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— TRANSFORMING DREAMS INTO MEMORIES —

7-10 Day Greek Get-A-Way – Pick Two, Athens & Crete



CUSTOM ITINERARY – YOUR DATES – FLEXIBLE INCLUSIONS – 7-16 Day ITINERARY

Uncover the enchanting world of Greece with a tour of Athens and Crete. Captivating history and enduring mythology entwine in the Greek city of Athens. Set amidst a backdrop of unrivaled archaeological sites, be enlightened by outdoor temples where gods were once worshipped and a trove of world-class treasures were discovered.

“Every perfect traveler always creates the country where he travels.” - Nikos Kazantzakis

From Athens, retreat to the stunning caldera known as Santorini, a breezy oasis in the Cycladic Islands, with its breathtaking cliffs overlooking a dazzling blue sea. Beauty of Crete and its nearby islands, each filled with its own folklore, and toast a chilled glass of ouzo to the home of modern civilization as you cruise aboard your private yacht.

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Day 1 Arrival Athens: US – Athens

Arrive in Athens and meet your English-speaking Professional Representative in customs. You will receive a VIP escort to help you traverse customs and the airport. You will be escorted to baggage claim where you will meet your English-speaking private driver who will transfer you to your hotel (TBD).

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will enjoy a VIP check-in. If your room is not ready you will leave your luggage with the concierge. It will meet you in your accommodation later.

This morning we have arranged a special treat for you to recover from your long flight. You will enjoy a couple's massage in the spa to help refresh and rejuvenate you from your travels. Afterwards, you can relax in the spa until your room is ready. Additional treatments can be booked for this time period to relax, decompress, and rejuvenate in preparation of your exploration of Greece.

Lunch is on your own today. We recommend a leisurely champagne brunch or a relaxing lunch in the hotel.

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After lunch it's time to get moving again. You will meet your private English-speaking driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for an afternoon full of exciting sites, history & culture in Athens.

You will enjoy an exclusive and private City Tour. This introductory tour is crafted from your passions and preferences, so you will enjoy the places we visit today. Below is a sample itinerary for the city tour.



Along the Saronic Gulf stands Athens, the capital of Greece and the birthplace of Western Civilization. Named after the Greek goddess Athena, Athens has been a center of democracy, philosophy, art and architecture for over 7,000 years.

Step through history on a private overview tour of Athen's ancient sites, including the Parthenon, Keramikos, Agora, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Arch of Hadrian and the Kalimarmaro.

Visit the sculpture collections at the Metropolitan Museum and the British National Museum.

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Afterwards, stop by Athens' Central Market for an authentic browse through the source of Greece's fresh cuisine and spices.

Conclude your day with shopping in the Kolonaki District, a trip to the Kaisairini Monastery, or a visit to Voukourestiou Street, renowned for its vast selection of jewelry stores.

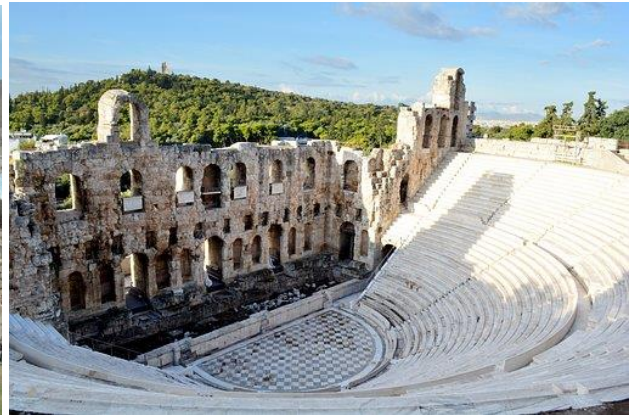
After the tour, you will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens.

Day 2 Athens: Athens

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast this morning, meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for a private historic and cultural morning tour.



Today we explore in depth, the Acropolis. Atop Athens' tallest hill, dominating the city below, stands the ancient temple complex built by Pericles in the 5th century B.C., known as the Acropolis.

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Explore the ruins of the iconic Parthenon, the temple that once served as a treasury for the Greek government.



