

GROUP TOUR PROGRAMME

Classical Greece & Turkey

Athens · Peloponnese · Delphi · Crete · Ephesus · Cappadocia · Troy · Gallipoli · Istanbul

DURATION	GROUP SIZE	REGION	BEST SEASON	TOUR THEME
20 Days · 19 Nights	**10+ Pax**	**Greece & Turkey**	**Apr–Oct**	**Two Civilisations**

Twenty days across the Aegean, from the Acropolis to Hagia Sophia. Your group sees mainland Greece in depth – Athens, Mycenae, Epidaurus, Olympia and Delphi – then Minoan Crete, before crossing by island flight and ferry to Turkey for Ephesus, Cappadocia, Troy, Gallipoli and Istanbul. One operator and one contact for both countries, with domestic flights, ferries and every transfer arranged. Built for long-haul groups who want the whole story of the classical world in one journey. BenLeToni Tours has handled groups across Greece since 1992 – this programme is tailored for travel agencies and tour operators.

Made for your planning

Every day has a notes field, and the planning sheet on the last page collects what we need for a tailored proposal. Type into this PDF on screen or print it and write on it – then send it back to us.

Tour Route



Included In Our Offer

INCLUDED IN YOUR PROGRAMME

- ✓ 19 nights accommodation – Athens 2, Nafplio 3, Olympia 1, Delphi 1, Rethymno 2, Heraklion 2, Kuşadası 2, Cappadocia 2, Çanakkale 2, Istanbul 2 – in 3- and 4-star hotels (5-star on request)
- ✓ Domestic flights Athens – Heraklion, Heraklion – Samos, Izmir – Cappadocia, Cappadocia – Istanbul
- ✓ Ferries Samos – Kuşadası and across the Dardanelles
- ✓ Breakfast and dinner daily
- ✓ Private air-conditioned coach throughout the full itinerary
- ✓ Licensed guide for the entire programme
- ✓ All entrance fees to the sites and museums listed in the itinerary
- ✓ Airport transfers on arrival and departure days
- ✓ 24/7 local support contact during your group's stay in Greece
- ✓ Folklore evening with dinner in Athens; village lunch in Crete; pide lunch and farewell dinner in Turkey
- ✓ Local guides and transfers in Turkey by our team on the ground

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses and gratuities
- Single room supplements (available on request)
- Optional excursions not listed in the itinerary (e.g. balloon flight in Cappadocia)
- Climate resilience fee, payable locally at the hotels
- Visa for Turkey, where required for your nationality

Full Programme

YOUR NOTES

1

Arrival in Athens

Arrival at Athens airport, where your BenLeToni guide meets the group. Transfer to the hotel. Overnight Athens.

2

Athens — Folklore evening

The Acropolis and the Parthenon, then the Acropolis Museum and the Benaki Museum, with its panorama of Greek art from antiquity to the 20th century. Evening dinner with live Greek music and dance. Overnight Athens.

3

National Archaeological Museum — Corinth — Tiryns — Nafplio

The National Archaeological Museum, the richest collection of ancient Greek art in the world. Over the Corinth Canal to Ancient Corinth and its Temple of Apollo. Tiryns and its Cyclopean walls, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Arrival in Nafplio. Overnight Nafplio.

4

Nafplio — Epidaurus

Morning in Nafplio, the first capital of modern Greece: the Venetian old town, the harbour and the view of the Bourtzi island fortress. The theatre of Epidaurus and its acoustics, and the sanctuary of Asclepius. Overnight Nafplio.

5

Mycenae — Nemea

Mycenae, the city of Agamemnon: the Lion Gate, the royal palace and the Treasury of Atreus. Ancient Nemea, the Temple of Zeus and the stadium, entered through the original athletes' tunnel. Overnight Nafplio.

6

Argos — Olympia

The ancient theatre of Argos, one of the largest in Greece. Across the Peloponnese to Ancient Olympia, birthplace of the Olympic Games: the sanctuary, the workshop of Pheidias and the stadium, then the museum with the Hermes of Praxiteles. Overnight Olympia.

7

Nafpaktos — Delphi

Over the Rio–Antirrio bridge to Nafpaktos and its Venetian harbour. Up to Delphi on the slopes of Mount Parnassus: the sanctuary of Apollo, the Temple of Apollo and the museum with the bronze Charioteer. Overnight Delphi.

YOUR NOTES

8

Athens — Flight to Heraklion — Rethymno

Early drive to Athens airport and flight to Heraklion on Crete. Transfer to Rethymno and its Venetian harbour. Overnight Rethymno.

9

Rethymno at leisure

A free day in Rethymno: the old town and the Fortezza, or the beach. Overnight Rethymno.

10

Phaistos — village lunch — Gortys — Heraklion

The Minoan palace of Phaistos above the Messara plain. Lunch in a traditional Cretan village. Ancient Gortys, Roman capital of Crete, and the Gortyn Law Code. Continue to Heraklion. Overnight Heraklion.

11

Knossos — Heraklion Archaeological Museum

The Palace of Knossos, centre of Minoan civilisation, then the Heraklion Archaeological Museum with the original frescoes and finds. Overnight Heraklion.

