



# DRAMATIC ODYSSEY, THEATRICAL TALES OF ANCIENT GREECE

## 5 days - 4 nights

*Embark on an odyssey that transcends time, weaving through the hallowed grounds where the theatrical arts were born—the heart of Greece. As you step onto the ancient stones of Athens, Attica, Epidaurus, and Delphi, immerse yourself in a cultural tapestry that intertwines theater, mythology, and the very essence of human expression. This journey is a pilgrimage for the true theater enthusiast, a pilgrimage to the origins of drama. Join us on an exploration that transcends the mundane, where ancient stages come to life, whispering tales of gods, heroes, and the eternal human condition.*

*Greece is widely considered the birthplace of theater in the Western world. The origins of Greek theater can be traced back to ancient religious ceremonies and festivals, particularly the festival of Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility. These festivals included dramatic performances that eventually evolved into the theatrical traditions we are familiar with today. The city-state of Athens is particularly significant in the development of Greek theater. In the 5th century BCE, during the Golden Age of Athens, playwrights such as Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides wrote and staged plays that explored various aspects of human nature, morality, and the relationships between gods and mortals. Theater in ancient Greece often took place in outdoor amphitheaters, with the most famous being the Theater of Dionysus in Athens. The performances were part of larger religious and cultural celebrations, and they played a crucial role in the civic and cultural life of ancient Greek society. Greek tragedies and comedies, performed by actors wearing masks and costumes, laid the foundation for Western theater. The themes explored in these plays, as well as the dramatic structure and use of theatrical elements, have had a profound and lasting influence on the history of theater and literature. Welcome to Greece, where every breeze carries the echoes of ancient applause and where the landscapes themselves are the stage for an epic theatrical adventure.*

### DAY 1 (Wednesday) ARRIVAL IN ATHENS

Arrival in Athens after your international flight. Reception at the airport and transfer to the chosen hotel and registration. Athens is the capital of Greece with a history of more than three thousand years, making it one of the oldest inhabited cities on the planet and which played a fundamental role in the development of democracy and philosophy and which influenced the development of Greece, Rome and Western culture. City rich in archaeological remains, of which the most famous is the Parthenon in the Acropolis, although they are not limited to buildings of the classical Greek era but also include Roman and Byzantine monuments. Start the afternoon with a bus tour of the city. See the Panathenaic Stadium where the first Olympic Games of modern times were held in 1896. Continue and pass by the Prime Minister's residence (ex Royal Palace) guarded by the Euzones in their colorful uniform, the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the memorial to the Unknown Soldier, the Academy, the University, the National Library and the Constitution Square (Syntagma). Then continue with a walking tour, starting from the pedestrian street of Dionysiou Areopagitou Street, see beneath the slopes of the Acropolis the stunning open-air theatre, Odeon of Herodes Atticus, one of the legendary sites, is today one of the best places to experience a live classical theatre performance. This ancient stone theater was built in the Roman times, in about 161 A.D, by the Roman philosopher, teacher and politician Herodes Atticus. Then see the Ancient Theatre of Dionysus, dedicated to the god of Dionysos, regarded as the first sample of Greek theatres and the birthplace of the Greek drama, and is the 1st theater in

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**GROUP DEPARTURES  
2026**

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from April through November.**

If you are planning to start another day of the week, please let us know to update costs

### INCLUSIONS

- ✚ Return transfers Airport-Hotel-Airport in Athens on private basis.
- ✚ 4 nights in Athens Astor Hotel 4\* or similar
- ✚ Daily breakfast at the hotel
- ✚ Private english speaking guide from Athens for private walking city tour
- ✚ Private english-speaking guide for full day tour to 2 Athens Ancient Theatres with private minibus
- ✚ Private minivan with English speaking driver for a transfer from/to Epidaurus
- ✚ Entry tickets for Epidaurus theatrical play
- ✚ Full day shared group tour to Delphi with English speaking guide
- ✚ Improvisation course in Athens
- ✚ Entrance fees to all visited places

### NOT INCLUDED

- International and domestic flights
- Meals and drinks and other services not mentioned in the program.
- Tips for guides, conductors and porters.
- Personal expenses







the world. Continue with a visit of the Acropolis and see the Architectural Masterpieces of the Golden Age of Athens: The Propylaea, the Temple of Athena Nike, the Erechtheion and finally "the harmony between material and spirit", the monument that "puts order in the mind", the Parthenon. End of the tour and transfer back to your hotel. Overnight in Athens. **(B)**