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Marvel at the Porch of Maidens, named for its six caryatids, carved female statues, which replaced the traditional architectural columns of the structure.



Nearby stands the most intact temple of the time, the beautifully preserved marble Temple of Hephaestus, known as the Theseum, believed to have been the home of the Greek hero Theseus.

Once a monumental Doric temple, was destroyed the colossal monument known as the Roman Temple of Zeus, yet its fifteen limestone columns remain as striking ruins.

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Complete your morning tour with a trip to the new Acropolis Museum, which houses sculpture and artifacts with this Golden Age of Athens.

Lunch is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens. Your guide will offer suggestions for dining in the area. You may stay in the area or you can be returned to your hotel.

After lunch you are at leisure to return to the museum to continue your historic musings or to explore other areas on your own. You may choose to just relax in the hotel or venture out to explore the area surrounding your hotel.

****Celebrity hosted and other private experiences are available. In your creative planning session we will offer additional experiences to include in your itinerary for Athens.**

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens.

Day 3 Athens: Athens – Cape Sounion

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Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast this morning, meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for a private tour. We start the day with the Temple of Poseidon, and then on to Lavrion.



On the southernmost tip of Attica, drive through Athens' cosmopolitan suburbs along the Saronic Gulf to Sounion. On a promontory surrounded by water lies the ancient temple honoring Poseidon, the mythological god of the sea. Built in 440 B.C., the temple is believed to have been the site where mariners left gifts for the god to protect them from evil. Framed by the blue color of the sky, the temple's white marble portico and six columns of the temple remains a spellbinding site over two millennia later.

Venture towards the nearby coastal town of Lavrion, home of Greece's oldest amphitheater, overlooking the sapphire Aegean Sea. With a history dating back to 3200 B.C., it was home to

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Greece's first silver mines and refineries. Walk alongside enormous cisterns and ore washeries to experience a side of Greek history unexplored by the masses.

Lunch is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens. Your guide will offer suggestions for dining in the area. You may stay in the area or you can be returned to your hotel.

After lunch you are at leisure to explore other areas on your own. You may choose to just relax in the hotel or venture out to explore the area surrounding your hotel.

****Celebrity hosted and other private experiences are available. In your creative planning session we will offer additional experiences to include in your itinerary for Athens.**

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Athens.

**** Evening entertainment is available to include in your itinerary. In your CPS, we will offer experiences to include in your itinerary that blend with your passions and interests.**

Day 4 Athens: Athens – Heraklion –

After breakfast this morning, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby for your transfer to Heraklion.

Upon arrival in Heraklion, you will be met by your private English-speaking Driver who will transfer you to your hotel (TBD).

Upon arrival at your hotel, you will check-in with the Concierge and leave your luggage. It will be in your accommodation when you return later.

Your Private English-speaking Professional Local Guide will meet you and your driver in the lobby to begin a full day tour of this important Capital City.

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Explore Minoan ruins at Knossos Palace, one of the must-see archaeological sites of Greece, presenting a rare view into ancient Minoan civilization. Be guided on a private tour through this complex of rooms, halls, passages, myths and legends, all dating back to 2500 B.C., before traveling to the nearby-restored village of Archanes.

Surrounded by an enormous medieval wall, visit the Cretan capital of Heraklion, which houses an extraordinary Archaeological Museum, acclaimed for its representative artifacts from Neolithic to Roman times, alongside rare Minoan cultural masterpieces.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will offer suggestions for dining in the capital in the area you are visiting.

After lunch, Venture to Karouzanos village, where you will discover the delicacies of Cretan cooking with a regional food and wine excursion highlighting local specialties, including wine

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and olive oil. Bask in the warm sun on a private cruise through St. George and Sissi Village, where you will have the opportunity to snorkel and swim in the crystal clear Aegean waters.

After your tour, you will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Heraklion.

