

wed

Day 5 - May 16, 2012 Overland to Delphi/Greek cooking class

After breakfast we travel overland to Delphi, driving across the plains of Attica and Beotia before we start climbing the slopes of Mount Parnassus. We have lunch on our own along the way, and later reach the picturesque mountain village where we will stay tonight.

A healthful Mediterranean style of cooking, Greek cuisine is popular throughout the world, with its reliance on olive oil, grains, wine, fish, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Late this afternoon, we learn how to prepare classic Greek specialties in a cooking class. Then, you are invited to enjoy an authentic taste as we gather for dinner.

Breakfast, Dinner

APOLLONIA HOTEL

Thur

Day 6 - May 17, 2012 Discover Ancient Delphi and Tholos

Today, absorb the majesty of ancient Delphi, including the Temple of Apollo where the oracle once prophesied. This ancient sanctuary is beautifully set in a landscape fit for a god, at the foot of a mountain with a vista over olive groves to the Bay of Itea.

Those entering the sanctuary of Apollo in ancient times first purified themselves with the water of the Castalia Fountain, situated in the area. As we approach the Temple of Apollo, we walk the Sacred Way used by ancient Greeks such as the historian Plutarch, who was a priest of Apollo at Delphi. We'll see treasures built here by the Athenians, the Thebans, the Corinthians, and the Syracusans—the great powers of their day—and the theater, built to seat 5,000 people, from which it's possible to get an amazing view if you climb to the top row. We also see the famous Tholos at the sanctuary of Athena Pronaia. Located a short distance from the main ruins, the circular structure was constructed between 380 and 360 BC and once consisted of 20 Doric columns, three of which have been restored.

We also visit the recently renovated Delphi Archaeological Museum. The unmatched holdings here include the larger-than-life bronze *Charioteer*, dating to about 470 BC and one of the finest surviving bronze

works of antiquity. The museum is filled with other masterpieces from the Archaic, Classical, and Roman periods, including scenes of the gods watching the Trojan War, a nine-statue family monument from the fourth century BC, and a sculpture of Roman Emperor Hadrian's beloved friend Antinoos.

Then we return to the hotel and the remainder of the afternoon is free. Dinner is on your own this evening.

Breakfast

APOLLONIA HOTEL

Friday

Day 7 - May 18, 2012 Overland to Athens/Embark ship

After breakfast, we begin our transfer to Piraeus. You will have time for lunch on your own, and then we embark on our cruise.

This evening, meet your crew and enjoy a Welcome Drink. We'll enjoy dinner onboard, followed by Greek dancing. During the night, our ship sails toward the island of Syros.

Breakfast, Dinner

ARETHUSA

Sat

Day 8 - May 19, 2012 Explore Syros/Cruise to Mykonos

This morning we explore Syros, whose main port town, Ermoupoli, is the capital of the Cyclades. This is the largest of the island ports that we visit; in the late 19th century, it was the main port for all of Greece, and it has a wealth of beautifully restored historic buildings including old mansions and churches. We take a walking tour and discover the charms of this lively traditional Aegean port town. Here, we'll also taste one of Greece's favorite sweets, *Loukoumi*, a gelatin candy dusted with powdered sugar.

We have lunch onboard and then cruise to Mykonos. We make an afternoon visit to this vacation spot popular with the international jet set.

We enjoy dinner together onboard and moor for the night in Mykonos.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner