

## Greece Trip May 2026

### **Saturday, May 9, 2026**

Fly San Francisco (SFO) to Santorini (JTR) via Munich

### **Sunday, May 10, 2026**

Arrive Santorini, pick up rental car

#### **Athermi Suites Hotel**

Megalochori 847 00, Greece

<https://www.athermisuites.com/>

### **Monday, May 11, 2026 (Day 1 of tour)**

#### **Athermi Suites Hotel**

Museum of Prehistoric Thera

Aktotiri ancient city archaeological site

Walk around Oia and Megalochori

Santorini TTD video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jw2fD9EsV5k>

Santorini sunsets video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxLEolTI3QE>

<https://www.greeka.com/cyclades/santorini/sightseeing/fira-santorini-catholic-cathedral/>

### **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**

Explore the city of Fira

Fly to Athens and transfer to downtown hotel

#### **Electra Palace Athens**

[www.electrahotels.gr/hotels/electra-palace-athens](http://www.electrahotels.gr/hotels/electra-palace-athens)

Explore the neighborhood around the hotel

### **Wednesday, May 13, 2026 (Day 3 of tour)**

#### **Electra Palace Athens**

This morning, we get acquainted with one of the world's "cradles of Western civilization" on a city tour. A highlight is the Acropolis ("high city"), the crowning hill of Athens that is visible from almost anywhere in the city. Of the ancient buildings that once stood atop the Acropolis – and still do today – the most famous and beautiful is the Parthenon, the largest Doric temple still standing in Greece. Built between 447 and 438 BCE to honor the goddess Athena for rescuing Athens during the Persian Wars, the Parthenon is considered the greatest Doric temple ever built. After first serving as a Greek temple, it later became a Christian church and then a Muslim mosque. We also visit the highly regarded Acropolis Museum, which houses and chronologically displays excavations dating from 6 BCE.

After our sightseeing this morning (Acropolis and Acropolis Museum), we are free to enjoy lunch on our own and to explore more of Athens. The city boasts a myriad of sights, monuments, and museums that are sure to capture the imagination. Visit Jewish Museum, Museum of ancient technology, ancient agora and take subway back to hotel. This evening, we gather for a welcome briefing followed by dinner at our hotel.

### **Thursday, May 14, 2026 (Day 4 of tour)**

#### **Electra Palace Athens**

Today's excursion takes us to Cape Sounion on the southernmost tip of the Attica peninsula. Legend has it that, as the Greek commanders sailed back to Greece following the 10-year Trojan War, King Menelaus of Sparta landed at Sounion to perform full funeral honors for his helmsman, who had died at his post during the long journey home. Here, we explore the ruins of the ancient Greek Temple of Poseidon, dating to the 5th century BCE. Dedicated to the mythical god of the sea – who was particularly important to ancient Athenians given Athens' reliance on maritime trade – the temple poses a stunning sight, standing high on a rocky headland surrounded on three sides by the cobalt waters of the Aegean.

Following our visit, we enjoy lunch along the Athenian Riviera before returning to Athens, with the remainder of the day free for independent exploration. Dinner tonight is on our own in this cosmopolitan city, where dining options abound. *Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch

### **Friday, May 15, 2026 (Day 5 of tour)**

#### **Amalia Hotel Delphi**

1 Apollonos Street

33054 Delphi, Greece

Phone: 011-30-211-102-3333

[www.amaliahotels.com/delphi/hotel](http://www.amaliahotels.com/delphi/hotel)

This morning, we visit the highly acclaimed National Archaeological Museum. Considered one of the greatest museums in the world, it houses the richest collection of Greek antiquities on the planet, as well as collections dating from Roman, Mycenaean, and Classical times. We then bid farewell to Athens as we depart by coach for Delphi, the most important religious site in all the ancient Greek world. En route, we stop in Arachova, a charming mountain resort town known for its traditional architecture, classic stone houses, and narrow cobblestone streets. We have time here for lunch on our own and to explore the town as we wish – perhaps to shop for local specialties like Formaela cheese or handmade textiles – before continuing on to Delphi, arriving early this afternoon. After checking into our hotel, we are at leisure this afternoon and enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant. *Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

### **Saturday, May 16, 2026 (Day 6 of tour)**

#### **Divani Meteora Hotel**

National Road

Trikalon, Kalabaka 42200, Greece

Phone: 011-30-2818-100100

[www.divanimeteorahotel.com](http://www.divanimeteorahotel.com)

We immerse ourselves this morning in the allure of Delphi, site of the 4th-century BCE pan-Hellenic Temple of Apollo. According to Greek mythology, Zeus once released two eagles from opposite ends of the earth in order to find its center, and when they met in Delphi, the ancient city was crowned “navel of the world.” Delphi's main claim to fame, though, is as home to the Oracle of Delphi. The Oracle (also called the Pythia) was a high priestess who foretold prophecies under the divine possession of Apollo himself. To this day, we lack details about how the Pythia operated, as most ancient works treat it as common knowledge. What we do know, though, is that the Pythia's prophecies made her one of the most powerful women in the classical world.

