



PO Box 448  
Richmond, VT 05477  
802. 434.5416  
info@wisdomtours.com

## Greece – Art of the Aegean Itinerary

### Day 1

Depart JFK for Athens, Greece. Let our journey begin!

### Day 2

Arrive in Athens, transfer to hotel and rest from our international flight. Early group dinner at a traditional Greek Taverna in the “old town” – the Plaka. Set below the Acropolis, this is one of Athens most quaint neighborhoods and remains the last corner of 19th century Athens. Overnight - Athens

### Day 3

Today we immerse ourselves in the ancient tales of prophecy, as we visit the Sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi. According to legend, this spot is the center of the earth, as established when Zeus released two eagles from opposite sides of the world: their paths crossed in the sky above Delphi. After lunch we will see the treasuries of the Athenians and the Siphnians as we walk the sacred way to the Temple of Apollo and visit the museum that houses the beautiful Charioteer of Delphi. Overnight - Athens

### Day 4

After breakfast we explore the major sights of Athens. We begin with the Acropolis, the crowning glory of the hill that dominates the city, with temples and sculptures that have come to represent the political and cultural achievements of ancient Greece. In the afternoon a museum guide will lead us through the ancient collection of the National Archeological Museum. At the end of the day we will have dinner by the sea at Mikrolimana Yacht Harbor. After dinner we depart for Pireaus, the port of Athens since classical times. Here we board our overnight ferry for the Island of Samos. This ferry will stop at several island ports as we make our way to Vathy, the port of Samos. Overnight - Ferry

### Day 5

We wake up to our arrival on the lush green Island of Samos, with lacy coasts, vineyards and mountain villages perched high on ravines. Samos has a formidable list of great Samians – the fabled Aesop, the philosopher Epicurus, Aristarchos and the great mathematician Pythagoras, to name a few! During Polycrates reign it was noted for the arts and sciences and was the expanded site of the vast Temple of Hera, one of the wonders of the ancient world. In the early afternoon there will be an art history gathering with an overview of the sights we will visit on Samos. In the late afternoon we explore the beach of Aryos Konstandinos, Kampos, where we will be making site specific sculpture.

### Day 6

In the early morning we will begin our first sculpture project on the rocky shores of Aryos Konstandinos. We will have an exploratory morning collecting materials, selecting our sites and sketching/documenting ideas. Each midday will be reserved for enjoying the Greek way of life – explore, swim and rest! After lunch we will take a field trip to Efpalineio Orygma. This 3,410 ft. tunnel aqueduct ranks as one of the premier engineering feats of the ancient world. We will visit the nearby town of Pythagoreio, named after the philosopher Pythagoras who was born here in 580 BC. Here we will see the extensive remains of Roman Baths and a monastery of Panayia Spilani, which has a 350ft. cave containing a shrine to the Virgin. Overnight – Aryios Konstandinos





### Day 7

Today we will devote the entire morning constructing our experiments with form and site specific sculpture. Excursions to nearby Karlovassi by public bus may be necessary to acquire supplies. Samos is known as the "pottery island" of Greece. This afternoon we will visit the pottery village Koumaradhei that specializes in the "Pythagorean cup", allegedly designed by Pythagoras, and Koumaradhei. Overnight – Aryios Konstandinos

### Day 8

This morning will be dedicated to an art history outing to the Archeological Museum in Vathy. The museum contains one of the richest collections of small artifacts in Greece, all found during excavations at the Heraion sanctuary dedicated to the goddess Hera. The star exhibit is the largest free-standing sculpture to have survived from ancient Greece, a 16ft. marble Kouros dating from 580 BC and dedicated to the god Apollo. In the late afternoon we will join together for our first sculpture critique of completed works. Overnight – Aryios Konstandinos

### Day 9

After breakfast we will set out on a hike from Plantanakia beach to the hill village of Vourliotes. We will walk through a deep river canyon, pass the monastery of Vrontianis, and stop for lunch at one of the local tavernas in the pretty village of Vourliotes. Vourliotes is a charming mountain village with its typical Samos style tiled roofed houses, brightly painted shutters and beaked chimneys. Transportation will be provided for those unable to make the journey by foot. The late afternoon will be spent on the beach of Kampos beginning our second site specific sculpture project focusing on the use of recycled materials and personal ideology. Overnight – Aryios Konstandinos

### Day 10

Today we will go to the western side of the island, famous for its beautiful sandy beaches. We will visit the oldest church on the island, the 11th century Byzantine church of Metamorfosis, and the Byzantine fortress, with its spectacular views out to the sea and up a canyon with waterfalls. Concluding our hike we will have lunch in a seaside tavern before swimming on the island's finest beach. We will work on our sculptures in the early morning and late afternoon. There will be an emphasis on impacting on the environment, time-based work and ways to document works in progress to get optimum results. Overnight – Aryios Konstandinos

### Day 11

The early morning will be devoted to a group critique of Project 2, "Embracing the Environment". Following the critique there will be a discussion of our final Sculpture project – "A Response to Samos/Greece". Students will be encouraged to incorporate their experience of popular greek culture, history, ancient or contemporary greek architecture and philosophy into their work. Side trips back to sights visited on the island may be necessary. The afternoon will be free to work on sculpture or art history projects. Overnight – Aryios Konstandinos

### Day 12

A morning bus trip takes us to the famed Heraion, a sanctuary dedicated to the goddess Hera. Several temples once stood on this site, the latest dating from the reign of Polykrates in 525 BC. Pilgrims from all parts of the ancient world would approach this prestigious sanctuary along a 15,750 ft. Sacred Way, worship at the sacrificial altar, and leave votive offerings within. In the late afternoon we will begin clearing sites and the construction of our final sculpture projects. Overnight – Aryios Konstandinos



### **Day 13**

In the Afternoon there will be an optional hike to the most picturesque and quaint village of Manolates. We will walk through a vineyard and inner canyon known as the valley nightingales with spectacular views of the Aegean Sea below.

### **Day 14**

The final critique and documentation of project 3 will take place in the morning. Following the critique will be a massive clean-up and recycling effort to restore the beach back to its original state. The late afternoon will be devoted to the discussion of art history research papers. In the evening we will board the inter-island ferry for our overnight cruise back to Athens. Overnight – ferry.

### **Day 15**

We arrive in Athens in the early morning and transfer to our hotel. Full free day in Athens to rest, explore and shop. We will join together in the evening for dinner. Overnight – Athens

### **Day 16**

As a last feast for the eyes we will visit the Temple of Olympian Zeus, the largest temple of ancient Greece, exceeding even the Parthenon in size. Begun in the 6th century BC, the temple was not completed until 650 years later: it was dedicated to Zeus Olympios by the Roman Emperor Hadrian in AD 132. We take an afternoon bus tour outside of Athens to the tip of Attica, to Cape Sounion. Here, on a dramatic cliff-top site overlooking the sea, sits the temple of the sea god Poseidon. Built in 444 BC, local marble was used for the temple's slender Doric columns, of which only 15 survive today. We will have our farewell dinner on our way back to Athens. Overnight – Athens

### **Day 17**

Homeward Bound. We depart Athens for the States.