

Buffalo Retired Teachers
Association presents

Gems of Greece: Athens, Naxos & Crete

Departing June 13 – 26, 2026



Highlights...

Acropolis Site & Museum • Naxos & Lesser Cyclades Day
Cruise • Kitron Distillery & Tasting • Knossos Palace •
Cooking Class • Pottery Demonstration • Olive Oil & Wine
Tasting • Cretan Folk Dancing & Dinner

14 Days • 21 Meals: 12 Breakfasts • 4 Lunches • 5 Dinners

Per Person Rates* : Double \$7,211; Single \$8,381

** All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change*

Included in Price: Round Trip Air from Greater Buffalo Intl Airport, Inter-flights from Chania International Airport, Air Taxes and Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers

Not included in price: Cancellation Waiver and Insurance of \$549 per person

*****Single Spacing is limited!*****

*****Alternate gateways available upon request! Please call for air rates from your local gateway!*****

*****Limited Availability. All space is on a first come first serve basis.*****

*****Air rates are subject to availability at time of booking and not guaranteed.*****

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS: Your price is guaranteed once deposit is received and booking confirmed by Collette. Your price is not subject to increase after the deposit is received and booking confirmed, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. **(See registration form for consent.)**

Day 1: Overnight Flight

You're on your way to Greece! Get ready to soak in the Mediterranean lifestyle as you explore Greece's beauty, ancient wonders, and lively culture from the capital to the isles.

Day 2: Athens, Greece

Arrive in Athens, the capital of Greece and "the cradle of democracy." Settle in as you prepare to be a part of this immortalized city, home of the famous Parthenon, ancient monuments, and inviting neighborhoods where you can explore the heart of Greek culture. As travelers' arrival times will vary, we have not included any sightseeing or meals today. Later this evening, we'll meet for a briefing about the journey ahead.

Day 3: Athens

Begin your day in Athens on a panoramic tour through the city, taking in the history of Athens' many landmarks. Then, explore artifacts recovered from the Acropolis archeological site with a guided visit to the Acropolis Museum. Just steps from where ancient relics were recovered, the "new museum" (as the locals still call it) offers incredible views of the Acropolis. After, get to know Plaka, the lively neighborhood at the foot of the Acropolis, brimming with welcoming restaurants and shops. Here, take time to explore and find a spot for lunch on your own, soaking in your surroundings while indulging in delicious Greek cuisine. Later this evening, join your fellow travelers for a welcome dinner. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 4: Athens

Today, get an up-close look at the iconic Acropolis and its monuments – universal symbols of classical antiquity. Marvel at the ancient history all around as you stroll beside the Parthenon on a guided tour of the incredible archeological complex. Next, experience an **Impact Moment** during a stop at a community-minded café and workshop. This café with a mission shines a light on stories of people from the community who have overcome homelessness through work and support of the unique art made onsite. After a light lunch at the café, the rest of the afternoon and evening are yours to explore more of Athens independently. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 5: Athens - Naxos

Get an early start today and set out for the island of Naxos! The journey begins by boarding the ferry with your luggage in hand. Once you've set your luggage down, settle in for views of the sea as the ferry stops at islands along the way. Arrive in Naxos, the prosperous, self-sustaining island and the largest of the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea. After getting off the ferry, your first stop is to see the island's emblem, the giant marble gate at the unfinished Temple of Apollo – Portara. Take free time for lunch on your own before settling in at your hotel. Tonight, gather for dinner at a nearby restaurant in Chora (Naxos Town). *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 6: Naxos - Lesser Cyclades - Naxos

This morning, board a sailboat for a full-day cruise* to take in the beauty of Naxos and the nearby Lesser Cyclades islands of Koufonisia. After sailing

along the eastern shore of Naxos, step off the boat onto the island of Kato Koufonisi with some time to explore. Enjoy a Greek barbecue lunch with local wines as well as the chance to take a dip in the Aegean Sea's turquoise waters. Next, sail to Ano Koufonisi and take time to stroll along the island's beautiful beaches and visit the small village. Sail on, back towards Naxos to Rina Cave, where you may wish to dive in and explore. Arrive back at your Naxos hotel this evening. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 7: Naxos

Today, trade the seaside bustle of Chora for the mountain villages of Naxos. First, visit the peaceful village of Halki, the former capital of the island, and feel like you've stepped back in time as you stroll its alleys. In the picturesque hilltop village of Apiranthos, take time to explore and slow down among the locals. Later, return to your hotel for some downtime. This evening, sample the local spirits, including Kitron (a liqueur exclusively made on Naxos), served with delicious bites at a third-generation family-owned distillery. Learn about the machinery and distillation process and gain an appreciation for the unique liqueurs made here. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 8: Naxos - Heraklion, Crete

Enjoy the morning at leisure. Later this afternoon with your suitcase in tow, board the ferry to Heraklion, Crete. After a ferry trip, arrive in Crete, the largest of the Greek islands and get your first taste of Cretan cuisine with dinner at a local restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 9: Heraklion