Day 5 Crete: Heraklion - Elounda

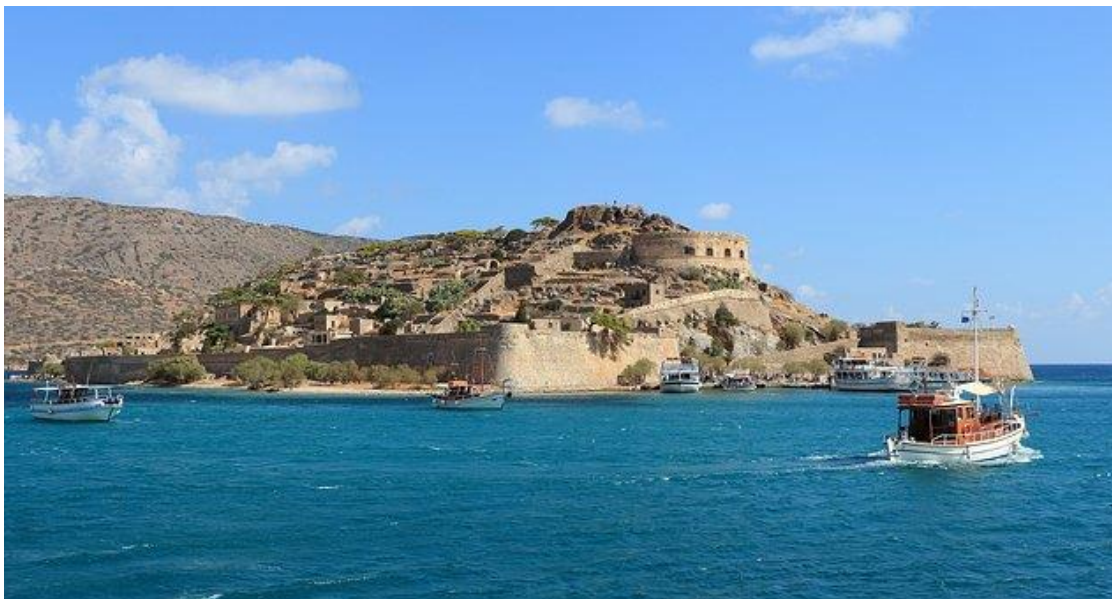
Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast this morning, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver in the lobby for your transfer to Elounda.

Upon arrival in Elounda, you will be met by your private English-speaking Driver who will transfer you to your hotel (TBD).

Upon arrival at your hotel, you will check-in with the Concierge and leave your luggage. It will be in your accommodation when you return later.

Your Private English-speaking Professional Local Guide will meet you and your driver in the lobby to begin a full day tour of this area.



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Board a 'caiique,' a traditional Greek fishing boat, for a twenty-minute ride to the island of Spinalonga. Enjoy a guided walking tour of this circular, walled fortress. Carved out of the coast of Crete, this former Venetian fortress fell to the Ottoman Empire in 1715 and later served as a leper colony until 1957. Admire its spectacular ruins of the island, then wander amongst its pebbled beaches before sailing back to Elounda.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will offer suggestions for dining in the capital in the area you are visiting.

After lunch, Nestled within the Gulf of Mirabello, the enclosed bay is home to one of Greece's most famous relics, the ancient sunken city of Olous that mysteriously sank 12,000 years ago. Spend an afternoon exploring this picturesque region and its charming harbor side shops.



Drive through the spectacular ravine of Saint George to Kritsa. Surrounded by olive groves, this whitewashed mountain village is acclaimed for its long tradition of spectacular hand-woven and embroidered textiles.

After your tour, you will be returned to your hotel where you will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Elounda.

