



CALIFORNIA REPERCUSSIONS



Carlson Maritime Travel

GREECE, Mar 20- Mar 30, 2024!



PROPOSED ITINERARY AND FLIGHT CHOICES:

3/20/24-Day 1, Flight from SFO to Athens.

LH#455	3/20/24	SFO-FRA	340P-1025A+1
LH#1282	3/21/24	FRA-ATH	1230P-415P

3/21/24- Day 2- (D) Arrival in Athens- If time permits, Panoramic City tour. Hotel Check-in at the **Royal Olympic Hotel**. Airport to hotel alone is a 45 minute drive. Welcome dinner for the group.

The Royal Olympic is a family run five- star property in the center of Athens. The hotel lays just in front of the famous Temple of Zeus and National Garden. We are underneath the Acropolis and only 2- minutes walk to the new Acropolis Museum.

After their complete renovation that finished in 2009, the Royal Olympic was transformed into an art hotel very elegantly decorated and more important very well looked after in every detail. One of the aspects given particular attention to, was to create a very personal hotel and as much environmentally friendly as possible. Our Roof Garden Restaurant - Bar opened recently offering the ultimate dining and wining experience in front of the most spectacular view in Athens. Our famous chef will be delighted to guide you through the secret paths of Greek cuisine while enjoying the unforgettable view.





It is also one of the only hotels in Athens where a large bus can pull up in front of the hotel. Welcome Dinner in PLAKA with traditional Greek music and Greek dancing. Overnight Athens.



3/22-Day 3- (B) (PERFORMANCE) Acropolis and museum in the morning. Lunch on own. Outdoor concert in Athens in Syntagma Square which is the main square of Athens with significant pedestrian traffic and located right in front of the Parliament house. Overnight Athens. Dinner on own.



3/23-Day 4- (B,L) Full day cruise from 8:00am- 7:00pm to the islands of Hydra, Aegina, and Poros. Lunch included. Overnight Athens. Dinner on own. No performance during the cruise. Possible performance evening.



Let Us Delight You with the Beauty of the Greek Islands!

Athens One Day Cruise to 3 Islands of **Aegina - Poros - Hydra**

What a great way for the group to see some of the Greek Islands without the big expense of traveling to and staying in the Greek Islands. It's a beautiful cruise with a sizeable Greek lunch on board.

CRUISE DESCRIPTON

Step aboard on the luxurious cruise boat and relax under the Greek sun while you are cruising to the islands of the Saronic Gulf (Aegina, Poros, and Hydra).

Taste the Mediterranean sea breeze. Enjoy the islands and their sandy or rocky beaches, the traditional architecture, the narrow cobblestone paved streets, the churches, the historical and archaeological sites and the colorful local life with the help of our 1-day cruises to Greece and Greek islands.

7:45 am: Transfer by motorcoach from our hotel to the ship

8:30 am: Sail for the island of Hydra. In Hydra, you have time at leisure for strolling, shopping or swimming.

In the early afternoon, we sail for the island of Aegina, passing through the narrow strait separating the Peloponnesian coast from the island of Poros. Lunch is served after sailing.

A short visit to Poros. Upon arrival in Aegina, you can either join the excursion to the temple of Aphaia (extra cost) or walk around the main town. Finally, reembark for the sail back to Flisvos Marina.

7:15 pm: Back to Flisvos Marina and transfer to our hotel in Athens.

Check out this youtube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnFCNqKqKJs>



3/24 Day 5- (B,D) (EVENING PERFORMANCE PENDING) Today we depart for Delphi, about a 3.5 hours drive. We cross the **Rion Antirion bridge** to northern part of Greece and on to **Delphi** -site of the ancient oracle. The Rio-Antirrio Bridge, officially the Charilaos Trikoupis Bridge, is one of the world's longest multi-span cable-stayed bridges and longest of the fully suspended type. It crosses the Gulf of Corinth near Patras, linking the town of Rio on the Peloponnese peninsula to Antirrio on mainland Greece by road. Dinner at Hotel



