

Walking Greece & Turkey

12th IVV Olympiad option available for fall departures!

Greetings from Walking Adventures!

Our exploration of the fabled land of Greece spans the chronology of Western Civilization, bringing to life the legends of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* and giving context to Greek mythology and history. We start at King Minos' Palace of Knossos on the Aegean island of Crete; absorb some of the world's most stupendous vistas from the rim of Santorini's sea-filled caldera; continue to Mycenae, where Agamemnon marshaled the Greek armies for the Trojan War; and finish in Athens, pinnacle of Classical Greece.

It's doubtful that any other region of the world has witnessed as many history-changing events as the land of Turkey. Straddling the isthmus between Asia and Europe, it has seen the rise and fall of multiple empires whose armies have marched back and forth across its well-trafficked soil. The Biblical patriarch, Abraham, and the cataclysmic account of Noah and the Ark; the Hittites, first to gain advantage through the use of iron; the Persian onslaught of Classical Greece under Xerxes and Darius; Alexander the Great and the explosion of Hellenistic culture; the Roman era with its Pax Romano and spread of Christianity; the Byzantine Empire during the golden age of Constantinople; the sordid chapter of the Crusades; and finally, the glory of the Ottoman Empire — all were strongly connected to the country we now call Turkey.

Together these itineraries offer travelers a fascinating view of two countries bursting with much of the world's early history! Feel free to join us for either Greece or Turkey, or combine both into one Mediterranean combo package to maximize your travel budget!

12th IVV Olympiad Pre-tour/Extension

This optional addition to the Fall Greece & Turkey program encompasses the walks and sights of the 12th IVV Olympiad, a biennial event celebrating the sport of walking. The IVV Olympiad in Antalya is either an optional pre-tour or extension, depending on your departure. Participating in the Olympiad as a pre-tour (Fall #2) requires an extra night in Istanbul, and an extra \$125 charge for that night.

How do I lock in my place on this Adventure?

To save yourself a spot on this Adventure, contact us with a \$500 payment as soon as possible. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come-first-serve basis!

General Tour Conditions and Registration Forms

These forms accompany this brochure (or are available on line). To finalize your official registration, a completed and signed copy of the Registration Form is necessary. Please be sure to read all the fun stuff (the fine print) in the General Tour Conditions!

How is airfare arranged?

This is a two-part Adventure. The official start and finish point for Greece is the airport in Athens. The official start and finish point for Turkey is the airport in Istanbul. Airfare to and from the start points is not included in the package price. **However, travelers who participate in both parts of this Adventure will receive complimentary airfare between Athens and Istanbul.** We recommend that you contact the travel agent we work with to help book your flight arrangements. In this age of airfare complications and airport uncertainty, using a travel agent is an excellent investment! More details about flight arrangements and travel agent contact information will follow in the *Adventure Advice* memo mailed after registration— **please do not book your airfare prior to receiving the Adventure Advice flyer!**

Greece & Turkey - Fall Airfare

Two internal flights are included within the Greece program, three internal flights are included in the Turkey program, and an additional two flights are included in the Olympiad option. Air pricing in Greece is firm, except for airport tax, which is always subject to change. Differences in the final Greece airport tax will be added, or credited, to your final bill. Air pricing in Turkey, however, is in flux and we will not receive final pricing until late November or December 2010. Since we cannot wait that long to secure our space in Antalya, we will be asking those opting for the Fall Greece & Turkey programs to commit to the Adventure, understanding that Fall pricing for Turkey could increase due to internal air by as much as \$100 to \$150.

Travel Insurance

Walking Adventures has negotiated with an insurance carrier to provide travel insurance in the form of a Preferred Benefits™ policy. We are pleased to make this package available and believe that it will provide travelers with an important element of security at a reasonable price. (See the enclosures for more detailed information.)

IMPORTANT: The insurance policy includes time-sensitive coverage provisions for a couple of extra benefits, including pre-existing conditions and trip cancellation coverage for any reason (with additional fee), **provided you purchase the insurance within 14 days of your registration.** Should you choose to add the cost of your airline tickets to your insurance policy, contact our office after you purchase your airfare.

Group Travel Credit

If you are part of a Group, remember that your full deposit of \$500 is still required to hold your spot on this Adventure. Your group leader is responsible to submit your name to us before you pre-register, qualifying you for the Group Travel Credit, but a full deposit is needed to officially reserve your place.

What happens next?

Upon registering for this Adventure, you will receive a welcome letter and an *Adventure Advice* flyer with important information about steps to take in the months before your trip. The final payment for the program is due 90 days before departure, and you will receive a final billing about 2 weeks prior to that point, along with a factsheet of additional information about the Adventure to help you get prepared! Then, about 3 weeks before departure, you will receive a final packet with all the details of the program, including hotel names and contact information, a list of fellow travelers, and a more detailed daily schedule.

Take a look at the enclosed itinerary and envision yourself walking through spring wildflowers and nonstop island panoramas on Crete and the Peloponnese, exploring the caldera rim at Santorini, taking in the oriental delights of Istanbul, and marveling at stunning Cappadocia with its wonderland of volcanic rock formations, fairy chimneys, and rock-hewn Byzantine era churches! Then give us a call and talk to one of our Adventure Consultants who can help you join us for a life-changing Walking Adventure in Greece & Turkey!

Çörüşmek üzere! (See you soon!)

