



# Harrigan Holidays Treasures of Greece

September 13 – 27, 2020

15 Days/13 Nights - \$5,855 Air & Land  
Single Supplement \$1,129



## TOUR FEATURES

- Round trip non-stop international airfare from Newark to Athens
- First-class hotel accommodations for 13 nights
- 18 included meals consisting of:
  - 13 breakfasts
  - 5 dinners
- Arrival and departure airport transfers
- Touring by private air-conditioned motorcoach
- Flights Athens/Thessaloniki, Athens/Heraklion and
- Highspeed ferry Heraklion/Santorini
- Sightseeing, including all entrance fees and English-speaking guide as follows:
  - Three day/Two-night guided coach tour of Thessaloniki, Meteora, Delphi, and Sounion
  - Three day/Two-night guided tour of Epidauros, Olympia, Sparta, Mystras and Monemvasia
  - Half day tour of Santorini island with Akrotiri guided visit and brewery visit
  - Half day tour of Thessaloniki with guided visit to Archaeological Museum
  - Half day tour of Athens with guided visit to Acropolis & Acropolis Museum
  - Half day tour of Knossos with guided visit to Knossos & Heraklion Museum
  - Half day afternoon visit of Oia & winery
  - Evening shared caldera sunset cruise with BBQ Dinner
  - Folklore show with dinner in Crete
  - Farewell dinner in Athens at local restaurant
- Baggage handling
- Document holder and luggage tags
- Hotel taxes and service charges

## HOTELS (OR SIMILAR)

Date	City	Hotel
Sep. 14 – 16	Thessaloniki	Holiday Inn Hotel
Sep. 16 – 17	Delphi	Amalia Hotel
Sep. 17 – 19	Athens	Titania Hotel
Sep. 19 – 20	Olympia	Arty Grand Hotel
Sep. 20 – 21	Monemvasia	Filoxenia Hotel
Sep. 21 – 23	Heraklion	Atlantis Hotel
Sep. 23 – 26	Santorini	El Greco Hotel
Sep. 26 – 27	Athens	Titania Hotel

**Day 1 | Sun | Sep 13 | Depart USA** Depart USA to Athens on United Airlines.

**Day 2 | Mon | Sep 14 | Athens | Thessaloniki** Upon arrival into Athens, we will connect for our flight to Thessaloniki. Upon arrival, you will meet the bus driver and take your bus to the hotel in Thessaloniki. Overnight Thessaloniki.

**Day 3 | Tue | Sep 15 | Thessaloniki** After breakfast, depart for your half day city tour of Thessaloniki. This multi-cultural city has been a crossroad of Greek, Jewish, Turkish and Slavic civilizations for ages, which made the city one of the most interesting places to visit! The picturesque old town, the Byzantine church of Agios Dimitrios, the Arch of Galerio, the Rotonda, the interesting archeological museum, and finally, the lively center are the parts of the city which you will never forget! Overnight Thessaloniki. (B)

**Day 4 | Wed | Sep 16 | Tessaaloniki | Meteora | Delphi** After breakfast, depart Thessaloniki. A highlight of your stay in Greece will be a visit to the Meteora Monasteries. Meteora is a geological miracle, which one must see for himself in order to believe. Nowadays, only six monasteries are well preserved and four of them are still inhabited. We shall visit 3 of these fabulous monasteries, built high upon the steep rocks. Each monastery owns a vast richness of frescoes and icons. Afterwards, we will take our lunch break in a traditional tavern down in Kalambaka. Afterwards, drive to Delphi for dinner and overnight at your hotel. (B,D)

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** For entering the monasteries of Meteora, appropriate clothing is required. Ladies must not wear short skirts and must have long sleeves. Men are not allowed to wear shorts.

