

Optional Pre-Tour

ATHENS



Enjoy additional time in the ancient city of Athens, where history and modernity entwine. The city's warm hospitality welcomes you to explore its charming streets filled with quaint cafés, traditional tavernas and lively markets. Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Greek culture, sampling local delicacies and perhaps enjoying a leisurely stroll through the historic Plaka neighborhood.

Itinerary

Day +1: En Route from U.S.

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Day +2: Arrive in Athens, Greece

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Upon arrival to Athens International Airport, transfer to the hotel to enjoy the evening at leisure.

This capital city is located on the edge of the Saronic Gulf amidst an enchanting rocky plateau. Set out to explore some of the liveliest districts in Athens including Plaka, with its maze of colorful streets. The National Archaeological Museum and the Cycladic Art Museum are also some of the city's key attractions.

Overnight: King George, a Luxury Collection Hotel

Day +3: Athens

Monday, April 7, 2025

Following breakfast, join your local guide for a tour of the Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Acropolis has a history dating back to the Mycenaean period and has been continuously inhabited and developed over the centuries. The area has undergone extensive restoration and conservation efforts over the years to ensure its continued preservation.

Immerse yourself in the ancient world and witness the architectural and artistic achievements of classical Greece. The Acropolis has influenced art, architecture and philosophy throughout Western history and continues to be a symbol of cultural heritage.

Afterward peruse artifacts and interactive exhibits at the Acropolis Museum, which is an archaeological excavation site itself. Ascending through the museum's three levels, each step unveils a new chapter in Greece's illustrious past, from the Archaic period to the Roman era. Layers of history unfold through the exhibits: Gallery of the Slopes of the Acropolis, Archaic Gallery and Parthenon Gallery.

Before returning to the hotel, stop at a local taverna for lunch.

The remainder of the afternoon and evening are at leisure.

Overnight: King George, a Luxury Collection Hotel (B,L)

Day +4: Athens | Main Program Begins

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

This morning indulge your senses during a captivating city tour filled with culinary delights and cultural experiences. Join your

guide for a combination bus and walking tour featuring a blend of exploration and immersion into Athens' vibrant tapestry. Visit a variety of local shops and cafés to sample an array of traditional coffees, pastries and finger foods, savoring each sip, bite and flavor along the way. Continuing the journey, meet a dance instructor for a special lesson in Greek dance and interpretation.

Afterward transfer to the Port of Piraeus to join guests arriving for the main program and embarkation. (B)

*Pre-tour space is limited. We recommend reserving early for best availability.
(Itinerary subject to change.)*

Activity Level

Moderate

Activities are generally not very strenuous, however, we expect that guests can enjoy two hours or more of walking, are sure-footed on cobbled and unpaved surfaces, and can walk up and down stairs without assistance.

Historic areas are usually more accessible by foot than by vehicle, and sometimes it is not possible for your motor coach to drop you off at site entrances. Due to the structure of some buildings, facilities for the disabled may be limited.

Accommodations

King George, a Luxury Collection Hotel



April 6 - April 7

Located in the center of Athens, this five-star property represents the absolute essence of a luxurious boutique hotel. It's ideally situated within walking distance from the many wonders of the city. The Acropolis, Agora, Plaka, Thission and Monastiraki Flea Market are nearby, as well as various boutiques, world-renowned museums and the city's vibrant business district.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, flat-screen TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, minibar, nightly turndown service, bathrobes and slippers, and en suite marble bathroom with premium sundries and hair dryer.

Deluxe Accommodations Package (availability limited)

While the accommodations are exceptional, guests wishing the ultimate indulgence may choose to purchase the Deluxe Accommodations Package, which includes the following upgrade:

- **King George:** Upgrade to Deluxe Acropolis View Room—a larger room with a view of the Acropolis.

(Accommodations subject to change.)

