

## Best of Greece - EGBG

15 days: Athens to Santorini

### What's Included

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- Hands-On: Cooking Class with a Local Family, Loutro
- Athens orientation walk
- Meteora Monastery visit
- Guided tour of Ancient Delphi
- Samariá Gorge hike
- Knossos visit
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2017 and onwards

### Itinerary Notes

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**Please note that for departures during April and October there may be variations on this itinerary, depending on season & weather conditions. Ferry schedules may be affected and access to Samaria Gorge may be limited or blocked. Our expert CEOs will always put your safety first and in cases of unforeseen, weather related changes they may cancel a days activity at their discretion. An alternative will be offered where possible to do so.**

### Itinerary

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#### Day 1 Athens

Arrive at any time.

We recommend arriving a day or two early to fully explore this world-renowned city.

There are no activities planned until an evening welcome meeting.

#### Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

1h18:00

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore before your welcome meeting, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. After introductions, your CEO will review the details of your tour. Please note that normal check-in times apply at our start hotels, but you can usually store your luggage for the day if you arrive early.

#### Optional Activities - Day 1

##### Acropolis Museum Visit

Athens 1h-3h

5EUR per person

Visit the Acropolis Museum to see some of the artifacts and artworks discovered during excavations of the Acropolis. With over 25,000 square meters (82,020 ft) the museum is architecturally as interesting as the collection. The museum is built over an archaeological dig site and there is an impressive view of the Acropolis from the third floor.

### **Acropolis and Parthenon Visit**

Athens

20EUR per person

Discover the most famous of Athens' eight hills: the Acropolis, the ultimate architectural and artistic expression of the ancient Athenian spirit. Visit the Parthenon, built for the Goddess Athena in 447 BC. This Greek temple, despite the gradual state of ruin and damage sustained over time, still symbolizes the key ideals of harmony and balance that defined the Classical style of Greek architecture.

### **National Archaeological Museum Visit**

Athens

10EUR per person

Take a tour of the National Archaeological Museum, home to some of the most important artifacts from ancient Greece. In the collection are various sculptures, vases, as well as metal works and is considered one of the most impressive museums in the world.

### **Syntagma (Constitution) Square Visit**

Athens 30m-1h

Free

Most of Athens important sights and interesting neighbourhoods border this central square. The square was built in the early 19th century in front of the Old Royal Palace of King Otto of Greece. Walk around to admire the architecture, stop at a café and people watch, or watch the ceremonial changing of the guards called Evzones.

### **Ancient Agora Visit**

Athens

8EUR per person

Explore the ruins, located in the heart of modern Athens, which were once the site of the marketplace in ancient times. It was the political, cultural, social and economic centre of the ancient world, where the likes of Socrates, Plato and affluent Athenians used to gather to discuss philosophy, political issues, exchange gossip and trade.

## **Day 2 Athens**

Take an orientation walk in Athens with the rest of the day free to explore. Opt to visit the Acropolis site, the new Acropolis Museum, the Ancient Agora and the National Archaeological Museum.

### **Orientation Walk**

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

### **Carte Blanche**

Athens Full Day

There's plenty to see and do in Athens, and we wanted to make sure that you had some time to take it all in. Feel free to relax or try optional activities like visiting the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and the Roman Agora. Your CEO has more ideas if you need them. Just ask!

## **Optional Activities - Day 2**

### **Acropolis and Parthenon Visit**

Athens

20EUR per person

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architecture.

### **Roman Agora Visit**

Athens 1h-2h

2EUR per person

Take a stroll through the former marketplace for old Athens, the Roman Agora was built in the first century BC.

### **National Archaeological Museum Visit**

Athens

10EUR per person

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5EUR per person

Visit the Acropolis Museum to see some of the artifacts and artworks discovered during excavations of the Acropolis. With over 25,000 square meters (82,020 ft) the museum is architecturally as interesting as the collection. The museum is built over an archaeological dig site and there is an impressive view of the Acropolis from the third floor.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 3 Athens/Meteora**

Travel to Kalambaka, a good base for visiting the monasteries of Meteora.

#### **Train**

Athens - Meteora 5h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

### **Optional Activities - Day 3**

#### **Meteora Sunset Tour**

Meteora

25EUR per person

Listen to the stories and legends of Meteora from a local guide, visit one of the 6 active monasteries, the Byzantine church of Virgin Mary and enjoy great views from the most panoramic spots. The tour ends with the an awe-inspiring sunset which you will watch from a magical spot high up on the rocks of Meteora.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 4 Meteora**

Spend a full day visiting the stunning mountaintop monasteries of Meteora.

