

ATHENS MINI TOUR

Highlights

- *Athens City Tour*
- *Parthenon Visit*
- *Cape Sounion Tour*

Options

*Day Cruise to Hydra,
Aegina and Poros*

Itinerary

Athens (3)

DAY 1 Depart for Athens. Greece is the cradle of Western civilization, the origin of drama and history and philosophy, and the birthplace of democracy. Her capital city is one of the safest and most affordable cities in the world, as well as one of its most beautiful, hospitable and exciting. Miraculously after 2,500 years, the Periclean Acropolis is still standing despite the ravages of modern pollution that have sent the remaining statues and frescoes inside the Acropolis Museum.

DAY 2 ATHENS Welcome to Greece! Your TSA Tours guide waits to greet you at the airport. You will then explore this ancient city on an Athens City Tour. Visit the Parthenon on the Acropolis. Just north of the Parthenon is another ancient building, the Erechtheon. Perhaps the oddest public building in ancient Athens, and maybe the oddest in all of Greece, it is built on several levels and each room or area in and around it is dedicated to a different deity or hero. Beside the Erechtheon grows an olive tree; the Greeks thought that the tree given to the Athenians by Athena during her contest with Poseidon was planted here. Also see the Royal Palace, the Theater of Dionysus, the National Gardens, the Temple of Athena Nike, the marble Olympic Stadium and the remains of the Roman Agora, where Socrates once held his famous dialogues. This evening, take a walk around Athen's Plaka, the oldest section of the city.

DAY 3 ATHENS Take a drive along the Attica Riviera for a Cape Sounion Tour. This is where the spectacular Temple of Poseidon, god of the sea was built. The temple was erected on a summit of a rock on a rocky peninsula overlooking the Aegean Sea. The Greeks have always watched the sea, for the return of loved ones, for the safe delivery of goods, for news of war. Maybe that's why the Temple of Poseidon, with its magnificent view of the Aegean, seems to still fulfill the role of seawayfarer from the

high promontory. You will have time for a swim before returning to Athens for a free afternoon.

DAY 4 ATHENS Today is free for further explorations. Option: Choose to take a fantastic all day Saronic Island cruise to Aegina, Hydra and Poros. On the island of Aegina you will enjoy pine covered hills and valleys full of vineyards, while visiting the Temple of Aphea, the best preserved classical temple in all of the Greek islands. Next,

dock at Poros and savor the quaint beauty of the harbor town's white houses that seem to meet the shoreline. Finally you will see Hydra, the most famous of the Saronic islands. Lunch is included in this scenic taste of past and present Greek life.

DAY 5 DEPART Transfer to the airport and board your flight home with excellent memories of your days in Athens!



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