acis | Exceptional Educational Journeys



Athens and the Aegean

destination FACTSHEET

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ACIS TRIP SERVICES

Hotels

We take pride in the type of accommodations we use to ensure the best experience while on the program. Hotels on the mainland will be centrally located and near landmarks and city attractions, such as the Acropolis and Plaka. On the cruise ship, groups will be in outside cabins, which let students enjoy the view, instead of being in the lower deck.

Rooming

Students will be placed in triples. Quads on the ship may be necessary during busy cruise times (Easter and Summer), but we will try to avoid this as much as possible. Single room supplements are not available on the cruise. All adults will be placed in twins or doubles. This applies to all teachers, chaperones and participants.

Meals

You will be eating traditional Mediterranean diet throughout the trip. Daily breakfast and dinners are provided (unless otherwise noted). The food on board is predominantly traditional Greek dishes, soups, salads, etc. Meals in the cities will be delicious multi-course at our local favorites. The meal times have been tailored to maximize your experience in the city.

Tour Manager

Your ACIS Tour Manager will be accompanied by a local Greek guide whilst touring in Athens, on the bus and throughout sightseeing excursions. They will provide you with insight and commentary on the local environment, history, and culture during the trip. The ACIS Tour Manager will be available to the group during the entire trip, including aboard the cruise ship, and will also make themselves available to the group in the evenings and during free time.

GENERAL INFORMATION/TIPS

 **FLIGHTS**	Arrival times are usually in the morning but can also be much later in the day. Departure times from Athens are typically very early in the morning. Times between 5:30 and 6:30 are considered normal.
 **PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS**	Passports ARE required for all passengers traveling to Greece and must be valid for at least 6 months after returning to the USA and have at least two blank pages. Tourist visas are not required for US citizens traveling to Greece. Non-US citizens should check with the Embassy of Greece for any specific Visa requirements. In such cases, the passenger will be responsible for obtaining their own Visa. Please make two colored copies of your passport. One for the group leader and one to keep in a location separate from your passport.

We've tried to make this information as accurate as possible, but travel information can sometimes change.
We apologize if any of this information is no longer valid. This is only intended to be used as a guideline for your travel destination.

 **PARENTAL CONSENT**	Upon arrival, Group Leader will receive a declaration form for minors under 18yrs to be signed by the Group leader.
 **TIME DIFFERENCE**	Greece is six or seven hours ahead Eastern Standard Time dependent upon the time of year. They change their clocks for Daylight Savings Time in late March and October.
 **LUGGAGE RESTRICTIONS**	There may be luggage fees for checked baggage. Please check with your confirmed airline prior to departure for the most up to date baggage policy so you are prepared. Many airlines do charge extra. If you're taking a cruise, your luggage will be left at the "Drop Off" point in the embarkation terminal of the ship where the crew will scan it for security reasons. Your luggage will be delivered to your room after departure. Consider packing light as there is limited storage in your cabin.
 **TIPPING**	Pre-paid tips will be listed on your account to cover tour manager, local bus and guide. All meals included in the itinerary also include gratuity, so it is NOT necessary to leave an additional tip at meals.
 **OUTLETS**	In Athens and main cities, hotels will have the standard 2 pin euro plugs with a standard voltage of 230 V. On board the ship, the electoral outlets are 110-220V. All rooms on the cruise ship are equipped with a hairdryer.
 **WIFI**	

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WHAT TO PACK

What to Wear

- ✓ We advise you to pack comfortable, lightweight, breathable, (cotton) clothing during the warmer part of the year, May through September. Pack more layers for other parts of the year and be prepared for changing weather.
- ✓ Adapter that fits a European plug and does not exceed the standard 230V.
- ✓ Daypack to use on excursions and to hold valuables while the crew loads your luggage on/off the ship.
- ✓ Games for low key evenings aboard the ship
- ✓ Hat A wide-brimmed hat or cap that will cover your face from the sun is best
- ✓ Motion sickness pills or other medications you may need while traveling, on boats, etc.
- ✓ Rain/wind jacket if you're traveling in the spring or fall.
- ✓ Sandals to wear on board
- ✓ Sneakers/Shoes you can wear on excursions, walking on cobblestone streets and uneven footpaths.
- ✓ Sunscreen It's expensive to buy on a cruise ship.
- ✓ Sweater/Jacket for summer breezes and cool evenings. You will also need to cover shoulders for any temple or monastery visits.
- ✓ Swimsuit and towel
- ✓ Toiletries like shampoo and conditioner. The cruise line and hotels will provide both, but it's recommended you bring your own as some travelers have personal sensitivity to soaps, etc.
- ✓ Umbrella if you are particularly sensitive to the sun or if you're traveling from October to March.
- ✓ Water bottle The water on board is potable.
- ✓ Formal attire The cruise ship hosts a Gala night in honor of the guests. A cocktail dress or something smart for the ladies, jacket and tie for the men

HEALTHCARE

Consult your doctor before traveling to understand the effects of seasickness and how this trip could affect your current medication. It's advisable to drink plenty of water and stay hydrated starting several days before departure and throughout the trip.

It's recommended you take a seasickness pill if you're prone to sea sickness. You will not only be aboard the cruise ship, but it's possible you'll board smaller, speedboats for transport to and from the cruise ship.

In the event of a medical emergency where medical expenses and/or insurance is involved in Greece, the passenger must pay the expenses directly and mail receipts to our Boston office for reimbursement. Deductible amounts according to the type of insurance purchased will apply.

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Most public medical facilities in Greece offer adequate care, although service quality and hospital appearance may differ from the United States. Some private hospitals have affiliations with U.S. facilities and provide high-quality care. Many doctors trained in the United States or elsewhere in Europe. Private hospitals usually require proof of insurance and cash before admitting a patient. Patient can bear the costs of transfers to or between hospitals. Public hospitals often employ minimal nursing staff overnight and on weekends in non-emergency wards.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Should you have any issues at all during your trip, please call ACIS and we will rectify the problem immediately. It is vital that you notify us as soon as you experience a problem as we can resolve issues very quickly on the spot before it adversely affects your trip.

Greece is a safe country and travelers should exercise normal precautions when in Greece to avoid pick-pockets and petty theft.

ACIS Boston Office 617-236-2051 (10am – 6pm Eastern standard time). If you call this number after hours, it will automatically be forwarded to our answering service/duty officer.

ACIS Emergency number 617-450-5678



OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Food and Drink

Daily Breakfast and Dinners are included both in Athens and on the cruise. Additionally, unlimited (non-alcoholic) beverages and soft drinks are included on the cruise. Additional drink packages may be available for purchase onboard.

Currency

All fares on board are displayed in Euros. If you wish to change other currency into Euros, you can do so at the Reception Desk. They also accept American Express, MasterCard, Visa, and debit card.

Excursions

Excursions are included so students will spend less on the trip.

Ship Link:

https://celestyal.com/our-ships/celestyal-discovery

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