

American Celebration of Music in Greece

Suggested Tour #6 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

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

Day 2

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

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

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Greece

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Athens / Larissa

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Transfer North to Larissa situated under the shadow of Mt. Olympus (home of the 12 Gods)

Lunch on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Greece

Evening dinner and overnight

In the region of Thessaly, Larissa lies surrounded by lush valleys, and some of the most imposing mountains in Greece. Larissa is a city where ancient history and long tradition in agriculture meet the modern way of living



Day 5**Larissa / Meteora / Thessaloniki (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning visit to Meteora Monasteries. Some of the most amazing places in Greece are the impressive and beautiful monasteries perched on top of enormous rocks. The monasteries have a very rich history and give a unique perspective on the life of those who resided and reside there

Lunch on own

Continue to Thessaloniki for dinner and overnight

Thessaloniki, also known as Salonica, is Greece's second city, founded by King Kassandros in 315BC. The Romans made it capital of their province of Macedonia Prima in 146BC, and in AD 395 it became part of the Byzantine Empire. In 1430 it was captured by the Turks who held it until 1912. Today Thessaloniki is a bustling cosmopolitan city. It has a flourishing cultural life and is a major religious center, with an array of splendid churches

**Day 6****Thessaloniki (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a guided tour of Thessaloniki's highlights possibly including the White Tower, Palace of Galerius, Church of Agia Sofia, Aristotelous Square, Town Hall, Dioikitirio, Old City, Byzantine Walls, Rotonda, Arch of Galerius, etc.

Lunch on own

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Greece

Evening dinner and overnight

**Day 7****Thessaloniki / Vergina / Volos (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Morning transfer to Vergina to visit the Tombs of Macedonian Kings. The 1977 discovery of the Royal Tombs, including gold funerary box and other gold items, are considered the most important findings in Greece since the discoveries at Mycenae

Lunch on own

Continue to Volos. Volos is rich in music culture and music education and is home to the best music school in Greece

Performance as part of the American Celebration of Music in Greece

Evening dinner and overnight

Volos is one of the largest and most attractive cities in Greece as well as one of the country's most prominent ports. The modern-day city, built near the site of ancient Iolcos, dominates the region of Magnesia from its position at the foot of Mount Pelion overlooking the Pagasetic Gulf. This is one of the most beautiful areas in Thessaly, in the centre of Greece combining the allure of the sea with the mystical charm of the Centaurs' mountain

**Day 8****Volos / Athens (B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Return to Athens

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

Evening dinner and overnight



Day 9

Athens / Hydra / Poros / Aegina (B,L,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Full-day sightseeing includes a 3-island cruise to Hydra, Poros and Aegina. Leave Athens in the morning by coach to Trocadero Harbor. Sail for the island of Aegina. Cruise through the straits to Poros (visit). Then on to Hydra for time at leisure for shopping or swimming. Sail back to Trocadero Harbor and transfer by coach to Athens. Buffet lunch is served on the boat, and you'll enjoy entertainment and Greek Dancing while at sea
Evening Farewell Dinner and overnight

Day 10

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.

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