This extensive archaeological site's ruins also include the Sanctuary of Athena Pronaia, which houses the mysterious Tholos of Delphi, an ornate circular temple built around 380 BCE that was the first sacred site pilgrims would encounter on their way to the Oracle of Apollo; the Sacred Way, the oldest

road in the country that connected Athens to Eleusis and was in use for roughly 2,000 years; and the Stadium of Delphi, the best preserved ancient stadium in all of Greece. We also visit the Archaeological Museum of Delphi, one of Greece's most important museums, whose holdings include the famed Charioteer statue, friezes, statuary, and relics excavated from the surrounding archaeological sites.

Following our touring here, we depart Delphi and continue our journey north, stopping for lunch along the way. Mid-afternoon we arrive in the town of Kalabaka on the plains of Thessaly – gateway to the UNESCO-designated Meteora rock formations and monasteries – and our hotel. This evening, we dine together at a local restaurant. *Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Laundromat with fluff-and-fold service

Majestic Meteora self-service laundry and luggage storage. Address Patriarchou Dimitriou 7, Kalampaka Open 8 AM – 11 PM every day Phone +30 698 961 1792

### **Sunday, May 17, 2026 (Day 7 of tour)**

#### **Divani Meteora Hotel**

Sitting at the foot of the Meteora massif, Kalabaka offers stunning views of the 14th-century Eastern Orthodox monasteries perched atop the natural pillars and boulders above. Monks in search of isolation first began settling on the Meteora cliffs in the ninth century. The monastic community here was officially established in the 12th century, with the first of the Meteora monasteries – the Great Meteoron – built in the mid-14th century. At the community's zenith, some 24 monasteries functioned here; today, six are still active and open to visitors. We embark on a tour highlight today as we visit two of the open monasteries, Agios Stefanos and Roussanou. We also stop at a local Byzantine icon shop, where we have the chance to browse a selection of handcrafts produced using traditional methods. Lunch and dinner today are on our own. *Meals:* Breakfast

### **Monday, May 18, 2026 (Day 8 of tour)**

#### **Electra Palace Thessaloniki**

9 Aristotelous Square

54624 Thessaloniki, Greece

Phone: 011-30-2310-294-040

[www.electrahotels.gr/hotels/electra-palace-thessaloniki](http://www.electrahotels.gr/hotels/electra-palace-thessaloniki)

We depart Kalabaka for Thessaloniki today, Greece's "co-capital" and second largest city, the cultural and commercial hub whose prominence spanned much of human history, from the fall of Macedonia to the rise of Christianity and the Byzantine Empire to the emergence of the Ottomans. En route, we stop in the town of Dion, the ancient "city of Zeus" at the foot of Mount Olympus and the religious center of Macedonia in antiquity. Here we visit the open-air Archaeological Park that depicts life in ancient times, as well as the St. Dionysios Monastery of Olympus. Originally built in the 16th century, the monastery was destroyed by the Nazis during World War II before ultimately being partially restored. Today, we visit the New Monastery, an active site built near the ruins of the original structure, where the monastic tradition continues to this day.

We have lunch together at a taverna in Dion before continuing on to the vibrant Aegean port of Thessaloniki. After checking in at our hotel, we enjoy dinner together tonight at a local restaurant.

*Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

### **Tuesday, May 19, 2026 (Day 9 of tour)**

#### **Electra Palace Thessaloniki**

Today's touring begins at the acclaimed Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki, one of the largest museums in all of Greece. Here, we marvel at masterpieces of Greek art from prehistoric times through the Macedonian era all the way to late antiquity. Next, we visit the Rotunda of Galerius, a UNESCO site dating to 306 CE and one of the city's most important Roman monuments, known especially for its superb mosaics of religious, floral, and geometric motifs. We also tour the White Tower, the 600-year-old waterfront edifice with a complicated history. The Ottomans erected the tower after conquering the city in 1430, using the structure as a fortress, troop garrison, and finally, a prison, where so many incarcerated souls met their demise that the structure became known as the "Tower of Blood." The Greeks wrested back control of Thessaloniki in 1912, and today, the White Tower a symbol of Thessaloniki, housing a museum chronicling its history.

Next, we embark on a city tour that introduces us to more of Thessaloniki's many historical sites, including the Arch of Galerius which, along with the Rotunda of Galerius, was commissioned by the 4th-century Roman emperor of the same name; the 4th-century Church of Saint Demetrius, dedicated to the patron saint of Thessaloniki; the 11th-century Church of Panagia Chalkeon, nicknamed the "Red Church" thanks to its distinctive red brick exterior; and more. We then wrap up a busy morning of touring at Kapani Market, the oldest central market in Thessaloniki that has served as a commercial hub for centuries.

