

the **athenian**

departs **saturday 17 may 2008**
for 9 days



Saturday 17 May:

Depart London St.Pancras International mid morning by Eurostar to Paris connecting onwards by TGV to Lausanne for overnight stay.

Sunday 18 May:

Morning departure by Cisalpino train along the shores of Lake Geneva then through the Simplon Tunnel to Milan, connect onwards south through Italy by Italian Eurostar train to Bari. Transfer to the port for the overnight ferry to across the Adriatic to Greece. Accommodation on board in 2-berth outside de-luxe cabins with private facilities. The ferry features bars and restaurants.

Monday 19 May:

A relaxing morning as the ferry calls at Igoumenitsa then cruises along the coast past the island of Kefalonia before arriving at lunch time into the port of Patras. From here board the metre gauge train to Diakofto (50kms) – travelling 1st class then the 750mm gauge rack railway 22kms onwards through the stunning Vouraikos Gorge into the mountains and the historic small town of Kalavrita for two nights stay at a 4-star hotel.

Tuesday 20 May;

Half day tour to the amazing Cave of the Lakes with its cascading waterfalls and the Monastery of Mega Spileo, with the rest of the day at leisure in Kalavrita dominated by the towering Castle of Oria. In December 1943 the occupying Germans gunned down all the male population of Kalavrita over the age of 14 – 700 died that day. A memorial has been erected to remember that tragic event.

Wednesday 21 May:

Return to Diakofto by rack railway then metre gauge train (travelling in 1st class) to Korinth where there is a change to standard gauge for final 90kms into Athens. Transfer to a hotel for four nights stay at a centrally situated 4-star hotel.

Thursday 22May:

Full day guided tour, firstly the highlights of both modern and historic Athens including of course a visit to the famous Acropolis and Parthenon, then this afternoon a scenic coastal drive to Cape Sounion and the dramatic Temple of Poseidon, the god of the sea perched above a 200ft drop to the crystal clear Gulf waters.

Friday 23 May:

Full day relaxing Saronic Gulf cruise featuring the islands of Aegina, Poros and Hydra, lunch on board included with the opportunity for shopping or swimming at Hydra.

Saturday 24 May:

A day at leisure in Athens for further freelance sightseeing, shopping, ride the modern trams or take the metro to the port of Piraeus or the beaches at Glyfada.

Sunday 25 May:

Mid morning transfer to the airport for the Easyjet flight to London Gatwick arriving 14.25.

the **athenian**

departs **saturday 17 may 2008**
for 9 days

Optional Istanbul Extension

Sunday 25 May:

Depart Athens on the mid-morning Inter-City Express to Thessalonika arriving mid afternoon. Time for a leisurely evening meal before boarding the overnight sleeper to Istanbul, accommodation on board in 1st class single and 2-berth sleepers.

Monday 26 May:

Arrive Istanbul's Serkeci station at breakfast time, transfer to a centrally situated 4-star hotel for three nights stay. Breakfast on arrival followed by a full day guided tour of the sights – Blue Mosque, Underground Cistern, Topkapi Palace, Grand Bazaar and St. Sophia Museum. Lunch is included

Tuesday 27 May:

Full day Bosphorus and Asia tour with a morning visit to the Egyptian Spice Market, then a cruise on the Bosphorus, a wonderful way to view the skyline of mosques and wooden waterfront mansions. Lunch (included) before crossing to the Asian side to Camlica Hill, tour the Beylerbeyi Palace – the summer residence of the Ottoman Sultans with its magnificent gardens.

Wednesday 28 May:

Day at leisure for further sightseeing or shopping in Istanbul – perhaps return to the huge Grand Bazaar with over 1000 shops plus restaurants, ride the funicular or the two tram lines, one using historic cars or revisit Asia by ferry.

Thursday 29 May:

Transfer to the airport on the Asian side for the lunchtime Easyjet flight to London Luton Airport arriving 14.25

The Tour Cost Includes:

- All rail travel in standard class London to Bari, 1st class wherever possible in Greece
- Seven nights hotel accommodation in rooms with private facilities and including breakfast
- Outside cabin with private facilities on the ferry Bari to Patras
- Transfers
- Excursions in Kalavrita and Athens
- Lunch on Saronic Gulf cruise
- Flight Athens to London Gatwick
- Services of a Railtours tour manager

The Istanbul extension Includes:

- 1st class rail Athens to Istanbul inc sleeping car accommodation
- Three nights hotel accommodation in rooms with private facilities and including breakfast
- Istanbul excursions
- Lunch on one excursion
- Transfers
- Flights from Istanbul to London Luton
- Services of a Railtours Tour Manager



TOUR COST:	£1645.00
Single room supplement	£390.00 (inc single cabin on ferry)
Istanbul Extension:	£455.00
Single supplement:	£75.00 (inc single sleeper on overnight train)
Insurance:	£25.00
Deposit:	£250.00 per person

the athenian