

Tour Code: GVGR24



Odyssey through Ancient

Greece

Includes a 3 night cruise

SCHEDULED DEPARTURE
April 18 - 30, 2024

Traditional Greek fishing boat

*Hosted by:
Gene Van Galder*



308A Elton Hills Drive NW

Rochester, MN 55901

(507) 289-3332

(800) 658-7128

Fax: (507) 281-9747

E-mail: tours@ed-ventures.com

www.ed-ventures.com



Day 1: Thursday, April 18, 2024 • Depart

Our adventure starts today as we depart the USA on our scheduled flight to Athens, Greece.

Day 2: Friday, April 19, 2024 • Athens

Upon our arrival in Athens, we meet our local tour manager and coach driver and transfer into the city center of Athens. A short walk takes us to the New Acropolis Museum, built in 2009 at the bottom of the Acropolis. Our tour of the museum introduces us to Greek culture, mythology, politics and religion. Time permitting, we stroll through the Plaka, the old, historical neighborhood of Athens, where we enjoy the sights and sounds of this ancient city. Dinner is at our hotel tonight.

D

Day 3: Saturday, April 20, 2024 • Athens

After breakfast this morning, we transfer to the Acropolis, where our tour manager introduces us to the Parthenon, the Propylaea, the Erechtheion and the temple of Athena Nike, iconic landmarks of Athens' skyline. We continue our exploration of the Greek capital on a panoramic city tour that brings us past the Temple of Zeus, the Panathenian Stadium, Syntagma (Constitution) Square and the Roman Agora. We have free time this afternoon to explore more of the museums, markets, and shopping on the Plaka and Monastiraki Square. We return to our hotel for dinner. **B/D**

Day 4: Sunday, April 21, 2024 • Athens

Today's destination is Cape Sounion, located south of Athens. At the southernmost tip of the peninsula, surrounded on three sides by the Aegean Sea, are the ruins of the Temple of Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea. The English poet Lord Byron felt compelled to carve his name into the base of one of the columns, still visible 150 years later. In the afternoon, we visit a local winery for a guided tasting of Greek wine. We return to our hotel in time for dinner. **B/D**

Day 5: Monday, April 22, 2024 • Napflion

This morning we head to the stunning Corinth Canal, an engineering marvel that connects the Aegean Sea to the Ionian Sea. A short distance from here, we tour the archeological site of Ancient Corinth, with its Greek and Roman ruins. Our day continues with a visit to see the ruins of the palace Mycenae and the Tomb of Clytemnestra. After lunch in the nearby town of Mykines, we drive to Epidavros, whose famous 4th-century BC theatre has near perfect acoustics. Our destination is the resort town of Navplio with its well-preserved old town. There is an opportunity to



“volta” (take a stroll) along the cobblestone streets with the locals this evening. **B/D**

Day 6: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 • Ancient Olympia

We continue to the Peloponnese Peninsula to Sparta, a once powerful city-state that often clashed with Athens for power in Ancient Greece. Upon our arrival, we visit the Museum of Olives and Greek Olive Oil, where we learn more about two of Greece's most famous agricultural products. We enjoy a sampling of olives and olive oil from the Kalamata region before continuing to Ancient Olympia. **B/D**

Day 7: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 • Delphi

After breakfast this morning, we visit the ruins of Ancient Olympia, home of the first Olympic Games. Our walk takes us to where the early athletes trained and competed, as well as to the site where the Olympic flame is still lit prior to the Summer and Winter Olympic Games. Nearby, we visit the Archaeological Museum of Olympia and see artifacts recovered from the site. After lunch on our own, we drive across the impressive Charilaos Trikoupis Bridge, which spans the Gulf of Corinth, to return to the Greek mainland. Dinner and overnight in Delphi. **B/D**

Day 8: Thursday, April 25, 2024 • Athens

Today we visit Delphi, a religious site that the Ancient Greeks considered the center of the world. Our tour includes the Sanctuary of Apollo, the Athenian Treasury and the Delphi Museum, with its most famous resident: a bronze charioteer from 470 BC. Visit to nearby Arachova, a village on the southern slope of Mount Parnassos. Return to Athens and have dinner in the hotel. **B/D**

Day 9: Friday, April 26, 2024 • Aegean Sea Cruise

We depart early to board a cruise ship, our home for the next three nights as we cruise to some of the most famous islands in the Aegean Sea. Enjoy the passing scenery from the deck before we dock at Mykonos, a picture-perfect island of windmills, whitewashed houses and blue-domed churches. A shuttle bus takes us from the cruise dock to the harbor area, where we have free time to explore the streets and shops of this island paradise. **B/L/D**

