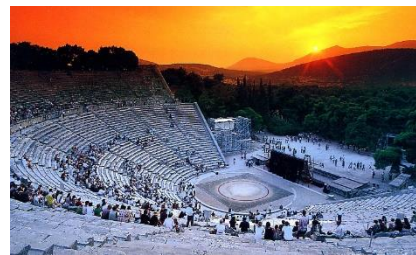




The Journey:	The Battlefields of Ancient Greece
Duration:	10-days / 9-nights (includes 1 air overnight)
Destination:	Athens, Greece



“A visit to the land of Homer, Aristotle, and Sophocles is a journey to the dawn of classical civilization, with archaeological splendors from Athens to Crete. The Greek countryside presents the perfect coda with idyllic landscapes of cypress groves, vineyards, and olive trees, as well as dramatic coves with sparkling white sand and rugged mountains that plunge into the sea.” - Fodors

Few civilizations have left such a mark on our modern world. From the grand architecture, the philosophical discoveries and their widely-known mythology, Ancient Greece laid the foundation for much of our culture today. During our spectacular trip through the Ancient Greece Battlefields experience first-hand the wars that led to the rise of this influential civilization.

Experience the Marathon and Salamis battlefields, two legendary battles fought during the Greek-Persian wars during 490 and 480 BC. The Greeks were, ultimately, victorious and their civilization preserved, giving the world incredible cultural contributions such as democracy, classical architecture, sculpture, theatre and the Olympic Games. For Greece, however, the victory not only guaranteed the freedom from foreign rule but also permitted, soon after, an astonishingly rich period of artistic and cultural endeavors.

While in Athens, visit the Athens War Museum and delve into the Peloponnesian War fought between Athens and its empire and the Peloponnesian League led by Sparta from 431 to 404 BC. Take a step back



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in time to experience the Sanctuary of Poseidon at Sounion, one of the most important sanctuaries in Attica, and don't forget the Acropolis Museum, home to nearly 4000 artifacts ranging from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece, found on the archaeological site of the Acropolis of Athens. Your chariot awaits you!

The Ancient Battlefields of Greece			
Day	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
1	Travel overnight to Athens, Greece		
2	Arrive Athens; transfer to hotel and check-in	Free Time	Dinner & Welcome
3	Guided Tour of Athens - The Acropolis, Acropolis Museum, lunch in Plaka, Ancient Agora, Agora Archaeological Museum, Poseidon Temple, Superior Court of Ancient Greece		Traditional Greek Tavern Dinner
4	The Battle of Marathon - Full day tour to Delphi with Museum & Battlefield		Local Dinner
5	The Naval Battle of Salamis - Full day tour with Corinth Channel & Museum		Dinner on Own
6	Mycenaean & Classical Greece - Explore Epidaurus & Nafplio		Local Dinner
7	Ancient Eleusis & Museum	Papagiannakos Winery Tour	Greek Cooking Class & Dinner
8	Free time in Athens	Greek Food & Markets Tour + Free time	Dinner on Own
9	Athens War - Visit the Athens War Museum, Parliament of the 1st World Democracy, plus Replicas of a WWII Battleship & Ancient Trireme		Farewell Dinner & Greek Dancing
10	Depart for Home		



Day 1 – Dinner in flight

Travel overnight to Athens, Greece.

Day 2 – Breakfast in flight; dinner included

Arrive in Athens, meet your motorcoach and transfer to your hotel. Rest up and catch up, because tomorrow is the start of a fascinating journey. We'll get to know each other a bit this evening with a fabulous Welcome Dinner.

Day 3 – Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Good morning Greece! Today after breakfast, we'll discover the historical side of Athens - the capitol, political and cultural center of Greece. We'll embark on a full-day guided tour to explore the **Acropolis** and the **Acropolis Museum**, have lunch in Plaka and explore the oldest part of the city, followed by visits to ancient **Agora** and the **Agora Archaeological Museum**. We'll also have an opportunity to visit the **Poseidon Temple** and the **Superior Court of Ancient Greece** (Areios Pagos).

This evening we'll enjoy a traditional Greek tavern dinner in Athens.



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Day 4 – Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Athens! After breakfast, we're off on a full-day tour to the **Delphi Archaeological site** and museum, plus the **battlefield of Marathon**. Delphi is the ancient sanctuary that grew rich as the seat of the oracle (a person considered to provide insightful counsel of the future, inspired by the gods). The Oracle was consulted on important decisions throughout the ancient classical world, hence Delphi was considered the 'navel of the world' by the Greeks as represented by the **Omphalos**. Delphi is thought to be the most important ancient oracle where all the city-states visited to take constitutions about their political actions and decisions concerning the Battles. Marathon is the area where the ancient Greek army decisively defeated the Persians and stopped their invasion into Greece and consequently into Europe.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Marathon

This evening we'll have a local dinner with free time to explore.

Day 5 – Breakfast & lunch included; dinner on own

Good morning Greece! Today we'll have a full day tour to **Ancient Corinth**. We'll see the **Corinth Canal** - the ancient channel site and the **Ancient Corinth Museum**. We'll see the distant view of the straits between the mainland and the island of **Salamis**, where the famous naval battle between the Greeks and the Persians took place and where the Greek navy crashed off the Persian coast. A number of historians believe that a Persian victory would have hamstrung the development of Ancient Greece, and by extension western civilization, and this has led them to argue that Salamis is one of the most significant battles in human history.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Salamis

In the same glorious spot, nowadays is the largest naval base in Greece.

