



# Tour Information



## Unknown Athens





# Travel

## Covid-19 Travel Information

Do not travel or go to the airport if you or anyone that you are travelling with have Covid-19 symptoms.

Whilst it is no longer necessary for fully vaccinated passengers to test before or after travel, you may want to take some lateral flow test kits with you.

Should you show any Covid symptoms during the tour please inform the tour manager immediately.

You may want to refer to the following Gov.UK website for useful information:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-travel-during-coronavirus>

## Passports

You may need to renew your British Passport if you are travelling to an EU country. **Please ensure your passport is less than 10 years old (even if it has 6 months or more left on it) and has at least 6 months validity remaining from the date of travel.**

For more information, please visit: [passport checker](#)

## Visas

If you're a tourist, you do not need a visa for short trips to Greece. For all other passport holders please check the visa requirements with the appropriate embassy.

For further information, please check here: [travel to the EU](#)

Greek Consulate: 1A Holland Park, London W11 3TP. Tel: 020 7221 6467



## Tickets

Included with your final documentation is an e-ticket which includes a reference number for your flight. At check-in you will need to quote/show this and you will be issued with your boarding

pass. **Online check-in is not available for your British Airways flight.**

Visit the [www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com) for more information

Please check that the details on your documentation are accurate and that all names are spelt correctly and match the names on your passport. Your flight ticket is non-transferable and non-refundable. No refund can be given for non-used portions.



## Baggage Allowance

We advise that you stick to the baggage allowances advised. If your luggage is found to be heavier than the airlines baggage allowances the charges at the airport will be hefty.

With **British Airways** your ticket includes one hold bag of up to 23kg plus one cabin bag no bigger than 56 x 45 x 25cm including handles, pockets and wheels, and one personal bag. For more information please visit: [www.britishairways.com](http://www.britishairways.com)

## Transfers

Transfer from Athens Airport to the hotel is approx. 45 minutes.

## Special Requests

If you haven't already, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements. Please note that some airlines may charge for use of wheelchairs.

## Border Control

At border control, you may need to show a return or onward ticket, show you have enough money for your stay, use separate lanes from EU, EEA and Swiss citizens when queuing.



# Accommodation

## Hera Hotel, central Athens

The Hera Hotel is very well-located at the foot of the Acropolis hill, and only a five-minute walk to the exceptional Acropolis Museum and within walking distance of many of the Athens archaeological sites. The Hera Hotel has a total of 38 rooms, situated on 5 levels. The rooms booked for this tour are standard twin/double rooms all of which feature comfortable and modern furnishings, ensuite bathrooms with bath or shower, tea/coffee making facilities, hair dryer, safety deposit box, TV and mini-bar. All rooms are non-smoking rooms. Other facilities at the hotel include free Wi-Fi throughout the hotel, a hotel lobby bar where you can get drinks and coffee, and the Peacock Roof Garden restaurant with views to the Acropolis and where you can enjoy dinner, cocktails, and drinks.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.herahotel.gr/>

## Dining

The standard of food in Greece is excellent and offers a remarkable variety of freshly prepared and very tasty dishes, many of which use locally grown products and locally produced olive oil. When eating out the Greeks nearly always eat 'mezedes' style. This means ordering several dishes, starters and/or main plates, whatever takes your fancy, to put in the middle of the table for all to share. It is a very sociable way to eat and a great way of tasting lots of different dishes! Do not be shy in the amount you order, or if you only find yourselves ordering starters – any combination is acceptable.

When ordering fish in Greece you will find the price on the menu relates to a cost per kilo. Do not be put off by this. You are expected to go into the kitchen, choose the fish you want, which will be weighed in front of you, so you know what you will pay.

Many tavernas sell their own 'open' wine, known as village wine, which is usually very reasonably priced and usually goes well with the local cuisine. Both the white and red are usually very drinkable. Prices of local 'village' wine are usually around 6 euros per half litre. More exclusive restaurants will probably not serve open wine, only bottled wine. Greek wines are gathering a very good reputation so ask your waiter for recommendations.

