

# GREECE 2023

## Accessible Adventure Re-Cap

### October 1 – 10, 2023



Visiting Greece with 12 people including 6 wheelchair users and one person who is blind is not the easiest task. Persons with disabilities who love to explore the world know that they need to be flexible when it comes to accessibility and adapt to each country's interpretation of wheelchair access. So, we did! The result was a fun filled 10 days in Greece which most of us thought would not be possible. Armed with great attitudes and people happy to help, we managed curb cuts that were not really curb cuts, showers in the middle of the bathroom, very few public accessible bathrooms and shops brimming with goods that

we could not enter. None of this deterred us from enjoying every minute of this trip. Able bodied members of our group as well as complete strangers helped us to navigate the curbs, shopkeepers brought their merchandise outside for us to see and we found work arounds for bathrooms that were less than ideal.

We all arrived at Titania Hotel in Athens on Sunday, October 1. We were tired and a little jet lagged but eager to begin exploring this ancient city. We were well located and able to walk/roll to the different neighborhoods and archeological sights. Wheelchair assistance at Athens Airport was excellent and well organized. I'm happy to report that all mobility equipment arrived promptly and without damage.



Monday, October 2: We met our local guide at the hotel and off we went. It didn't take long for us to notice that some of the curb cuts would require assistance but we all managed without incident. We saw the Changing of the Guards, walked through Syntagma Square and on to the Acropolis Museum. This is where we could all use an accessible bathroom! We then visited the Plaka neighborhood....my personal favorite. It was filled with wonderful shops and restaurants with outdoor seating.



Pistachio Tree

Tuesday, October 3: A short shuttle ride to Piraeus Port to board the ferry to Aegina Island. Unfortunately, the ferry did not have an elevator so we hung around the market place at the port and had lunch till it was time to depart on a ferry with an elevator. The ride was just under an

hour. Happy to report that the ferry did have an accessible bathroom. The island was beautiful and is famous for pistachio nuts. In fact, people call it the Pistachio Island! We were met by a local guide who took us around and showed us the Pistachio Trees and shops overflowing with pistachio products. Everyone brought items home. We had dinner on the island before heading back to Athens.



Wednesday, October 4: Our guide met us at Titania Hotel and we began another walking/rolling tour through Athens. We visited the National Archeological Museum which was very interesting. Then it was on to various neighborhoods including Monastiraki and Psirri (known for organized graffiti).



Moussaka (Ground Beef, Eggplant, Potatoes, Bechamel Cheese). YUM!!!

Thursday, October 5: It is our last day in Athens and it is a free day. Some members of the group kicked back and relaxed, others explored the previously visited neighborhoods or the Acropolis. The accessible elevator was out of order as it usually is so getting up close and personal was not possible. My sister and I went back to the Plaka where we did a fair amount of shopping. In the evening, our shuttles picked us up at the hotel and we went back to Plaka for a very fun and

delicious group dinner. Two musicians played Greek music all evening and the waiters kept bringing out platters of food to our delight. We enjoyed tasting so many Greek recipes!





Friday, October 6: Dimitri (our head driver) picked us up and transported us to Loutraki where we would spend the next four nights at the Loutraki Casino and Resort situated right on the sea. The ride took a little over an hour but was scenic and enjoyable. As we approached Loutraki, we could see the water and beautiful scenery. The hotel was lovely. Rooms were larger than in Athens but, again, the bathroom set up was a little difficult. However, we all made it work! Breakfast and lunch or dinner was included each day. Once we got settled, most of us went outside to stroll along the promenade and take photos of the surf and sand as well as the infinity pool. The resort was home to a casino and full- service spa.



Saturday, October 7: We strolled into town along the promenade. We enjoyed lunch at a little Pita place and finally had a gyro! French fries are a really big thing in Greece and come with everything. Greek potatoes are delicious.

Sunday, October 8: Big outing today to the Corinth Canal, Olive Oil Tasting and the beautiful seaside city of Nafplio. I think it was my favorite day of the trip. We also visited the oldest “theater” in Greece built around 720 BC. It is still used today for concerts and has perfect acoustics. The olive oil tasting was wonderful and very informative. Most of us purchased some to take home. We had dinner in Nafplio which was excellent. Upon our return to Loutraki, we all seemed to head to the restaurant so we could enjoy dessert. They had yummy ice cream/sorbet and baklava.



Monday, October 9: It's our final day in Greece and it's a day of leisure. Several people made spa appointments for massages and facials. The large infinity pool was very inviting but did not have a pool lift. However, the lifeguard said he would assist in getting us into the water so three of us took advantage of his help. Only problem was that he said we needed to bring a flotation device in order to actually swim. So, I ended up just sitting on the steps. Brad was the only one who actually managed to get into the water despite the fact that he did not have a floatie. The lifeguard called it a "bubble". Several of our able-bodied travelers swam in the ocean as well. We had a great time. In the evening we all went back into town for a final group dinner. Everyone took turns saying what they enjoyed most about the trip. It was a very positive discussion. The highlights were the amazing weather we experienced... 10 days of sunshine and temperatures in the 70's with

highs in the low 80's. Absolutely perfect! The other highlight was the group of people we traveled with and the outstanding compatibility we shared. We truly enjoyed each other's company and conversation.

Tuesday, October 10: All good things must come to an end. We were transported back to the airport in Athens for our flights home. Another amazing adventure is now an amazing memory. Thanks to all who joined us and to Eli Meiri for putting this tour together.



