

Dear all,

Attached is the itinerary as it currently looks for our trip to Greece. There may be minor adjustments along the way, but this will give you a very good idea about the places we'll be visiting and the amount of time we'll be spending on the road.

As we get closer to the date and the itinerary has been finalized, I will make sure that everyone has a copy of our precise itinerary with hotels, phone numbers, etc. This itinerary is intended to give you an idea of where we are headed!

Ann-Marie Knoblauch
(amk@vt.edu)

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EDUCATIONAL TOURS & CRUISES

4321 LAKEMOOR DR.
WILMINGTON
NC 28405-6429
TEL: (800) 275-4109
(910) 350-0100
FAX: (910) 791-8440



CONTACT ADDRESS IN GREECE:

700 22 P.O. BOX - GLYFADA
166 10 GREECE
TEL: (+30)210 8951725
9657441

FAX: (+30)210 8955419
E-MAIL: edtours@ed-tours.com

Virginia Tech, Dr. Ann-Marie Knoblauch
Study Tour to Greece
May 19 - June 10, 2010 (22 overnights)

Tuesday May 19: USA-ATHENS Depart overnight flight from Dulles. Next day arrival.

Wednesday May 19: ATHENS Arrival of the group. Bus transfer to Hotel. Opening meeting. **City tour** by bus. **Welcome dinner** in a tavern. Overnight in Athens at hotel Astor or similar.

Thursday May 20: ATHENS Visit (no guide) the Slopes of Acropolis, Olympion, Hadrian's Arch, Kerameikos & the New Acropolis Museum (closed on Mondays). Overnight in Athens at hotel Astor or similar.

Friday May 21: ATHENS Visit (no guide) Acropolis, Dionysus Theatre & Agora. Overnight in Athens at hotel Astor or similar.

Saturday May 22: ATHENS - AEGINA Early morning departure by private bus to port of Piraeus for ferry to Aegina, approx. 1 hour ride. Ferry departs around 9:00am. Visit the Temple of Aphaia (Temple of Aphaia: 22970-32398) and return to the town for lunch. Free time for swim. Afternoon ferry to Piraeus. Bus transfer to your hotel. Overnight in Athens at hotel Astor or similar.

Sunday May 23: ATHENS - HERAKLION CRETE Morning departure by metro to visit the National Archaeological Museum (N. A. M.: 210-8217717). At 12noon meet the bus to Cape Sounion for visit of the Temple of Poseidon (Temple of Poseidon: 22920-39363). Lunch stop on the way. At 4:30pm continue to Lavrion to visit St. Paul's Nunnery; talk with the nuns on their monastic life and shop from

their organically grown products. At 5:30pm drive the Attica coast to **Piraeus port** to board ferry to **Iraklion** that departs around 9:00pm. Overnight in 4-berth cabins.

Monday May 24: HERAKLION CRETE Around 6:00am arrive at the port of **Iraklion**. Transfer to Hotel. After breakfast at your hotel (arranged at 7.00am), meet your local guide at 8:00 a.m. (Mrs. Rena Kyriotaki, cell: 694441387) and walk to the **Archaeological Museum** (only a room is open with most important displays) for a guided visit (Heraklion A. M.: 2810-226092). Continue by private bus to **Knossos Palace** (Knossos: 2810-231940). Suggestion to go to the village of **Archanes** for lunch stop at the tavern 'SPITIKO' (tel.: 2810-751591) Afternoon free. Suggested restaurant for dinner: 'Ta Ladadika' tel.: 2810-346135, in the old market. Overnight in Heraklion at hotel Lato or similar.

Tuesday May 25: HERAKLION CRETE - ATHENS Early morning departure by private bus and guide (Mrs. Rena Kyriotaki, cell: 694441387) for visits at **Gortys** and **Phestos**. Evening bus transfer to the port for overnight ferry to **Piraeus**. Overnight in 4-berth cabins.

Wednesday May 26: ATHENS - OLYMPIA Early morning arrival (around 6:00am) at **Piraeus port**. Bus transfer to **Olympia** with private bus and guide to start the southern tour. Breakfast on the way. Passing by **Eleusis** visit the site and the museum (Eleusis site & museum: 210-5546019). Arrive early afternoon to **Olympia** and transfer to Hotel Europa for overnight and **dinner**.

Thursday May 27: OLYMPIA Early morning departure for visit of **Olympia** site and museum (Olympia site: 26240-22529, museum: 26240-22517). Free time in Olympia. Overnight and **dinner** at Hotel Europa in Olympia.

