



Educational Tours

2019 SAMPLE TOUR SCHEDULE: ATHENS AND THE ISLANDS

****Note:** The below is an example of how this tour may run. All times and durations are subject to change, and the order of activities may be switched or substituted as needed based on availability.**

Day 1: Overnight flight to Europe

Depart North America on an overnight flight to Europe.

Day 2: Arrive in Athens | Walking Tour Athens

Upon arrival at the airport the group should be prepared to wait up to 2 hours for consolidated groups to arrive.

- Afternoon: The Tour Director will provide an orientation tour.
- Evening: Transfer by public transport to the hotel for check-in and dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing Athens | *Optional Greek Cooking Class*

- Morning: Depart hotel with local guide on bus for guided tour of Athens (3hrs30mins). Includes photo stop at 1896 Olympic Stadium and drive by major sites. Final hour is on foot at the Acropolis hill to visit the Parthenon. The tour ends either at the Parthenon or in the Plaka.
- Afternoon: Free time for lunch in the Plaka neighborhood (2hr). Take a self-guided tour of the Acropolis Museum (1hrs30mins).
Add this in-depth excursion: Greek Cooking Class
The group will learn how to make tzatziki, spanakopita and chicken souvlaki, and will get the opportunity to taste all of the dishes along with having a salad and a dessert as part of the lunch (2.5-3hrs).
- Evening: Return to the hotel for dinner.

Day 4: Excursion to Delphi

- Morning: Depart hotel and transfer to an olive oil farm in Amfissa Valley (2hrs30mins). The group will stop in an olive grove of more than 1.5 million olive trees where they will tour with a local specialist from the Agriculture Cooperative of Delphi. They will learn about the history of the olive grove, the species of olive trees, and the types of olives and olive oil produced in the region (20 mins). [The olive oil farm is a seasonal business so there is less to see during the colder months, and will be cancelled in case of rain or bad weather.] Transfer to Delphi (30mins).
- Afternoon: Free time for lunch in Delphi (1hr). Meet the guided walking tour of site at Delphi (2hrs). Groups have some free time afterwards to explore the nearby Delphi Museum on their own (30mins). [Please note that there is a steep uphill walk and uneven grounds at Delphi]. Depart Delphi and transfer back to Athens (4hrs).
- Evening: Dinner at the hotel.

Day 5: 4- Day Greek Island Cruise | First Port of Call: Mykonos |

****Please make sure to ask your Tour Consultant for a detailed Cruise Info Sheet****

****Shore excursions to Samos, Crete, and Santorini are included for all travelers.****

- Morning: Depart hotel for Piraeus port (30mins). The group has to be at the port at least 2 hours prior for embarkation procedures. All participants will board the ship and open their individual shipboard accounts upon embarkation (the cards they receive also function as their cabin keys). There will be a brief mandatory fire drill as the ship gets ready to depart from Piraeus (20mins).

- Afternoon: Arrive in Mykonos in the late afternoon. Arrival to Mykonos Island may be by port, or it may be by tender boat. Regardless, guests are dropped off in the main town of Mykonos which has winding streets with shops and restaurants as well as the famous windmills. Exploring by foot is safe and easy. Free time (3 hrs.)
- Evening: Return to the cruise ship for dinner.

Day 6: Ports of call: Samos | Patmos | [*see Samo Island details below important information](#)

- Morning: Early morning wakeup call at 4am. All passengers MUST disembark on Samos Island at 4:45am. Samos is a tender boat port. Guests are dropped off in the small town of Pythagorio. There are several beaches nearby the port which can be easily walked to.

Included shore excursion: Vathi, Heraion, and Pythagorio

Upon disembarking the ship, enjoy breakfast before an orientation walk through the town of Vathi. Here, you'll see the bustling main square, St. Spyridon church and the town hall. Afterwards, visit the Samos Wine Museum to view wooden casks from the early 20th century as well as traditional wine making tools and exhibits. Continue to the archaeological site of Heraion, a large sanctuary to the goddess Hera.

- Afternoon: Arrive in Patmos by tender boat in the late afternoon for free time. Guests are dropped off in the small town of Skala which is easily accessible by foot. Skala has shops and restaurants. Free time (5hrs).
- Evening: Return to the cruise ship for dinner.

Day 7: Port of call: Rhodes |

- Morning: Arrive in Rhodes in the early morning for a day to explore on your own (11hrs). Guests disembark at the Port of Rhodes. Accessing the historic city center, including the Palace of the Knights, is a very easy 10 mins walk from the port. The citadel and Acropolis of Lindos are not accessible without booking a taxi or shore excursion.
- Evening: Return to the cruise ship for dinner.

Day 8: Ports of call: Crete and Santorini |

- Morning: Arrive in Crete in the early morning. Guests disembark in the Port of Heraklion.

