

Itinerary for the Travel/Study Project in Greece (March 6-15-2020)

Day 01 / March 06, 2020 (Friday) **Depart from USA (Airborne)**

Day 02 / March 07, 2020 (Saturday) **Athens**

Arrive Athens. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel.
Walk down to Plaka for dinner (At your own expense).

Accommodation – 3 nights – Athens

Day 03 / March 08, 2020 (Sunday) **Athens**

Enjoy a full day Athens tour. In the morning you will be guided through the **Acropolis** site as well as the **Theater of Dionysius**, where Greek tragedy was literally born, and the **Areopagus**, the giant rock in front of the Acropolis on which St. Paul preached; visit the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: the **Propylaea**, the **Temple of Athena Nike**, the **Erectheion** and finally “the harmony between material and spirit”, the monument that “puts order in the mind”, the **Parthenon**, and then the **New Museum** (Closed on Mondays) of the Acropolis. After time for lunch walk through **Plaka** and by the **Agora** before returning to the hotel. Overnight Athens (B).

Day 04 / March 09, 2020 (Monday) **Athens**

At leisure in the morning. In the afternoon visit to the phenomenal **National Archaeological Museum**. Then familiarization drive through the city with **Constitution Square** (Syntagma), the **House of Parliament**, the **Memorial to the Unknown Soldier** and the **National Library**. Driving down **Herod Atticus Street**, you will see the Evzones in their picturesque uniform and the **Presidential Palace**. Tour ends back at your hotel. Overnight Athens (B).

Day 05 / March 10, 2020 (Tuesday) **Athens-Corinth** **Canal-Mycenae-Epidaurus-Nafplion**

This morning will begin with your private classical tour of Greece. Leave Athens and drive southwest until we reach the **Corinth Canal**, which connect the Aegean Sea with the Ionian Sea. Drive on and see the **ancient town of Corinth** where St Paul lived and preached for two years. The remains of the city, which include the Agora (market place) and Apollo’s Temple (6th century BC), clearly show how rich and important Corinth was in ancient times. Continue to visit **Epidaurus**. The theatre of Epidaurus is one of the most impressive sights in Greece, and is astonishingly well preserved. Home of the 3rd century theatre, the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were performed here until the 4th century BC and then revived in 1955 with the Epidaurus festival. Then on to the charming town of **Nafplion**, once the capital of Greece, one of the loveliest towns in Greece with neoclassical houses, picturesque streets, wooden balconies with cascading flowers, Turkish fountains and mosques (B, D).

Accommodation – 1 night – Nafplion

Athens-Corinth Canal (77 km / 1 hour)

Corinth Canal-Corinth (28 km / 45 min)

Corinth-Epidaurus (47 km / 1h05 min)

Epidaurus-Nafplion (36 km / 40 min)

Day 06 / March 11, 2020 (Wednesday) Nafplion-Olympia

Drive to **Olympia** through the Central Peloponnese to visit one of the most important sanctuaries of antiquity, dedicated to the father of the gods, Zeus. **Olympia** is the birthplace of the Olympic Games and also where they were first held – reputedly in 1000 BC. The games began in 776 B.C. to honour Zeus. Pelops, the king of the Peloponnese was, according to mythology, their founder. The games, that, from beginning to end were dominated by religious character and austere ritual, would take place in front of the temples, but later as the athletes taking part in the games, as well as the spectators increased, in well organised installations. Visit the stadium and the archaeological museum before proceeding to the hotel for overnight (B, D).

Accommodation – 1 night – Olympia

Nafplion-Olympia (197 km / 2h 30min)

Day 07 / March 12, 2020 (Thursday) Olympia-Delphi

Drive to Delphi, crossing over the magnificent bridge at Patras. Continue through the picturesque small Venetian town of **Nafpaktos** before reaching **Delphi**. On arrival visit the **Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios** (Treasury of the Athenians, Temple of Apollo etc.) and the Museum. Delphi in ancient times was considered the centre of the known world, the place where heaven and earth met. This was the place on earth where man was closest to God. In Mythology, Delphi was the meeting place of two eagles, released by Zeus and sent in opposite directions. Where they met indicated the centre of the earth. Delphi is known as the centre of worship for the God Apollo, son of Zeus who embodied moral discipline and spiritual clarity. Time permitting, strolling through **Arachova**, a town located at the foot of the skiing center. Overnight Delphi (B, D).

Accommodation – 1 night – Delphi

Olympia-Delphi (245 km / 3h 30min)

Day 08 / March 13, 2020 (Friday) Delphi-Meteora-Kalambaka

Drive to see two of the breathtaking monasteries in **Meteora**, built high atop rock towers. Visit **Varlaam Monastery**, known for its frescoes, and **St. Stephen's Monastery** with the collection of icons and an exquisite panoramic view. Overnight Kalambaka (B, D).

Accommodation – 1 night – Kalambaka

Delphi-Meteora (235 km / 3h05min)

Meteora-Kalambaka (6 km / 11 min)

Day 09 / March 14, 2020 (Saturday) Kalambaka-Thermopylae-Athens

Drive to Athens via **Thermopylae**, the site of the heroic battle of Leonidas' 300 doomed Spartans against Xerxes' huge Persian army. Overnight Athens (B).

Accommodation – 1 night - Athens

Kalambaka-Thermopylae (160 km / 2h05min)
Thermopylae-Athens (200 km / 2h10m)

Optional at night: Greek Taverna (To be arranged by Dr. K.)

Day 10 / March 15, 2020 (Sunday) **Athens**

Transfer to the airport for the flight to next destination (B).