

Your Day-by-Day Itinerary

Join us on a unique Small Ship Adventure that weaves among the sun-drenched islands of the Aegean and captures the glory of mythic heroes and ancient civilizations. You'll journey from Istanbul, the great Turkish city perched astride two continents and one-time capital of the Byzantine and Ottoman empires, to the treasures of classical Greece. Delve into the distant past at the enigmatic sanctuary of Delphi, the soaring cliff-top monasteries of Meteora, and breathtaking ruins of ancient Ephesus—and discover the longstanding traditions of Greece and Turkey's modern-day inhabitants. At the heart of your adventure is a week-long cruise aboard OAT's private small ship to visit the lovely Greek Islands scattered along the Aegean, an idyllic voyage that includes Mykonos, volcanic Santorini, and Delos. Revel in the timeless beauty of Greece, Turkey, and the blue Aegean on an adventure of truly epic proportions.

SAT

Day 1 - May 12, 2012 Depart U.S.

Fly from the U.S. to Athens, Greece.

Departure

SUN

Day 2 - May 13, 2012 Arrive Athens, Greece

An OAT representative will meet you at the Athens airport and assist with your transfer to our Athens hotel. This afternoon, enjoy a walk to get acquainted with the area around the hotel. We gather for a Welcome Drink and briefing, before dinner on your own.

ST GEORGE LYCABETTUS HOTEL

Mon

Day 3 - May 14, 2012 Athens/Transfer to Kalambaka (Meteora)

This morning, we travel overland across the plain of Thessaly, past Mount Brallos, and through a landscape studded with rocky pinnacles to Kalambaka. Enjoy lunch on your own en route. After our afternoon arrival, enjoy time at leisure or for personal exploration.

It's rewarding to linger in or walk around Kalambaka's main squares and enjoy the atmosphere of this provincial town in Thessaly. This evening we dine at our hotel.

Breakfast, Dinner

METEORA HOTEL

Tues

Day 4 - May 15, 2012 Monasteries of Meteora/Icon-painting workshop/Home-Hosted Dinner

This morning, we ride by coach to the towering rock formations, on top of which are built the famous monasteries of Meteora. We'll enjoy breathtaking views from this unique setting and visit the monasteries, some of which date to the 16th century. Meteora means "suspended in the air," and these astonishing retreats are indeed perched atop pinnacles that rise about 1,000 feet from the valley floor. For centuries, the monasteries served as Christian redoubts while the Ottoman Turks ruled Greece, and the monasteries are still in operation today.

After lunch on your own, you can join our discovery of a Byzantine tradition during a visit to a nearby icon-painting workshop, or return to the hotel for the remainder of your afternoon at leisure. This evening, enjoy dinner hosted by a local Greek family in their home.

Breakfast, Dinner

METEORA HOTEL