Friday May 28: OLYMPIA - SPARTA Early morning departure to **Sparta**. Visit of **Pylos**, **Methone**, **Voidokoilia beach** (Castle of Pylos: 27230-22897, Castle of Methone: 27230-31255). By bus to Sparta via **Megalopoli**. **Dinner** and overnight in Sparta, at Hotel Maniatis.

Saturday May 29: SPARTA - NAFPLION Early morning departure from Sparta to visit **Menelaion** and **Artemis Orthia** (Menelaion: 27310-23315, Artemis Orthia: 27310-23315, Tiryns: 27520-22657). Continue towards **Nafplion** and visit **Tiryns** on the way (closes at 3:00pm). **Dinner** at 7:30pm & folk-dancing performance in a traditional Tavern. Overnight at Hotel Nafplia or similar in Nafplion.

Sunday May 30: NAFPLION Depart from hotel after breakfast to visit the city of **Nafplion** (Nafplion Arch. Museum: 27520-27502, 24690 currently reopened, the Folklore Museum) and the **Palamidis Castle**. Meet your bus and drive to **Mycenae**. Continue to **Tiryns** (if not able to visit on the previous day). Afternoon free. Suggested restaurants for dinner 'Ta Fanaria' tel.: 27520-27141 or 'Vassilis' 27520 25334. Overnight at Hotel Nafplia or similar in Nafplion.

Monday May 31: NAFPLION Early morning departure to **Argos** for museum (Museum of Argos: 27510-68819). **Argive Hereon** and the ancient theatre of **Epidauros** (Epidauros: 27520-41248). Overnight at Hotel Nafplia or similar in Nafplion.

Tuesday June 1: NAFPLION - ATHENS Drive towards Athens and visit **Corinth** on the way (Corinth museum: 27410-31207). **Suggestion: Winery visit** at the local wine coop in Nemea to see how the local "agiorgitiko" wine is produced and wine tasting. Then have a quick lunch and continue visit **Acrocorinth**. Transfer to hotel Astor or similar in Athens for overnight.

Wednesday June 2: ATHENS Free Day. Overnight in hotel Astor or similar in Athens.

Thursday June 3: ATHENS - KALAMBAKA Early morning departure with private bus and guide for the Northern tour. Stop at **Thermopylae** on the way. Arrive at **Meteora** approx. 4 hours and visit 2 monasteries. Overnight and **dinner** in Hotel Amalia Kalambaka

Friday June 4: KALAMBAKA - THESSALONIKI Early morning departure for visit to the site of Dion (11- 13.30 pm). Lunch stop at **Dion**. Continue drive approx. 1 ½ - 2 hours to **Thessaloniki** for city tour of Thessaloniki with visit of the **St. Demetrio Church**, **Rotunda**, and the **Arch. Museum** (open on Mondays: 130pm-8pm). Recommended restaurant for dinner "Louloudadika" tel.: 2310-225624. Overnight at Hotel Olympia or similar.

Saturday June 5: **THESSALONIKI** Depart early morning for visit to **Lefkadia** and **Pella** (Pella Macedonian tomb: 23820-31278). Afternoon free. Suggested tavern for dinner “ouzo place Agora” tel.: 2310- 532428. Overnight at hotel Olympia or similar.

Sunday June 6: **THESSALONIKI - DELPHI** Early morning departure for guided visit of the **Byzantine Museum** (if you are interested) and on to the site of **Vergina** (tel. 23310-92347). Continue to **Delphi**. Lunch on the way. Overnight and dinner at Hotel Likoria in Arachova or similar in Delphi.

Monday June 7: **DELPHI** Early morning visit of **Delphi** site and museum (tel.: 22650-82312). Continue for the **Corycean Cave**. Afternoon free. Lunch suggestion in Delphi restaurant “Vacchus” tel.: 22650-83186. Overnight at Hotel Likoria in Arachova or similar in Delphi.

Tuesday June 8: **DELPHI - ATHENS** Early morning departure to **Athens**, approx. 3 hours drive. Visit **Philopappos Monument** and the **Roman Agora** (Roman Agora: 210-3245220). Overnight at Hotel Astor or similar in Athens.

Wednesday June 9: **ATHENS** Free day. Meet at hotel lobby at 7:30pm for **farewell dinner** in selected tavern. Overnight in Hotel Astor or similar in Athens.

Thursday June 10: **ATHENS - USA** Transfer by private bus to airport for return flight to the US. Same day arrival at Dulles International Airport.