



St Josephs College

Greece and Italy Study Tour 2024

Departure date: Wednesday 18th September 2024

Proposed itinerary

Meals: B – Breakfast | L – Lunch | D – Dinner | S – Standard | U – Upgraded

Day 1 Melbourne – Athens

Meet at the airport for your flight to Athens, Greece.

Day 2 – Arrive Athens

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard Central

Meet your tour director and check into hotel

Athens city walk You're never more than a few steps away from the past in Athens. Accompany your Tour Director to the Plaka, the historic district that borders the Acropolis. In its twisting narrow streets you'll catch glimpses of an older city, from wrought-iron balconies bursting with geraniums to traditional Greek dancing in basement tavernas. Continue on to the Temple of Olympian Zeus, begun in the 6th century B.C. and finished in A.D. 132 by the emperor Hadrian. Its enormous columns provide a sense of the scale of the original temple.

Dinner is at the hotel or a local restaurant.

Private coach transport included

Day 3 – Athens

Meals: B, D - S | **Hotel:** Standard

Athens guided sightseeing tour Not just another crowded dusty city, Athens has developed from the birthplace of democracy to a bustling modern metropolis. With a local licensed guide, start your time travel at the ancient hot spots of the first Olympic site and the sprawling Acropolis, classical Athens' religious and civic center. The awe-inspiring Parthenon - a temple dedicated to Athens' patron saint Athena -- is the obvious centerpiece, but take time to examine the building next door, where sculpted women hold up the roof with their heads, and the amazing view of modern Athens below. Jump back to the present in Syntagma Square, the center of the modern city, to see the Parliament building and the British-style changing of the guards ceremony.

Day 3 (continued)

Greek dinner in Plaka

Plaka treasure hunt Take interactive learning to another level with a Tour Director-led treasure hunt of Plaka, the old folk quarters of Athens! Enjoy an after dinner adventure, complete exciting activities and solve fun clues. Each clue and every activity is built to maximize on-tour experiential learning

Day 4 – Athens – Delphi

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard

Travel to Delphi

Delphi guided excursion Prophet from the past. Explore the impressive ruins at Delphi, which the Greeks considered the center of the world. Within the depths of the Temple of Apollo, a priestess would inhale intoxicating vapors that used to rise from the earth and, thus inspired, deliver the prophecies of Apollo. Modern visitors might find more inspiration in the view from Mount Parnassus, over 8000 feet high.

Dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant

Coach transport included

Day 5 – Delphi – Tolo

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard

Travel to Tolo via Corinth Canal, Epidaurus & Mycenae

Epidaurus & Mycenae guided visit You will visit the impressive Mycenae, a massive monument built before 1100 BCE. Enter the Treasury of Atreus, where you'll find the Tholos Tomb assumed to belong to King Agamemnon. Step through the Lion Gate and visit the ruins of the palace and the castle. Along the perimeter, look up and admire the Cyclopean walls surrounding the triangular-shaped Acropolis. Continue on to Epidaurus and visit the ancient theatre. The 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 still used today due to its amazing acoustics.

Dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant

Coach transport included

Day 6 – Tolo – Nafpaktos via Olympia

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard

Travel to Nafpaktos via Olympia

Ancient Olympia guided visit Once one of the most important sites in Greece, the former locale of the Olympic games now has some of the most picturesque ruins in the country. Surrounded by shady olive trees and flowing rivers, the stones of the original temple and stadium still inspire awe – and the occasional victory lap.

Dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant

Coach transport included

Day 7 – Nafpaktos - Athens

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard

Castle of Nafpaktos visit Travel to Athens Athens is one of the oldest and greatest cities of Western Civilization, with a recorded history that extends back 3,400 years. During the Classical Era, Athens was a center for the arts, learning, and philosophy. It was the home of Plato's Academy and Aristotle's Lyceum. Modern Athens is still a vibrant city with a rich culture that takes great pride in its long and complex history.

Dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant

Coach transport included

Day 8 – Athens – Naples - Sorrento

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard

Fly to Naples, Italy.

Travel to Sorrento via Naples Naples Archeological Museum visit

Dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant

Coach transport included

Day 9 – Sorrento

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard

Pompeii guided excursion Stop to see the city where time stood still, literally. Once an important Roman city with 20,000 residents, Pompeii was frozen in time nearly 2000 years ago, when Mount Vesuvius erupted and buried the city under 30 feet of mud and volcanic ash. Forgotten for centuries after the eruption, Pompeii was discovered in the 1600's and is now completely excavated.

Cameo workshop Cameos, oval in shape and consisting of a portrait in profile carved in relief on a background of a different color, are often worn as jewelry. Stone cameos of great artistry were made in Greece dating back as far as the 3rd century BC, the oldest being the Hellenistic piece the Farnese Tazza. They were very popular in Ancient Rome, especially in the family circle of Augustus. Stop by a modern-day cameo workshop and watch artisans carve them up close.

Italian gelato cooking class Join classmates in a one hour Italian gelato cooking class, where you'll make traditional gelato from fresh fruits and local dairy. Buon appetito!

Dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant

Coach transport included

Day 10 – Sorrento – Rome

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard Central

Herculaneum guided excursion Sitting in the shadow of Mt. Vesuvius, the ancient town of Herculaneum was destroyed when the deadly volcano erupted in 79 AD. Hidden under an airtight crust for over 1,700 years, buildings and skeletons were kept intact and have now been discovered and excavated. Explore the ruins and learn about that dreadful day in 79 AD when the fates of the town and its people were sealed.

Dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant

Coach transport included

Day 11 – Rome

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard Central

Vatican City guided walking sightseeing tour with Whisper headsets Tour St. Peter's Basilica with a licensed local guide and whisper headset so you don't miss a word. Outside the church, four rows of columns radiate out like welcoming arms; inside, the church seems enormous enough to embrace the entire world. The dome, partially designed by Michelangelo, rises 452 feet above the ground. Michelangelo's mark is everywhere here, from the costumes worn by the Swiss Guards to his exquisite "Pietà" sculpture (the only sculpture he ever signed) to the amazing frescoes of the Sistine Chapel.

Pantheon visit Visit the Pantheon, Rome's best-preserved monument. The Pantheon is a masterpiece of architecture with its huge hemispherical dome. It also contains the tombs of the kings of Italy and that of the artist, Raphael

Dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant

Coach transport included

Day 12 – Rome

Meals: B, D – S | **Hotel:** Standard Central

Ancient Rome guided walking sightseeing tour with Whisper headsets The ultimate symbol of Ancient Rome, the Colosseum still dominates the modern city. Tour the amphitheatre with your local licensed guide. Built by the emperor Vespasian in A.D. 72, the structure held almost 50,000 spectators but was so well organized that the entire place could be emptied within 15 minutes. Inside, the spectacles varied from gladiator battles to immense naval contests to wild beast shows, in which thousands of exotic animals like giraffes and ostriches were popped into the stadium through trap doors and left to fight Roman hunters. See the system beneath the floor that operated the trap doors and housed the animals, then continue on to the relative calm of the Forum. Ancient Rome's commercial, religious and political center, the Forum held markets, temples and the Senate House. Near the Rostra, or speaker's platform, you can still see game boards scratched into the marble by bored politicians--anyone up for a game of tic tac toe?

Gladiator school visit Experience a day in the life of a gladiator in ancient Rome. Through demonstrations and workshops, you'll see how the gladiators lived, what they did, how they trained, and more.

Rome Treasure Hunt with your Tour Director

Dinner at the hotel or a local restaurant

Coach transport included

Day 13 – Rome

Meals: B - S

Depart on your flight home today.

Day 14 – Arrive Melbourne

Arrive back in Melbourne