



Ancient Civilizations in Greece & Sicily

4 Mar 2024 - 13 Mar 2024 | 10 days

Welcome to the birthplace of Western civilization. Explore the archaeological treasures of Athens, learn how the high priestess of the Temple of Apollo gave guidance to city-states, and discover what makes the Mediterranean diet so irresistible. Greece's mix of natural beauty and ancient history make it a destination that students can't miss.



WHY SEND YOUR STUDENTS ON A FORUM LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE?

you will benefit from...

*E*xpertise of more than 30 years in the field,
*M*ore value for your investment in education,

while students benefit from...

*P*rivate tailor-made educational tours,
*O*pportunities to engage with locals,
*W*isdom and a greater interest in learning,
*E*nhancement on college applications,
*R*espect and understanding of other cultures



Day 1 - FLY TO ATHENS

Monday, 4 Mar 2024

- Fly overnight from USA to **Athens**.

Day 2 - ATHENS

Tuesday, 5 Mar 2024

- Welcome to **Athens**, the birthplace of science, arts, philosophy and democracy of Western Civilization. It is considered one of the world's oldest cities, with a recorded history of 3,400 years.
- Upon arrival, you will be greeted by your **Forum Tour Manager** who will remain with your group for the duration of your trip in Greece.
- Board your private bus which will transfer you to your hotel for Check-In & luggage drop-off.
- Join your Tour Manager for a walk through the **Roman Agora** of the Plaka and Anafiotika districts; including the gate of Athena Archegetis, the Fethiye (Victory) Mosque, the Tower of the Winds (Aerides), and Hadrian's Library.
- Enjoy a typical Greek dinner at a local tavern.
- Return to your hotel for night accommodations.

Day 3 - ATHENS-DELPHI

Wednesday, 6 Mar 2024

- Have breakfast at your hotel before heading out for the day.
- Visit the **Acropolis**, a UNESCO world heritage site comprised of several ancient Greek buildings. Located on the top of a hill, you will have great views of the city with plenty of photo opportunities!



- Enjoy a guided visit to the **Acropolis Museum**. The artefacts on display at the Acropolis Museum range from prehistoric times to the Byzantine era and include sculptures, pottery, and other objects that were once part of the Acropolis. The museum's main highlight is the Parthenon Gallery, which houses the frieze of the Parthenon, one of the most famous surviving examples of ancient Greek art.
- Have some free time for lunch with your group (not included).
- Later, board your bus for **Delphi**. Lying on the slopes of Mount Parnassus high above the Gulf of Corinth, the city is known throughout the ancient Greek world and beyond as Apollo's sanctuary and his oracle's shrine.
- Enjoy a typical Greek dinner at a local restaurant with your group.
- Night accommodation in **Delphi**.

Day 4 - DELPHI-OSSIOS LOUKAS

Thursday, 7 Mar 2024

- Have breakfast at your hotel before heading out for the day.
- Explore the **Archaeological site of Delphi**, one of the most important ones in Greece, second only to the Acropolis of Athens.
- Visit the **Delphi Archaeological Museum**, which shelters the extensive artefacts unearthed during excavations at the site and its vicinity.
- Have some free time for lunch with your group (not included).
- Visit the **Monastery of Ossios Loukas**, one of the most important monuments of Middle Byzantine architecture and art, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Transfer back to Athens.
- Enjoy a typical Greek dinner at a local restaurant with a **bouzouki night**, an authentic Greek experience that features traditional music played on the bouzouki, a stringed instrument similar to a mandolin.
- Night accommodation in **Athens**.



Day 5 - FLY TO PALERMO

Friday, 8 Mar 2024

- ❑ Have breakfast at your hotel before heading out for the day.
- ❑ Transfer to the airport to catch your **flight to Palermo, Italy**.
- ❑ Benvenuto in Italia! Upon arrival, you will be greeted by your bilingual **Forum Tour Manager** who will remain with your group for the duration of your stay.
- ❑ Follow your Tour manager on a walking tour of Palermo. Visit the **Palermo Cathedral**, Quattro Canti, and the historic Palazzo dei Normanni.
- ❑ Enjoy a meal with your group at a local restaurant.
- ❑ Night accommodation at your hotel.

