

## Proposed Itinerary for GREECE 2020

**May 10** — Departure from Canada, overnight to Athens.

**May 11** — Mid-day arrival and transfer to our hotel. Orientation with instructors includes a walk to **PLAKA**, the heart of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Athens. (Athens)

**May 12** — A morning walk to the **KERAMEIKOS**, the potter's quarter of ancient Athens, where we find monuments along the Street of the Tombs, the broad *Dromos* which leads to Plato's Academy, and the ancient City Walls. Its Oberlaender Museum has an outstanding collection of burial-related objects. After lunch we enter the **AGORA**, the civic centre of ancient Athens. Here we find the Theseum, the best preserved classical temple in Greece, the "Prison" where Socrates drank the poison hemlock, the Stoa of Attalos, rebuilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to house the Agora Museum, and the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Church of the Holy Apostles. (Athens)

**May 13** — A morning visit to **HADRIAN'S LIBRARY**, once declared "the most luxurious public building in Athens", and to the **ROMAN AGORA**, created by Julius Caesar, marked by a massive Doric façade at its entrance and home to the elegant marble octagon of the Tower of the Winds. In the afternoon we stroll through the **ARCH OF HADRIAN** and a spreading precinct of the **OLYMPIEION**, to see the towering columns of what was the largest temple on the Greek mainland. (Athens)

**May 14** — This morning we walk to the **ACROPOLIS**. On the way, we stop at the Odeion of Herodes Atticus, built by the wealthy philanthropist in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century AD, and at the foot of the Areopagus, where Paul the Apostle gave a speech recorded in Acts 17. Passing through the magnificent marble columns of the Propylaea, we see the Parthenon, an awe-inspiring political statement by the Athenian Democracy of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC, the Erechtheum, the most holy place on the Acropolis, and the tiny Temple of Athena Niké, built to commemorate Athenian victories in the Peloponnesian War. Our return walk takes us down to the Theatre of Dionysus, where the tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides were originally performed. After lunch we enter the award-winning, new **AKROPOLIS MUSEUM**, where we focus on an amazing collection of beautiful archaic female statues, *kourai*, and a whole floor dedicated to the Sculpture of the Parthenon. (Athens)

**May 15** — A brief morning ride to the **NATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM**, an incomparable collection of masterpieces from throughout Greece. In the afternoon we drive to a little-visited part of Athens, the site of **PLATO'S ACADEMY**, where we see the remains of the so-called "Peripatos", in which Plato may have lectured. (Glyfada)

**May 16** — A day trip to **SOUNIO**, where we climb to the Temple of Poseidon, majestically situated on a precipitous, rocky headland, and to **BRAURON**, in the rural countryside where we visit the picturesque Sanctuary of Artemis where young Athenian girls trained to participate in religious celebrations. The Museum of Brauron contains many artifacts which belonged to these children. (Glyfada)

**May 17** — This morning we begin a 10-day tour of southern Greece, beginning with a visit to **MARATHON**, where Athenian hoplites won a legendary victory in the first Persian War (490 BC). The nearby Marathon Museum reminds us of the life of Herodes Atticus, perhaps the most famous son of Marathon. During the afternoon we visit the **AMPHIAREION**, a small healing shrine in a secluded wooded glen in northern Attica. (Agiioi Apostoloi)

**May 18** — A morning stop at the **SANCTUARY OF ELEUSIS**, where for centuries famous Greeks and Romans were initiated into the Greater Mysteries. Following lunch along the **CORINTHIAN CANAL**, we visit the two ports of ancient Corinth. At **CENCHREA**, the east port, we can see the remains of harbour quays and warehouses submerged as the coastline has subsided. At **LECHAION**, the west port, we visit the remains of the largest early Christian Basilica in Greece and view the silted-in western harbor of Corinth. At day's end we stop to examine the *Dolkos*, a road way along which wagons carried ships and material across the isthmus before excavation of the canal. (Loutraki)

**May 19** — This morning we scale the lofty heights of the **ACROCORINTH**, with its ancient and medieval fortifications and a view which, as the ancients said, "allows a defender to see an army coming for three days." After lunch we visit the Corinth Museum, as we enter the Agora (forum) of **ROMAN CORINTH**, with its archaic Temple of Apollo, its Roman temples, public latrine, fountain houses, and the broad Lechaion Road to the western harbour. (Loutraki)

