



BEST OF GREECE

Athens, Loutraki, Corinth & 4-day Greek Islands Cruise

May 11 – May 22, 2006

Post-Tour: Istanbul, Turkey, May 22 - 25

ASD Mid-Atlantic Tennis Travelers

DAILY ITINERARY

DAY 1 THURSDAY MAY 11 WASHINGTON TO ATHENS, GREECE

TBA PM meet at the airport, we check-in and depart at TBA PM on Lufthansa on our **transatlantic flight to Athens** via Frankfurt. Enjoy your onboard meals and entertainment. (D, S on flights)

Overnight Trans-Atlantic flight

DAY 2 FRIDAY MAY 12 ATHENS, GREECE - ARRIVAL

TBA AM arrival in Frankfurt, where we change aircraft and continue at TBA PM to Athens. We **arrive Athens** airport at TBA PM and clear customs and then we meet with our local ASD Cultural Exchange guide and transfer to the center of town. Check in at the hotel – balance of the day/evening at leisure. Dinner at your hotel in Athens. (B, L on flights and D at the hotel)

Accommodation in Athens: TBA

DAY 3 SATURDAY MAY 13 ATHENS - PANORAMA CITY SIGHTSEEING TOUR FRIENDSHIP TENNIS

Breakfast at the hotel and departure for a panoramic city tour of Athens. When Athens was proclaimed the capital of the Greek nation in 1834, it was a little village of approximately 4000 inhabitants. Foreign architects were called to give Athens a 'modern' neo-classical appearance with broad boulevards and central squares. The **House of Parliament** on Syntagma Square (in front of the former old Royal Palace), the **University**, the **Academy** and the **National Library** on the University Street are all built in the neo-classical style. Passing the **Presidential Palace** opposite The **National Garden**, we come to the marble **Panathenian Stadium**, where the first modern Olympics were inaugurated in 1896. The **Temple of Olympian Zeus**, **Arch of Hadrian** and the **Roman Theater of Herod Atticus**



reminds us of the Roman period of Athens, when the city was extended and partially rebuilt by the Roman emperors. After our City tour we arrive at the Acropolis. We climb the stairs to the ceremonial entrance gate, the **Propylaion** near to which we see the little entrance gate, the temple of **Athena Nike** was dedicated to the goddess of Victory. The **Parthenon**, the temple of **Athena**, built in the Golden Age of Pericles (5th century BC), is the biggest Dorian temple in Greece. Although heavily damaged it is still an impressive example of the high standard of classical architecture. The **Erechteion**, famous for its Porch of the Caryatids, was a complex cult building connected with mythological Kings of Athens and the goddess Athena. We conclude our excursion with the **Acropolis museum** and the inspiring view over the city! Free time for lunch on your own in a local restaurant in Plaka and return on your own to your hotel. Late afternoon and early evening a casual friendship tennis exchange at a local tennis club. Evening free for dinner on own. Perhaps enjoy a *dinner* at a local restaurant with folklore show, Greek dancing and music. Overnight at your hotel in **Athens**. (B)

Accommodation in Athens: TB/

DAY 4 SUNDAY MAY 14 ATHENS – DAY AT LEISURE AND FRIENDSHIP TENNIS

Leisurely breakfast at the hotel. The morning is **free to relax and explore Athens** on your own, until we meet at the hotel and transfer to our local host club at 2:00 PM for an **afternoon and evening of friendship tennis matches**. Following our tennis we enjoy an **evening social get-together with our local club and their players**, hosted by ASD Cultural Exchange and your local host club. Return transfer to your hotel and overnight at your hotel in Athens. (B, D)

Accommodation in Athens: TBA

DAY 5 MONDAY MAY 15 ATHENS – PIRAEUS: 4-DAY CRUISE - MYCONOS

Breakfast at the hotel. 9:00 AM transfer to the port of Piraeus. Embarkation for the 4-day **cruise to the Greek islands and Turkey**. Sailing at 11:00 AM to Myconos. Lunch on board. In the late afternoon arrival in **Myconos** and time at leisure. On Myconos you will find beautiful beaches, chic boutiques, and elegant nightclubs. Beneath its sophisticated surface, lies a quite essential Greek island. Hundreds of tiny chapels dot this blue and white-washed island with its beautiful windmills. Find a table on the waterfront and bask in the serenity of sunset over its picturesque harbor. Late evening we depart Myconos and continue sailing to Kusadasi. Dinner and overnight on board. (B, L, D)

