

Pilgrimage Tour to the Holy Mountain of Mount Athos (2 days)



This tour includes visiting of the monasteries of the Holy Mountain, getting a close look at the local life and habits. You will stay in "archondariki" (guest house) by the Holy Monastery of St. Panteleimon, take part in all services of the monastery held in the Church Slavonic language, worship the relics, participate in the monastic daily works, share meals with the monks.

Description

Theme: Religious

Resort: Halkidiki

Season: All year round

Applications: 1/1/2016)

Check in: 1/1/2016)

Duration: 2 days / 1 nights

Obligations: no

Schedule

1st day. Getting to mount Athos, tour around monasteries, accommodation in the holy monastery

Getting to the port of Ouranoupolis. Arranging for "Diamonitirion". Lenten breakfast. Boarding and departure for Mount Athos. Tour around Holy Mountain monasteries. Accommodation. Getting back to the port of Ouranoupolis. Transfer to the hotel.

Setting off to the port of Ouranoupolis in the early morning. Arranging for a special visa (Diamonitirion) necessary for being admitted on the territory of the "monks' republic". After having a lenten breakfast you will get to Mount Athos by ship. Our guide will show you around the monasteries of the Mount. Accommodation. You will end your day by attending a vespers and sharing evening meal with the monks. After that you can respite.

Tour objects:

▼ The Holy Mountain Athos

Mount Athos is one of the highest points of Halkidiki Peninsular. For Orthodox Christians this is a place chosen by Mother of God herself. Beginning from the 19th century AD Byzantine granted this part of Halkidiki dominated by the high mountain a unique status of a monastic state where any mundane activity is banned. There 20 functioning monasteries and 2700 monks on Mount Athos today. It is more than thousands years since fairer sex has been banned from here and only men are allowed to visit the Holy Mountain. Women can only observe it at the distance of 500 m from the coastline.

▼ The Holy Monastery of Saint Panteleimon

Its modern architecture differs greatly from the traditional Athonite monasteries. The monastery's last renovation was held in the 19th century when there was no need in constructing fortifications against the pirates' attacks.

▼ Ouranoupolis

Ouranoupolis (Gr. "City of the Heaven") is located not far from Mount Athos. This city is popular mostly among pilgrims, who every year set off

from Ouranoupolis port for the Holy Mountain. This place is not rich in entertainment spots, so strong is here the influence of the holy religious objects. It is a spiritual destination. However, one can always find here a tavern with traditional Greek food.

▼ The Tower of Andronikos

The tower was built in 1344 by the Monastery of Vatopedion in order to protect the city from attacks on the land as well as from the sea. The tower is in good condition and it became the symbol of Ouranoupolis. Nowadays it hosts museum with different archeological finds.

▼ The Holy Monastery of Dochiarios

The monastery was founded in 966 by the monk Euthymios and consists of 10 buildings including the highest one on Athos dedicated to Archangels Michael and Gabriel. The monastery owns one of the most venerated wonderworking icons on the Holy Mountain the holy icon of Theotokos (Mother of God) "Gorgoypecoos" (Gr. "quick to hear"). It was painted in the 10th century. It is said, that in the 17th century cellarer of the monastery went blind due to his negligence. But after repentance he was miraculously cured. From then onwards, this icon is called "Gorgoypecoos", since it gives immediate help those who suffer.

▼ Holy Monastery of Vatopedion

Vatopedion, one of the oldest monasteries on Athos, was built in 972-985 by three monks Athanasius, Antonius and Nicholas. There is a katholikon of the 10th century, 16 smaller churches and a library that has thousands of manuscripts, scrolls and different printed material. Among the cloister's treasures are 7 wonderworking icons with a miraculous icon of Panagia Pantanassa (Most-Holy Queen of All) famous for its healing powers against cancer and icon of Mother of God of "Comfort and Consolation" favoured by Dimitry of Rostov. The main holy relics of Vatopedion monastery are Cincture of the Theotokos, the skull of St. John Chrysostom, fragment of the Life-Giving Cross, relics of saints.

▼ The Holy Monastery of Iviron

This Holy Monastery was founded in 980-983 by John the Iberian. It is famous for keeping more relics than any other cloister on Athos. Besides, it has a library with numerous manuscripts, scrolls in different languages. The monastery's main holy relic is a miraculous icon of Panagia Portaitissa or the Iviron Theotokos (Mother of God). There is also a miraculous spring of Mother of God of Iviron.

▼ Skete of St. Apostle Andrew

The Skete of St. Apostle Andrew was founded on Mount Athos in 1841 by the Russian monk Bessarion. The largest cathedral church of Mount Athos was erected here which stores the fragrant part of the frontal bone of Apostle Andrew.

2nd day. Departure from mount Athos

Matins. Checking-out of the Holy Monastery of St. Panteleimon. Return to the port of Ouranoupolis. Meeting Beleon Tours representatives. Transfer to the hotel.

You will attend a matins which finishes your tour on Mount Athos. After checking-out of the monastery you will return to Ouranoupolis port by a boat. Beleon Tours representatives will meet you at the port and get you to your hotel. You can continue your holidays in Greece.



Tour price includes

Escort services
Transport expences
General expences (*Разрешение на пребывание на Афоне – «Диамонитирион»*)
Accommodation expences



Additional charges

Transfer



Notes

▼ Additional information

- Only men are permitted