Following our city tour, the rest of the afternoon is free for lunch on our own, and to keep exploring this fascinating city as we wish. We went to the Kapani market and wandered around the downtown area. To end the day, we reconvene for our hands-on cooking class, and enjoy the fruits of our labor for dinner. *Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

### **Wednesday, May 20, 2026 (Day 10 of tour)**

#### **Divani Corfu Palace**

20 Nafsikas Street

49 100 Corfu, Greece

Phone: 011-30-26610-38996

[www.divanicorfuhotel.com/hotel](http://www.divanicorfuhotel.com/hotel)

Departing Thessaloniki this morning, we travel to the Archaeological Site of Aigai. Situated near the modern-day town of Vergina, Aigai was once the ancient capital of Macedon – and today is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also where you'll find the Royal Tombs of Phillip II, father of Alexander the Great, as well as those of Alexander's son and half-brother. During our touring of Aigai's underground museum, we see Philip's resting place and golden oak leaf, a number of other royal tombs, and grave relics jewelry, weapons, sculptures, and more.

Following our excursion here, we drive to the coastal city of Igoumenitsa, driving past mountains and through tunnels along the way – and stopping for lunch on our own en route. We then board the ferry to the Ionian island of Corfu, our home for the next three nights. Upon arrival in Corfu, we check into our hotel before dining together tonight. *Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner. Sunset 8:52pm

### **Thursday, May 21, 2026 (Day 11 of tour)**

#### **Divani Corfu Palace**

Today we get a luxurious taste of Corfu by sea as we board a private yacht for a cruise along the island's eastern coastline, enjoying light refreshments and a Greek lunch on board. We catch stunning views of Corfu's Old Town and Old Fortress from our yacht as we cruise the crystal-clear waters of the Ionian Sea to secluded coves to swim off the boat or simply enjoy the beautiful scenery. Mid-afternoon, we return to port and disembark. This remainder of the afternoon and evening are free for

us to spend our final evening on Corfu as we wish. Dinner is on our own tonight. While the group went on the cruise, Sue rented a car and drove all over the island to explore it, and lucked into a great location to watch the air show celebrating the anniversary of Corfu joining the Greek union. We visited the Corfu Archaeological Museum and explored the old town.

### **Friday, May 22, 2026 (Day 12 of tour)**

#### **Divani Corfu Palace**

Once a feared naval power renowned for its involvement in the Peloponnesian War – and later, for thwarting several would-be Ottoman invasions – Corfu is today known more for its stunning natural beauty, Venetian-tinged architecture, beautiful beaches, and rich multicultural heritage. Our discovery of this celebrated island begins in the capital of Corfu Town, another UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we visit the Venetian-styled Old Fortress. Built on a promontory jutting into the sea, the Old Fortress once played a crucial role in defending Europe from the Ottoman Empire. Today though, it houses the Archives of the Prefecture of Corfu, part of the larger historical archive of Corfu. Other highlights of this morning’s tour include the 16th-century St. Spyridon Church, whose 138-foot-tall, red-domed bell tower is the highest point in Corfu Town; and the acclaimed Corfu Museum of Asian Art, Greece’s only museum dedicated exclusively to Asian art that is housed in the Palace of St. Michael and St. George. After lunch together at a local restaurant, the remainder of the day is at leisure to enjoy this idyllic island as we wish. Dinner tonight is on our own. *Meals:* Breakfast, Lunch

### **Saturday, May 23, 2026 (Day 13 of tour)**

#### **Sofitel Athens Airport**

Athens International Airport

19019 Athens Spata, Greece

Phone: 011-30-210-35-44-000

[www.sofitel.accor.com/en/hotels/3167.html](http://www.sofitel.accor.com/en/hotels/3167.html)

We begin our final full day in Greece at a 15th-century olive oil mill, where we enjoy a tour and tasting of this quintessential Greek product. Contrary to popular belief, the Greeks didn’t actually invent olive oil – that distinction belongs to other early Eastern Mediterranean civilizations living in what is now modern-day Jordan and Türkiye. But once the Greeks began producing olive oil in 3500 BCE, it quickly became one of their chief exports, and Greeks continue to lead the world in olive oil consumption today. We enjoyed watching Greek folk dancing. Next, we visit a kumquat liqueur distillery for another tour and tasting. Similar to Italy’s limoncello, kumquat liqueur is produced primarily on Corfu and boasts a distinctive sweet and tangy taste.

Following this morning’s distinctive tastes of Corfu, we continue on to Corfu International Airport, where we have time for lunch on our own. We then bid adieu to this idyllic island and board our short flight to Athens, arriving mid-afternoon. After checking in to our hotel, we have time to relax and freshen up before we congregate one last time for a farewell dinner at our hotel’s restaurant.

*Meals:* Breakfast, Dinner

### **Sunday, May 24, 2026 (Day 13 of tour)**

Fly home from Athens