What's Included

- 2 nights accommodations at King George, a Luxury Collection Hotel (or similar)

- 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch
- Guided tour of the Acropolis
- Admission to the Acropolis Museum
- Guided culinary and cultural city tour
- Transportation for included tours
- Luggage portorage
- Gratuities to Orbridge Travel Director, local guide, driver, porters, hotel staff, and wait staff for included meals
- Airport transfers for guests arriving during the suggested times

Optional Post-Tour

ISTANBUL

Experience Istanbul's architectural wonders and cultural treasures while gaining a deeper understanding of the city's complex history and heritage. From ancient monuments to modern landmarks, Istanbul offers a captivating blend of tradition and innovation.

Itinerary**Day 9: Istanbul**

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Join your local guide for a full-day tour of the city's most revered sites.

Hippodrome Square, once the center of Byzantine Constantinople, hosts ancient monuments including the Egyptian Obelisk, Serpent Column and Obelisk of Thutmose III.

Next, visit the iconic Blue Mosque, renowned for its stunning blue tiles and towering minarets. Learn about its construction during the reign of Sultan Ahmed I in the early 17th century and its significance as one of Istanbul's most important religious landmarks.

After lunch proceed to the Hagia Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage site and architectural marvel that has served as a church, mosque and museum over the centuries. Discover the fascinating history of this iconic structure, from its Byzantine origins to its transformation into a mosque during the Ottoman era.

Next descend into the Basilica Cistern, an ancient underground reservoir built by Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century. Contemplate before the forest of marble columns amidst the eerie atmosphere of this subterranean wonder.

Conclude this enriching day with a visit to the Grand Bazaar, one of the world's oldest and largest covered markets. Immerse yourself in a labyrinth of alleys and stalls to shop for traditional Turkish goods like carpets, ceramics, spices and jewelry.

The remainder of the evening is at leisure.

Overnight: Çırağan Palace Kempinski (L)

Day 10: Istanbul

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

After breakfast set out for Topkapi Palace, the opulent residence of Ottoman sultans for nearly 400 years. Explore the sprawling grounds, magnificent courtyards and lavish chambers including the Harem, Imperial Council Chamber and Treasury.

Afterward take a leisurely stroll through Pera district—Istanbul's bustling pedestrian street lined with shops, cafés and historic landmarks. Soak in the vibrant atmosphere and admire the eclectic architecture of this cosmopolitan neighborhood.

Following lunch visit Taksim Square, a modern hub of activity and a symbol of Istanbul's dynamic spirit. Learn about its role in Turkish history, from political demonstrations to cultural events, and enjoy panoramic views of the cityscape.

Enjoy the plentiful amenities at the hotel with the rest of the evening at leisure.

Overnight: Çırağan Palace Kempinski (B,L)

Day 12: Istanbul | Depart for U.S.

Thursday, April 17, 2025

After breakfast guests departing during the suggested time take the complimentary transfer to the airport for flights home. (B)

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch

*Post-tour space is limited. We recommend reserving early for best availability.**This post-tour is not escorted by an Orbridge Travel Director. Included sightseeing is accompanied by a local guide. (Itinerary subject to change.)*

Activity Level

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Accommodations

Çırağan Palace Kempinski



April 23 - April 24

This iconic property exudes luxury and sophistication boasting an architectural style characterized by Ottoman grandeur and opulence. Guest rooms are meticulously appointed to provide the utmost comfort and indulgence. During leisure time take advantage of the inviting outdoor pool or relax in a chaise overlooking the waterfront.

Room Amenities: Individual climate control, private balcony, smart TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, coffee and tea maker, minibar, safe, en suite bathroom with sundries and hair dryer.

Deluxe Accommodations Package (availability limited)

While the accommodations are exceptional, guests wishing the ultimate indulgence may choose to purchase the Deluxe Accommodations Package, which includes the following upgrade:

- **Çırağan Palace Kempinski:** Upgrade to Çırağan Bosphorus View Room—a larger room with a view of the Bosphorus Strait.

(Accommodations subject to change.)

What's Included