Take a bus up to see several monasteries in the area situated at 613m (2011 ft) above sea level, on a precipitous rock pinnacle. The day is yours to choose which monasteries to visit or perhaps take a hike in the scenic local area.

#### **Free Time**

Meteora Afternoon

The day is yours--get exploring.

## **Meteora Monasteries Visit**

Meteora

Explore the spectacular "hanging" monasteries of Meteora, perched atop pinnacles of rock. Meteora translates to 'suspended in the air', which describe the seemingly precarious placement of these historic, sacred structures built at 613m (2011 ft) above sea level. Take a bus up to see the several monasteries in the area, built before any roads or settlements existed in the area.

## **Optional Activities - Day 4**

### **Hiking in Meteora**

Meteora 4h-5h 7km

35EUR per person

Hike along the hidden trails of Meteora, following the footsteps of the first monks who arrived here more than 15 centuries ago. You will visit the hidden monastery of Ypapanti, the Great Meteoron monastery and listen to the stories behind each place you pass along the trail from a local mountain guide. The perfect way to experience nature at its best and enjoy breathtaking views of Meteora away from the crowds.

### **Natural History Museum of Meteora**

Meteora 1h-2h

5EUR per person

**Meals included: Breakfast**

## **Day 5 Meteora/Delphi**

Visit Ancient Delphi and the Temple of Apollo.

Travel through mountain scenery around Mt Parnassos to Delphi.

Enjoy a visit to the ancient city of Delphi and the Temple of Apollo, then spend the evening exploring the charming little town or relaxing in a small café enjoying the views of the nearby valley.

### **Private Vehicle**

Meteora - Delphi 5h-6h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Ancient Delphi Tour**

Delphi 3h-3h30m

Visit the ancient city of Delphi, at the base of Mount Parnassos. The UNESCO World Heritage Site includes ancient buildings like treasuries, a stadium, a gymnasium, an altar, hippodrome and the Temple of Apollo.

### **Temple of Apollo Visit**

Delphi

Visit the Temple of Apollo in Ancient Delphi, dating back to the 4th century BC. Over the years, war and earthquakes have destroyed the site but the ruins still standing today offer fantastic insight into the lives of the ancient Greeks.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

## **Day 6 Delphi/Náfplio**

Travel to Náfplio and explore the beautiful cobblestoned streets. Opt to climb the Acronáplia to soak in the views.

Described as one of Greece's prettiest towns, the narrow pedestrian streets of old town are begging to be strolled upon.

Opt to climb to the Acronáplia and Palamidi Fortresses. The views from the top are phenomenal.

### **Private Vehicle**

Delphi - Náfplio 5h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Free Time**

Náfplio Afternoon

Lose yourself in the narrow pedestrian streets of the old town and explore the many sights, sounds, and smells it has to offer.

### **Optional Activities - Day 6**

#### **Acronafplia Fortress Visit**

Náfplio 2h-3h

Free

Climb to the top of the Akronofplia fortress tower to enjoy the phenomenal view from the top that looks back over the bay to Argos and out into the Saronic Gulf.

#### **Palamidi Fortress Visit**

Náfplio

8EUR per person

Explore the Palamidi Fortress, built by the Venetians in the late 1600s when they occupied the area for the second time. Climb the 999 stairs from the town to the fortress, or 913 depending on who you ask--either way expect to feel the burn tomorrow. The view over the Argolic Gulf and the city are worth the work to reach the top.

#### **Bourtzi Castle**

Náfplio

4EUR per person

Take a short ferry ride to this Venetian landmark - a medieval castle off the coast of Nafpilo. A visit here offers visitors the chance to explore the castle's rooms, and a great views of the city on shore.

#### **War Museum**

Náfplio 1h-2h

6EUR per person

#### **Archaeology Museum**

Náfplio 1h-2h

6EUR per person

#### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 7 Náfplio/Chaniá**

Spend a free day enjoying the area. Opt to visit Epidavros, as well as the nearby site of Mycenae before an overnight ferry to Crete.

There is a wealth of ancient sites within easy reach of Nafplio. Opt for a guided tour of Epidavros, which is highly regarded as one of the most renowned of Greek ancient sites.

