

CYPRUS & GREECE

Legends of the Aegean

August 4-16, 2025

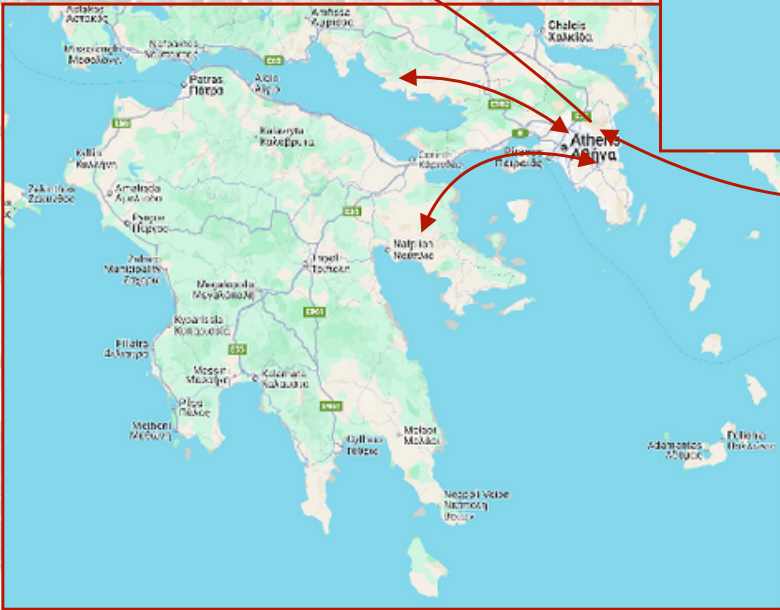
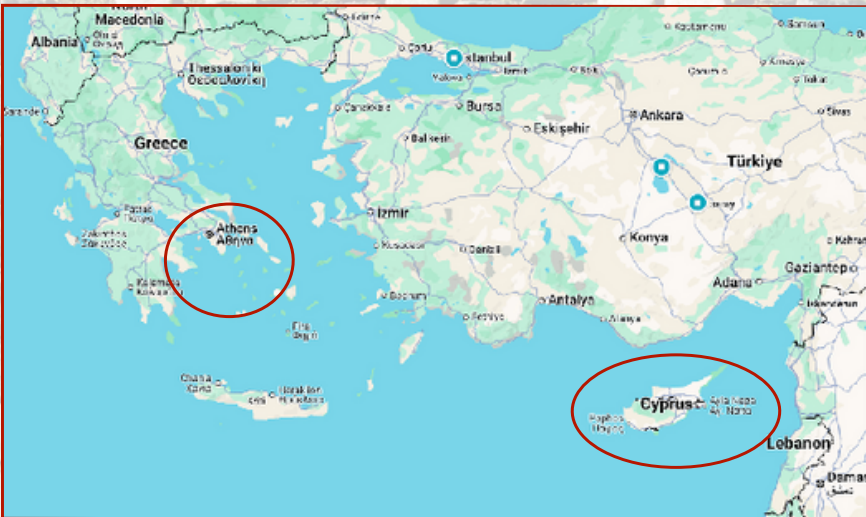


ITINERARY

DAY 1	Fri, Apr 4, 2025	Leave USA	
DAY 2	Sat, Apr 5, 2025	Arrive in Larnaca, Cyprus	Limassol
DAY 3	Sun, Apr 6, 2025	Excursion to Kourion	Limassol
DAY 4	Mon, Apr 7, 2025	Northern Cyprus - Kyrenia	Kyrenia
DAY 5	Tue, Apr 8, 2025	Kyrenia - Nicosia	Limassol
DAY 6	Wed, Apr 9, 2025	Excursion to Paphos	Limassol
DAY 7	Thu, Apr 10, 2025	Fly to Athens	Athens
DAY 8	Fri, Apr 11, 2025	Excursion to Delphi	Athens
DAY 9	Sat, Apr 12, 2025	Athens sightseeing	Nauplio
DAY 10	Sun, Apr 13, 2025	Mycene - Epidaurus	Nauplio
DAY 11	Mon, Apr 14, 2025	Excursion to Cape Sounion	Athens
DAY 12	Tue, Apr 15, 2025	Day at leisure in Athens	Athens
DAY 13	Wed, Apr 16, 2025	Departure	