Accommodation on-board cruise ship: Aegean I, Golden Star

DAY 6 TUESDAY MAY 16 CRUISE: KUSADASI AND PATMOS

Breakfast on board. In the morning arrival in **Kusadasi** (Turkey). We enjoy an excursion to the magnificent archeological site of Ephesus. **Ephesus & The House of the Virgin Mary** - begin your tour with a drive through the colorful and bustling town of Kusadasi and along the coastal highway until you reach Mt. Koressos. Situated in a small valley, it is here where you will visit the humble chapel, which lies on the site of the little house where **The Virgin Mary** resided to after the crucifixion and is believed to have spent her last days. Despite the many controversies, the Christian World still favors this belief and the site, has been officially sanctioned by the Vatican for pilgrimage. Continue on to the site of **Ancient Ephesus** and accompanied by your Turkish guide, walk through the **Magnesian Gate**, which is the entrance to the ancient city of Ephesus. Your guided walking tour will take you through one of the most magnificent excavated cities in the world. See the **Odeon** (concert



hall), the **Fountain of Trajan**, the steam-heated **Baths of Scolastika**, the **Temple of Hadrian** and the **Latrians**, the **Library of Celsus** and **The Great Theatre of Ephesus**, where St. Paul preached, which is the largest theatre in antiquity having a capacity of 24,000. Walk back to your motor coach along **the Arcadian Way**, which is where Mark Anthony and Cleopatra once rode in procession as newlyweds. While driving back to Kusadasi and just outside Ephesus, view **the Basilica of St. John**, which was erected over his grave in the 6th Century AD by the Emperor Justinian. And just downhill, lies the site of the famous **Temple of Diana**, today in ruins. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi to shop for every conceivable item, such as carpets, jewelry, local souvenirs, leather goods and Turkish delights. At noon sailing to Patmos. Lunch on board. Mid-afternoon arrival in **Patmos**. This serene island is known as the place where St John wrote the **Book of the Apocalypse**. The cave where he lived is near the site of the Monastery of the Apocalypse. **The Monastery of St. John**, built on one of the island's highest points, houses priceless icons and manuscripts in its Treasury. Time at leisure or optional excursion visiting the beautiful Monastery of St John and the Grotto. In the evening sailing to Rhodes. Dinner and overnight on board. (B, L, D)

Accommodation on-board cruise ship: Aegean I, Golden Star

DAY 7 WEDNESDAY MAY 17 CRUISE: RHODES, FRIENDSHIP TENNIS

Breakfast on board. Arrival in **Rhodes** – we spend the full day in Rhodes. Time at leisure or optional excursion to visit the **Acropolis of Lindos** and the **Medieval Town**. The beautiful Island of Roses has a rich and varied history. On a hill above the charming town of Lindos rises an ancient acropolis dedicated to the goddess Athena. Below lies the bay of St. Paul, where the apostle landed during his voyages. The crusading Knights of St. John left the medieval city of Rhodes behind when they were defeated by Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent. The Ottoman Turks then occupied Rhodes for almost 400 years leaving mosques, minarets, and a Turkish bath to mark their presence. Lunch on board. Afternoon friendship tennis with local players at a local tennis club in Rhodes. In the evening sailing to Crete. Dinner and overnight on board. (B, L, D)

Accommodation on-board cruise ship: Aegean I, Golden Star

DAY 8 THURSDAY MAY 18 CRUISE: CRETE AND SANTORINI

Breakfast on board. Arrival in Heraklion, Crete. **Heraklion**, the capital of Crete and its principal commercial port is just three miles away from the fantastic ruins of the **Palace of Knossos**. Discovered in 1899 by Sir Arthur Evans and partially reconstructed, the elaborate Palace is believed to be the mythical **Labyrinth of King Minos** and the seat of ancient Minoan culture. The **Archaeological Museum in Heraklion** displays many of the treasures found during the excavations. Time at leisure or optional shore excursions. Mid-day sailing to Santorini. Lunch on board. The island of **Santorini** is perhaps the most breathtaking of all the Greek Islands. The town of **Fira** white-washed houses, narrow streets, open-air cafes and glittering boutiques cling to steep cliffs, accessible by cable-car or mule. To the south is **Akrotiri** where recent Minoan excavations support the theories that Santorini might be the fabled lost continent of Atlantis. Dinner and overnight on board. (B, L, D)