Local drinks are ouzo, Tsipouro, brandy or cognac and, of course, Greek wine. Tsipouro is the local firewater! This is distilled from the residue of the grapes after making wine. You will probably find you come across this whether you want to or not, as it is often served, complimentary, at the end of a meal.

## Meals included in the holiday

Breakfast daily.

## Taking food into EU countries

You are not able to take meat, milk or any products containing them into EU countries.



## Destination

An opportunity to explore the varied and rich history found in and around Athens. Even if you have visited Athens in the past, you may not have visited several of the sites included on this tour as the focus is on the 'unknown' or at least 'lesser known' sites found in and around Athens that are just as impressive as the obvious sites found there. The base for this tour is in central Athens, which provides the opportunity for further exploring during your free time.

### Places of interest included in the tour:

#### Goulandris Cycladic Art Museum

The Museum of Cycladic Art (MCA) is dedicated to the study and promotion of ancient cultures of the Aegean and Cyprus, with a special emphasis on Cycladic Art of the third millennium B.C. The MCA was founded in 1986 to house the collection of Nicholas and Dolly Goulandris, who started collecting archaeological objects at the beginning of the '60s, after being granted official permission by the Greek state. Since it opened it has grown to accommodate new exhibits and temporary exhibitions. The museum holds one of the most comprehensive private collections of Cycladic art in the world.

For more information, please visit:

<https://cycladic.gr/en>

#### Aristotle's Lyceum

The Lyceum of Aristotle, 335 BC, was known as a Peripatetic School (from the Greek word peripatos, which means stroll) because students and teachers would stroll the tree lined grounds during lectures discussing philosophy and the principles of mathematics.

This place of learning is considered a forerunner of today's modern universities and museums.

This inspiring site was excavated by archaeologist Effie Lygouri in 1996 and first opened to the public in June 2014. The idea was to integrate the Lyceum into the everyday life of Athens as part park and part historical reminder of the city's glorious past. With its well-tended walkways lined with sweet smelling thyme, rosemary and lavender Aristotle's Lyceum is once again a spot for walking, an oasis of calm, a setting for

reflection, and still, perhaps most importantly, a place for learning.

For more information, please visit:

<https://athensandbeyond.com/aristotles-lyceum-in-athens/>

#### The Sanctuary of Amphiareion

Amphiaraos is one of the lesser-known deities of ancient mythology, nevertheless, he was popular enough to have twelve temples and sanctuaries dedicated to him. His popularity was attributed to his powers as a healer and a seer. According to myth, he was not born, but emerged from a spring.

The Sanctuary of Amphiareion is the most important temple dedicated to Amphiaraos, located in a gorge on the border of Attica and Boeotia, 48 kms from Athens. The Amphiareion may be quite small in comparison to other sites, but there is much to see and to fire the imagination here. Amongst the many ruins of the sanctuary dedicated to the cult are the remains of a small amphitheatre and a Doric temple. One of the most distinguishing features found here, not commonly found on other sanctuaries of the time, is an intriguing ancient water clock (Klepsidra), believed to be the first of its kind and a reminder of the geometric and mathematical skills of ancient Greeks.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.greeka.com/attica/athens/sightseeing/athens-oropos-amphiareion/>

#### The Slopes of the Acropolis

The 70,000 sq. metre archaeological site of the Slopes of the Acropolis extends around the Sacred Rock of the Acropolis. After the Acropolis itself, the Slopes were the most important religious centre of ancient Athens and it is here that the sanctuary of Dionysus was established in the 6th C. BC. It is here too where we find the Theatre of Dionysus, one of the World's most ancient theatres. There were various celebrations that honoured Dionysus throughout the year, and the most important were the Dionysia, which happened twice a year. At the heart of these celebrations were performances of the God's lives that were played out in the theatre and are what



we think about when we talk about the origins of Greek comedy and tragedy. The theatre could host up to 17,000 people and was an important part of ancient Greek life.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.thisisathens.org/antiquities/theatre-dionysus>