April 4 - 16, 2025
13 Days / 11 Nights

MAP TRAJECTORY





HIGHLIGHTS

Archaeological sites of Southern Cyprus

Crusader history in Cyprus

Kyrenia & Northern part of the island

Nicosia - the only divided capital in the world

Parthenon and the new Parthenon Museum in Athens

Ancient Epidaurus theater

The archaeological site of Mycenae

Temple of Poseidon in Cape Sounion

Delphi, center of the oracles of ancient world

Delicious Greek food

Special dinner at a local taverna with Greek music and dance

INCLUDED

Hotel accommodation in deluxe hotels with daily breakfast. Arrival and departure transfers for suggested flights. Meals as indicated in the itinerary. Special dinner at a taverna with Greek music. Two small bottles of water per person per tour day on the bus. All entry fees for above-mentioned places. Private English speaking guides in each location. Private transportation with driver. Service charges for included meals and hotels. Local taxes.

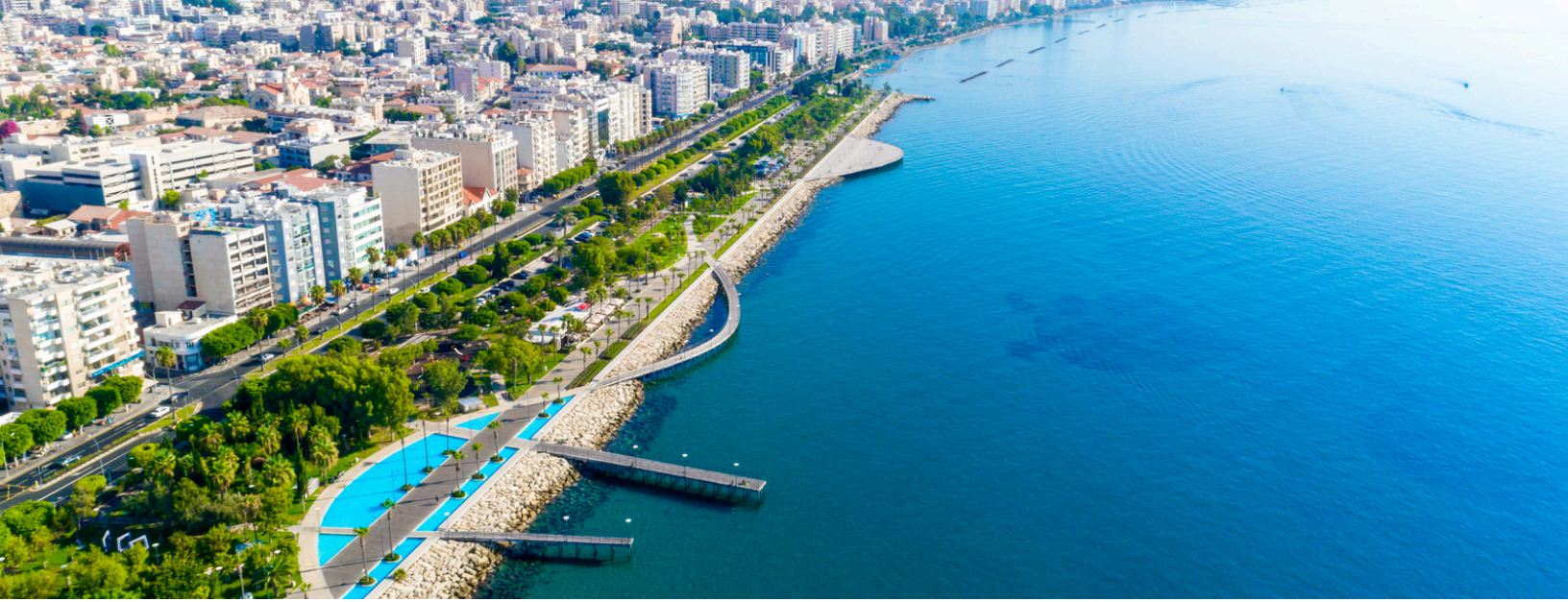
NOT INCLUDED

International and domestic airfare. Visa fees where applicable. Drinks with included meals, except drinking water and tea or coffee for breakfast.