Day 6 Crete: Elounda



Breakfast in your hotel (included)

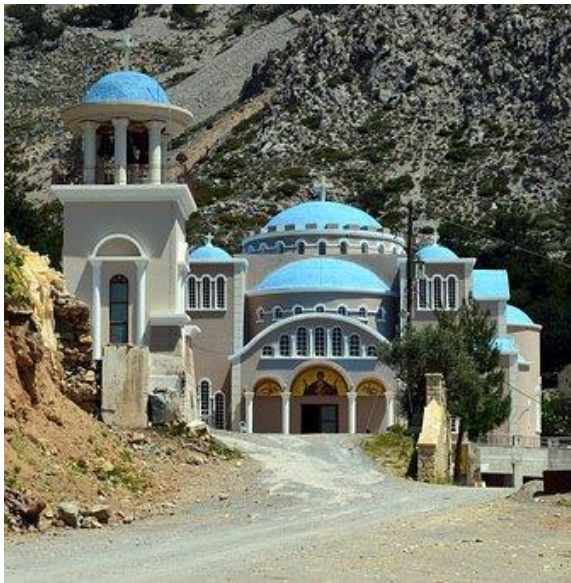
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After breakfast this morning, meet your private English-speaking Driver & Professional Local Guide in the lobby of your hotel for your full day tour. Today you will visit Aghios Nikolaos, Sitia and Va



Just south of Elounda on the island of Crete lies the sapphire waters of Aghios Nikolaos, the picturesque city with its landmark Voulismeni Lake at the center of it. Delight in panoramic views of this enchanting town, then wind through its narrow streets that offer an excellent selection of authentic Greek delicacies and fine jewelry.

Continue your tour past Aghios Nikolaos stands Sitia, a peaceful coastal town, built in a semicircle on the western side of the Bay of Sitia. In a guided tour, explore its 15th century

Monastery Toplou. This medieval monastery possesses a superb collection of Byzantine artifacts and frescos by the icon painter, Manolis Betinakis.

Lunch is on your own today. Your guide will offer suggestions for dining in the capital in the area you are visiting.

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After lunch, Conclude your day trip by traveling to the palm-strewn oasis of Vai. The palm beach of Vai is one of the largest attractions of the Mediterranean island of Crete. It features the largest natural palm forest in Europe, made up of Cretan Date Palm. Over 5,000 palm trees sway above the beach's golden sands, one of Europe's only natural palm forests in existence.

The heavenly palm grove is planted in a wide valley watered by the local river for centuries. An exotic sandy beach with whitish sand is formed near the shore, backed by the edenic palm forest, reminding of African and Caribbean seascapes. The entire region is owned by the powerful [Toplou Monastery](#), which is the largest landowner in eastern Crete. The 15th-century monastery is built like a fortress, and hosts a great collection of Byzantine icons.

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Vai was totally unknown until the early 1970s, when a popular commercial for the Bounty chocolate with coconut was filmed here, using the magical background of palm trees. In the advert, coconuts were falling from trees, however Vai palms produce dates. Consequently coconuts had to be falsely hung to create the right impression. The ad made this unknown earthly paradise renowned throughout the world. Thus, hundreds of hippies started to stay here on their holidays. In the 1980s, when hippism faded out, Vai was invaded by backpackers and rapidly degenerated into a rubbish-strewn campground. The palm grove was consequently fenced off and proclaimed a conservation area, being open to public only during the day light.

The beach has whitish sand and flat turquoise waters. In a few places, there are slippery smooth rocks, while on the opposite there are small islets that beautify the landscape. The beach is slightly organized (whatever the protection scheme allows) with umbrellas, showers, water sports and a canteen.

Enjoy an afternoon on the beach and exploration of the area at your leisure.

You will be returned to your hotel in the late afternoon.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Elounda.

Day 7 Crete: Elounda – Heraklion – Athens

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast this morning, you are at leisure until after lunch.

Lunch is on your own today. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Messina.

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After lunch, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver for your transfer to the Heraklion Airport to meet your flight to Athens.

Upon arrival in Athens, meet your private English-speaking Driver in the baggage claim area for your transfer to your hotel (TBD).

Upon arrival at the hotel, you will check into your hotel and settle.

You will be at leisure for the remainder of the day.

Dinner is on your own this evening. See Celebration Escapes' Restaurant Collection for recommendations for dining in Messina.

Day 8 Athens: Athens – US & Home

Breakfast in your hotel (included)

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and meet your private English-speaking Driver for your transfer to the Airport to meet your flight to the US & forward to Home.

End of Services.

Ready to plan your journey? Contact us today ! 678-500-9548

Schedule Your Creative Planning Session Now!