

## PARALLEL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

(Bookings through Afea S.A. [pagemeeing2011@afea.gr](mailto:pagemeeing2011@afea.gr))

### FOR THE 20<sup>th</sup> P.A.G.E. Meeting 2011 – OVERVIEW

#### 1. Athens Sightseeing



#### (Duration: half day)

This tour gives an opportunity to observe the striking contrasts that make Athens such a fascinating city. Expert guides take the participants to see the center of the city and its famous monuments, such as the Constitution Square (Syntagma), the House of Parliament, the Memorial to the Unknown Soldier and the National Library. On the way to the Acropolis participants will see the Hadrian's Arch, visit the Temple of Olympian Zeus and will make a short stop at the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympic Games of the modern era were held in 1896. On the Acropolis participants can visit the architectural masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: the Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erectheion and finally "the harmony between material and spirit", the monument that "puts order in the mind", the Parthenon.

#### 2. Athens Sightseeing & New Acropolis Museum

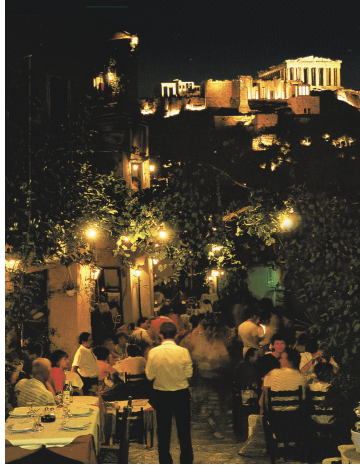


#### (Duration: half day)

A guided tour that combines the Athens sightseeing tour with the visit to the new Acropolis Museum, which opened its doors on June 2009, can be organized for all registered participants. The Acropolis Museum is an archaeological site-specific museum, housing the most famous works of classical antiquity. The Museum's galleries house findings from the slopes of the Acropolis and other collections. The first gallery's glass floor offers views to the excavation, while its upward slope eludes to the ascent to the Acropolis. The new Museum offers all the amenities expected in an international museum of the 21st century and, despite its short period of operation, it has already become a pole of attraction for thousands of people from all around the world.

\* Also available on afternoon upon request.

### 3. A Night out in Athens



#### **(Duration: 4 hours)**

Participants' evening begins with a short panoramic drive through the City Center and at the slope of the sacred hill they will be able to see, admire and photo the illuminated Acropolis. Next they will visit the Museum and discover the divine origin of Ancient Greek musical instruments and enjoy travelling in the hidden paradise of Ancient Greek music history and sounds. The greatest and only collection around the Universe, of more than 60 reconstructed Ancient Greek musical instruments will be explored. Then a pleasant walk through the narrow picturesque streets of Plaka, the old city, will bring the participants at a Typical Greek Tavern where they will enjoy their dinner following a floor show with live music and Greek Folk Dances in traditional costumes.

### 4. Cape Sounion in the afternoon



#### **(Duration: 4 hours)**

A magnificent drive along the coastal road, passing the wonderful beaches of Glyfada, Vouliagmeni & Varkiza to the most Southern point of Attica, Cape Sounion, where the white marble pillars of the Temple of Poseidon stand. On the way, participants will have a splendid view of the Saronic Gulf and the little islands offshore. After visiting the Temple of Poseidon, there will be time to walk at leisure on the rocky promontory of Sounion.

**5. One Day Cruise  
(Poros – Hydra – Aigina)**



**(Duration: 11 hours)**

A cruise from Athens (Piraeus port), to the fabulous Greek islands of Hydra, Poros and Aegina for a relaxing day on the sea. With all transport, transfers and lunch organized, the participant can sit back and enjoy the leisurely cruise with free time on each island to explore. The first destination sails the participant to the island of Hydra, where there will be enough free time for strolling, shopping and swimming. Next destination is the island of Aegina, where the cruise passes through the narrow strait separating the Peloponnesian coast from the island of Poros. Upon arrival to Aegina the participants can either join an excursion to the Temple of Aphaia or take a walk around the main town. After lunch served on board, the cruise sails to Poros in the southern Agrosaronic Gulf. There is free time to explore Poros – it worth a visit to the ancient Trizina, the ruins of the Russian Dockyard, or a romantic stroll in the Lemon Forest.

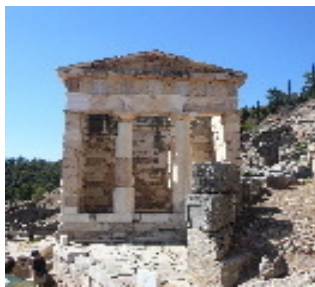
**6. Mycenae–Epidaurus (1 day)**



**(Duration: 11 hours)**

Explore the remains of the ancient city of Mycenae a major centre of Greek civilization from 1600BC to 1100BC. The group departs from the terminal via the coastal National highway for the CORINTH CANAL (short stop). Then, drives to MYCENAE and visits the archaeological site, home to the kingdom of mythical Agamemnon. Participants visit the Palace, the Lionesses Gate and the tomb of Agamemnon. After a short stop the group drives through ARGOS, proceeds to Nauplia - the first capital of modern Greece with its Venetian fortress of PALAMIDI - and the fortified islet of BOURTZI. A visit follows to the ancient theatre of EPIDAUROS. UNESCO'S world heritage listed monument is reputed to be the birthplace of Apollo's son Asklepios, the healer and was the most celebrated healing center of the classical world. Epidaurus is probably most famous for its theatre; one of the best preserved classical Greek buildings and is still used today due to its amazing acoustics. The tour returns to Athens in the late afternoon.