**Day 5 | Thu | Sep 17 | Delphi | Athens** After breakfast, depart for your guided tour of Delphi, the center of the ancient world - the "Omphalos" (Navel of Earth) - whose prestige extended far beyond the boundaries of the Hellenic World. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo, the most famous oracle of the ancient world. Visit the Treasury of the Athenians, the Temple of Apollo and the Museum containing masterpieces of the ancient Greek sculpture such as the bronze Charioteer, the famous athlete Aghias and the Sphinx. Afterwards, return back to Athens for your overnight. (B)

**Day 6 | Fri | Sep 18 | Athens** This morning, depart for your half day tour of Athens. This tour gives you the opportunity to observe the striking contrasts that make Athens such a fascinating city. Our expert guides will take you to see the Panathenaic Stadium where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896 (short stop). Continue and pass by the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the Monument of the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the University, the National Library, the Constitution Square (Syntagma). At the Acropolis, you will visit the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally "the harmony between material and spirit", the monument that "puts order in the mind", the Parthenon. Continue and visit a must-see in Athens, the place where the statues finally found their home and admire the wonders of the classical era: The New Acropolis Museum, voted by the Sunday Times as the 3rd best museum of the world. Return to your hotel for overnight Athens. (B)

**Day 7 | Sat | Sep 19 | Athens | Epidaurus | Olympia** After breakfast, depart Athens. Your first visit will be Epidaurus, the theatre (4th century B.C.) famous for its astonishing acoustics. Next, we will visit Olympia, the Archaeological Site with the Sanctuary of Olympian Zeus, the ancient Stadium, the spot where the torch of the modern Olympic Games is lit and the Archaeological Museum. We will then go to our hotel for check-in and overnight. (B)

**Day 8 | Sun | Sep 20 | Olympia | Sparta | Mystras | Monemvasia** After breakfast, depart for your tour to Sparta (Sparti) the capital of the prefecture built in the Evrotas river valley, on the same site where the ancient city stood. Visit the remains of the ancient acropolis, the sanctuary of Artemis Orthia (6th C. BC), the tomb of Leonidas (5th C. BC) and the Menelaion and the ancient theatre. Continue to Mystras occupying a steep hill on the northern slopes of Mt. Taygetos, 6km. NW of Sparta. The castle on the top of the hill was founded in 1249 by the Frankish leader William II de Villeharduin. Later in 1262 it came under Byzantine control, and at the middle of the 14th century the seat of the Despotate of Moreas. In 1448 the last emperor of Byzantium, Constantine XI Palaeologos, was crowned at Mystras. In 1460 the hill was captured by the Turks and in 1464 Sigismondo Malatesta of Rimini managed to capture the city but not the castle. For a short period Mystras came under the control of the Venetians (1687-1715) but was again taken over by the Turks. It was one of the first castles of Greece to be liberated in 1821. The foundation of modern Sparta by king Otto in 1834 marked the end of the old town's life. After our tour, we will check-in to our hotel in Monemvasia. Dinner & overnight. (B,D)

**Day 9 | Mon | Sep 21 | Monemvasia | Athens | Crete** After breakfast, take the bus and guide back to Athens (4 hours) airport for our flight to Crete. Upon arrival, we will have a folklore dinner show and overnight in Crete. (B,D)

**Day 10 | Tue | Sep 22 | Crete | Knossos | Crete** After breakfast, we will depart for our half day tour of Knossos & Heraklion. We begin our day visiting the largest and most impressive Minoan Palace the Palace of Knossos, which was excavated and restored to its former splendor by the British archaeologist Sir Arthur Evans. You will be taken back 4,000 years to the time of the oldest civilization in Europe. The Palace of Knossos, center of the Minoan Civilization, will render you breathless as you wonder over the technology and facilities of that period. We continue our tour to Iraklion city. History is very

much alive in Iraklion just like in most Greek cities. The central square while surrounded by cafes, stores and restaurants, is dominated by the fountain of the Lions, built by Morozini the Venetian governor in 1628. Today, the Town Hall is housed in the Venetian Loggia, a building from the same era. Even more sights to be seen while taking a stroll around Heraklion will make your free time worthwhile. Afterwards, return to your hotel for overnight in Crete. (B)