## **Panathenaic Stadium Aegina**

This impressive stadium was built in the late 5th C. BC when the great orator Lycurgus sought to build Athens an appropriate venue to host sporting events as part of the Panathenaic Games, one of the city's major celebrations. The stadium originally had a rectangular shape that was typical of ancient Greek stadiums and was used for the first time in 330 BC.

Following several transformations over its long history, it eventually became the home of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and remains the only stadium in the world built entirely out of marble.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.panathenaicstadium.gr/>

## **Temple of Olympian Zeus**

This grandiose temple was built between the 6th C. BC and 2nd C. AD. and was built in honour of the Greek God Zeus.

The Temple, which sits just 500 metres southeast of the Acropolis, measured 96 meters long and 40 metres wide. It was an impressive construction made entirely of white marble from Mount Pentelikon, that is situated just north of Athens. The monument had 104 15-meter Corinthian columns. Nowadays, only 15 remain standing, and one intact column lies on the ground.

The design of this colossal temple began in the sixth century B.C. and was not finished until nearly seven centuries later, in 132 AD, under the Roman Emperor Hadrian.

When the impressive temple was completed, the Emperor Hadrian commissioned a statue made of gold and marble in the shape of the Greek god Zeus and another of himself to place inside the temple.

On the northeast corner of the monument is Hadrian's Arch, a remarkable 18-metre marble arch that once separated the old city (city of Theseus) and the new city (city of Hadrian).

Although an earthquake destroyed most of the temple during the Middle Ages, the remains still demonstrate the vastness of the monument and its importance in Ancient Greece.

For more information, please visit:

[http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/3/eh351.jsp?obj\\_id=2488](http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/3/eh351.jsp?obj_id=2488)

## **Aegina**

The island of Aegina is situated 40 minutes by boat from Piraeus, which makes it a popular weekend destination for Athenians. The island offers a rich history, a warm laid-back island charm, beautiful bays and delicious pistachios that are grown here.

The Doric Temple of Aphaia is a historical and scenic highlight of the island. Built on top of a hill covered with pine trees it has great views to the sea and beyond. Twenty-four pillars, out of a total of 34, of the temple remain making it one of the best-preserved ancient sanctuaries in Greece. Its pediments contain scenes of the Greek victory in the Trojan War.

The temple was built around 480 BC. and is associated in Greek mythology with a lovely legend about Vritomartis, the daughter of Zeus who received the unwanted attention of Minos.

When the atmosphere is clear, you can see Poseidon's temple in Sounion and the Acropolis of Athens. It is said that the 3 temples form a 'holy triangle'.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.aeginagreece.com/aegina/pages/history/>

## **Eleusis**

According to mythology, Demeter arrived in the city of Eleusis disguised as an old woman as she searched for her beautiful daughter Persephone, who had been abducted by Pluto, the god of the underworld. When her divine identity was revealed, Demeter convinced the city's king to build a temple in her honour, where she retired to mourn the loss of her daughter. Her sadness prevented the land from flourishing, prompting Zeus, father of Persephone, to intervene and force Pluto to release the maiden so she could spend two-thirds of the year on Earth and the remainder in the underworld. Wanting to thank the people of Eleusis for their hospitality, Demeter taught them how to worship and cultivate the land.

Founded circa 2000 BC, today, several important ruins can be seen including the Sacred Court, a Roman reproduction of Hadrian's Arch in Athens and the Kallichoron Well, which, according to the Homeric Hymn, is the resting place of Demeter.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.gtp.gr/TDirectoryDetails.asp?ID=14653>

## Temple of Poseidon, Cape Sounion

At the end of the Sounion Peninsula, at the southernmost point of Attica, lies the Temple of Poseidon erected in the middle of the 5th C. BC and built to honour Poseidon, god of the sea.