This evening we'll have free time to have dinner on our own to try some of the fabulous Greek food and experiences you have not yet tried!

Day 6 – Breakfast, lunch & dinner included

Rise and shine Athens! After breakfast, we'll set off to explore **Classical Greece**. We'll have a full-day tour to the ancient theatre of Epidaurus and the lovely seaside city of Nafplio.

The **Epidaurus Theatre** is one of the most important ancient sites in Greece, with an almost perfectly preserved amphitheatre built 2,500 years ago, and still hosting Greek dramas today. This World Heritage site is located at the eastern end of the Peloponnese, and according to Greek mythology, Epidaurus was the birthplace of **Asclepius**, the god of healing and son of **Apollo**. The site later became one of the most important centers of healing in the ancient world and by the 4th century BC, the sick were traveling from far and wide to seek medical and mystical cures at the sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius.

Nafplio is overlooked by the **Palamidi & Akronafplia Castle** on the hill which runs down to the sea, gathering the historic buildings on its way. A testimony to Nafplio's beauty and strategic location is that the Venetians made it the capital of their lands in Greece. There are fabulous surrounding areas, vistas, views and tiny villages to venture towards and explore!

This evening we'll have a local dinner.

Day 7 – Breakfast & dinner included; lunch on own

Good morning Greece! After breakfast, we're off to tour the ancient site of **Eleusis** and its museum, famous for the **Eleusinian Mysteries** and secret religious ceremonies. Initiations were held every year for



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the **cult of Demeter and Persephone** based at Eleusis in ancient Greece. They are the most famous of the secret religious rites of ancient Greece. Eleusis is also the birthplace of **Aeschylus**, an ancient Greek tragedian and often described as 'the father of tragedy.'

In the afternoon, we'll set off to savor incredible wine on the **Papagiannakos Wine Tour**. Fine-tune your appreciation of Greek wines with this excursion at the Papagiannakos Winery and embark on a guided tour of the family-run winery and vineyards.

This evening, we'll get our hands moving with a Greek Food Cooking Class! Get ready to dive in and cook up something great for dinner!

Day 8 – *Breakfast included; lunch food tour, dinner on own*

Rise and shine Athens! Today will be a fun day to explore Athens. We'll have breakfast and then some free time this morning. Later, have a guided food tour of the Greek markets.

In the **Greek Food & Markets Tour** we'll eat our way around Athens with this 3-hour guided walking tour. We'll have the opportunity to visit some of Athens' best-loved foodie hotspots – rubbing shoulders with the locals at **Varvakios Agora market** and wandering around the streets filled with eateries, stores and smaller markets, sampling local delicacies from cheese, bread and wine to olive oil, herbs and garlic.

The late afternoon we'll have completely free to explore. Perhaps book in for a special history tour, or maybe just rest and relax. The day and evening are yours to do as you please!

Day 9 – *Breakfast, lunch & dinner included*

Good morning Greece! Our last full day in Athens, we'll start with breakfast and then have the day to wrap up some key historical sightseeing. We'll have a full-day tour starting with the **Athens War Museum** to link the battlefields (air, sea, land) with the 'Greek warrior' and his basic characteristics. We'll start to understand the background of the warrior from this time period and the courage and passion needed in the battlefields as he was fighting to protect and defend altars and families.

Later we'll visit the **Parliament of the first world's Democracy**, or so said; followed by viewing of a **WWII battleship** and an incredible replica of an **ancient trireme**.

This evening, we'll have a farewell dinner followed by **Greek dancing**.

Day 10 – *Breakfast included*

After breakfast and our fabulous explorations, we'll prepare to leave fabulous Greece, saying goodbye to our new friends and taking away memories that will last a lifetime!

Trip Inclusions

- International roundtrip flights to Athens, Greece (ask us about adding on overnight stays in NYC pre/post trip)
- Airport transfers & group transportation to activities shown in the itinerary
- 8-nights' accommodation in Greece, 1-night overnight air
- Meals in destination - Breakfasts daily, 2 lunches (includes lunch tour on Day 8), plus 5 dinners
- All activities & excursions as shown in above itinerary
- Travel insurance for each participant



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Not Included

- Airport transfers in your home city
- Airline baggage fees; please pay direct at airport during flight check-in
- Meals not shown as 'included' above (lunches + 3 dinners)
- Gratuities at hotel for housekeeping and bell services; gratuities for guides
- Hotel incidental bills – internet services, spa services, purchases billed to room, etc.
- Sightseeing and transportation not shown as included above
- Personal expenditures
- Baggage handling in destination

Important Notes

- All guests are quoted on double occupancy in the hotel property. If single occupancy is required, please understand that a supplemental fee will be required.
- Should the numbers in your group change, please contact us directly for potential cost revisions.
- A 'Release of Liability' waiver is required from all participants, including those organizing the trip, prior to travel. Additionally, local suppliers may also have select waivers which require signature.
- Each person registering is supplied with a basic travel insurance policy that meets minimum standards. If you wish to expand your coverage, you may wish to add a private, supplemental policy.
- Due to fluctuation in air rates, please understand that the initial quote issued is based on a credible assumption, however it may vary at the actual time of booking. Flights will be reserved once first deposits have been received and are generally available approximately 11-months prior to departure. If at that time flight rates exceed the assumption and it increases the cost of the trip, the organizational lead will have an option to decline the booking at no penalty to your group.
- Each guest should be prepared to present a credit card at check-in for security deposit holds and in-room charging.
- If traveling internationally, each guest should ensure awareness of passport and Visa requirements.