3/25 Day 6- (B,D) (PERFORMANCE) Sightseeing in Delphi- Performance this day. Visit the actual site of the oracle with stadium, archeological site and the museum of Delphi. Performance this evening PENDING and overnight Delphi. AMALIA DELPHI HOUSE. Dinner at Hotel. This evening performance pending **as it is Greek Independence Day. We will know more much later about what will be open, if we can perform, etc.**

3/26-Day 7- (B,D) (PERFORMANCE) After breakfast the group will travel to Nafplion 1 hrs 30 min). Nafplio is a charming, picturesque coastal town in the Peloponnese. Nafplio has been a significant Greek port city since ancient times. The first fortifications of the Akronafplia Castle date from pre-classical times, and all subsequent conquerors, i.e. the Byzantines, the Franks, the Venetians and the Ottoman Empire, fortified and expanded the walls further.

The Venetians also built the castles of Bourtzi, on a little island just off the coast, and Palamidi, up on the hill. In 1829, after the end of the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire, Nafplio officially became the first capital of the newly founded Greek state. In 1834, King Otto decided to move the capital to Athens. This evening, an outdoor performance. Dinner at hotel and overnight at the Amalia Hotel or similar.

At Amalia Hotel Nafplio you may enjoy sightseeing by visiting different tourist attractions and fun activities while also relaxing in a quiet and comfortable environment! Extensive gardens, wide corridors, an atrium, multiple relaxation areas and a summer veranda create the perfect atmosphere for a wonderful vacation getaway. Elegant rooms, a large swimming pool, a gym, a tennis court, a restaurant serving snacks, a lounge bar and marble lobby will make your stay unforgettable!



Amalia Hotel, Nafplio Greece



Courtyard

3/27-Day 8- (B,D) (PERFORMANCE PENDING) Overnight Nafplio

Today we will visit **Epidaurus**. It is one of the most popular archaeological sites in Greece, located on the north eastern side of Peloponnese, in the region of Argolis, Epidaurus Greece and is mostly famous for its Ancient Theatre. This theatre was constructed in the late 4th century BC to host religious ceremonial events in honor of god Asclepius, whose healing centre was located few steps away. Famous for its symmetry and the incredible acoustics, this classical theatre is surrounded by lush greenery and gives nice view to the valley below.

Dinner at hotel.

3/28 Day 9- (B) After breakfast, we check out of our hotel and head to CHALKIDA. About 2.5 hours drive. Delphi to Athens via Chalkida. If time permits, we will stop at the Mosque of Chalkida or Emir Zade. The mosque dates back to the Ottoman period when the Turks constructed it around the 15th Century. To this day, it is preserved and maintained in excellent condition. Today, it stands partly as a historical monument, while part of the mosque's section is a museum. You'll get to witness the magnificent Byzantine architecture along with archaeological collections since the medieval era of Chalkida.



MOSQUE



MOVING BRIDGE OF EURIPUS

Lunch on your own on the way. Performance. Dinner on own.

CHALKIDA:

Only 80 km away from **Athens**, the city of the sacred fountain of Arethousa is the main gate to the island of **Evia**. Thanks to its strategic geographic position, the city has remained a crossroad of cultures and ideas over the centuries, an apple of discord for many foreign conquerors. Today the cosmopolitan city of Chalkida, the administrative and commercial centre of the island built on both sides of Euvripos straits, is a popular destination among Athenians for short breaks away from the hustle and bustle of the capital city. Thanks to its impressive ultra- modern cable bridge, the access to the city has now become easier and quicker.

Chalkida is particularly famous for the **tidal phenomenon** that takes place in Euvripos, i.e. the swift change of water direction every six hours, created by the Moon's pull. During each change of direction, the water stops moving for about eight minutes. An ideal place to watch this unique phenomenon is the sliding Negroponte Bridge. Another favorite meeting point for the locals is the waterfront; a charming pedestrian street lined with elegant cafes and restaurants buzzing with life day and night! After possible performance in Chalkida, we continue on to Athens and check back into the **ROYAL OLYMPIC HOTEL**. (Athens) Dinner on own in Athens.