Opt to visit the famous Mycenae, also close by, with its spectacular treasury and ruins, or for another lesser-known Mycenaean site, visit Tiryns, just in the suburbs of Nafplio itself.

#### **Free Time**

Náfplio Full Day

Head out and explore the city or nearby landmarks.

#### **Private Vehicle**

Náfplio - Athens 1h45m-2h15m 137km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

#### **Ferry**

Athens - Chaniá 8h

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

### **Optional Activities - Day 7**

#### **Epidavros Visit**

Epídavros

12EUR per person

Visit Epidavros, highly regarded as one of the most renowned of Greek ancient sites. The site houses a huge, well-preserved theatre famous for its incredible acoustics, as well as the remains of an important medical sanctuary.

### **Mycenae Site Visit**

Mycenae 1h-2h

12EUR per person

Visit the famous Mycenae, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and archaeological site with spectacular ruins and a treasury. Once a major settlement of Greek civilization, Mycenae was occupied during the Neolithic period around 4000 BC, and is linked to the mythology in Homer's epics the Iliad and the Odyssey.

### **Tiryns Site Visit**

Náfplio

8EUR per person

Explore the lesser-known Mycenaean site, hidden in the suburbs of Nafplio. Along with Mycenae, Tiryns is a listed UNESCO World Heritage Site first excavated in 1831 by German archaeologists.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 8 Chaniá**

Arrive on Crete and enjoy the day relaxing at one of the many harbour-side cafés. Wander the streets of the old town with its fascinating blend of ancient and modern Turkish and Venetian architecture, reflecting the diverse history of the island.

### **Free Time**

Chaniá Full Day

Spend the day getting to know this charming city. Discover the hidden gems of old town and compare it to the modern businesses in new town.

### **Optional Activities - Day 8**

#### **Maritime Museum of Crete**

Chaniá

3EUR per person

#### **Koum Kapi Beach**

Chaniá 1h-3h

Free

Take a stroll along this beautiful beach, just outside of the walled town.

#### **Old Venetian Harbour Visit**

Chaniá 1h-4h

Free

Take a stroll through the Old Venetian Harbour. Originally built by the Venetians as a commercial port between 1320 and 1356, it is now home to quaint cafes and restaurants. Marvel at various monuments preserved from different areas of colonial rule along the way.

#### **Archeological Museum of Chania**

Chaniá 1h-2h

4-8EUR per person

### **Day 9 Chaniá/Agia Roumeli**

Hike the famous and rugged Samariá Gorge.

Travel by private transfer and ferry to hike in the Samariá Gorge. Spend the night in Agia Roumeli, a remote fishing village.

Connected with neighbouring towns by sea or footpaths, the town has retained its charm. Enjoy time for swimming or relaxing on the beach.

Please bring a day pack with any essentials needed during the hike, and ensure to wear proper hiking attire.

### **Private Vehicle**

Chaniá - Samariá 1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Samariá Gorge Hike**

Samariá - Agia Roumeli 3h 7km

Set off to hike the famous and spectacular Samaria Gorge. We start with a scenic drive from Chania to the coastal village of Sfkakia where we catch our boat to Agia Roumeli.

We lace up our hiking boots and start our hike in the spectacular Samaria Gorge. Head towards the narrowest and most impressive part of the gorge, known as the Iron Gates. This makes for a perfect rest spot to enjoy your packed lunch (not included) by the river as you take in and appreciate the surrounding natural beauty. We carry on with our hike, returning to Agia Roumeli where there will be plenty of time for swimming or just resting on the beach.

### **Optional Activities - Day 9**

#### **Swimming**

Agia Roumeli 15m-2h

Free

Dive into the clear waters of the Libyan sea along the coast of this coastal village.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 10 Agia Roumeli/Loutro**

Travel by ferry to Loutro. Opt to rent a kayak and explore secluded beaches and coves.

The majestic scenery, crystal-clear Mediterranean water, friendly people and peaceful atmosphere all make Loutro an ideal place to relax after all the distance travelled.

### **Ferry**

Agia Roumeli - Loutro 30m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

### **Free Time**

Loutro Afternoon

Enjoy some free time to relax on the beach.

### **Optional Activities - Day 10**

#### **Kayaking**

Loutro 1h-3h

10EUR per person

Rent a kayak and head out on the clear, blue-green waters along the coast of Loutro.