**May 20** — We make a morning visit to **NEMEA**, with its well-preserved Stadium (site of the Nemean Games), its partially reconstructed Temple of Zeus, and a Museum with teaching displays. After lunch we go to **MYCENAE**, the leading city of the civilization immortalized in Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Walking through the Lion Gate, we visit Grave Circle A, climb to the Royal Palace Megaron, and examine the citadel's fortifications. (Bring a flashlight to descend into the Cistern!) We stop at the "Treasury of Atreus", the best preserved Beehive Tomb from the Mycenaean period. (Tolo)

**May 21** — A morning coach ride to **EPIDAUROS**, where we visit the most celebrated healing centre of the classical world. From the Propylaea, we trace the steps of the patients past the Enkoimeterion, in which they received dream therapy, to the Tholos, home of the sacred snakes, past the Stadium, and to banquet halls and the grand Katagogion. Lastly we visit the impressive Theatre of Epidauros, the best preserved of Hellenistic Greek theatres (seating some 15,000 and boasting amazing acoustics). Back in Nauplio, we visit the Nauplio Museum, home to the famous Armour of Dendra, and then conclude our day with a tour of the Palamidi, the Venetian fortress which stands on a lofty and almost inaccessible rock and commands a view of the whole of the Argolid. The hardy among us may wish to scale the 1000 steps to the fortress. (Tolo)

**May 22** — This morning we visit ancient **ARGOS** to see Roman Baths in which walls of brick still stand to the height of the roof and a Theatre, one of the largest in Greece, seating 20,000. Next we make a special visit to the town of Astros, where we will be able to see the remains of the country villa of Herodes Atticus. In the afternoon we make our way to **MESSENE**, with its magnificent fortification walls and towers stretching over the crest of Mount Ithome. Recent excavations have revealed a theatre, an agora, and a stadium, and in the middle of it all, a fascinating urban Asklepieion, with a Temple to Asklepios, a Bouleterion, and an Odeion. We end our day on the picturesque bay of Pylos, scene of Sparta's military humiliation in 425 BC. (Pylos)

**May 23** — A drive around Navarino Bay brings us to the site of the **PALACE OF NESTOR**, home of the aged Homeric hero who offered sage advice to the Greek kings surrounding Troy in Homer's *Iliad*. Next, we visit the Museum at Chora, home to the earliest Linear B tablets unearthed on mainland Greece. After lunch we wend our

way high into the Arcadian Mountains to find the lonely Temple of Apollo Epikourios at **BASSAE**. Housed under a special tent for protection, it is one of the best-preserved monuments of classical antiquity. We descend on the other side of the mountain and arrive in Olympia (Olympia)

**May 24** — A morning tour of the **PRECINCT OF OLYMPIA**, home of the Olympic Games, with its Gymnasium, Palaestra, Workshop of Phidias, Temple of Zeus, Temple of Hera, and Stadium. Later we visit the **OLYMPIA MUSEUM**, to see the Pedimental Sculpture of the Temple of Zeus, the Hermes by Praxiteles, the Niké of Paionios, and one of the most impressive collections of Greek armour in the world. (Olympia)

**May 25** — We spend the morning in the Roman colony city of **PATRAS**, where we view the Roman Odeion and the remains of a Roman Amphitheatre. Crossing over the Corinthian Gulf, our coach follows along the north shore and then climbs the southern slopes of Mount Parnassus to Delphi, the most important religious shrine in Classical Greece and the home of the Pythian Games. (Delphi)

**May 26** — A morning visit to the site of the Sacred Precinct of **DELPHI**, where we will see the Treasuries, the Temple of Apollo, the Theatre and the Stadium. After lunch we visit the Delphi Museum, where we see the archaic *kouroi*, Cleobis and Biton, important relief sculpture from the Treasuries, and the bronze Charioteer. (Delphi)

**May 27** — Today we drive through the Boeotian Plain on our way to the Piraeus to board a ferry for the **ISLAND OF AEGINA**, which Pericles once called the "eye-sore of the Piraeus". On this picturesque island, we travel to the top of a pine-clad hill overlooking the Saronic Gulf. Here we visit the Temple of Aphaia, called "the most perfectly developed of the late Archaic temples in European Hellas." The remainder of the day will be for review. (Agia Marina)

**May 28** — A day for review and study. This evening all are invited to a Celebration Dinner. (Agia Marina)

**May 29** — The examination begins at 9am. In the afternoon we catch our ferry back to Piraeus and transfer to our Athenian hotel. (Athens)

**May 30** — Morning transfer to Venizelos International Airport for our departure to Canada.