Accommodation on-board cruise ship: Aegean I, Golden Star Cruises

DAY 9 FRIDAY MAY 19

CRUISE END: PIRAEUS TO CORINTH AND LOUTRAKI

Breakfast on board. We depart from the cruise ship for **the Ancient City of Corinth**. The city of Corinth is situated on the Isthmus of Corinth, which joined the Peloponnesus to the mainland of Greece. In 146 BCE, because of its rebellion against Rome, the Roman general L. Mummius completely destroyed the city, leveling it. The site remained uninhabited for a century, when the city was refounded as a Roman colony in 46 BCE by Julius Caesar; the name of the city was Laus Iulia Corinthus ("Corinth, the praise of Julius"). Corinth became a major center of commerce in the Roman province of Achaia. Strabo explains the commercial advantage of the city. Corinth was chosen as the administrative capital of the province, the seat of the Roman proconsul. Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the area and transfer to our hotel in Loutraki. Dinner on own. Overnight at your hotel in Loutraki. (B)

Alternative for the evening: a drive to Ireon archaeological site situated approx. 20 minutes from Loutraki, on a small bay. Time to walk around and then drive to the Lake Ireon to have a fish dinner in a local small tavern by the water.

Accommodation in Loutraki: TBA

DAY 10 SATURDAY MAY 20 LOUTRAKI – AT LEISURE AND FRIENDSHIP TENNIS

Breakfast at the hotel. Today is **free to relax, sightsee** or shop on your own. We end our day with a late afternoon and early evening of **tennis at the local courts**, followed by a social get-together with your host. Overnight at your hotel in **Loutraki**. (B, D)

Optional for the morning or afternoon: mini cruise on the Corinth Channel (1h30)

Accommodation in Loutraki: TBA

DAY 11 SUNDAY MAY 21 LOUTRAKI - ARGOLIS FULL DAY EXCURSION

Breakfast at the hotel. A full day excursion to the historically important district of the **Argolis** in the eastern part of the **Peloponnese**. We visit the famous Golden City of King Agamemnon, **Mycenae**, and the sanctuary of Asclepius, the god of Medicine at Epidaurus, which is better known for its theatre with its excellent acoustics, still in use for classical plays in July and August. Through the orange-groves of the Argolid we arrive at **Mycenae**, where the amateur-archeologist **Heinrich Schliemann** found the treasures of the Kings of Mycenae. Passing the **Lion Gate** we climb the citadel to the remains of the palace. In the graves next to the gate the golden masks were found by Schliemann, now on display in the Archaeological Museum of Athens. Just a few meters outside the citadel is the beehive tomb of Agamemnon or the so-called Treasury of Atreus. With clear weather you can see as far as the Gulf of **Nafplia**. Besides being important for the modern Greek history, it is perhaps one of the most picturesque places of Greece because of its Venetian fortress of the **Palamidi**, the fortified island **Bourdzi** in the harbor and the neo-classical houses overgrown by purple bougainvillea. In the afternoon you visit the theatre of **Epidaurus** belonging to the sanctuary of Asclepius. Like a modern Lourdes in France, this place attracted patients from all over the Greek world. For a few gifts the patient was hospitalized in the sanctuary of Asclepius. Usually the God visited the patient in a dream examining his complaints. The most famous part of its sanctuary is the theatre from the 4th BC where performances took place in honor of the God. You can test the acoustics in the theatre sitting in the upper part of the rows. We end our day with a farewell dinner at your hotel or at a local restaurant hosted by ASD Cultural Exchange. Overnight at your hotel in **Loutraki**. (B, L, D)