### **Marmara Beach**

Loutro 1h-3h

Free

Take a visit to the pebbly bay of Marmara beach. With access to its azure waters only by boat or walking trail, this spot is truly remote, and one of the most picturesque in Loutro. Feeling active? Opt for a scenic hike in the Aradena Gorge during your visit.

### **Aradena Gorge Hike (Aradine)**

Loutro 6h-7h

Free

Head out into the Aradena Gorge to experience more of this gorgeous landscape. One of the most popular walks in western Crete, the main route from Marmara near Loutro, to the Aradena village takes about 3 hours to complete. The path is rocky in places and steep, with incredible views of the landscape and local fauna. Keep a look out for the griffin vultures flying above, but don't worry they're not waiting for you to keel over, their nests are just nearby.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**

## **Day 11 Loutro**

Enjoy a cooking class and lunch with a local family. The rest of the day is free for exploring the area. Enjoy a swim and tasty seafood meals at secluded restaurants or hike Aradine Gorge.

### **Free Time**

Loutro Full Day

Get active or just relax--it's up to you!

### **Hands-On: Cooking Class with a Local Family**

Enjoy a cooking class and lunch with a local family who will share the secrets of home cooked Cretan cuisine.

### **Optional Activities - Day 11**

#### **Kayaking**

Loutro1h-3h

10EUR per person

Rent a kayak and head out on the clear, blue-green waters along the coast of Loutro.

#### **Aradena Gorge Hike (Aradine)**

Loutro6h-7h

Free

Head out into the Aradena Gorge to experience more of this gorgeous landscape. One of the most popular walks in western Crete, the main route from Marmara near Loutro, to the Aradena village takes about 3 hours to complete. The path is rocky in places and steep, with incredible views of the landscape and local fauna. Keep a look out for the griffin vultures flying above, but don't worry they're not waiting for you to keel over, their nests are just nearby.

#### **Swimming**

Loutro15m-2h

Free

Splash around in the beautiful waters along the coast of Loutro.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

## **Day 12 Loutro/Irákleion**

Travel to Iraklio. Enjoy a visit to Knossos, site of a Minoan palace and residence of King Minos.

### **Ferry**

Loutro - Chóra Sfakíon30m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

### **Private Vehicle**

Chóra Sfakíon - Irákleion3h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

### **Knossos Site Visit**

Irákleion2h-3h

Enjoy an included visit to Knossos, known to be the largest archaeological site of the Bronze Age on Crete. Knossos was a major city ruled by King Minos and is believed to be the oldest city in all of Europe. Explore the ancient palace and surrounding city, discovered in the 1900s by the English archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

## **Day 13 Irákleion/Santorini**

Hop a ferry to beautiful Santorini. Enjoy two nights on the island.



Fira, the main town, sits perched on the edge of the caldera with breathtaking views of multi-coloured cliffs, sugar-cube architecture, and great shopping.

### **Ferry**

Irákleion - Santorini4h

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

### **Free Time**

Santorini Afternoon

Start exploring this beautiful island.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 14 Santorini**

Enjoy a free day to explore. Opt for a half-day volcano tour, shopping, relaxing on the beach, or make your way to the crater's rim to savour the breathtaking view. Opt to finish the day off with a sunset cruise.

### **Free Time**

Santorini Full Day

Don't waste a minute in paradise--get going.

### **Optional Activities - Day 14**

#### **Volcano Tour**

Santorini

Explore the shape of the crater ring on a volcano tour. The crater has constantly changed over the last 3000 years, with several parts of the crater wall collapsing into the sea. Remarkably, the island has always been resettled due to the rich volcanic soil's fertile properties. The wines, tomatoes and cucumbers from this island are super tasty due to the soil composition and low rainfall.

#### **Santorini Sunset Cruise**

Santorini

105EUR per person

Head out to sea to soak in the views of the sun setting over the azure waters over the Aegean. Enjoy a dinner, take in the site of picturesque site of Santorini, and toast to another beautiful day in paradise. Opa!

