



RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS

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Wednesday, November 17, 2010

ITINERARY Greece/Turkey

Day 1,

DEPARTURE

Leave **Calgary's International Airport** via wide-bodied jet to **Greece**. Enjoy in-flight meals and services.

Day 2,

ATHENS

Arrive in Athens. **The Rainbow Educational Tours** Representative will meet you upon arrival and escort you to your awaiting coach. Then transfer to your hotel where you have an introduction to Greece and an orientation of the area. Daily continental breakfast and dinner are included in your tour.

Day 3,

ATHENS

This morning you will have a guided sightseeing tour of **Athens** including a visit to the **Acropolis**. Four buildings remain on the site of the **Acropolis** are the **Parthenon**, the **Propylaea**, the **Temple of Athena Nike** and the **Erectheum**. The Erectheum housed the beautiful **Caryatids** and the columns in the shape of women. The Original Caryatids are now in the Acropolis Museum. The dominating structure is the **Parthenon**, a miracle of construction in its time. You will also see the **Plaka**, the **National Gardens** and **Syntagma Square**. After lunch, supervised by chaperones, you will have an excursion to **Cape Sounion** and **The Temple of Poseidon**. From here you will have a sweeping view of the **Aegean Sea**. Dinner and overnight in Athens

Day 4,

ATHENS-DELPHI-ATHENS

Today you will have a Full Day excursion to **Delphi**, site of the **Ancient Oracle of Delphi**, situated in on the southwestern spur of **Mount Parnassus** in the heart of the **Phocis Valley** and at the crossroads of important routes of the ancient world. It is one of the most famous cult sites in Greece, renowned throughout the ancient Greek world and beyond as the sanctuary of **Apollo** and the seat of his oracle. First you will have a visit to the **Museum of Delphi**, which houses a great collection of artifacts and sculptures found in the site and know under protection inside the museum. The most important monuments of this archaeological site are **The Doric Temple of Apollo** at the center of the sanctuary. **The Sacred Way** which leads to the temple and is lined with Treasuries, Monuments and offerings. Northwest to the temple is **The Amphitheatre**, built into the side of the hill with a capacity for 5,000 seats; Further to the west and somewhat above the theatre lies the **Stadium** where the **Pythian Games** took place every four years. To the right of Sanctuary entrance is the Kastalian Fountain, and to its left and below the road stands **The Sanctuary of Athena** dedicated to the female deity, understand that as early as the Mycenaean era women exercise power in every aspect of the society. Standing next to the Athena's sanctuary is **The Temple of Tholos** (Rotunda), one of the most remarkable architectural constructions of antiquity. Return to Athens for dinner and overnight

Day 5,

ATHENS-PLAINS OF ARGOLIS-ATHENS

Travel this morning through the **Plain of Argolis** to ancient **Epidaurus** and **Mycenae**. In **Epidaurus**, marvel at the almost acoustically perfect ancient theatre. The theatre has remained in excellent condition and can seat 14000 spectators. Completely hidden from view until you have climbed nearly to its level, Mycenae shrouded in a mystery of how the civilization began and how it ended. Mycenae's well-preserved ruins are some of the most celebrated archaeological discoveries in modern history. Then, cross the

spectacular **Corinth Canal** on your way to Athens for dinner then an evening activity at **Allou Fun Park** with a prepaid card for 3 activities and overnight.

Day 6,

ATHENS-CRUISE-ISLAND OF MYKONOS

Transfer to the **Piraeus** port near **Athens** where you will board a luxury cruise ship for the next two days. First you will travel to **Mykonos** where you will have some time on shore to explore. Mykonos is one of the most famous islands in Greece and the most beautiful of the **Cyclades islands**. Its picturesque landscape with white painted villages, hundreds of little churches, and windmills attracts thousands of visitors every year. Dinner and overnight on the ship and enjoy a typical **Greek Folklore** evening aboard the ship.

Day 7,

CRUISE-ISLAND OF RHODES

Continue cruising to the beautiful island of **Rhodes**. Disembark and enjoy exploring the area. There is much to see and depending on your port of arrival, you will visit the town of **Lindos**. The ruin of the **acropolis** is perched high above the clear blue water of the harbour where **St. Paul** is supposed to have landed. Below also is the typical Greek fishing village from which the steep walk starts up to the impressive ruins. For a small price, you can make the ascent on a donkey! On the other hand, enjoy sightseeing of the **ancient fortress** and the **Old Town of Rhodes**. The Old Town still has the ancient walls and streets of the fortress built by the **Knights of St. John** to wage their Holy Wars against Arabs and Turks. Explore the new town and familiarize yourself with the area. Start at **Symi Square** and wander down to **Argykastron** Square with its **Byzantine fountain**. West you will see the **Palace of Armeria**, now the Archaeological Institute. Walk down the **Avenue of the Knights**, the main street of the inner city 500 years ago. Here you will see most of the houses of the knights. Enjoy people watching in one of the many outdoor cafes. Dinner and overnight on board the cruise ship where you enjoy an **International Show** a part of the evening entertainment.