Accommodation in Loutraki: TBA

DAY 12 MONDAY MAY 22 RETURN TO USA / POST-TOUR BEGIN

Breakfast at the hotel. We transfer from Loutraki to the Athens airport. We bid Greece farewell as we depart at 1:55 PM from Athens to Frankfurt, Germany. Upon arrival in Frankfurt at 3:55 PM, we will change planes and continue at 5:00 PM from Frankfurt on your Lufthansa transatlantic flight from Frankfurt to Chicago and on to Washington/Dulles. Enjoy your on-board meals and entertainment. 10:55 PM arrival to Washington/Dulles. (B and S, D, S on flight)

Post-Tour: *Our exciting 3 nights/3 days Istanbul Post-Tour begins today – see separate itinerary!*
Return Trans-Atlantic flight

End of Tour

ASD Cultural Exchange is responsible for the organization of services only and disclaims any liability for property damage, loss or personal injury resulting from services provided by public carriers, operators, and companies for whom ASD Cultural Exchange acts solely as an agent. At its discretion, ASD Cultural Exchange reserves the right to alter any itinerary to accommodate unforeseen matters such as strikes, change of space reservations, weather, an act of God or any circumstances that would disrupt smooth conveyance of traveling members. Prices are subject to change until tour is paid in full. ASD Cultural Exchange strongly suggests that you purchase travel insurance.



BEST OF GREECE

Athens, Loutraki, Corinth & 4-day Greek Islands Cruise
May 11 – May 22, 2006

Post-Tour: Istanbul, Turkey, May 22 - 25

ASD Mid-Atlantic Tennis Travelers

TOUR PRICE AND INCLUSIONS

ASD TOUR PRICE: \$3,995.00 PER PERSON (BASED ON TWO PER ROOM)

NOT INCLUDED: *Mandatory supplement:* US Departure/Air/Tax/Customs Fees: \$ 260
(est. - subject to change at any time)
Mandatory cruise line port taxes/fees \$ 100 per person (est.- subject to change)
Tour cost is based on two persons per room, single room cost is \$800 more

PAYMENT: Deposit of \$500.00 due with your application
A payment of \$2,000 is due by January 1, 2006
Your final payment is due by March 1, 2006

ASD CULTURAL EXCHANGE SPECIAL INCLUSIVE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- ~~///~~ Transatlantic air in economy class from Washington/Dulles to Athens, Greece, and return from Athens, to Denver, on Lufthansa or other airline (subject to reservation and confirmation)
- ~~///~~ 10 nights of accommodations in twin/double rooms in named hotels *or similar*, all with private bath & continental breakfast or special group breakfast as follows:
 - ~~///~~ 3 nights accommodation in Athens, Divani Palace Acropolis (First Class)
 - ~~///~~ 4 nights accommodation on board Greek Islands cruise; Aegean I, Golden Star Cruises
 - ~~///~~ 3 nights accommodation in Loutraki; Poseidon Resort, Loutraki or other hotel (First Class)

MORE MEALS !

✂ 30 Meals throughout the tour and in-flight - as follows:

✂ 11 Breakfasts:

- ✂ Breakfast on flight from Washington to Athens
- ✂ Daily breakfast at the hotels and on-board cruise ship - mixed Continental, Cold Buffet, Hot Buffet, dependent on the choice of each venue (subject to change per each venues service)

✂ 9 Lunch/Snacks:

- ✂ Snack/beverage service on flight from Washington to Frankfurt
- ✂ Snack/beverage service on flight from Washington to Athens
- ✂ Lunch during day excursion to Argolis
- ✂ Daily lunch during cruise, on-board cruise ship
- ✂ Snack/meal during flight from Athens to Frankfurt
- ✂ Snack/beverage service on flight from Frankfurt to Washington

✂ 10 Dinners:

- ✂ Dinner on flight from Washington to Athens
- ✂ Dinner at the hotel in Athens
- ✂ Dinner/meal at one social get-together in Athens
- ✂ Dinners daily on-board cruise ship
- ✂ Dinner, Farewell dinner at the hotel in Loutraki
- ✂ Dinner/meal at one social get-together in Loutraki
- ✂ Dinner on flight from Frankfurt to Washington

(Please note – Meal Codes: B = Breakfast; L = Lunch; S = Snack; D = Dinner)

MORE SIGHTSEEING AND TOURING!