#### **DAY 2 (Thursday) ATHENS Ancient Theaters in Attica**

Breakfast at the hotel. Journey to the Attica region to discover the Theater of Dionysus, where the drama festivals of ancient Athens unfolded. Let the guide unfold the stories etched into the stone seats. Situated on the southern slope of the Acropolis in Athens, it is considered one of the earliest and most prestigious theaters in ancient Athens, dedicated to Dionysus, the god of wine and theater and played a pivotal role in the evolution of Greek drama. The theater hosted the City Dionysia, a major festival where Athenian tragedies and comedies were performed. The theater could accommodate a large audience, with stone seating arranged in a semi-circular fashion. The stage area had a significant impact on the development of theatrical architecture, influencing subsequent theaters in ancient Greece. The great playwrights Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes had their works performed here. The theater of Thorikos, nestled in the landscape, unveils the intimate connection between performance and nature. It's a smaller and less well-known site compared to major theaters like Epidauros or Dionysus. It has stone seating arranged in a semi-circular fashion, providing a glimpse into the theatrical experiences of the local community. After the guided tour, relish free time for a leisurely swim or a seafood lunch—a moment to appreciate the same azure waters that inspired ancient Greek playwrights. Back to the hotel and time at leisure. Overnight in Athens. **(B)**

#### **DAY 3 (Friday) ATHENS – EPIDAUROS – ATHENS A Theatrical Odyssey**

Breakfast at the hotel. Depart for Epidauros, a sanctuary of ancient theater. The two-hour drive unfolds a landscape that has witnessed countless theatrical tales. Attend a play within the ancient theater of Epidauros, renowned for its impeccable acoustics and architectural brilliance. As the actors grace the stage under the starlit sky, feel the resonance of ancient applause echo through the ages. Epidauros is home to one of the best-preserved ancient theaters in Greece, if not the world. The Theater of Epidauros is renowned for its exceptional acoustics, allowing even a whisper from the stage to be heard by the entire audience, even at the highest seats. It was built in the 4th century BCE and is a masterpiece of ancient Greek architecture. Its design, with precise mathematical calculations, contributes to its renowned acoustics and provides a unique and immersive experience for visitors. The theater at Epidauros was part of the Sanctuary of Asklepios, the god of healing. The site was not only a center for entertainment but also for spiritual and physical healing. Pilgrims seeking cures would come to Epidauros to participate in rituals and seek divine assistance. Nowadays, the Epidauros Festival takes place in the ancient theater during the summer months, offering a chance for visitors to experience ancient drama in its original setting. Including Epidauros in the tour provides a unique opportunity for you to step back in time, experience ancient Greek theater in its original context, and explore a site that combines history, architecture, and natural beauty. It's a must-visit destination for those who appreciate the richness of ancient Greek culture and the enduring legacy of theater. Back to Athens and time at leisure. Overnight in Athens. **(B)**

#### **DAY 4 (Saturday) ATHENS – DELPHI - ATHENS**

Breakfast at the hotel. Begin the day with a comfortable early morning departure from Athens. Enjoy a picturesque drive through the Greek countryside, offering beautiful landscapes and a sense of anticipation for the historic journey ahead. Drive through the fertile plain of Boeotia, crossing the towns of Thebes - connected with the tragedy of king Oedipus, Levadia and Arachova, famous for its colourful rug sand carpets (short stop). Arrive at Delphi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Guided visit of the Museum and the Archaeological area. Inside the archaeological area of Delphi, see also the theatre, an iconic venue that hosted ancient dramatic performances and festivals. Learn about its architecture, significance, and the cultural events held there. The theater was built further up the hill from the Temple of Apollo and it presented the seated audience with a spectacular view of the entire sanctuary below and the valley







beyond. It was built in the V century BC of local Parnassus limestone and was remodeled several times subsequently. This is where the musical contests (song and instrumental music) of the Pythian games and other religious festivals took place, which made this theatre the intellectual and artistic equivalent to the athletic stadium at Olympia. In the afternoon, we will visit the Tholos within the archaeological site, a circular building with a unique design. Gain insights into its purpose, construction, and its role in ancient Greek rituals. You will explore the Delphi Archaeological Museum, home to an extensive collection of artifacts, statues, and treasures from the site. Highlights include the Charioteer of Delphi and the Sphinx of Naxos. Return to Athens early in the evening. Overnight in Athens. **(B)**

#### **DAY 5 (Sunday) ATHENS** *Departure*

Breakfast at the hotel. The final day in Athens invites you to savor the Grecian ambiance. Revisit cherished sites, make new discoveries, or simply absorb the magic of the city. This day is a pause, allowing the essence of Greek theater to linger before departure. In the morning, at a given time, you will visit Mrs Alexandra Pavlidou who runs a theatre studio of improvisation herself and have a class in improvisation with her. Later, at the given time bid adieu to Greece, carrying within you the narratives of ancient performances, the majesty of historic theaters, and the timeless allure of this cultural haven. As you leave, let your heart resonate with the profound legacy of Greek storytelling—a legacy that has transcended centuries and captivated the souls of all who have walked upon its storied soil. Depart, not merely as a traveler, but as a participant in the ongoing drama of Greece's illustrious theatrical legacy.

If you are planning an extension of your tour in the area, we can help you organizing it with pleasure. A few days in the Cycladic Islands, e.g. Santorini and/or Mykonos, Paros or any other island is the best idea to relax and learn more about greek theater. Better stay in Athens? There are a lot yet to discover. Talk to us and we will give you better suggestions for it. **(B)**

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**(B)** Breakfast **(L)** Lunch **(D)** Dinner

