the National Archaeological Museum of Greece and its collection of Mycenaean and classical period art and artefacts devoted to prehistory, sculptures, metallurgy and pottery. Overnight Athens (B)

### Monday 20 November

#### Cycladic Museum

This morning we visit the Museum of Cycladic Art, a private collection of over 3000 Cycladic, Ancient Greek and Cypriot artefacts accumulated since the 1960's. One of the world's most important exhibits of Cycladic art, it contains austere marble nudes that have inspired 20th-century artists such as Brancussi, Modigliani and Moore. The afternoon is at leisure before a farewell dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight Athens (B, D)

### Tuesday 21 November

#### Depart

The tour concludes after breakfast. Passengers who have booked their international flights through Academy Travel will be provided with a transfer to the airport. (B)



## ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS

For further information or to secure a place, please contact **Sharon Williams** on 9235 0023 (Sydney) or 1800 639 699 (outside Sydney) or email:

[sharon@academytravel.com.au](mailto:sharon@academytravel.com.au)