Archaeological evidence indicates Sounion was a sacred area as far back as the Bronze Age, but the temple visible that stands today was built between 444 and 440 BC. It was part of an ambitious building project initiated by Pericles, which included other renowned temples such as the Parthenon and the Hephaestion.

An inscription confirms that the temple was dedicated to Poseidon. The ancient temple was razed by the Persians in 490 BC when it was still under construction. Very little is known about this earlier temple, but it is certain that it was a revered landmark, visible from afar as sailors approached or left the safety of the Attica harbours. The newer temple closely follows the size and plan of the more ancient one.

It is an impressive site, especially at sunset when the sun sinks into the sea and bathes the temple in a glorious light.

For more information, please visit:

<https://theculturetrip.com/europe/greece/athens/articles/a-brief-history-of-the-temple-of-poseidon-sounion/>

## Brauron

Brauron is an ancient sanctuary situated in eastern Attica that was dedicated to the Goddess Artemis. Worship on the site can be dated to the 8th C. BC. A temple is known to have been built in the 6th C. BC on the site, while most of the major building activity is dated to the late 5th C. BC.

## The Piraeus Museum

Covering some 1,400 square metres, the Archaeological Museum of Piraeus houses an amazing array of artefacts, dating from prehistoric times to the early Christian era.

As the most important port in the Mediterranean, Piraeus prospered throughout antiquity, creating a modern city filled with priceless archaeological treasures. While most finds come from official archaeological excavations, many incidental discoveries made during reconstruction of the modern city are also on display.

Donations from private collection's add to the riches on display in the two-storey exhibition space. With two full floors serving as exhibition halls, and a basement housing conservation laboratories and warehouses, this museum is truly world-class in scope.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.piraeus.org/museum.html>

## Your Lecturer

### Rita Roussos

Rita studied ancient Greek and Latin at the University of California, Berkeley, and completed her Phd in History of Art at the Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London. She has excavated in Greece and taught at the American University of Athens.

## Tour Manager

Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately and they will do their utmost to resolve any issues.

## Grading

This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.



## The Basics

The weather in Greece at this time of year is likely to be pleasant, but evenings, and sometimes the days, can be quite cool, particularly in shadow, and there is the chance of the odd shower. Our best advice is to come prepared. Layers are useful as is a light rain jacket and small umbrella.

**Time** – GMT +3 hours (Summertime Apr-Oct); GMT + 2 (Standard time Nov-Mar). In reality this means Greece is always 2 hours ahead of the UK.

**Language** – Greek

**Religion** – Greek Orthodox

**Currency** – Euro. €1 = 100 cents. Notes are in denominations of €500, 200, 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5. Coins are in denominations of €2 and 1, and 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 cents.

**Banks** – Cashpoints compatible with international banking networks are located in most towns, as well as airports and other spots. Those banks that still exchange foreign currencies into local money will always charge a transaction fee, so withdrawing money from an ATM usually represents the most logical means of obtaining euros other than bringing euros with you from the UK. You can use a UK debit card, using the same pin number you use in the UK, to withdrawn cash. The instructions are in English. Just look for signs on ATM's for Delta or Cirrus.

Banks are open Monday to Friday 8am – 2pm.

**Credit cards** – Greece is very much a cash society so credit cards are not widely accepted, however, far more places are accepting these nowadays, but it is best to check first in restaurants and shops that they accept credit cards, if you wish to pay by card. Varying amounts of commission can be charged for credit card payments and you may like to check these with your credit card supplier before you travel. Hotels usually always accept credit cards.

**Electricity** – 220 volt, two-pin continental plug.

**Drinking water** – Tap water is safe to drink although you should check at the hotel if the bathroom water is safe to drink as it could be tank water rather than mains water. Bottled water is readily available to buy in all local shops and very reasonable priced.