✂ Comprehensive sightseeing per itine rary, including:

- ✂ Athens Panorama City Sightseeing
- ✂ See the House of Parliament in Athens
- ✂ See the University in Athens
- ✂ See the Academy in Athens
- ✂ See the National Library in Athens
- ✂ See the Presidential Palace in Athens
- ✂ See the National Garden in Athens
- ✂ See the Panathenian Stadium in Athens
- ✂ See the Temple of Olympian Zeus
- ✂ See the Arch of Hadrian
- ✂ See the Roman Theater of Herod Atticus
- ✂ Visit Acropolis in Athens
- ✂ See the Propylaion at Acropolis, Athens
- ✂ See the Temple of Atena Nike at Acropolis, Athens
- ✂ See Parthenon at Acropolis, Athens
- ✂ See the Temple of Athena, at Acropolis, Athens
- ✂ Visit the Acropolis Museum in Athens
- ✂ Free time in either Athens center or Plaka for shopping and lunch on own

- ~~///~~ Enjoy a Monday – Friday 5 day / 4 night Greek Islands Cruise
 - ~~///~~ Visit the Greek island Myconos
 - ~~///~~ Free time to enjoy charming Myconos on own
 - ~~///~~ Visit Kusadasi in Turkey
 - ~~///~~ Excursion to Ephesus
 - ~~///~~ Visit “The House of Virgin Mary”
 - ~~///~~ See the chapel which lies on the site of the House of Virgin Mary
 - ~~///~~ Visit Ancient Ephesus
 - ~~///~~ See the Magnesian Gate, the entrance to the Ancient city of Ephesus
 - ~~///~~ See the Odeon concert hall in Ephesus
 - ~~///~~ See the Baths of Scolastika
 - ~~///~~ See the Temple of Hadrian
 - ~~///~~ See the Library of Celsus
 - ~~///~~ See the Great Theatre of Ephesus
 - ~~///~~ Walk on the Arcadian Way
 - ~~///~~ View the Basilica of St. John
 - ~~///~~ See the ruins of the Temple of Diana
 - ~~///~~ Enjoy a short free time in Kusadasi for shopping
 - ~~///~~ Cruise the Aegean Sea to Patmos
 - ~~///~~ Enjoy a port-of-call stop in Patmos, Greece
 - ~~///~~ Free time to visit Patmos and to explore, relax or enjoy an optional shore-excursion
 - ~~///~~ Visit the Greek island of Rhodes – another port-of-call
 - ~~///~~ Full day in Rhodes to explore, relax or enjoy an optional shore-excursion
 - ~~///~~ Optional shore-excursion to the Acropolis of Lindos and the Medieval Town
 - ~~///~~ Enjoy a port-of-call stop in Heraklion, Crete
 - ~~///~~ Free time in Heraklion, Crete, to explore, relax or enjoy an optional shore-excursion
 - ~~///~~ Cruise the Aegean Sea from Crete to Santorini
 - ~~///~~ Enjoy a port-of-call stop in Santorini, Greece
 - ~~///~~ Free time on Santorini to explore, relax or enjoy an optional shore-excursion
 - ~~///~~ Enjoy a visit and sightseeing of Corinth
 - ~~///~~ Loutraki overview Panorama sightseeing
 - ~~///~~ See Old Loutraki
 - ~~///~~ Corinth Channel mini-cruise
 - ~~///~~ Enjoy a full day Peloponnese excursion and drive
 - ~~///~~ Visit Mycenae - the Golden City of King Agamemnon
 - ~~///~~ See the orange-groves of Argolid
 - ~~///~~ See the Lion Gate at Mycenae
 - ~~///~~ Visit the Sanctuary of Asclepius
 - ~~///~~ Visit the theater of Epidaurus
 - ~~///~~ Enjoy a scenic transfer from Loutraki to Athens airport
- (Please note that Panorama City Sightseeing tours does not include entrance fees)*



MORE ENTRANCES TO FAMOUS SIGHTS !