Day 8,

CRUISE-PATMOS-KUSADASI (TURKEY)

This morning you arrive on the island of **Patmos**, disembark for a short visit of the island. Patmos is the northernmost island of the Dodecanese complex and lies at a distance of 158 nautical miles from the port of Piraeus. The harmonious succession of its rocky hills, peaceful valleys and green meadows run down to a scene of beautiful aquamarine waters. **The Monastery of St. John** the Theologian set like a crown on top of the settlement of **Chora** is the island's landmark. Its construction started in 1088, when the Byzantine emperor Alexios Comnenus the First granted the whole island to St. Christodoulos to organise a settlement for monastic purposes. You will have time to explore this beautiful island before continue cruising to Kusadasi, Turkey. Upon arrival you will be having an excursion to **Ephesus** to see the best-preserved and most extensive remains of a classical city. In Roman times Ephesus grew to be the second largest city in the Roman Empire, the site of a Christian shrine, and one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Enjoy your visit to this magnificent city before you continue to **Kusadasi** for dinner inner and overnight

Day 9,

KUSADASI-PERGAMON

You will have early morning departure from Kusadasi to Pergamon or Pergamum. You travel about 130 km in-land, going east, your first stop is **Philadelphia**, "the city of brotherly love" which was founded in 189 BC by the Byzantines in 129 BC becomes a Roman city but an earthquake destroyed it in 17 AD and all that remains are columns of an ancient Byzantine church. Then you travel northwest to the city of **Sardis** that was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Lydia. Continue your journey traveling north for about 40 minutes to the ancient city of **Thyatira**. Today a modern city (**Akhisar** or **Akisar**) has grown to surround the ancient city that according to the book of Revelation is the fourth of the seven churches addressed by John. Only few architectural fragments are remaining of the Portico and the Basilica. Continue traveling northwest to **Pergamon** for dinner and overnight.

Day 10,

PERGAMON-CANAKKALE

This morning you will visit Pergamon (or Pergamum) which is the Greek name for "citadel", the modern city of Bergama, 150 miles north of Izmir is the successor of Pergamum. The ancient city is composed of three main parts: the **Acropolis**, whose main function was social and cultural as much as it was sacred. Second, the **Lower City**, or realm of the lower classes, and third, the **Asclepion**, one of the earliest medical centers on record named after the healing god Asclepius. During the Roman period emperors such as Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius, and Caracalla visited it. During that time it was one of the most famous in the Roman

world. The ancient physician Claudius Galen (A.D. 131–201) was born in Pergamum and worked here as well as in Rome. An expert in anatomy, he studied the nervous system and the heart. Eighty of his original 500 treaties are still found in medical libraries worldwide.

You will then continue to **Troy**, immortalized by the writings of Homer and Virgil, the legendary city of Troy invites the wanderlust with its enchanting romanticism, picturesque settings and historical ruins. This is the site of the famous battle in WWI where the Allies battled for eight and half months against the Turks to open the Straits of Dardanelles. The Western Allies lost and 250,000 soldiers lost their lives in this battle. You will have dinner and overnight at **Canakkale**.

Day 11,

CANAKKALE-ISTANBUL

This morning depart for **Istanbul** (Constantinople) the former capital of three successive empires, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman. Strategic located in both sides of the **Istanbul Strait**, Istanbul is a meeting point uniting two separate continents Europe and Asia, therefore, It has being an important center for art, architecture, culture and religion. Today the city honors and preserves the legacy of its past in its churches, palaces, mosques, bazaars, folklore, and cuisine. Visit the **Byzantine Hippodrome** which was the Heart of Constantinople's political and sporting life, the **Blue Mosque** known for its blue tiles, **St. Sophia Church** which is one of the most impressive buildings ever created, dinner and overnight Istanbul

Day 12,

ISTANBUL-BOSPHORUS CRUISE

Today you start your morning with a **Cruise** to the **Bosphorus** (Bosporus), The Bosphorus, which stretches out between the emerald-like slopes, the woods and the bays adorned with one thousand and one beauties, is unique. Halic Bay (Golden Horn), a horn-shaped bay located on the European side of Istanbul, is one of the most beautiful natural harbours in the world. Visit **Topkapi Palace**, which was the home of the **Ottoman Sultans**, was for nearly 400 years, and the **Grand Bazaar**, spice Bazaar. Tonight you will have a Folklore show and dinner at the famous **Kervan-Saray** and overnight Istanbul

Day 13,

ISTANBUL

Transfer with assistance to the airport for your flight home to Canada filled with wonderful memories of your trip.

Inclusions and Exclusions

Included in the Cost of the Tour:

- Airfare Calgary/ Athens/Istanbul/Calgary via scheduled airlines such as Air Canada/Alitalia/Austrian Airlines
- All transportation as stated in the day-to-day itinerary
- Continental Breakfast and dinners daily
- 11 nights Tourist Class Accommodation in multi bedded rooms (mostly triples) with individual beds and bathrooms
- Services of the RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS representatives in Greece and Turkey
- Entrances and guided sightseeing tours as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary
- Services of the RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS consultant before departure including meetings with parents
- Comprehensive Insurance: Excess Medical, Trip Cancellation, Baggage and Default
- Airport Tax
- Visit to the Acropolis
- Sightseeing excursion to Cape Sounion
- Sightseeing excursion to Epidaurus and Mycenae and Corinth Canal
- Full Day excursion to Delphi
- Bosphorus Cruise

Not included in the cost of this tour:

- Expenses of a personal nature
 - Lunches and extra beverages with meals
 - Passport and Visa Fees (if necessary)
 - Visa in Turkey which will be obtained upon arrival into Kusadasi **(\$60.00US)**
 - Optional tours, excursions and activities
 - Single supplements for any single hotel room accommodation required
 - **Fuel surcharges imposed by airlines or any new taxes**
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