**Shopping** - Most villages, however small, usually have at least one minimarket. Minimarkets usually open from early in the morning until late in the evening. Olive oil, olives and local honey are all excellent products if you are interested in taking a little bit of Greece home with you.

**Stamps** - In most places you can purchase stamps at the same time you purchase postcards. This is much easier than trying to find a post office!

**Plumbing** - Unless there is information to the contrary please do not put toilet paper down the toilet. As you may know this is common practice in Greece due to the narrowness of the waste pipes. Please dispose of the paper in the bins provided, which will be regularly emptied by the hotel.

**Telephones/mobiles** – The guarantee of free mobile phone roaming throughout the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway has ended. Check with your phone operator to find out about any roaming charges that might be applied after 1st January 2021. A new law means that you are protected from getting mobile data charges above £45 without you knowing. Once you reach £45, you need to opt in to spend more so that you can continue using the internet while you are abroad. Your phone operator will tell how you can do this.

**Tipping** –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that, when receiving a good service, one awards with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

**Walking shoes** – As archaeological sites tend to be quite rough underfoot, we recommend that you have shoes that are reasonably sturdy and have good gripping soles.



## Health

### General Health Advice

We suggest you take a good supply of your own individual medicines with you and always keep some in your hand luggage in case you get delayed, or your luggage goes astray. General-purpose supplies for bites, stings, or scratches, and your usual medication for headaches, or stomach upsets are always recommended. Oral re-hydration sachets are excellent for topping up salt and glucose levels.

Visit the NHS Fit for Travel website for more generally information specific to the country you are visiting – [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)

### Doctor/Dentist/Chemist

Please talk to your tour manager/guide if you are feeling unwell and they will organise for you to see a Doctor. There is normally a charge of about 60 Euros for calling out a doctor (or more, depending on the distance the doctor has to travel) and there is also a charge to visit a Doctor.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**



## Hospital

Your tour manager/hotel reception will assist if you need to visit a hospital during your stay.

**Keep any receipts for insurance claims.**

### Inoculations

No compulsory vaccinations are required for travel in Greece.

### Pharmacies

Pharmacies throughout Greece are generally well-stocked and have knowledgeable staff who, usually, will speak some English. Pharmacists will often be able to give advice and medicine for minor ailments. Pharmacies are open Monday to Friday but not on Saturdays.



## Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out an appropriate travel insurance policy when you travel abroad.

To be covered under your Travel Insurance Policy, if you become ill, it is essential that you contact a local doctor and telephone the emergency number of your insurance company. You will **NOT** be covered for any claim unless this procedure is carried out. Your insurance company will then decide on the best course of medical attention.

### Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC)

Before you travel, make sure you've got a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or travel insurance with health cover.

You may not have access to free emergency medical treatment and could be charged for your healthcare if you do not have an EHIC or GHIC when visiting an EU country, or travel insurance with full healthcare cover when visiting Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein. If you have an EHIC it will still be valid while it remains in date. Your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) will be valid if you are travelling to an EU country.

For further information about the GHIC please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/>





## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**  
00 44 20 7251 0045 (Mon-Fri 0900-1700),

Outside office hours telephone our emergency staff on:

**00 44 7841 023807 or 00 44 7831 133079**

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

If you find you need consular assistance during your holiday:

British Consulate Athens  
1 Ploutarchou Str.,  
106 75 Athens  
Greece

Email: [information.athens@fco.gov.uk](mailto:information.athens@fco.gov.uk)

### **Consular section Open to the public - by appointment only**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8am to 3pm

Please note that an appointment is not necessary for emergency cases requiring consular assistance.  
Telephone enquiries - Monday to Friday, 8am to 3pm. Tel: 0030 210 7272 600

In an emergency outside these hours please call the British Embassy Athens switchboard number: +30 210 7272600 and follow the advice given.

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