

# EDUCATIONAL TOURS & CRUISES

Specialist in Group Travel to Greece, Italy & Turkey

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## EDUCATIONAL TOURS & CRUISES

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## ITINERARY FOR THIS EXCITING CULTURAL PROGRAM TO GREECE

benefitting the  
Harriet L. Wilkes Honors College  
Florida Atlantic University  
**MARCH 5<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> 2010**

### "A Highly Active Tour of Greece and its Classical Highlights"

**DAY 1, March 5<sup>th</sup> Friday** - Depart the USA

**DAY 2, March 6<sup>th</sup> Saturday: ATHENS** Arrival in Athens in the early afternoon. Meeting and transfer by private bus and assistant to your centrally located first class hotel **St George Lycabettus** ([www.sglycabettus.gr](http://www.sglycabettus.gr)), in the fashionable Kolonaki district. **Orientation tour** on foot and **welcome dinner**. Overnight: Athens.

**DAY 3, March 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday: ATHENS** Your morning tour of Athens includes guided sightseeing tour of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Pan Athenian Stadium, the ruins of the Temple of Zeus, and a visit to the Acropolis. Traditional lunch in Plaka with variety of Greek dishes. Enjoy an afternoon visit to the National Archeological Museum. Overnight: Athens

**DAY 4, March 8<sup>th</sup> Monday: ATHENS – CORINTH – EPIDAUROS – NAUPLION**  
We start our 4-day tour of Greece at 8:00 am, travelling southwest towards the Peloponnese, pass the Corinth canal, and then visit **Ancient Corinth** (site and the archaeological museum), where St Paul visited. Then after lunch in Epidaurus, visit **Epidaurus** (the ancient theatre, still in use today, and the archaeological museum, depending on suitable opening times during this season of the year, and the sanctuary of Asclepius). Reach the seaside town of **Nauplion**, with its old town famous for traditional architecture, the Palamidi Venetian fortress, and Bourtzi Island. Optional visits to Palamidi Fortress or the Folklore Museum (depending on opening times) may be possible. **Dinner** in a typical Greek taverna with folk dancing performance and overnight in a quaint, traditional hotel in the old town, Hotel Marianna ([www.hotelmarianna.gr](http://www.hotelmarianna.gr)). Overnight: Nauplion.

**DAY 5, March 9<sup>th</sup> Tuesday: NAUPLION – TIRYNS – MYCENAE — OLYMPIA**

Morning departure with your private bus and guide to pass by **Tiryns**, known for its Cyclopean walls, and continue for a visit to **Mycenae** (including the Lion Gate, royal tombs, site of the Palace of Agamemnon, the new archaeological museum, and the beehive tomb "of Atreus"). Then drive **through the mountains of Arcadia** (3 hours) to reach **Ancient Olympia**. **Dinner** and overnight in the first class hotel Europa. Overnight: Olympia.

**DAY 6, March 10<sup>th</sup> Wednesday: OLYMPIA – PATRAS — DELPHI — ARACHOVA**

Morning visit of the site of **Olympia**, with its impressive archaeological museum, the Olympic Games Museum, the sanctuary, and the stadium of the Olympic Games). Then depart to the north to pass by **Patras** and the newly constructed Rion/Antirion bridge to reach **Nafpaktos** and **Galaxidi**. Lunch stop along the way on your own. (**Optional: Winery visit on the way, to see how the local varieties such as "agiorgitiko" and "pikrodafni" wine is produced, including a wine tasting**). **Dinner** and overnight in the Hotel Lykoria, in the picturesque mountain village of Arachova just a few miles outside Delphi. Overnight: Arachova.

**DAY 7, March 11<sup>th</sup>, Thursday: DELPHI – ATHENS:** Morning visit of the oracle of **Delphi** and its sanctuary and renovated archaeological museum. Then, after lunch, depart Delphi for Athens. **Optional** visit to the Monastery of Osios Loucas, with beautiful mosaics, if time allows. Free afternoon and dinner in Athens and overnight at Hotel St George Lycabettus. Overnight: Athens.

**DAY 8, March 12<sup>th</sup> Friday: ATHENS – AEGINA:** Depart at 8:00 am for one-day tour with your private bus and guide to the nearby island of **Aegina** (1-hour ferry ride) to visit the Temple of Aphea, the picturesque port of Aegina, the island famous for its pistachio nuts. Lunch on your own. Return to Athens in the early afternoon. Overnight: Athens.

**DAY 9, March 13<sup>th</sup> Saturday : ATHENS — CAPE SOUNION:** Morning departure at **9.00 am** for guided visit of the **Benaki Museum** in Athens. Afternoon coach tour to **Cape Sounion** to view the **Temple of Poseidon**, overlooking the Aegean and visit the replica of the **ancient Trireme** on the way. **Dinner** with a variation of Greek appetizers in Kavouri, in a typical seaside taverna. Evening overnight ferry to Crete. Overnight in 2-person cabins with all amenities.

**DAY 10, March 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday: CRETE — HERAKLION.** Early morning arrival to the capital of Crete, Heraklion. Transfer to the hotel for breakfast. Then continue for morning visit of Knossos, the center of Minoan Civilization. Then continue to the village of Archanes for lunch on your own. In the afternoon, visit the Archeological Museum in Heraklion, with all major findings of Knossos site. **Dinner** at a local taverna with Cretan specialties. Overnight at Hotel Lato ([www.lato.gr](http://www.lato.gr)) overlooking the port of Heraklion.

**DAY 11, March 15<sup>th</sup> Monday: CRETE.** Morning departure by private bus and your guide for visit of **Gortys**, and the Minoan site of **Phaistos**. Early afternoon transfer to the airport for half-hour flight to Athens. Transfer to Athens at your hotel. **Farewell dinner** in selected taverna. Overnight at Hotel St George Lycabettus in Athens.

