

EXPLORING ATHENS

5 - 11 MAY 2026

FROM
£3,975
PER PERSON

Tour Leaders: Joanna Worsley & Joshua Barley


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY

This fascinating seven-day tour offers the opportunity to discover this magical, historic city and to enjoy not only its aesthetic and culinary delights but also explore Greece's ancient history in the company of grecophile Joanna Worsley and Athens expert Joshua Barley. We will see not only the magnificent sights in Athens itself such as the sublime view of the Parthenon from the Pnyx Hill, the Ancient Agora and the Acropolis but also a selection of the city's world class art and archaeological museums including the Acropolis Museum. We venture outside the city to the ancient ruins of Vavrona and Cape Sounion where the poet Byron left his mark, literally. We also visit the beautiful site of Ancient Delphi – once the centre of the Greek universe.

Throughout the tour Guest Lecturer Joshua Barley will give talks and illuminating insights into this fascinating city and its rich history.



Greek Oracle at Delphi



Street view in Plaka district of Athens



Ancient Agorà



Galaxidi

7-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 5 MAY 2026

5 May London / Athens

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 628 departing London Heathrow at 10.45 hrs arriving Athens at 16.30 hrs. On arrival meet your guest lecturer Joshua Barley and group transfer to the 4-star Herodion Hotel, overlooking the Acropolis, where two nights are spent. Introductory talk by Josh followed by dinner at the hotel.

6 May Athens

Depart for a walk up the Pnyx Hill – seat of the ancient Athenian Democratic Assembly – for the finest view of the Parthenon, Acropolis and Attic Plain. Walk through the city's pedestrianised Plaka, an exotic labyrinth of alleys, winding streets and stairs lined with beautifully restored 19th century neo-classical houses, ancient sites and small museums. Continue on foot to the historic Ancient Agorà, the commercial and administrative centre of Ancient Athens, to see the Theseion, or Temple of Hephaestus, the best preserved of all ancient Greek temples.

Lunch at Kuzina Restaurant. Visit the Goulandris Foundation which

houses the modern art collection of Basil and Elise Goulandris including sculpture, drawings, objects, furniture and paintings, by seminal artists like Cézanne, Van Gogh, Chagall, Monet, Miró, Picasso, Pollock and many others. This is followed by the Museum of Cycladic Art, founded by Nicholas (Basil's twin brother) and Dolly Goulandris, which focuses on ancient cultures of the Aegean, especially that of the Cyclades during the 3rd millennium BC. Dinner at a local restaurant.

7 May Athens / Delphi

Visit the 'Nema' Passementerie at the Benaki Museum, a rare survival of a factory producing ribbons, braids and tassels using age old methods. Continue to the Benaki Museum of Greek Culture, established in 1930 by Antonis Benakis, which houses Greek works from prehistoric to modern times in the former family mansion.

Lunch at the roof top restaurant at the Benaki Museum. This afternoon, leave Athens and drive across the fertile plain of Boeotia, to the ancient site of Delphi, which lies in an attractive setting on a series of terraces in the foothills of Mount

Parnassos. The site dates from the 8th / 7th centuries BC and was for many centuries the religious and spiritual centre of the ancient Greek world. Check in at the 4-star V Delphi Hotel, situated close the archaeological site and with stunning views over the surrounding valley, where one night is spent. Dinner at Patriko restaurant.

8 May Delphi / Athens

Visit the ancient site of Delphi and explore the ruins, following the Sacred Way, lined with the 'dedications' of Greek cities, up to the Temple of Apollo and the Treasury, beyond which is the spectacular theatre and at the very top the remains of the stadium where the Pythian games were held. The museum houses a fascinating collection of finds from the Sanctuary including the magnificent bronze Charioteer of Delphi. Depart Delphi for the picturesque seaside town of Galaxidi.

Lunch at a local restaurant in Galaxidi. Drive back to Athens and check in at Herodion Hotel where three further nights are spent. Dinner under own arrangements.



9 May Athens

Leave the hotel early to visit the Acropolis, or 'upper town', a rocky outcrop that dominates the old city where Pericles built the Parthenon and the other main buildings in the 5th century BC. After climbing up the hillside explore the site, seeing the Propylaea, the famous Parthenon with its unique geometry, the Erechtheion and Caryatids, the Theatre of Dionysos. After this visit the Acropolis Museum, designed by Swiss architect Bernard Tschumi, with its great sculpture collection which includes fine statues from the 5th century BC and well-preserved segments of the Parthenon frieze.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Walk through the Kerameikos, the ancient cemetery of Athens filled with tombs and statues dating from the early Bronze Age to the 6th century AD. Or visit the Archaeological Museum (subject to possible closure) housed in a beautiful neoclassical building. Its impressive collection includes prehistoric items from figurines to exquisite gold pieces, sculpture, bronzes and Egyptian works of art. Drive to the coast for dinner at a local restaurant in Vougliameni overlooking the sea.

10 May Athens

Drive out of Athens to Attica to visit the Byzantine Monastery of Kaisariani with its finely frescoed

church and monks' cells in a beautiful location on the slopes of a forested hill with magnificent views over Athens. Continue to the ancient site of Vavrona (or Brauron) where visitors can see the remains of a temple dedicated to the goddess Artemis, who was worshipped as the protector of women, and the sanctuary of Iphigeneia, daughter of Agamemnon, who according to legend was saved from sacrifice before the Trojan War.

Lunch at Artemis Taverna. Drive to Cape Sounion to visit the magnificent 5th century BC Temple of Poseidon, which sits on a promontory some 200 feet above the sea with breathtaking panoramic views. The temple is unusual for the Doric columns of local marble, which have 16 flutings instead of the usual 20, and another remarkable feature is the fascinating graffiti, including Lord Byron's signature and messages from British sailors who obviously rowed ashore to visit in the 19th century. Return to Athens and farewell dinner at a local restaurant.

11 May Athens / London

Lunch under own arrangements. Group transfer to Athens Airport. Suggested flight (not included) British Airways BA 629 departing Athens at 15.25 hrs arriving London Heathrow at 17.25 hrs.

TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£3,975
Single Supplement	£850

Supplement to upgrade to an Acropolis View Room at the Herodion Hotel	£220
Single Supplement	£185

Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.

PRICE INCLUDES

- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 5 lunches; 5 dinners
- All entrance fees, visits, excursions and transportation as per the itinerary
- Gratuities in restaurants for included meals; gratuities to guides/s; gratuities to driver/s; portage
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- The services of your guest lecturer and tour leader throughout

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 12/06/25





YOUR TOUR LEADERS

Joanna Worsley

After leaving school, Joanna travelled extensively through Asia working in Hong Kong and Delhi and developing a passion for India. She then spent several years in Los Angeles producing film and music videos. Being half Greek, she has a particular love for Greece too and has a house on the island of Skyros. She has led several tours for The Ultimate Travel Company, including to India, Italy, Austria, Germany and Greece.



Joshua Barley

Joshua Barley holds a First-Class Degree in Classics from Oxford University and a Masters in Modern Greek Literature from King's College, London. He has lived in Greece for over a decade, where he works as a literary translator, writer and guide. His latest book, *Athens Tales*, will be published by Oxford University Press in October 2025.