3/29 Day 10- (B,D) (PERFORMANCE) Free day for lunch, shopping and explorations. (We can assist with optional tours if anyone would like to pre-book them)

Free day in Athens for lunch, shopping and exploration. You might wish to visit the Athens Archeological museum. The National Archaeological Museum in Athens houses some of the most important artifacts from a variety of archaeological locations around Greece from prehistory to late antiquity. It is considered one of the greatest museums in the world and contains the richest collection of artifacts from Greek antiquity worldwide. We will have excursion guides for you and will offer dozens of day excursion to each of the participants prior to departure.

Take funicular up to the highest point of Athens Lycabettus Hill. See the view of Athens. Standing 277 meters above sea level, **Lycabettus Hill** (sometimes spelt Lykavitos) is the highest point of Athens. Although a beautiful walk up via a circular path, it will be a test of endurance and a challenge in summer. There is also a funicular to take you up to the top. The view from Lycabettus Hill is best enjoyed at sunset whilst waiting for the lights of the Acropolis, Temple of Olympian Zeus, Panathenaic Stadium and Ancient Agora to come on. Tonight is our farewell to Greece Dinner. We are working on a musical exchange this evening. (overnight Athens)

3/30 Day 11- (B) Breakfast at hotel, check-out EARLY DEPARTURE 3:50am!

LH#1285	3/30/24	ATH-FRA	650A-900A
LH#1282	3/30/24	FRA-SFO	10:05A-1:35P



HOTELS:

Because we need so many rooms, we are using large, major hotels with full amenities. We have chosen the following hotels subject to availability or similar in category:

ATHENS: Royal Olympic. Great location, within walking distance to major sites. One of the only hotels in Athens where the bus can pull up right in front of the hotel. You will love this hotel. We have this confirmed!



DELPHI: AMALIA DELPHI HOTEL



Amalia Hotel Delphi is situated in an ideal location where you can have the best of both worlds: a calming place to recharge as well as a convenient location that allows you to explore the famous archaeological attractions and museums of the area, fun outdoor activities and interesting towns nearby. Comfortable rooms, a large swimming pool, extensive gardens, a main restaurant, a cozy café-bar and lobby lounge with a fireplace will result in the best holiday getaway!



NAFPLIO: AMALIA HOTEL- *At Amalia Hotel Nafplio you may enjoy sightseeing by visiting different tourist attractions and fun activities while also relaxing in a quiet and comfortable environment! Extensive gardens, wide corridors, an atrium, multiple relaxation areas and a summer veranda create the perfect atmosphere for a wonderful vacation getaway. Elegant rooms, a large swimming pool, a gym, a tennis court, a restaurant serving snacks, a lounge bar and marble lobby will make your stay unforgettable*



INCLUSIONS: 11- Days March 20-30, 2023

- ✓ Round trip airport transfers for group flights only
(those who do their own air will pay additional for transfers)
- ✓ 5 Nights, Athens hotel, 3 at the beginning, 2 at the end
- ✓ Welcome Group Dinner in the PLAKA
- ✓ 2 Nights Delphi with breakfast and dinner each day
- ✓ 2 Nights Nafplio with breakfast and dinner each day
- ✓ Farewell Group Dinner in the PLAKA
- ✓ Full day 3-Island Greek Cruise with lunch and excursions- Aegina-Poros-Hydra
- ✓ Deluxe motor coaches
- ✓ A Hearty Breakfast Daily, 1 Lunch, 6 Dinners
- ✓ Entrance fees as outlined in itinerary
- ✓ Will work on providing 5-7 Outdoor Performances (times and venues to be determined)
- ✓ Farewell concert in Athens (TBD)
- ✓ Possible organization of Greek band or orchestra, or choir for musical exchange with audience
- ✓ Value added taxes plus Local taxes and hotel taxes
- ✓ Gratuities to your Guide, your Driver and your Greek escort professionals
- ✓ Gratuities to our local guides
- ✓ 2 bottles of water per person per day on the bus
- ✓ Fully escorted by representative from Carlson Maritime Travel + professional guides on each bus
- ✓ Local English-speaking Greek tour guide throughout

NOT INCLUDED:

Beverages during meals - Air flights - Optional Insurance- Group policy will be offered - Meals not indicated in itinerary - Fees for rehearsal space if required - Extra transfers for those not arriving with group air, any fees regarding the instruments, excess baggage fees, over weight fees, etc, Items of a personal nature.



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