Included shore excursion: Minoan Palace of Knossos

Visit one of the Bronze Age's most impressive archaeological sites in the world, Knossos Palace. Also known as the Labyrinth, the palace appears as a maze of workrooms, living spaces, and store rooms close to a central square. Sir Arthur Evans's archaeological excavations and restorations from 1900 suggest that this was the site of the ancient Minoan Kingdom. See the Palace's Hall of the Royal Guard, the Hall of the Double Axes, the King's Chamber with its alabaster throne, the Queen's Apartment, as well as its beautiful courtyards and shrines. During your visit, view detailed images of Cretan life in the late Bronze Age on the palace walls.

- Afternoon: Arrive in Santorini in the late afternoon. All arrivals to Santorini are by tender boat. The Port of Santorini is at the base of a very steep hill. Taxis are extremely limited.

Included shore excursion: Oia Village

Admire the panoramic view of the Aegean Sea and the neighboring islands on your way to Oia Village. First you will head up to the monastery of Prophet Ilias for a breathtaking view before continuing north. You will see various layers of lava fixed on the face of the rock, each being another phase of the activity of the volcano. You will pass through Fira, as well as the traditional villages of Firostefani and Imerovigli before arriving in Oia. Built on the Caldera rim, Oia Village is an excellent example of Cycladic architecture. Walk along the cobblestone streets and explore the village, known for its white-washed houses with blue shutters. You will have free time to walk along the marble-paved alleys and poke around in the cute shops.

Day 9: Return from Greek Cruise and visit Cape Sounion | *Optional Greek Evening*

- Morning: The ship will dock in Piraeus early in the morning. Disembark and travel with bus and local guide to Cape Sounion (1hr15mins). Guided tour of the ruins of the Temple of Poseidon (1hr). Transfer back to Athens (1hr15mins).
- Afternoon: Check-in at the hotel and time to further explore, admire the views or take in the ambience of a local café.
- Evening: Return to the hotel for dinner (for those not participating in the optional).

Add this in-depth excursion: Greek Evening

Depart hotel for the 2-hour Greek dinner and traditional show. [Those not participating in the optional will have dinner at the hotel.]

Day 10: Transfer to Athens airport

The Athens airport is 1 hour from hotel.

3-DAY EXTENSION

Day 10: Transfer to Argolida via Mycenae Sightseeing and Epidaurus Sightseeing | Photo Stop Corinth Canal

- Morning: Depart hotel and transfer to Mycenae via photo stop at the Corinth Canal (3hrs). The guide will give a walking tour of the Mycenae archeological site (1hr30mins). Participate in a short pottery workshop (45mins). Depart Mycenae for the transfer to Epidaurus (1hr). The group will stop for lunch along the way at a local restaurant (not included).
- Afternoon: Arrive in Epidaurus and the guide will give a walking tour of the Epidaurus Theatre and Museum (1hr30mins). Transfer to Argolida hotel (1hr30mins).
- Evening: Check-in and dinner at the hotel.

Day 11: Transfer to Olympia via Palamidi Fortress in Nafplio

- Morning: Depart for the Palamidi Fortress in Nafplio for a brief visit (45 mins). Transfer to Olympia (2 hrs.) On the way enjoy some free time in the port time of Nafplio or visit Kyparissia for sightseeing (Please note that the visit to Kyparissia is seasonal and will only be available in the summer months) (2hr30mins).
- Afternoon: Arrive Olympia. Group will have free time for lunch.
- Evening: Check-in and dinner at the hotel.

Day 12: Olympia Sightseeing | Transfer to Athens

- Morning: Group will meet the local guide for the visit of the Olympia site (2hrs). Visit the Olympia Museum. After the guided tour the group will have some free time for lunch.
- Afternoon: Transfer back to Athens (4hrs).
- Evening: Check-in at the hotel (if group is more than 30 minutes from the city center than they will not see Athens today).

Day 13: Transfer to Athens airport

The Athens airport is 45 minutes from central Athens.

TIPPING

Tour Director: 9 days * \$6/day= \$54/traveler (add \$18 for extension)

Bus Driver: 6 days * \$3/day= \$18/traveler (\$9 for extension)

Local Guides: 3 guides * \$2/guide= \$6/traveler (add \$8 for extension)

Total recommended per traveler= \$78 (\$113 for extension)

**Suggested tipping amounts are in \$USD and do not include any optional excursions.*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Schedule

Cruise always departs on a Monday and return on a Friday

Cruise is seasonal (mid-March to late October)

Samos Island

All EF travelers participating in the 3-day cruise extension are required to disembark on Samos Island at 4:45am. A wake-up call of 4am will be set for all guests (students, chaperons and Group Leaders). Guests are required to disembark regardless of whether they are participating in an island shore excursion or not. This is mandatory as after Samos the cruise will sail to Kusadasi, Turkey. As a result of existing US State Department travel warnings, EF travelers are not permitted to travel to Turkey. This includes staying on board a cruise in a Turkish port. On return the cruise will reconnect with EF travelers at Samos Island and resume the standard program.

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