Gratuities for guides and drivers.

Personal expenditures like phone calls, laundry, medical expenses, Travel insurance.





SUGGESTED FLIGHTS

April 4 - 16, 2025
13 Days / 11 Nights

Suggested flights are on LH - United Airlines and partner airlines:

04 Apr LH 441	Houston to Frankfurt dep: 3:35 pm / arr: 8:15 am
05 Apr LH 1292	Frankfurt to Larnaca dep: 11:05 am / arr: 3:50 pm
10 Apr A3 903	Larnaca to Athens dep: 10:15 am / arr: 12:00 noon
16 Apr UA 983	Athens to Washington DC dep: 11:45 am / arr: 3:45 pm
16 Apr UA 1360	Washington DC to Houston dep: 5:10 pm / arr: 7:28 pm

Economy class: \$1,600

Business class: \$6,000

per person, including taxes, surcharges and fees as of Aug 25, 2024.

Fares may change based on availability.

Preferred Travel Partner



ACCOMMODATIONS

April 4 - 16, 2025
13 Days / 11 Nights

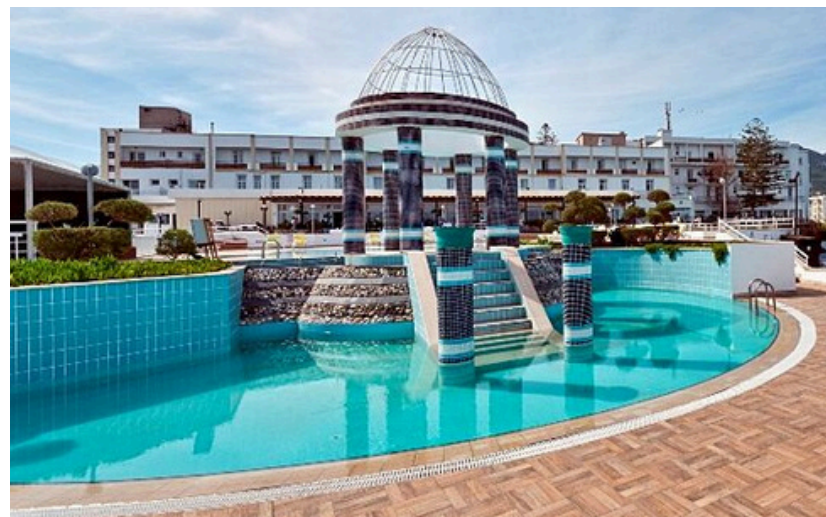
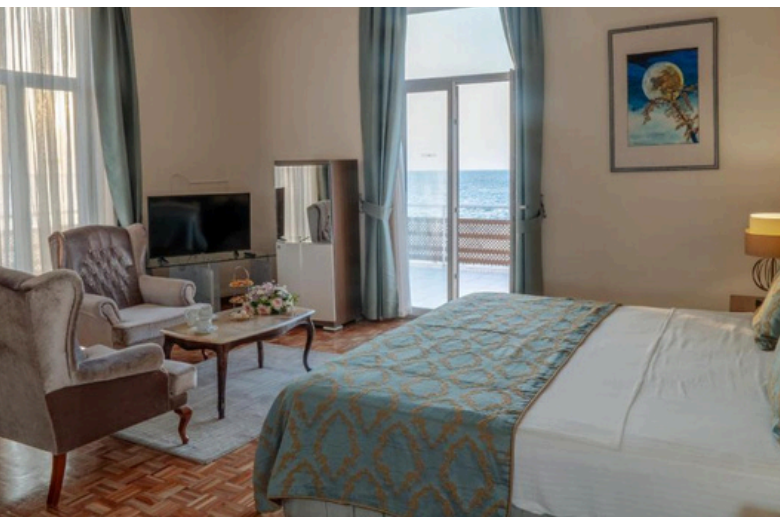
Amathus Beach Resort - Limassol

<https://www.amathuslimassol.com/>



Dome Hotel - Kyrenia

<https://www.dome-cyprus.com/>



ACCOMMODATIONS

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Royal Olympic - Athens

<https://www.royalolympic.com/>



Amalia Hotel - Nafplio

<https://www.amaliahotels.com/nafplio/hotel/>





PROGRAM DETAILS

Day 1: Fri, Apr 4

Leave USA

We will leave USA for Lamaca, Cyprus.