**Day 11 | Wed | Sep 23 | Crete | Santorini | Oia | Santorini** After breakfast, we will depart to the port for our ferry to Santorini. Upon arrival, we will have an afternoon visit to Oia & a winery (approx. 4 hrs). Here, we will visit the Koutsoyannopoulos wine museum. Being the only one of its kind in Greece, the Koutsoyannopoulos Wine Museum occupies a natural cave. It is eight meters below ground, 300 meters long and has a labyrinth-like shape. The Koutsoyannopoulos Wine Museum presents the history of wine and the life of vine-growers in Santorini since the 1600s. You will have the opportunity to see representations of the history of wine and to taste four of the best wines that winery produces today, in a specially designed wine-tasting area. Then we visit Oia, which is a traditional settlement in the north of Santorini. The village is approximately 150 meters above sea level. Oia was severely damaged in the 1956 earthquake and much work has been involved to implement its restoration. The beauty of Oia is unsurpassed. In fact, it is almost impossible to describe in words. Small white house's tier the hillside, interspersed by splashes of rich okra, deep fuchsia, cobalt blue, oyster pink and earthy red. Oia is one of the most photographed places in Greece. It has inspired artists, poets and every visitor who visits Santorini. Oia is best known for breathtaking sunsets; if truth be told, sunrise in Oia is also magical. In Oia there are two types of dwellings, the cave houses dug into the volcanic rock on the Caldera cliffs, and the Captains houses. The cave houses used to be the homes of ship crews, whereas the Captains houses belonged to the affluent class of ship owners. Many of the churches in Oia were dedicated to sailors. Overnight in Santorini. (B)

**Day 12 | Thu | Sep 24 | Santorini** After breakfast, we will depart for our half day tour of Santorini Island. On this half day tour, you will have the chance to visit the most important places of Santorini: Profitis Ilias mountain, the highest peak of the island (567 meters) is located between Pyrgos and Kamari. The Mountain's name is Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elijah), coming from the Monastery with the same name located at the top. From this vantage point, you will enjoy a striking view of the entire island, from the patchwork agricultural plains to the hilltop village of Oia. Megalochori one of the most beautiful traditional villages of the island with typical traditional Cycladic houses, neoclassic buildings and small houses dug in the volcanic rock blend together with harmony. Akrotiri Archaeological site Guided visit (with professional licensed Guide) at one of the most important prehistoric settlements of Greece. Akrotiri is a Bronze Age settlement on the volcanic island of Santorini (Thera). The settlement was destroyed by a huge eruption during the 17th century BC and buried under the volcanic ash, which preserved the whole city in perfect conditions to be referred often as "Prehistoric Pompei" The settlement has been suggested as a possible inspiration for Plato's story of Atlantis. The site has been excavated since 1967. Red Beach, where we will have free time for photos at the famous beach, well known for the unique color of the sand and the hill behind it. Soaring red lava cliffs which drop right to the sandy shore and into the clear blue sea. Afterwards, return to your hotel for Overnight. (B)

**Day 13 | Fri | Sep 25 | Santorini** This morning will be at leisure until we depart in the afternoon to discover Santorini's beautiful coastline on a delightful cruise, which includes a BBQ meal with drinks. Enjoy a refreshing swim in the clear blue waters at the red beach, and sail past the big lighthouse south of the caldera. Explore secluded volcanic beaches, experience the volcanic hot springs or simply relax on deck. Sunset Tour: visits Red beach, White Beach, hot springs, stops below Oia for the sunset Overnight in Santorini. (B,D)

**Day 14 | Sat | Sep 26 | Santorini | Athens** After breakfast, transfer to Santorini Airport for your return flight to Athens. Upon arrival, we will transfer to our hotel for a farewell dinner followed by an overnight. (B,D)

**Day 15 | Sun | Sep 27 | Athens to USA** After breakfast, we will transfer to Athens Airport for our return flight to the USA. (B)

(B) - Breakfast, (D) - Dinner

Conditions: Price is per person on double room occupancy; includes airfare and all taxes and fees. Price may be subject to change depending on currency exchange fluctuations. Minimum of 10 people are needed to run the trip. Transportation to/from Newark is NOT INCLUDED.

# Harrigan Holidays

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