Vent Nouveau s.a.l.
TRAVEL & TOURISM
Since 1970

GREECE
Unveil the Athenian Beauty
5 - Day Itinerary

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Live an unforgettable Athenian Experience with local experts.

Explore the most significant modern and ancient paths of Athens by strolling around the city that has over 4.000 years of history and discover all facts, myths - legends and secrets which you won't be able to find in any guidebook. The city is a modern Metropolis and the capital of Greece preserved through the grace of goddess Athens, lingering all around. Get an inside look at the Cradle of Western Civilization on foot and discover many of the city's hidden gems that tourist buses cannot reach. At the same time discover unique Greek tastes as food is a very important form of communication, a way to "speak" to someone's heart. Destination's cuisine is linked to the qualities and characteristics of its society and reveal an important piece of information regarding its cultural and economic history. Greek cuisine, rich in authentic flavors and aromas represents an age-old cultural unity. In fact, it was Archestratos who wrote the first cookbook in history (330 B.C.). Despite what you may believe about Greek cuisine, it is more than just "moussaka", "souvlaki" and the famous Greek Salad "choriatiki".

It offers a great variety of delicious and healthy dishes that can fully satisfy everyone, both vegetarians and meat lovers. Dozens of scientific studies have shown the positive effect of a balanced Greek diet on a person's health, beauty and longevity. Greek cuisine has four secrets: good quality fresh ingredients, correct use of flavorings (herbs) and spices, the famous Greek olive oil and simplicity.

Day 1 – Arrival to Athens

Private transfer to your hotel in the city center of the city. Check in at the hotel and free time for the rest of the day.

Optional Tours: A Night Out in Athens

Your evening begins with a short panoramic drive through the city center and on the slopes of the sacred hill you will be able to see, admire and take photos of the illuminated Acropolis. Then a pleasant walk through the narrow picturesque streets of Plaka, the old city, will bring you to a Typical Greek Tavern where you will enjoy your dinner following a floor show with live music and Greek Folk Dances in traditional costumes. The mesmerizing and graphic Plaka was developed mostly around the ruins of Ancient Agora of Athens in an area that has been continuously inhabited since antiquity. During the years of Ottoman rule, Plaka was the known as the "Turkish quarter of Athens", and the seat of the Turkish Voivode (Governor). During the Greek War of Independence, Plaka, like the rest of Athens, was temporarily abandoned by its inhabitants because of the severe battles that took place in 1826.

The area was repopulated during the first years of King Otto's rule. Plaka had a sizable Arvanite community till the late 19th century, which led some to refer to it as the Arvanite quarter of Athens. At the same period the neighborhood of Anafiotika, featuring traditional Cycladic architecture, was built by settlers from the Aegean island of Anafi. In 1884 a fire burned down a large part of the neighborhood which gave the opportunity for the archaeologists to conduct excavations in the Roman Market and Hadrian's library. Excavations have been taking place continuously since the 19th century.