Day 2: Sat, Apr 5

Larnaca - Limassol

We will arrive in Larnaca early afternoon. Our guide and driver will welcome us and we will drive to Limassol for our stay.

Overnight in Limassol

Meals: None

Cyprus, a Mediterranean gem with a rich tapestry of history, has long been a crossroads of civilizations due to its strategic location at the intersection of Europe, Asia, and Africa. This island has been influenced by a succession of empires, including the Greeks, Romans, Byzantines, Ottomans, and British, each leaving an indelible mark on its culture and architecture. From ancient archaeological sites like Kourion and Paphos, where myths and legends come alive, to the medieval castles and the well-preserved old town of Nicosia, Cyprus offers a journey through time. Its significance extends beyond history, as the island is a symbol of cultural diversity and resilience, where visitors can explore stunning landscapes, sun-soaked beaches, and vibrant traditions. Cyprus is a gateway to the past and a testament to the enduring spirit of the Mediterranean.

Day 3: Sun, April 6

Kourion - Omodhos - Limassol

Departing the hotel we will have a first stop at **Limassol** in the old restored Turkish Quarter and we visit the **Medieval Castle**, where Richard Coeur de Lion married Princess Berengaria of Navarre. This is an opportunity to discover the city centre of the longest town of Cyprus.

Our drive along the south west coast will then start with a visit to the site of **ancient Kourion**, a Greek city dedicated to Apollo and one of the island's most important centers. The dominant feature at the site today is the Greco-roman theater, which has been partially restored and is now used for modern performances. We will also visit the house of Eustolios, which is decorated with a fine mosaic floor. We will then go to the **Sanctuary of Apollo Hylates**, ("Apollo of the Woodlands"), charmingly situated amongst the surviving woodlands. Along with the main sanctuary, we will also see the Palaestra, baths and the priests' quarters. We will pass by the stadium.

After the visit of Kourion we will be heading to **Kakopetria**. We will visit **Agios Nikolaos tis Stegis** which is covered entirely in wall paintings dating from the 11th century. It is considered one of the most interesting Byzantine churches on the island.

Last visit of the day is the wine making **village of Omodhos**. Omodhos is a wine producing village, once a property of Sir John De Brie, Prince of Galilee, with the Monastery of Stavros, «Holly Cross», standing by the stone-paved square. The monastery contains old icons, excellent wood carvings and other ecclesiastical objects of interest, as well as a small National Museum.

Overnight in Limassol

Meals: B - L - D



Day 4: Mon, April 7

Limassol - Kyrenia

Today is our full day in and around **Kyrenia in Northern Cyprus**.

We will leave our hotel in Limassol in the morning and driving through Nicosia, we will cross the border into Northern Cyprus.

Upon arrival in Kyrenia we will first explore **Kyrenia Castle and the Shipwreck Museum**, home of the reconstructed Hellenistic shipwreck, and also enjoy the scenery at the beautiful harbor of Kyrenia.

Then we will drive to **Bellapais Abbey**, a beautiful set of ruins overlooking the Mediterranean, made famous by Lawrence Durrell in “Bitter Lemons”. Bellapais is also one of the most picturesque villages of Cyprus.

We will have lunch at a local restaurant.

Overnight in Kyrenia

Meals: B - L - D



Northern Cyprus, officially known as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), emerged from the complex and turbulent history of the island. In 1974, following a coup d'état by Greek Cypriot nationalists seeking union with Greece, Turkey intervened militarily, citing the protection of the Turkish Cypriot minority. This led to the division of Cyprus, with the northern third of the island under Turkish control. In 1983, Northern Cyprus declared independence, but it is only recognized by Turkey, with the rest of the world considering it part of the Republic of Cyprus. Today, Northern Cyprus remains politically isolated but has developed its own economy, relying heavily on tourism, higher education, and financial assistance from Turkey. The island is still divided by the United Nations buffer zone, with ongoing efforts toward reunification, though a comprehensive resolution remains elusive. Despite these challenges, Northern Cyprus is known for its beautiful landscapes, rich history, and warm hospitality.