Day 10: Saturday, April 27, 2024 • Aegean Sea Cruise

We dock at Kusadasi, Turkey, and depart after breakfast for our excursion to Ephesus. Our local guide takes us back thousands of years to when Ephesus was a major trading center on the Mediterranean and one of the twelve cities of



the Ionian League. The Temple of Artemis that once stood here is considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Our visit to Turkey ends with a short stroll through the Bazaar, where if timing permits, we can bargain for leather, jewelry and other souvenirs. This afternoon, we stop at the island of Patmos and take tender boats to the harbor. The optional shore excursion in Patmos is a tour of St. John's Monastery and the Grotto of the Apocalypse. Steep stone stairs lead from the chapel of St. Anne to the cave where it is said St. John received his visions from Christ that he recorded in the Book of Revelation. **B/L/D**

Day 11: Sunday, April 28, 2024 • Aegean Sea Cruise

Our day begins as we tour the Minoan palace of Knossos on the island of Crete. Considered the first advanced civilization of Europe, the Minoans were merchants who traded with Ancient Egypt and Mycenae on the mainland of Greece. The palace is known for its many restored frescoes and the mythological site where the half man/half bull Minotaur was imprisoned. We return to our ship and have lunch while cruising northward to the island of Santorini. With whitewashed villages clinging to volcanic cliffs, this island's harbor is one of the most dramatic in Greece. We visit Oia, Santorini's most beautiful and picturesque village, before returning to our ship for our final sunset on board. **B/L/D**

Day 12: Monday, April 29, 2024 • Athens

We disembark in Piraeus port and return to Athens where we have free time to do some last minute shopping or touring before checking in at our hotel. This evening, we celebrate our Greek odyssey with our farewell dinner at a taverna. Here we enjoy traditional Greek food, local musicians will perform songs and dances from various regions of Greece. **B/D**

Day 13: Tuesday, April 30, 2024 • Return

Sadly, we say "Yiasou!" ("Goodbye!") to Greece as we transfer to the Athens International Airport for our return flight to the United States. We take with us memories of ancient cities, new friends, fascinating legends and spectacular scenery. **B**

Abbreviations for Meals
B=Breakfast L=Lunch D=Dinner

TOUR COST: \$6,479

per person, double occupancy

Single supplement = \$1,250

(with a minimum of 20 participants)

Your Tour Includes:

- **Estimated roundtrip airfare from ORD** to Athens, Greece including related taxes and fees (*other gateways may be available upon request*). (Estimated at \$1300)
- **Land Transportation** via private deluxe air-conditioned motor coach
- **Accommodations** (double occupancy) 4 star hotels; Cruise is Inside cabin; upgrades to outside cabin may be available at an additional cost.
- **Meals per the itinerary** (Breakfast & Dinner daily; all meals on cruise)
- Services of a **Professional Tour Manager**
- Local step-on guides for city tours and major attractions
- **Admission** to all activities indicated in the itinerary except those listed as optional
- **Luggage handling** of one piece per person at hotels
- Luggage strap, luggage tags and trip journal
- **All taxes and tips** for provided services except as noted below

Your Tour Does Not Include:

- Meals not indicated on itinerary
- **Beverages**, except with breakfast
- **End of tour gratuity** for coach driver and tour manager
- Items of a personal nature such as passport fees. (*Passport must be valid for 6 months beyond return date.*)
- **Optional insurance** for health, baggage and cancellation. (*This insurance is available and offered by Ed-Ventures.*)

Payment Schedule:

A deposit of \$500 per person is due with reservation. Final payment is due 100 days prior to departure date (Jan. 9, 2024). Invoice will be sent out prior to final payment. Passengers may add after this date subject to air and land availability. Generally airlines do not increase the price of a ticket after it has been contracted. However, prior to the issuance of a ticket, airlines may (and regularly do) impose fuel, tax, or security surcharges. In the event a surcharge is imposed after Ed-Ventures has received a final payment, Ed-Ventures will send an additional invoice for the surcharge amount. Early registration is encouraged.

Currency:

Currency exchange rates fluctuate constantly. In the event of a significant drop in the value of the dollar, we reserve the right to add a currency surcharge to the price of the tour.

Refund/Cancellation Policy:

All cancellations must be in writing. The date of postmark will determine the amount of refund due. Refunds are based on the number of days prior to departure date. From the time of deposit to 99 days before departure a \$100 administrative fee plus any airfare penalties will be assessed. From final payment due date to 31 days, a \$500 cancellation penalty plus lost airfare deposits and any unrecoverable deposits to ground suppliers will be assessed. Airline tickets once purchased are nonrefundable. Anyone canceling less than 30 days prior to departure will receive **no refund**.

Purchase of health, baggage, and trip cancellation/interruption insurance is strongly recommended.

Terms and Conditions

We reserve the right to cancel this trip due to lack of subscription. In the event of cancellation of the trip in its entirety, a full refund of all deposits will be made to passengers enrolled at the time of cancellation. Tour price is based on the value of the dollar and the cost of airfare and is subject to change without notice. Extensions are usually available, but must be requested when booking the tour. Any changes in airfare booking may result in a processing fee. It may be possible, that due to unforeseen events, conditions, or changes in airline schedules, the land portion of the trip may be extended or shortened. Any savings realized by such occurrences will be refunded, however any extra expenses incurred must be borne by the client. Trip cancellation insurance is available. This low-cost protection can save you money if you are forced to cancel or alter your trip for a medical reason only. You will be mailed trip cancellation insurance information with the brochure or upon receipt of your deposit.

