



RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS

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Proposed Itinerary For

Greece and a Cruise 11 Days and 9 Nights

Athens (4) Aegina (2) Ship (3)

Day 1 - Leave Canada via wide-bodied jet to Greece. Enjoy in-flight meals and service on your flight to Greece.

Day 2 - Arrive in **Athens**. The **RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS** Representative will meet you upon arrival and escort you to your waiting coach. Transfer to the downtown hotel and an orientation of the area. Continental breakfast and dinner daily are included in your tour. Dinners will be in the hotel.

Day 3 - Transfer to the port in **Athens, Pirseus**, where you will board a luxury cruise ship for the next three days. First to the historic island of **Mykonos**. Mykonos is approximately 95 nautical miles from Piraeus. As you arrive you will see the full beauty of this little island with gleaming white buildings and windmills perched above the small natural harbour. Enjoy exploring the town with its snow-white houses and delightful cafes. Pelicans make their home on the open harbour front and some of them ate quite tame. Dinner and overnight on the ship.

Day 4 - This morning you arrive at **Kusadasi** Harbour, Turkey. Disembark, and travel about 20 km north west of Kusadasi for a guided tour of Ancient **Ephesus**, the well-preserved and most extensive remains of a classical Roman city, *the site of a Christian shrine, and one of the seven wonders of the ancient world*. Among the most remarkable **Ephesian monuments** you will see are, the **Trajan Fountain**, the **Odeion**, the famous **Basilica of St. John**, the **Great Theatre**, the **Gate of Heracles**, the **House of the Virgin Mary** – and the **Celsus Library façade** with its central columns and capitals. Restored with the aid of the Austrian

Archaeological Institute is the most famous and elegant monument at Ephesus. The Celsus Library was built in 135 A.D by Consul Gaius Julius Aquila, to honour his father, Celsus Polemaeanus of Sardis a Roman Senator and Proconsul of the province of Asia Minor, who was buried under the west side of the library, where he rests to this day.

At the Golden Age, heyday of the Roman Empire, Ephesus grew to be the second largest city of the Empire, which stretched its power from Britain to the Red Sea. Enjoy your visit to this magnificent city before you continue cruising to **Pátmos**, known as the Jerusalem of the Aegean.

Upon arrival in Pátmos disembark for a short excursion of the island. The northernmost island of the Dodecanese complex 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 of the Aegean Sea. **The Monastery of St. John the Theologian** set

like a crown on top of the settlement of **Chóra** is the island's landmark. Its construction started in 1088, when the Byzantine **Emperor Alexios Comnenus I** granted the whole island to St. Christodoulos to organise a settlement for monastic purposes. You will have an opportunity to visit the **Monastery and Grotto**; you will have time to explore this beautiful island before returning on board for dinner and overnight

Day 5 - Cruise to the picture perfect, whitewashed island of **Santorini**. The landscape is dramatically beautiful with the white house's setting along red cliffs and hills. If you land at the old port of **Thira**, there is a 587 – step footpath leading up the cliff to the town. You may choose to take a **mule ride** at your own expense up the steep path. It is possible to take the **cable car** down after enjoying the scenery of Santorini. Return on board and continue sailing to **Crete**. Located in the center of the eastern Mediterranean at the crossroads of Africa, Asia, and Europe, Crete is framed by the Aegean coastline to the North, and the Libyan Sea to the south. The island measures about 200 Km from east to west. Between 12 to 58 Km from north to south at its narrowest and widest distances, making it one of the largest islands in the Mediterranean Sea and the largest of the Greek islands. In 1913, after centuries of occupation by the Ottoman Empire, Crete re-united with free Greece. You arrive at Heraklion, Crete's largest modern town. You will have time to explore the town before go on board for dinner and overnight.

Day 6 - This morning you will arrive in Patmos. You will board your coach for a full day excursion to **Delphi**, site of the ancient **Oracle of Delphi**. The Oracle is situated near the foot of **Mount Parnassos** with a towering cliff on one side and a deep ravine on the other. Ascend the sacred way through the sanctuary where you see the **Spartan Monument**, the **Monument of the Kings of Argos**, and the beautiful polished white marble building of the **Treasury of the Athenians**. Visit the natural **amphitheater** build into the side of the hill and also the museum of Delphi. Return to Athens for dinner and overnight

Day 7 - Today you go by ferry to the island of **Aegina**. Its **Doricstyle Temple of Aphaea** is a prime example of early classical architecture. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 8 - Today you have a whole day on one the famous **Greek Islands**. You are free to explore, go to the beach, go shopping, just enjoy yourself. Dinner and overnight in **Aegina**.

Day 9 - Return by ferry to **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 **Erechtheum**. The Erechtheum 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**. Balance of the day you have time in Athens to explore this ancient city. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 10 - Today is a day for the groups own plans. You may wish to go to the museum or shop at the Plaka, or wander through the **National Garden**, explore the **Agora**; the ancient Greek and Roman marketplace; shop in the Plaka; the oldest section of town; or take the funicular up **Lykavitos Hill** for a spectacular view of the city. Tonight you will be your last night in Greece. This night will be filled with fun, folklore, song and dance.

Day 11 - Transfer to the airport for the flight home to Canada.

Included in the Cost of the Tour:

- Airfare Regina/Athens/Regina via scheduled airlines such as KLM or Air Canada
- 6 Nights accommodation in Tourist Class Hotels
- 3 Nights in a cruise ship
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Entrances and guided sightseeing tours as outlined in the day-to-day itinerary.
- Transportation by First Class Coach throughout.
- Services of the **RAINBOW EDUCATIONAL TOURS** Consultant prior to departure
- Airport taxes
- Port Taxes
- Excursion to Ephessos

Not Included:

- Comprehensive Insurance, Excess Medical, Trip Cancellation, and Baggage
- Expenses of a personal nature
- Passport and visas
- Extra beverages with meals
- Gratuities
- Single supplements for any single accommodation required
- Optional tours and excursions
- Any fuel surcharges imposed by the Airlines
- Any additional taxes imposed by any authority before departure
- Prices are based on today's exchange rate and any drastic shift would reflex in the price.

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