Day 5: Tue, April 8

Kyrenia - Nicosia - Limassol

We will leave Kyrenia in the morning, driving to **Nicosia**. Before crossing the border, we will have a short walking tour of Northern Nicosia including, **Kyrenia gate, Venetian square, the Buyuk Han, Selimiye Mosque** (St Sophia gothic cathedral) as well as the **Bedestan Mosque** (Agios Nicolaos Gothic Church).

Then we will pass the **Green Line from Ledras St.** check-point to the south part of Cyprus. After a stroll in the Southern part of the world's only divided capital city we visit two museums; the biggest and the most important Archaeological Museum where the history of the island is deployed from the Neolithic to the Byzantine period and the Leventis Municipal Museum presenting the History of the Capital all the way through the 10 000 years of history.

Late in the afternoon we will drive to our hotel in Limassol.

In the evening, we can explore the dinner options in Limassol on our own.

Overnight in Limassol

Meals: B - L





Day 6: Wed, April 9

Paphos - Limassol

Today is our excursion to **Paphos**, located on the southwestern edge of the island. We will drive and stop to see **Petra tou Romiou**, the legendary birthplace of Aphrodite. Ancient patron goddess of Cyprus emerged from the sea at this point in a surge of sea foam.

Then we will drive to Paphos and then proceed to **Agios Neophytos Monastery** which was founded at the end of the 12th century by the Cypriot hermit and writer Neophytos. The “Engleistra”, an enclosure which was carved out of the mountain contains some of the finest 12th century Byzantine frescoes.

In the monastery church which contains some of the most beautiful icons of the Post-Byzantine period of the 16th century is a very interesting ecclesiastical museum. After the monastery, we will visit **Nea Paphos** city complex (the Agora with the Odeion and the Asklepieion. Nea Paphos refers to the city of Paphos which was founded in the late 4th century BC.

The site was well chosen for it had an excellent harbor. It is now a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**, the remains found here span over 2, 000 years. We will see lavish mosaics in three Roman villas; the House of Theseus, the House of Aion, the House of Dionysos.

Then we will proceed to Paphos’ most impressive site, the **Tombs of the Kings**. Seven tombs, all scattered over a wide area and all are accessible to the public were found. The most recently restored tomb is No. 3 and is the most impressive, with a below ground atrium surrounded by impressive Doric columns. These rock cut peristyle tombs, built in the Hellenistic period, have their best parallels in Ptolemaic Alexandria.

Then we will discover the basilicas area with the column of St. Paul, who came to preach Christianity on the island with St. Barnabas in 45 AD. In the evening, we can explore dining options in Limassol on our own.

Overnight in Limassol

Meals: B-L



Day 7: Thu, April 10

Larnaca - Athens

After breakfast, we will be transferred to Larnaca airport for our flight to Athens.

Upon arrival, our guide and driver will meet and transfer us to our hotel.

We will enjoy our first evening in Athens, with free time for dinner.

Overnight in Porto

Meals: B



Athens, the cradle of Western civilization, boasts a history that spans over 3,000 years. As the heart of ancient Greece, it was the birthplace of democracy, philosophy, and drama, fostering great minds like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. The city flourished during the 5th century BCE, known as the Golden Age of Athens, under the leadership of Pericles, who oversaw the construction of iconic landmarks such as the Parthenon on the Acropolis. Athens has endured through various empires, from the Romans to the Ottomans, each leaving its mark on the city's cultural and architectural landscape. Today, Athens seamlessly blends its ancient heritage with a vibrant modern life, making it a fascinating destination for travelers.

Day 8: Fri, April 11

Delphi - Athens

Today we will have an excursion to Delphi.

Delphi is both an archaeological site and a modern town on the south-western spur of **Mount Parnassos in the valley of Phocis**. According to the Greek mythology, Delphi was the site of the Delphic oracle, the most important oracle in the classical Greek world and a major site for the worship of Apollo after he slew the Python, a dragon who lived there and protected the navel of the Earth. At the archeological site, we will see the Temple of Apollo, the stadium, the theater among other buildings.

The Archaeological Museum houses mainly the offerings to the oracle and the architectural parts of the buildings.

After our visit, late in the afternoon, we will drive back to Athens.

In the evening, we will have a special dinner with Greek music and dances at a local tavern.