Day 6 - PALERMO-SOLUNTO-CEFALU

Saturday, 9 Mar 2024

- ❑ Have breakfast at your hotel.
- ❑ Start your day with a visit to the **Regional Archaeological Museum Antonio Salinas**, which houses a collection of ancient Greek and Roman artifacts, including mosaics and sculptures.
- ❑ Later, board your private bus in the direction of **Cefalú**. On the way, stop in **Solunto**, an ancient city founded by the Phoenicians and later inhabited by the Greeks and Romans. Explore the well-preserved ruins of the city, which include a theatre, public baths, and an impressive system of cisterns.
- ❑ Continue your journey to **Cefalú**, a charming seaside town. Admire the beautiful beaches and historic **Norman Cathedral**, and enjoy a stroll through the town's winding medieval streets.

*Island boat*

- ❑ Spend some free time at the **beach**. Cefalù's long, sandy beach is one of the most beautiful on the island, with crystal-clear waters and a stunning view of the nearby Rocca, a towering cliff that looms over the town. It's a great place to relax and soak up the sun, or to take a dip in the Mediterranean Sea.
- ❑ Enjoy a meal with your group at a local restaurant.
- ❑ Night accommodation at your hotel.

Day 7 - CEFALU-TAORMINA

Sunday, 10 Mar 2024

- ❑ Have breakfast at your hotel.
- ❑ In the morning head to **Taormina**, a picturesque town, located on the east coast of Sicily. Explore the town's beautiful medieval streets, and take in the stunning views of the Ionian Sea and Mount Etna. Upon arrival, walk through the historic center, a maze of narrow streets lined with medieval buildings, shops, and cafes.
- ❑ Visit the ancient **Greek theater of Taormina**, known to be one of the most beautiful amphitheaters in the world. It dates back to the 3rd century BC and is still used today for concerts and performances.
- ❑ Visit the **Giardino Pubblico**, a beautiful public garden located in the heart of Taormina, with stunning views of Mount Etna and the sea.
- ❑ It is time for **Italian gelato**! Stop at a local gelateria and enjoy this delicious frozen dessert.
- ❑ Spend some free time to explore the town on your own.
- ❑ Enjoy a meal with your group at a local restaurant.
- ❑ End your day with a relaxing stroll along the **seaside promenade**.
- ❑ Night accommodation at your hotel.

Day 8 - SYRACUSE

Monday, 11 Mar 2024

- ❑ Have breakfast at your hotel.



- This morning, head to **Syracuse** by private bus.
- Visit the **Archaeological Park of Neapolis**, one of the most important archaeological sites in Sicily. Here you can see impressive Greek and Roman ruins, such as the Greek Theater, the Roman Amphitheater, and the Ear of Dionysius.
- Then head to **Ortigia island**, the oldest part of Syracuse, and explore its narrow streets and beautiful Baroque architecture. See the **Fountain of Arethusa**. This ancient spring is said to be the place where the nymph Arethusa emerged from the sea. It is a beautiful spot to relax and enjoy the views of the sea and the surrounding landscape.
- Tour the **Castello Maniace**, a medieval fortress built by the Byzantines in the 11th century and later expanded by the Normans. The castle is a fine example of medieval military architecture, with thick walls, towers, and a moat.
- Enjoy a meal with your group at a local restaurant.
- Night accommodation at your hotel.

Day 9 - SYRACUSE-PALERMO

Tuesday, 12 Mar 2024

- Have breakfast at your hotel.
- This morning, enjoy a guided visit of the **Catacombs of San Giovanni**, an underground burial site that dates back to the early Christian era, around the 4th century AD, and were used as a burial site for Christians until the 9th century AD. The catacombs are made up of a series of narrow tunnels, carved out of the soft limestone rock that underlies the area.
- Board your bus back to Palermo for your last evening.
- Enjoy a meal with your group at a local restaurant.
- Night accommodation at your hotel.

Day 10 - DEPARTURE

Wednesday, 13 Mar 2024

- Have breakfast at your hotel.



- Visit the **Palazzo dei Normanni** and explore the many rooms and courtyards of this impressive building, which features a mix of Arab, Norman, and Gothic architectural styles.
- Board your private bus and transfer to the airport.