Responsibility: Ed-Ventures, Inc., their officers and employees, tour hosts, or any other persons or vendors connected with the tour shall not under any circumstances accept liability, provide refunds or pay compensation where the performance of our contractual obligations is prevented or affected, or you otherwise suffer any loss, injury, death, inconvenience or damage as a result of circumstances amounting to "force majeure". This means any event or circumstances which we or our suppliers of the services in question could not foresee or avoid. Such events and circumstances may include, acts of God, actual or threatened, war, insurrection, riots, strikes, civil action, decisions by governments or governing authority, technical or maintenance problems with transport, changes of schedules or operational decisions of air/transport carriers, terrorist activity or the threat thereof, industrial action, natural or nuclear activity, epidemic, pandemic, illness, physical injury, quarantine, medical or customs or immigration regulation, delay, or cancellation, adverse weather conditions, fire and all similar events outside our control.

Due to COVID-19, we reserve the right to adjust the tour in order to follow the guidelines and policies set by the CDC and the local governments.

The airline(s) concerned are not held responsible for any act, omission, or event during the time passengers are not on their planes or conveyances. The passenger's contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airlines and the purchaser of this tour and/or passenger. Any and/or all transportation companies herein mentioned shall not have nor incur any responsibility to any traveler aside from their liability as common carriers. Air and land costs are subject to change without notice. **Air transportation is via special, non refundable airfare. Any additional airfare assessments made by the airlines for any changes whatsoever shall be the responsibility of the client.** Other rules may also apply. Services of any A.R.C. or I.A.T.A. carrier may be used in conjunction with this tour. If there is a change in air prices and/or currency exchange rates, we reserve the right to adjust prices.

I grant Ed-Ventures, Inc and its agents the right to take photographs and videos of me during the tour and any meetings related to the tour before or after the tour. I authorize Ed-Ventures Inc, its assigns and transferees to copyright, use, and publish in print and/or electronically.

I agree that Ed-Ventures may use such photographs or videos of me with or without my name for any lawful purpose, including publicity, illustration, advertising, and Web content.



308A Elton Hills Dr NW • Rochester, MN 55901
Phone: (507) 289-3332 • (800) 658-7128
Fax: (507) 281-9747 • email: tours@ed-ventures.com
www.ed-ventures.com

Odyssey through Ancient Greece

Please register me for:

- GVGR24: April 18 - 30, 2024 • \$6,479
- Single Supplement • \$1,250

Passenger Information (1st Traveler)

Please record information **exactly as it appears on your passport**. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport. *Please include a copy of the photo page of your passport.*

Legal Name: _____

(Name for name badge): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Gender: Male Female (*required by airlines*)

Dietary Needs: _____

Passenger Information (2nd Traveler)

Please record information **exactly as it appears on your passport**. Passport information may be sent later if you have yet to obtain a passport. *Please include a copy of the photo page of your passport.*

Legal Name: _____

(Name for name badge): _____

Passport #: _____

Passport Exp. Date: _____

Passport Authority: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Gender: Male Female (*required by airlines*)

Dietary Needs: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Work phone/cell: _____ E-mail: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone: _____

Sleeping Preference (circle one): Double bed (1 bed) Twin Beds (2 beds)

Roommate name: _____ OR Single supplement: Yes No

Travel Insurance (7.2% of tour cost; policy must be purchased at time of initial deposit to cover pre-existing medical conditions)

- I wish to purchase Travel Guard insurance and have included the premium with my deposit.
- I wish to decline the travel insurance offered. I understand I am solely responsible for any cancellation penalties and out of pocket expenses occurred should I have an emergency before or during the tour.

Deposit Payment Information (please check one)

Enclosed is my \$ _____ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable). **Make checks payable to Ed-Ventures, Inc.**

Please charge \$ _____ deposit and insurance premium (if applicable) to my Discover/MasterCard/Visa

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Card ID Code:* _____ *last 3 digits in signature box on the back of the card

_____ Initial to acknowledge you understand that Federal law prohibits the carriage of certain hazardous materials in your luggage or on your person aboard aircraft and could result in a fine or imprisonment. Visit www.tsa.gov for more information.

Prices in this brochure were effective on 4.26.23. By signing below, I understand that price changes are possible at the time of final invoicing, due to exchange rates, an increase in carrier charges, fuel costs, taxes and tariffs, and the number of passengers traveling in the group. I understand that insurance premiums and credit card fees are non-refundable. I agree to the terms and conditions of this tour.

Signature of 1st traveler: _____ Date: _____

Signature of 2nd traveler: _____ Date: _____



308A Elton Hills Drive NW, Rochester, MN 55901
(507) 289-3332 • (800) 658-7128 • Fax: (507) 281-9747
www.ed-ventures.com