## 7. Delphi (1 day)



### (Duration: 11 hours)

Explore one of the most famous sites of classical Greece on a day tour from Athens to magical Delphi. The group departs from the terminal. Via the national highway passing by Thebes, Levadia (short stop), participants arrive at Delphi around noon. Famous for its theater, Temple of Apollo and ancient ruins, Delphi was considered the center of the earth and the universe, and played a central role in the classical Greek world. Passing by CASTALIA SPRING, the participants visit the archaeological site the TEMPLE of APOLLO - famous for its oracle - and the MUSEUM of Delphi, with its spectacular finds, including the unique bronze Charioteer, the Naxian Sphinx and the Statue of Antinoos. The group returns to Athens via the picturesque mountain village of ARACHOVA, built on the south slopes of Parnassus, well known for its attractive hand-woven carpets, rugs and quilts, as well as for its wine and cheese (short stop). Delphi is one of the national treasures of Greece and Unesco's world heritage monument. The tour returns to Athens in the late afternoon.

## 8. Mycenae - Epidaurus (2 days)



In this 2 day tour participants will have an afternoon and a morning free in order to see more of the picturesque town of Nauplion that the Venetians called "Naples of Greece".

**1<sup>st</sup> day:** Corinth Canal - Mycenae (visit & lunch) - Nauplion, afternoon free. Overnight.

**2<sup>nd</sup> day:** Nauplion - Epidaurus (visit) - return to Athens.

### 9. Delphi (2 days)



**1<sup>st</sup> day:** The group will be driven through the fertile plain of Beotia, crossing the towns of Thebes, Levadia and Arachova will arrive in Delphi, the center of the Ancient World. On the slopes of Mount Parnassus, in a landscape of unparalleled beauty and majesty, lie the ruins of the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios. Participants will visit the Treasury of the Athenians, the Temple of Apollo and the Museum containing such masterpieces of Ancient Greek sculpture as the bronze Charioteer. The afternoon is free and dinner follows.

**2<sup>nd</sup> day:** The whole morning is free for the participants to see more of the ragged grandeur of Delphi and take photographs to remind them of its beauty. Return to Athens by the same route.

### 10. Delphi - Meteora (2 days)



**1<sup>st</sup> day:** Participants will leave for Delphi via Thebes, Levadia and the picturesque village of Arachova, on the slopes of Mount Parnassus and will arrive in Delphi in order to visit the Archaeological Site. After the visit they will depart for Kalambaka, passing through picturesque villages and towns of Central Greece. Dinner will follow.

**2<sup>nd</sup> day:** Participants will visit Meteora and have the opportunity to enjoy the unique and most impressive scenery with ageless Monasteries, containing priceless historical and religious treasures, standing between earth and sky on top of huge rocks. They will return to Athens via Trikala, Lamia, Thermopylae (short stop to see across the road the Leonida's Monument). Arrival in Athens early in the evening.

## 11. Classical Tour (3 days)



Prehistory, the Classical period, Roman domination, the Byzantine Empire, the Crusades and Modern times: In this three days tour, participants will have the chance to learn Greece through the centuries.

**1<sup>st</sup> day:** Participants will leave by the coastal road to the Corinth Canal (short stop). They will visit the Theatre of Epidauros, famous for its remarkable acoustics. Then, they will depart for the town of Nauplion (short stop for photos), drive on to Mycenae and visit the Archaeological Site and the Tomb of Agamemnon. Then, they will depart for Olympia through Central Peloponnese and the towns of Tripolis and Megalopolis. Overnight in Olympia, the cradle of the Olympic Games. Dinner is included.

**2<sup>nd</sup> day:** In the morning participants will visit the Archaeological Site with the Sanctuary of Olympian Zeus, the Ancient Stadium and the Archaeological Museum. Then, they will be driven on through the plains of Eliad and Achaia until the magnificent bridge which is crossing the Corinthian Bay from Rion to Antirion. The group will pass by the picturesque towns of Nafpactos (Lepanto) and Itea and arrive at Delphi. Overnight. Dinner is also included.

**3<sup>rd</sup> day:** In the morning the participants will visit the Archaeological Site and the Museum. A couple of hours free time in Delphi before departing and drive through the village of Arachova, renowned for its colorful rugs and carpets. Return to Athens via Levadia and Thebes. Arrival in Athens early in the evening.

## 12. Delphi - Meteora (3 days)



**1<sup>st</sup> day:** The participants will leave for Delphi via Thebes, Levadia and the picturesque village of Arachova, on the slopes of Mount Parnassus, arrive in Delphi and visit the Sanctuary of Apollo Pythios (Treasury of the Athenians, Temple of Apollo, e.t.c.) and the Museum. The group will have their afternoon free. Dinner and stay overnight at Delphi.

**2<sup>nd</sup> day:** Morning free. Then, the participants leave Delphi for an interesting trip through Central Greece and the town of Lamia to Kalambaka. Dinner and stay overnight.

**3<sup>rd</sup> day:** Visit Meteora, particularly impressive scenery, ageless Monasteries, containing priceless historical and religious treasures, stand suspended between earth and sky, on top of granite rocks. Return to Athens via Trikala, Lamia. Thermopylae (short stop to see across the road the Leonida's Monument), arrive in Athens early in the evening.