#### **Imerovigli village Visit**

Santorini3h-4h

Free

#### **Santorini Museum of Prehistoric Thira Fira**

Santorini1h-2h

3EUR per person

#### **Akrotiri Visit**

Santorini2h-3h

12EUR per person

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 15 Santorini**

Depart at any time.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

## **What's Included**

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Hands-On: Cooking Class with a Local Family, Loutro. Athens orientation walk. Meteora Monastery visit. Guided tour of Ancient Delphi. Samariá Gorge hike. Knossos visit. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

## **Highlights**

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Discover Greek history and culture, marvel at classic architecture both ancient and modern, explore old cities and quaint villages, witness a Mediterranean sunset while eating fresh seafood, soak in Cretan culture.

## Dossier Disclaimer

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## Itinerary Disclaimer

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While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## Itinerary Notes

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## Important Notes

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Please note: on the overnight ferry to Crete the cabins are mixed-sex.

## Group Leader Description

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This G Adventures group trip is accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEOs). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

It is important to note that in Europe, all guiding is based around local guides all of whom are licensed to work only in a particular city. As such, our leaders are able to provide orientation walks which will show you the layout of each town and city as well as the location of local services such as post offices and laundromats, but are unable to legally share historical facts and figures in public places. If you wish to take a guided city tour in any location where this is not already included in the itinerary, your CEO will do their best to help you arrange this and pay locally.

## Group Size Notes

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Max 16, avg 12

## Meals Included

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13 breakfasts, 1 lunch

## Meals

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Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. The above information applies to G Adventures group trips. For Independent trips please check the itinerary for details of meals included. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

## Transport

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Ferry, taxi, private van, train.

## About our Transportation

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Intercity transport on this trip will be by public bus and train. The bus and train systems in Greece are generally good and comfortable although there will be some windy roads and as with most things on the Mediterranean, timetables are more of a guideline than strict rule! We will also be travelling by way of overnight ferry. Between transport and hotels you will be required to carry your own luggage short distances (up to 15mins walk), so pack light!

## Solo Travellers

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We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

## Accommodation

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Hotels (13 nts), overnight ferry (1 nt, 4-berth mixed-sex cabins).

## My Own Room Exceptions

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Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single accommodation for all night stops, with the following exceptions: Day 7 (overnight ferry).

## About Accommodation

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On this trip you can expect to stay in small family-run hotels or pensions (with the exception of the start and finish hotels, which are often larger city hotels), which will vary a little in standard and facilities: some may not have elevators, air-conditioning or English-speaking staff, but most importantly all are locally-run, with some traditional character, and in excellent central locations to give you maximum time for exploring the sights. You can expect to find clean, safe, simple accommodation in convenient locations.

## Joining Hotel

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For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

## Joining Instructions

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Please note that day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned on this day. Upon arrival to the city on day 1 (or earlier if you have booked pre-accommodation with us), please make your way to the joining hotel (note that check-in time will be in the afternoon). Once you arrive at the hotel, look for a note or bulletin board in the reception with a note from your CEO. This note will give the details of your Welcome Meeting on day 1 (usually between 5pm and 7pm), where you will get a chance to meet your CEO and other travellers, as well as learn more about how the tour will run. If you don't see a note, please ask reception for details!

If you are arriving later and will miss the Welcome Meeting, your CEO will leave a note at reception for you with any information you may need, and with morning instructions for the next day.

## GETTING TO MARINA HOTEL ATHENS

From the airport:

Take the metro to Syntagma Station (15 stops, around 40 minutes). The metro runs every 30 minutes and last metro departs from the airport at 23:30. At Syntagma station, change to red line 2 (direction Anthoupoli) for 2 stops and get off at Omonia station.

At Omonia, leave the station via exit 'Pireos Street'. Walk down Pireos Street for around 250m before turning right onto Voulgari Street. Marina Hotel will be on your left hand side.

If you plan to use a taxi (max 4 people per taxi), the cost is 38 EUR during the day and 50 EUR during the night.

## Arrival Complications

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We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your leader, please refer to our emergency contact details.

## Emergency Contact

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Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBER

G Adventures Berlin office: +4915203076785

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll-free, from calls within North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from within UK: 0344 272 0000

Calls from within Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from within Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from within New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What to Take

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We recommend using a backpack for your convenience, or a medium-sized suitcase if you prefer. A daypack is also essential for carrying everyday items. Space is limited on transportation, so there is a limit of one main piece of luggage per person. You will be responsible for carrying your own luggage. You must be prepared to carry your luggage up and down stairs, on and off transportation, and to hotels (max 15-20 mins.)