✂ Entrance Fees for included visits per itinerary:

- ✂ Acropolis in Athens
- ✂ Acropolis Museum in Athens
- ✂ The Sanctuary of Asclepius
- ✂ The Theater of Epidaurus
- ✂ Ancient Ephesus
- ✂ "The House of Virgin Mary"

MORE FRIENDLY SPORT EXCHANGES!

✂ 3-4 Friendly Sport Exchanges per itinerary:

- ✂ 2 x Friendly Tennis Exchanges/matches in Athens area
 - ✂ 1 x Friendly Tennis Exchanges/matches in Rhodes area
 - ✂ 1 x Friendly Tennis Exchange/matches in Loutraki area
- (Please note that all Friendly Tennis Exchanges and Intra-Group Play are subject to change as well as the host teams confirmations, one event may be an intra-group play – 3 events included from above)*

MORE QUALITY SERVICES !

- ✂ All transfers per itinerary
 - ✂ Transfer from Athens airport to Athens hotel
 - ✂ Transfer from Piraeus pier to Loutraki with sightseeing in Corinth on the way
 - ✂ Transfer from Loutraki hotel to Athens airport
 - ✂ All land transportation throughout the Greek portion of the tour, from arrival to Athens and departure from Athens, by private luxury motor coach with air-conditioning, reclining seats and emergency washroom (when available and applicable)
 - ✂ Baggage handling at all hotels (one piece per person) (not available at airports or some hotels)
 - ✂ Local hotel taxes and service charges
 - ✂ Supplement for mandatory Domestic and international US airline taxes and customs fees (subject to change at any time, as well as subject to any taxes/fees which may need to be paid locally upon departure in each country), as well as mandatory cruise line Greek/Turkish port taxes/fees
 - ✂ Tips for drivers, local guides and headwaiters are included
- Please note: Additional tipping of Tour Manager and Drivers may be paid during the tour – Tips during the Cruise are not included.
- ✂ Exclusive ASD Cultural Exchange™ Greece Travel Information Kit

End of services

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APPLICATION FOR ASD CULTURAL EXCHANGE GREECE TENNIS TOUR

TOUR CODE: GR3A06

TOUR PRICE: \$3,995.00 plus airline & port tax

TOUR DATE: May 11 – May 22/25, 2006

POST TOUR: yes or no

CLIENT CODE:

SEX: M F

ATHLETE: YES NO

(AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR PASSPORT OR BIRTH CERTIFICATE)

NAME _____

FIRST

LAST

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

HOME PHONE _____

BIRTH DATE _____

EMAIL _____

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE CLEARLY

TENNIS-SHIRT SIZE M L XL XXL

Tour Deposit & Cancellation Schedule

Application and deposits should be sent to ASD Cultural Exchange or given to your group leader as soon as possible. Because of your group booking, airline and hotel cancellation fees are substantial. Your deposit is non-refundable. Cancellation fees from 90 to 60 days before departure is \$500.00 plus any airline, cruise or hotel penalties, 59 to 7 days is up to 50% of the tour price plus any airline, cruise or hotel penalties. Inside 7 days there are no refunds.

Medical Release

I hereby authorize the staff of ASD Cultural exchange to act for me according to their best judgment regarding medical attention and I hereby waive and release ASD Cultural Exchange from any and all liability for any injuries or illnesses incurred while abroad. I have no knowledge of any physical impairment, which would adversely affect the named participant.

Signature of Applicant

Date



ISTANBUL, Turkey - Post Tour

- ~~✍~~ Based on a minimum of 20 persons;
- ~~✍~~ \$600 per person based on two persons per room;
- ~~✍~~ Air from Athens to Istanbul;
- ~~✍~~ Additional trans-Atlantic air cost for return from Istanbul;
- ~~✍~~ Transfers from airport to hotel and hotel to airport with local transfer assistance;
- ~~✍~~ 3 nights accommodation - Superior First Class Hotel;
- ~~✍~~ Daily breakfast at hotel;
- ~~✍~~ 1/2 day Panorama/Historic Istanbul sightseeing;
- ~~✍~~ 1/2 day Sultan Palace sightseeing;