Overnight in Athens

Meals: B-L-D



Delphi, nestled on the slopes of Mount Parnassus in Greece, was one of the most important religious sites in the ancient world. Revered as the center of the earth, or the "navel of the world," according to Greek mythology, Delphi was home to the Oracle of Apollo, where the Pythia, a high priestess, would deliver prophecies that guided the decisions of leaders and citizens alike. Established around the 8th century BCE, Delphi became a major cultural and spiritual hub, attracting visitors from all over the Greek world who came to seek divine guidance. The sanctuary of Delphi included the Temple of Apollo, treasuries, a theater, and the Stadium, where the Pythian Games, similar to the Olympics, were held. Delphi's influence waned with the rise of Christianity, but its ruins remain a testament to its profound historical and cultural significance..



Day 9: Sat, April 12

Athens - Nauplion

Welcome to one of the world's oldest cities, with its recorded history spanning around 3,400 years.

Being a powerful city-state, Classical Athens was a center for the arts, learning and philosophy, home of Plato's Academy and Aristotle's Lyceum. It is widely referred to as the cradle of Western civilization and the birthplace of democracy.

We will have a city tour of Athens during which we will visit the **Parthenon** and the new **Parthenon Museum**.

The Parthenon is a Doric peripteral temple on the Athenian Acropolis, dedicated to Athena, the patron of the city. The construction of this most important surviving building of Classical Greece began in 447 BC when the city was at the height of its power.

The new Parthenon Museum, which sits near the base of the Acropolis with direct view of the Parthenon, is one of the highest-profile cultural projects undertaken in Europe in this decade. The new facility, 226,000 square feet of glass and concrete designed by the New York-based architect **Bernard Tschumi**, replaces the old one, a small 1874 building tucked into the rock of the Acropolis next to the Parthenon.

After our lunch we will continue with other sites of Athens: Syntagma Square, Orthodox Cathedral, Temple of Zeus, Aeropagus, Panatinaiko Stadium, Monastiraki and Plaka areas. Late in the afternoon, we will drive to Nauplion for overnight.

Overnight in Nauplion

Meals: B-L-D

This morning, we will drive to **Epidauros** which was a small city in ancient Greece at the **Saronic Gulf**. Reputed to be the birthplace of Apollo's son Asclepius, the healer, Epidauros was known for its sanctuary, as well as its theater.

The **Asclepieion** at Epidauros was the most celebrated healing center of the Classical world, the place where ill people went in the hope of being cured. The prosperity brought by the healing center enabled Epidauros to construct civic monuments, too; the huge theater that delighted Pausanias for its symmetry and beauty, the baths and a palaestra.

The theater was designed by **Polykleitos** the Younger in the 4th century BC. The theater is marveled for its exceptional acoustics, which permit almost perfect intelligibility of unamplified spoken word from the presceniun (stage) to all 15, 000 spectators, regardless of their seating.

Later in the day, we will drive on and go back to the second millennium **BC in Mycenae**, which was one of the major centers of Greek civilization, a military stronghold that dominated much of southern Greece. It's in the UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites.

After our sightseeing, we will drive back to Nauplion, where we will spend our second night. Nauplion was the capital of the **First Hellenic Republic**, from the start of the Greek Revolution in 1821 until 1834. It is now the capital of the regional unit of Argolis. At a first glance, this seaside town looks like an Italian city because of its architecture and the colorful houses.

Overnight in Nauplion

Meals: B-L-D





Day 11: Mon, April 14 Cape Sounion - Athens

Before noon, we will leave Nauplion and drive north, crossing **Corinth Canal**. We will have our lunch at a local restaurant along the way.

Then our driver will follow the road to **Cape Sounion**, circling the idyllic Saronic Gulf to take us to one of the most iconic sights in Greece: the columns of the **Temple of Poseidon**, framing the blue sea backdrop since 44 BC.

After our visit, we will drive to Athens. Evening at leisure for us to experience Athens night life individually.

Meals: B-L

Overnight in Athens

Day 12: Tue, April 15 Athens

A leisure day in Athens. You can visit National Archaeological Museum, walk the lively streets of the city to explore more.

Meals: B

Overnight in Athens

Day 13: Wed, April 16 Departure

We will be transferred to the airport for our return flight.

