

# The Secret Heart of Greece Peloponnese & the Hanging Monasteries of Meteora

Fully Escorted Boutique Small Group Tour: 16<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019



[www.bigyellowsuitcase.com.au](http://www.bigyellowsuitcase.com.au)

**Day 1. Meteora / Kalambaka (B,D)** This morning you will be met at a central Athens location for the drive north to our hotel in the village of Kalambaka. After settling in we'll head out to Meteora. Amazing rock formations, like towers of sandstone, stand ageless, and have provided sacred retreat for monks over the centuries. The view over the plain is breathtaking. Meteora is considered among the most beautiful areas of mainland Greece and belongs to Unesco's list of world heritage monuments.

**Day 2. (B,D)** Heading back south we'll cross the mountains of central Greece towards mount Parnassos, and the village of Delphi, which used to be the most sacred place in the world and a pilgrimage center for many centuries in antiquity. This evening dinner will be at a local restaurant with stunning views to the Corinthian gulf. Overnight in Delphi.

**Day 3. Arachova, Monastery of Ossiou Loukas / Dimitsana (B,D)** Today, we will be heading towards the Peloponnese. Our journey will find us crossing the Arcadian mountains to arrive in Dimitsana, our base for the following 5 nights. After settling in at our hotel, we'll enjoy a welcome drink followed by a dinner in one of the local traditional tavernas.



**Day 4. Dimitsana, cooking class / Dimitsana (B,D)** The Peloponnese has a wild, untamed beauty perfectly reflected in its mountain villages like Dimitsana. Following a walking tour of the village we'll meet the family who own a local taverna where we'll learn the secrets of making "pastitsio", an authentic "Greek" dish.

**Day 5. Bassae, Andritsena, Psari, Vytina / Dimitsana (B,L,D)** Today starts with a visit to Bassae, an awe-inspiring archaeological site on a remote mountain top secreted high above Andrisena village.

At tiny Psari village we'll have an opportunity to taste a variety of traditional products, made exclusively by the local women.

For more details and booking [www.bigyellowsuitcase.com.au](http://www.bigyellowsuitcase.com.au)

**Day 6. Olympia, Olive Oil farm / Dimitsana (B,L)** After breakfast depart for a day visit to Ancient Olympia. This bucolic site is amongst the most picturesque in Greece. A complete tour of the famous archaeological site and museum, will be followed by a visit to a local farm producing both olive oil and wine. Here we'll stop for lunch and to taste some of the wines and many different handmade dishes using products fresh from the farm.

**Day 7. Hike to Lousios Gorge / Dimitsana (B,L)** This morning we'll take a gentle hike into the Lousios Gorge, the best way to explore the pristine nature of the Peloponnese heartland. Old Greek Orthodox monasteries are built on both sides of the gorge, literally hanging from the rocks. We'll meet the monks who live there, persisting in an ascetic life as they have for hundreds of years.



**Day 8. Nemea, Winery visit, Visit Mycenae / Nafplio (B,L,D)**

After breakfast, depart for the beautiful seaside town of Nafplio. En-route we'll visit Ancient Nemea, where the Nemean Games were once held. Today Nemea is also known for its exceptional wines, considered to be amongst the best in Greece. Visit one of the most esteemed wineries for a private wine tasting followed by lunch.

**Day 9. Nafplio, Epidauros / Nafplio (B,L)** Nafplio is one of the most beautiful towns in Greece. A walking tour this morning will give you the chance to experience that beauty before leaving for an afternoon tour of Epidauros with its famous Asclepeion.

**Day 10. Tour of Bourtzi Island, afternoon at leisure (B,D)** After breakfast this morning we'll board a private boat for a tour of Bourtzi, a small islet located at the entrance of Nafplio's picturesque harbour.

**Day 11. Departure (B)** Checking out of our hotel we'll take the road back to Athens, directly to the airport for onward flights

### **Inclusions & Highlights.**

- English speaking guide for the entire tour and Australian tour manager
- 1 night at Hotel Grand Meteora, Kalambaka
- 1 night at Hotel Apollonia, Delphi
- 5 nights at Nerida Boutique Hotel Dimitsana
- 3 nights at Pension Marianna, Nafplio
- 10 breakfasts, 7 lunches, 7 dinners including wine, beer and soft drinks
- **Small group – maximum 10 guests**
- Meteora monasteries, Delphi and Sanctuary of Apollo
- Ancient Olympia, Bassae, Epidavros & Mycenae
- Nafplio, Bourtzi Castle, ancient city of Nemea
- Cooking class, wine tasting and excellent food and wine.
- Comfortable air-conditioned transport for transfers and excursions
- Entry fees for scheduled visits, tips and gratuities for drivers and guides.
- Pick-up from central Athens location and return group transfer to Athens airport

### **Dates & Prices**

11 days/10 nights **16<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Tour Price:** \$AUD 5,500 per person single occupancy of queen size room.  
(Reduction available for twin share.)

**Not included:** Air fares to/from Athens, Greece