**DAY 12, March 16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday:** Depart Athens, Greece by private bus transfer to the airport.

#### **Cost per participant:**

- \$ 4,100 \*** for current or confirmed **Wilkes Honors College students, faculty members, and staff**  
(based on minimum of 30 paying participants)
- \$ 4,400 \*** for all other participants (based on minimum of 30 paying participants)
- \$ 600 \*** single supplement

\*(These rates are based on the exchange rate of **1 Euro=\$ 1.45** and are **subject to currency supplement** at the time of final payment.)

**NOTE: This is a very active tour that requires a great deal of walking. In order to see as much of the Greek mainland as possible, we will be changing hotels frequently. This itinerary will allow us to survey as much of Greek life and culture as possible in a short amount of time. We will also be visiting the islands of Crete and Aegina, since more distant islands in the Aegean can require sailing on rough seas at this time of year. Weather on the mainland is usually refreshing in March, with fewer tourists at major sites.**

#### **Package Includes**

- **Accommodation** in shared double/twin rooms with private facilities in **First Class hotels** in Athens, Olympia, and Arachova, as well as on the island of Crete and **Superior Tourist Class hotels** in Nauplion (chosen for its location, view, and charm), as per itinerary for eight (8) overnights
- **Coach-class airfare** from southern Florida (tentatively Miami) to Athens and back
- **Daily breakfast** buffet
- **Seven (7) dinners**, including a welcome and farewell dinner, and a **special dinner** in Nauplion with **folk dancing demonstration**
- **One (1) lunch with local specialties in Athens**
- **English-speaking archaeological licensed guide** throughout the mainland tour and Athens
- **Bus transportation** by comfortable Pullman motor coach with all comforts and selected driver as per itinerary for mainland tour and Crete (*except when the metro is used* for visit of the National Museum in Heraklion and related sites)
- **Transfers** by private bus and assistance to/from the airport (if the traveller is not arriving or departing with the rest of the group, transportation to/from the airport will cost roughly 45 Euros)
- **Boat tickets including expenses for bus and guide for day trip to Aegina**
- **Cabins for overnight passage to Crete (2-berth cabins) with private facilities**
- **Airplane ticket via Aegean Airlines or Olympic for return trip to Athens (Heraklion-Athens)**
- **Special cultural visits** such visit to local winery including wine tasting
- **All admission fees and taxes**
- **Greek cell phone for your use** (with a limited number of prepaid start up minutes)
- **Assistance** and guidance by our local representatives in Athens during your stay

**NOT INCLUDED:** Gratuities for group tour guides and bus driver (usually \$2 per person per day), personal incidentals, and meals not mentioned as included. Personal travel and accident insurance. Trip cancellation/interruption insurance. For trip cancellation/interruption insurance, you might consider Travel Guard ([www.travelguard.com](http://www.travelguard.com)).

**Conditions and Responsibility:**

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- (5) any other cause, condition or event whatsoever beyond the direct control of ETC (such as personal medical emergency or personal accidents)

ETC cannot guarantee any rates, bookings or reservations of any supplier. Your retention of tickets, reservations or bookings after issuance shall constitute consent to the foregoing provisions. All prices quoted are subject to change if airlines or ground operators increase their prices, the U.S. dollar is devalued significantly against foreign currencies, the group falls below minimum numbers, or a fuel surcharge, government tax or user's fee is imposed. Baggage and personal effects are the sole responsibility of the owners at all times. ETC reserves the right to withdraw from any tour any tour member whose conduct is incompatible with the interests of the group as a whole. The above Conditions and Responsibility also includes the individual group leaders and their respective organizations.

**NOTE:** As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, ETC will provide personal assistance from hotel to the airport during bus transfer arrangements for flights departing only for the following time period 8:00am – 12:00am.

**PAYMENT POLICY:** Payment for this trip will be made in four parts with the following deadlines:

- 1) **October 1, 2009:** the non-refundable deposit of **\$600** must be made to and received by the Florida Atlantic University Foundation (c/o Dianne Reeves, Florida Atlantic University, 5353 Parkside Drive, Jupiter, FL, 33458)
- 2) **November 15, 2009:** a non-refundable second payment of **\$890** must be made to and received by Metro Tours, 484 Lowell Street, Peabody, MA, 01960; tel. 1-800-221-2810, ext. 11) by or as otherwise stated on your invoice. *This amount may change slightly if government taxes of the fuel surcharge changes. If that occurs, we may adjust the amount of the fourth payment.*
- 3) **December 15, 2009:** non-refundable third payment of **\$1,965** must be made to and received by the Florida Atlantic University Foundation (c/o Dianne Reeves, Florida Atlantic University, 5353 Parkside Drive, Jupiter, FL, 33458).
- 4) **January 1, 2009:** the remaining non-refundable balance of **\$945** (\$645 for Wilkes Honors College current or confirmed students, faculty members, or staff) must also be made to the Florida Atlantic University Foundation (c/o Dianne Reeves, Florida Atlantic University, 5353 Parkside Drive, Jupiter, FL, 33458) no later than. In addition, signed submission of the FAU waiver must be received at this time.

Part of the fourth payment will benefit the Wilkes Honors College. If any of these payments is not received by the due date or the required FAU waiver is not submitted, your reservation may be canceled.

**ETC Contact Telephone Numbers:**

Dimitri and Thalia Cocconi 210-8951725, 9657441,  
Dimitri's cell: 6977-617540,  
Thalia's cell: 6977-275867

July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Educational Tours & Cruises**

Dimitri Cocconi /Thalia Cocconi