Day 2 – Athens Live Like Local in Athens –Walking Tour

Live Like Local in Athens – Walking Tour Service: Daily || Dep. 10.00 - Ret. 18.00 Get acquainted with both historical and modern Athens on this private walking tour. Explore the Greek capital on foot with your own private escort and discover the city's iconic landmarks – get a taste of local life at vibrant markets and much – loved spots that most first time visitors miss. Discover the alternative side of the ancient city of Athens. Stroll through the city's unique neighborhoods and learn about their history. Join us for a walk through the heart of Athens to find out why food is the best way to understand Greek Culture. You will sense the buzzing vibe, colors and flavors of the central meat – fish – vegetable and fruit markets, which have been in business nonstop for almost 150 years. Greek cuisine has four secrets: good quality fresh ingredients, correct use of flavorings (herbs) and spices, the famous Greek olive oil and simplicity. Continue to discover the narrow alleys of the hip Athenian neighborhood, Psirri. Listen to your escort's stories and gain insights into the city's modern culture. Hip bars, galleries and theaters make this area attractive. Follow the interesting street art – architectural buildings and stylish venues until you reach the heart of the historic city, Monastiraki area. Take a look at unique souvenirs displayed at the flea market during your tour. Make your way to the historical Plaka neighborhood discovering Anafiotika – a "hidden island" within the city of Athens. Named after "Anafi", one of the Greek Cycladic Islands. Follow the narrow cobbled paths as they lead you towards the ancient city, where the Greek island structure continues to impress you. Then, our escort will accompany you to one of the most famous Greek traditional restaurants (Tavern) for lunch. You will taste traditional dishes including salad, cold/hot appetizers, main dish & Dessert. Reaching the end of the tour, visit Thissio area, which is a beautiful crossroad providing three options to wander away and discover a little bit of Athens on your own. Either continue straight ahead towards the pedestrian footpath to Kerameikos, where you may take a quick view of the night clubs offers for after hours, second choice return to Ermou street and enjoy your shopping at the largest commercial street of Athens, or finally third option you can rest and unwind at the most favorite / popular cafes, restaurants of Adrianou Street. Evening at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 3 – Athens

Breakfast at the hotel & free time at your leisure. Free morning for your own city explorations. The time of the day when Greeks gather around the table to enjoy a meal or various hors d'oeuvres (mezedes) is a tradition that every Greek maintains with reverence. A deeply entrenched social custom is when Greeks share a meal with friends at home, in a restaurant or a tavern. The Greek word "symposium" -a word that is as old as Greece itself- literally means "drinking with friends". The atmosphere in an ordinary Greek restaurant or tavern is relaxing, simple and informal. The preparation of the food on the other hand has its own sacred rules. Good amateur cooks are highly respected in their social circle, while a good housewife in Greece mainly signifies a good cook. And a good cook can spend days preparing a meal for his/her friends. Mediterranean seafood is much tastier than those from the oceans. The Aegean and Ionian Seas are crystal clear and rich with fish. Fresh fish on the grill is considered to be a true delight. It's easy to understand why seafood is such an important part of Greek cuisine. There are so many islands and well-developed coastal areas that seafood is readily accessible, which means that chefs have easy access to the freshest fish available. When preparing Greek food outside of Greece, seafood is almost considered an afterthought. So, today your dinner will be a seafood one overlooking the sea. When you return home, try to repeat this experience by preparing the same meal and serving the same drink. Wherever you try to repeat this, you will soon realize that it does not "taste" the same. It's not that something is wrong with your palate or your culinary skills; it's that the Greek ritual when eating a meal –mainly a combination of what you are eating and where you are eating it- cannot be repeated, extracted or copied. It is simply something you can only find, taste and enjoy in Greece!

Day 4 – Athens

Breakfast at the hotel & free time at your leisure. Optional tour: One Day Cruise to Three Islands with Lunch on Board Dep. 08.00 - Ret. 19.00 - Daily service We pick you up from your hotel early in the morning to take you by coach to the port for embarkation on the cruise ship. At 08.15 the cruise ship departs and sails for the first stopover on the island of Hydra. You will spend approximately one hour thus, you will have the time to explore the unique island. Embarkation and sail to the island of Poros, separated from Peloponnese by a narrow strait and offering a most enchanting view of Poros Town. Leisure time in Poros will be approximately 60min. After a two hours trip we shall arrive at the last port, the island of Aegina, where you have time to either join an optional tour visiting Athena Afea Temple or to swim to the nearest beaches of the island. Total time to spend one hour and a half. Lunch is served on board during the voyage. Re-embarkation and sailing back to the port. Arrive late in the afternoon and transfer by coach back to your hotel. Free afternoon at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 5 – Departure from Athens

After breakfast, our driver will pick you up from the hotel & transfer to the Airport for your departure flight.

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