12

Flight to Samos — Ferry to Kuşadası

Flight from Heraklion to Samos. Transfer to Pythagorio and ferry across to Kuşadası in Turkey, where our team in Turkey meets the group. Overnight Kuşadası.

13

Ephesus

Ephesus, one of the best-preserved ancient cities of the Mediterranean: the marble streets, the Library of Celsus, the Great Theatre and the Terrace Houses with their wall paintings. Overnight Kuşadası.

14

Izmir — Flight to Cappadocia — Zelve

Drive to Izmir and flight to Cappadocia. The open-air museum of Zelve, a valley of cave dwellings and rock-cut churches among the fairy chimneys. Overnight Cappadocia.

15

Cappadocia

Paşabağı, the valley of the monks, and its fairy chimneys. The villages of Avcılar and Ayvalı. The Göreme Open-Air Museum, with its rock-cut churches and Byzantine frescoes, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Optional sunrise balloon flight. Overnight Cappadocia.

YOUR NOTES

16

Flight to Istanbul — Çanakkale

Flight to Istanbul and drive to Çanakkale on the Dardanelles (about 5 hours), with a stop for a Turkish pide lunch. Overnight Çanakkale.

17

Gallipoli — Troy

Ferry across the Dardanelles to the Gallipoli peninsula and the battlefields and memorials of the First World War. In the afternoon, Troy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the layers of nine cities lie one above the other. Overnight Çanakkale.

18

Istanbul — Topkapı Palace — Blue Mosque

Drive to Istanbul. Topkapı Palace, residence of the Ottoman sultans for four centuries, and the Sultan Ahmed Mosque – the Blue Mosque – with its Iznik tiles. Overnight Istanbul.

19

Hagia Sophia — Archaeological Museums — Grand Bazaar

Hagia Sophia, church, mosque and museum over fifteen centuries. The Istanbul Archaeological Museums. Afternoon in the Grand Bazaar. Farewell dinner. Overnight Istanbul.

20

Departure

Transfer to Istanbul airport for departure.

YOUR NOTES

Useful Information

Best time to travel

April to October, when the ferry between Samos and Kuşadası runs in its main season and the island flights operate. Spring and autumn are ideal for both countries; Cappadocia is cool in the mornings outside summer.

Group size

Minimum group size for this programme is 10 passengers. Coaches and guides are planned around the size of your group.

Dress code

Modest dress is required in churches and mosques – covered shoulders and knees for everyone, and women cover their hair in mosques (scarves can be borrowed at the entrance). We advise all groups of this requirement in advance.

Walking difficulty

Moderate. Many sites involve walking on uneven ancient terrain and marble streets, and Ephesus and Olympia are large sites. Comfortable closed-toe shoes are recommended.

Hotel category

Ten hotels across two countries, chosen so that no stay is shorter than necessary. The programme uses a mix of 3- and 4-star hotels; in Cappadocia a cave hotel can be booked. 5-star hotels are available on request.

Customisation

The Greek and Turkish parts can be sold separately, or shortened to 15 days by leaving out Crete. The tour can also run in the opposite direction, from Istanbul to Athens. Flight and ferry days follow the timetables of your travel dates.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does the group get from Greece to Turkey?

By a domestic flight from Heraklion to Samos, then the ferry from Pythagorio to Kuşadası (about 1 hour 30 minutes). Our team in Turkey meets the group at the port. Flight and ferry days follow the timetables of your dates.

Do participants need a visa for Turkey?

It depends on nationality. Many EU citizens can enter Turkey without a visa, others need an e-visa bought online before travel. Tell us the nationalities in your group and we will confirm.

Who operates the Turkish part of the tour?

BenLeToni Tours plans and runs the whole programme. In Turkey, our team on the ground provides the guides, coaches and transfers, and you keep one contact for the whole journey.

Do we need licensed guides at the archaeological sites?

Yes. Licensed guides are required at the major archaeological sites in Greece. BenLeToni Tours arranges all guides as part of the programme – multilingual guides are available in German, English, French, Italian, Spanish, Dutch and Japanese.

Can the programme be customised?

Yes. Duration, hotel category, pace and included sites can all be adapted, and either country can be booked alone. Contact us with your requirements and we will send a tailored proposal.

Planning sheet

Fill in what you already know and send this page to contact@benletoni-tours.gr. We reply with a tailored proposal within 48 hours.

AGENCY / TOUR OPERATOR

CONTACT PERSON

EMAIL

PHONE

GROUP NAME / CLIENT

TRAVEL DATES

NUMBER OF GUESTS

ROOMS: DOUBLE / TWIN / SINGLE

ARRIVAL FLIGHT

DEPARTURE FLIGHT

GUIDE LANGUAGE

HOTEL CATEGORY

☐ 3-star ☐ 4-star ☐ 5-star

CHANGES TO THE PROGRAMME

SPECIAL REQUESTS (DIET, MOBILITY, CELEBRATIONS)

We look forward to welcoming your group to Greece.

CONTACT
contact@benletoni-tours.gr
+30 210 7010 629
benletoni-tours.gr