

American Celebration of Music in Greece

Suggested Tour #4 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1 Tuesday

Depart via scheduled air service. The destination is Athens, Greece

Day 2 Wednesday Athens (D)

Arrive in Athens

Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel via orientation tour of Athens' highlights en route, including Constitution Square and Kendriki Agora (Central Market)

Late afternoon hotel check-in

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

The stunning sight, the brilliant light, the beauty of the ancient monuments and the quality of the museums all contribute to the pleasure of visiting Athens, the city of Athena, the cradle of European civilization. During the 5th and 6th Centuries BC and especially during the Golden Age of Pericles, Athens became the center of art, learning, discourse, philosophy, teaching, architecture for the whole civilized world

Day 3 Thursday Athens (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Participate in a tour of Athens, including a visit to the Acropolis (Parthenon). This religious center of ancient Athens, which received its classical form in the time of Pericles, thus reflected the humane values of Greek culture and thoughts which have retained their power down to our own day. In spite of the destruction wrought by many centuries, most notably the devastating explosion in 1687, when a Venetian grenade blew up a Turkish powder magazine which had been housed in the Parthenon and made the 2,000-year-old temple a ruin, the surviving remains still convey something of the splendor of the age of Pericles

Lunch on own

Enjoy a walking tour in Old Town Plaka, the historic heart of Athens. Even though only a few houses date back further than the Ottoman period, it is the oldest continuously inhabited area of the city. Despite the many churches, shops and museums, Plaka still retains the feel of a residential neighborhood

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Greece

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4 Friday Cruise – Mykonos (B,L,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Piraeus to board the cruise ship for a three-day cruise to the Greek Islands. The first port of call is the beautiful island of Mykonos; famous for its night life and the windmills

Lunch on the ship

Optional (at an additional cost): Mykonos shuttle bus

Free time to explore the island on your own or simply enjoy a nice drink in one of the many water-front cafes in "Little Venice!"



Day 5 Saturday Cruise – Kusadasi / Patmos (B,L,D)

Breakfast on the ship

Today visit Kusadasi and Patmos. The first stop will be Kusadasi, a lively port in Turkey and gateway to the ancient Greek city of Ephesus

Optional (at an additional cost): Tour of Ephesus

Lunch on the ship

Performance on the ship

In the afternoon we reach Patmos. Considered a holy island for the Christian religion, Patmos is the island where John wrote the book of Revelation while on exile by the Roman State

Optional (at an additional cost): Tour that will take you to the monastery of St. John and the Grotto

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 6 Sunday Cruise – Crete / Santorini (B,L,D)

Breakfast on the ship

In the morning arrive at Heraklion, Crete

Optional (at an additional cost): Visit the Minoan Palace of Knossos, home to king Minos and his legendary beast, the Minotaur

In the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion you can find the unbelievable works of art that have been found in a number of Minoan sites all over Crete

Lunch on the ship

Then, sail north to the isle of Santorini, the most breathtaking of all the Greek islands. The exquisite whitewashed villages, including the town of Fira, or Thira, cling to volcanic cliffs, accessible by cable-car, or mule

Optional (at an additional cost): Cable car up/down to Santorini

Evening dinner on the ship



Day 7 Monday Athens / Corinth / Patras (B,D)

Breakfast on the ship

In the morning return to Port of Piraeus and disembark your cruise ship

Transfer to Patras via Corinth to see Corinth Canal

Lunch on own

Continue to Patras

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Greece*

Evening dinner and overnight

Patras is the largest town and principal port of the Peloponnese, chief town of the nomos of Achaia, the see of an archbishop and a university town. The town was founded about 1100 B.C., but became of importance as a port only in Roman times. In 1408 it came under the control of Venice and in 1430 of Mistra. In 1460 it fell into the hands of the Turks, by whom it was destroyed in 1821, at the beginning of the war of liberation. Thereafter it was rebuilt in neo-classical style on a rectangular street layout

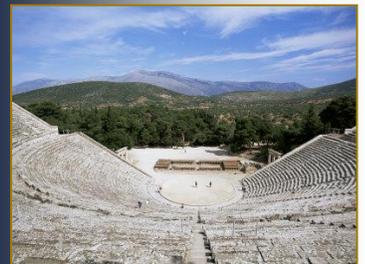


Day 8 Tuesday Patras / Epidaurus / Mycenae / Athens (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Epidaurus. At the heart of the gentle Argolis hills set about with pine trees and oleanders, lay the ruins of the famous sanctuary of the hero Asklepios, the god of medicine, where people from all over ancient Greece would come to consult the oracle. The most famous site here is the theatre, the most outstanding in the ancient world, known for its beauty, its magnificent lines, harmonious proportions and incredible acoustics

For choirs only: Impromptu recital in the theatre



Music Celebrations International
Concert Tours With Integrity

Lunch on own

Then it is off to visit the ancient city of Mycenae home to the kingdom of mythical Agamemnon. You will see the Atreus Tomb, the Mycenaean citadel with the Cyclopean Walls and the Lionesses Gate

Return to Athens for dinner and overnight

Day 9 Wednesday Athens (B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Today visit the New Acropolis Museum. A walk through the New Museum's galleries is a walk through history – between the masterpieces of the Archaic and Classical periods, but also in the ancient neighborhoods of Athens. The museum has over 14,000 square meters of exhibition spaces

Lunch on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Greece

Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10 Thursday Depart for home (B)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer to Athens airport for return flight

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments and performances, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable. In the event of an unavoidable conflict in the performance and the sightseeing schedule, the concert schedule will prevail, and it may be necessary to exclude some sightseeing activities.

© Music Celebrations International