This morning, take a walk around Lion's Square – the heart of Heraklion. Next, head to Knossos Palace for a guided tour of the site, a major center of Minoan civilization. Among these remarkably preserved ruins, imagine the everyday lives of ancient Minoans and recall legend, as this is considered the mythic place where King Minos kept the Minotaur in his labyrinth. As you travel through the Cretan countryside, take in the sprawling olive groves that have shaped Crete ever since olive cultivation began in Minoan times. In Archanes, visit a women's cooperative café to learn about traditional Cretan dishes and enjoy a hands-on cooking class followed by lunch. Afterward,

return to your hotel for an afternoon and evening at leisure. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 10: Heraklion - Rethymnon - Chania

Leaving Heraklion, head toward Chania today with a couple of stops along the way. Visit Margarites, a pottery village. Among the more than 20 pottery workshops in this village, visit the only one that uses both new and old (wood-fired) baking techniques. After watching a pottery demonstration, you can take the opportunity to shop for unique wares. Continue to Rethymnon with its beautiful old town and enjoy free time for lunch. Later, arrive in the city of Chania and gather for dinner at a local restaurant. *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 11: Chania - Vouves - Anoskeli - Chania

Set out to explore Chania's old Venetian Harbor, the port city's vibrant hub, built in the 14th century. As you stroll along the narrow streets, you may enjoy sips of Greek coffee or try a local pastry. Then, set out for Vouves to see the world's oldest olive tree, estimated to be an astonishing 2,000 to 4,000 years old. Continue to a family-run olive mill and winery for a tasting of oils and wines paired with a light charcuterie lunch. Back in Chania, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. *Today breakfast and lunch will be included.*

Day 12: Chania

Today, **it's your choice!** Visit the Archaeological Museum of Chania and explore its treasures on your own **-OR-** join a guided tour of Aptera's archaeological site. Spend the afternoon in Chania any way you wish. Tonight, gather with your fellow travelers and celebrate the journey. Enjoy dinner and a performance of traditional Cretan folk dances – and join in during a dance lesson! *Today breakfast and dinner will be included.*

Day 13: Chania - Athens

This morning, a short flight takes you back to Athens. Take the afternoon to soak in the city's energy or do some last-minute souvenir shopping. Tonight, gather for a drink and light fare, toasting to the end of your journey through Greece. Look out over the city and soak in the incredible sight of the Acropolis once more, aglow at night. *Today breakfast will be included.*

Day 14: Athens - Tour Ends

Your tour of Greece's gems ends today. *Today breakfast will be included.*

YOUR ITINERARY AT A GLANCE		
Day	1	Overnight Flight
Day	2 – 4	Crowne Plaza Athens City Center, Athens
Day	5 – 7	Attica Blue Hospitality/ Galaxy Hotel Naxos, Naxos
Day	8, 9	Olive Green Hotel, Heraklion
Day	10 – 12	Samaria Hotel, Chania
Day	13	Crowne Plaza Athens City Center, Athens
On some dates alternate hotels may be used.		

Due to a limited number of tickets for the Acropolis, travelers who book within 60 days of departure may be waitlisted until tickets can be confirmed.

*On occasion, due to inclement weather, your boat trip in Naxos may be moved to the following day and your sightseeing activities will be swapped. While on the cruise, be sure to bring a bathing suit, towel, hat, and sunscreen.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Single rate subject to change based on availability.

To complete your tour, we include round-trip airport-to-hotel transfers when purchasing our airfare with your tour. If you have arranged for your own air, we are pleased to provide you the option of purchasing these transfers. Please note that all transfers will leave at pre-scheduled times.

For air-inclusive reservations, the name provided at time of booking must match your government-issued ID that will be used during travel. Name changes are subject to penalties.

Please be advised, many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions.

Internal flights are required in order to participate on this tour and are included in the final price, quoted at time of booking.

Travel Requirements:

Passports are required for this tour at your expense. Certain countries require that your passport be valid at least 6 months beyond the dates of your travel. You are strongly urged to contact the appropriate consulate for details. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements.

IMPORTANT: We recommend that travelers take a photocopy of their passport and applicable visas. It should be packed separately from your actual passport and visa. We also recommend leaving a copy at home with your emergency contact.

ETIAS visa waiver requirements are anticipated to begin during the last quarter of 2026, for a fee, when visiting a Schengen Area Country. To identify Schengen Area Countries and to complete the ETIAS application, please visit https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en

Important Tour Information:

The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (2-3 hours) isn't a big deal. A moderately paced two-and-a-half-hour walking tour, covering several miles, hills, and uneven surfaces, is no problem for you. Walking four miles over the course of a day is very doable, as is climbing into and out of various modes of transportation (tuk-tuk, cable car, zodiac, etc.). You can climb three flights of stairs easily and handle altitudes between 6,000 and 9,000 feet. Expect some longer days with early mornings or late nights balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure. This level is not a fit for travelers who require mobility assistance devices.

If you choose to visit Aptera as your Choice on Tour, you can expect to be standing or walking for 1 to 1.5 hours with little shade.

Luggage handling is not available when getting on and off the public ferries between Athens, Naxos, and Crete. You will need to carry your own luggage for approximately 200 feet each way. As the ferry is the main connection between the mainland and several islands, you can expect large crowds and personnel directing travelers to their destinations with a very quick turnaround.

If you require any special assistance while on tour, please make us aware at time of reservation so the necessary request form can be sent to your attention.

In order to access the Acropolis archeological site, you will be required to climb about 50-60 steep uneven steps and walk over rugged terrain with loose stones and without railings.

For more information contact

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