## Checklist

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### Documents:

- \* Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- \* Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Required visas or vaccination certificates (required) (With photocopies)
- \* Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)

### Essentials:

- \* Binoculars (optional)
- \* Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- \* Cash, credit and debit cards
- \* Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- \* Ear plugs
- \* First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)

- \* Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- \* Fleece top/sweater
- \* Footwear
- \* Hat
- \* Locks for bags
- \* Long pants/jeans
- \* Moneybelt
- \* Outlet adapter
- \* Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- \* Reusable water bottle
- \* Shirts/t-shirts
- \* Sleepwear
- \* Small travel towel
- \* Sunglasses
- \* Toiletries (Preferably biodegradable)
- \* Watch and alarm clock
- \* Waterproof backpack cover
- \* Windproof rain jacket

Warm Weather:

- \* Sandals/flip-flops
- \* Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/skirts are recommended)
- \* Sun hat/bandana
- \* Swimwear

## Laundry

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Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge or ask your CEO where the closest laundromat is. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

## Visas and Entry Requirements

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Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

All visitors to the EU (European Union) and EEC (European Economic Community) countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand passport holders do not need a visa to visit the Schengen area (see below), however they may not stay longer than three months in any 6-month period.

For other nationalities, travelling in Europe has been simplified with the introduction of the Schengen visa. As a visitor to the Schengen area (Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Portugal, Finland, Italy, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Sweden, Czech Republic, Hungary, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) you will enjoy the many advantages of this unified visa system. Generally speaking with a Schengen visa, you may enter one Schengen country and travel freely throughout the Schengen region during the validity of your visa. There are limited border controls at Schengen borders, if any at all.

Please note that the UK and Ireland are NOT part of the Schengen agreement.

A Schengen visa is applied for at the Embassy or Consulate of the Schengen country in which you will be spending the most nights on your trip to the Schengen space. If you are only visiting one country on your trip then you apply for your visa at the Consulate of this Schengen country.

## Spending Money

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Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## Money Exchange

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Credit cards and debit cards are very useful for cash advances. Visa cards are the most widely accepted cards. While ATMs are commonly available, there are no guarantees that your credit or debit cards will actually work in Greece. Check with your bank. You should be aware when purchasing products or services on a credit card, that a fee usually applies. Do not rely on credit or debit cards as your only source of money. A combination of Euros, traveller's cheques and cards is best. Always take more rather than less, as you don't want to spoil the trip by constantly feeling short of funds.

As currency exchange rates can fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

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## Emergency Fund

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

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## Departure Tax

Usually included in international air ticket.

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## Tipping

It is customary in Europe to leave a small tip for service providers, such as waiters, if you are pleased with the service (EUR1-2).

Tipping is an expected - though not compulsory - component of your tour program, and an expression of satisfaction with the persons who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping local guides would range from EUR3-5 per day, depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture.

Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline EUR30-40 per person, per week can be used.

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## Optional Activities

Please see the itinerary for information on optional activities, descriptions and estimated pricing.

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## Health

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that quite often we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

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## Safety and Security

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the

day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. [Read more about travel safety](#) for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

## Trip Specific Safety

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Like anywhere in the world, major cities have areas safer than others, use common sense, be aware of your surroundings and mind your personal belongings.

## Medical Form

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Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that, as a minimum, an average level of fitness and mobility is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our CEOs work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at:

[www.gadventures.com/medical-form](http://www.gadventures.com/medical-form).

## A Couple of Rules

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Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our group leader has the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

## Travel Insurance

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Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. G Adventures can provide you with the appropriate coverage. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

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The Planeterra Foundation [planeterra.org](http://planeterra.org) is a Canadian non-profit organization that helps empower local people to develop their communities, conserve their cultures, and create humane and supportive systems for their endeavours. Planeterra provides capacity building and catalyst grants to get community social enterprises off the ground. These businesses address local challenges by providing benefits for indigenous people, empowering marginalized women, and granting disadvantaged youth access to education, employment, and brighter futures. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating programs into G Adventures' itineraries globally.

G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

#### Dollar-a-Day Program

G Adventures' Dollar-a-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar for every day you are on trip. 100% of these donations go directly to support community development projects worldwide that are implemented by Planeterra.

### Feedback

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After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at [customerservice@gadventures.com](mailto:customerservice@gadventures.com) and we will send it on to you.

### Newsletter

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Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation - Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

### Minimum Age

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You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

### International Flights

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Check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.