



Greece Tour 2014

Oxford Section Classical Greece Tour 9th-19th September 2014

Tour Leaders

Rev. Derek Spears, Geoff Clough, Rob Allin and Steve Moxey

Our western civilisation is built on the foundations laid in classical Greece and Rome. In 2014 we are planning to visit Greece to see some of the ruins and to understand the history. We will be greatly aided by the Rev. Derek Spears, an Oxford section member and classics scholar, who will be acting as the tour guide. Derek has visited Greece many times and this is a fantastic opportunity to understand these ancient monuments and their context. Everyone is certain to learn a lot from the experience!

To reach Greece, members will travel by ferry from Ancona in Italy arriving at Igoumenitsa in Greece. Derek has planned the detailed tour of Greece, based on his previous experience (detailed tour notes are available).

The tour will spend 10 days in Greece and the tour price includes the Ancona ferry, hotels in Greece, breakfast and five evening meals. NB The tour does not include the travel costs to and from Ancona in Italy. We have provided suggested methods for travelling to/from Ancona using road, rail or flying, so that members can make their own arrangements.

The maximum size of the tour will be 24 people and associated motorcycles. Places will be on a first come first served basis. Prices are (1) couple sharing a room £1,950 (2) One person with one bike, single room £1,375 (3) One person with one bike, shared room £1,175. There are also upgrades available for the ferry cabins.

Geoff Clough will act as Treasurer for the tour. Members can reserve their place by paying a deposit of £125 to Geoff by December 9th, 2013. The deposit will be refundable **only** if the entire tour is cancelled. The remaining balance will be payable to MCI Tours by 17th June 2014.



Itinerary Overview

To reach Greece we will use the ferry sailing from Ancona in Italy, which will be booked for the group. The distance from the UK to Ancona is about 1,100 miles. Members will be responsible for arranging their own travel to and from Ancona including the ferry/tunnel to/from France.



The accommodation in Greece will be high quality, typically 3 or 4 star hotels, and will be booked for the group. Five evening meals will be provided in the price at the hotels.

Whilst riding in Greece the tour leaders will produce riding sheets with destinations and descriptive information to assist participants. It is then envisaged that small groups will travel the route. The whole group will meet for breakfast, dinner and at major attractions for Derek to explain the history and archaeology.



Rather than travel into Athens by motorcycle, which would be very difficult the group will stay near to Athens at Glyfada and then use the tram to get to the major sights, led by Derek. There may also be optional tours available for those interested.



Travelling to Greece

To travel to Ancona in Italy, for the ferry crossing to Greece the simplest option is to ride. It is possible to reduce the mileage, for a more relaxed trip, by using the Motorail service. By flying to Athens and hiring a car members could also join the tour at Delphi. Whichever option is used the core of the Greece tour starting at Delphi is the same.

1. The Road Option - Three Overnight Stops (Led by Derek Spears)

Day	Overnight Stop	Mileage	Notes
Saturday	Saarbrucken	446	Channel Tunnel, overnight stop. Option to stop at Calais if needed. All motorway.
Sunday	Innsbruck	325	All motorway.
Monday	Bologna	250	Motorway, option for the Fern Pass.
Tuesday	Ancona	120	Short distance to ferry, motorway.
Mileage from the UK		1,141	

The Return Journey to the UK is the Reverse of the Outbound Route

The road route is mostly motorway. Ibis hotels, or similar, will be used for overnight stops. There will be **regular breaks!** Contact Derek Spears or Steven Wicks for more details.

2. The Rail Option - Four Overnight Stops (Led by Rob Allin)

The rail option is designed to reduce the mileage in getting to Ancona to only 584 miles, starting from Oxford. The Motorail service leaves Den Bosch in Holland on Friday September 5th at 13:30. With an early start from Oxford on Friday it should be possible to catch the train at Den Bosch.

Travelling overnight the train arrives at Livorno in Italy on Saturday morning. The trip then includes a relaxing two night stop in Florence before meeting the road trip at the hotel in Bologna. The whole group will then travel to catch the ferry at Ancona on Tuesday.

The cost of the rail ticket depends on the overnight accommodation chosen on the train. The return cost for the motorcycle is £458 and the accommodation options range from £145 pp for couchettes to £720 pp for in a private 2 person cabin. Rob Allin can provide more details.

Overall we believe that the cost of the rail option is only slightly more than the road option, taking into account hotel, food and fuel costs. Contact Rob Allin for more details.

3. Fly/Drive Option - One Overnight Stop

A final possibility would be to fly to Athens, rent a car/motorcycle and join the tour at the start in Delphi. This would require one overnight stop on arrival in Athens. This may be attractive to people who would like to benefit from Derek's knowledge but don't want to ride to Greece. There is a discount on the MCI tour price for those not using the Ancona ferry of about £230 per person or £430 per couple.

MCi BMW Club Classical Greece Self Guided Tour Pricing and Options

We are pleased to offer the following prices for the tour to Greece on Tuesday 9th September for 10 nights. The tour maximum is 24 people and associated motorcycles.

Tour Package	Tour Price Per Person
(1) Two people, one motorcycle, shared room/cabin	£975
(2) One person, one motorcycle, shared room/shared cabin	£1,175
(3) One person, one motorcycle, single room/shared cabin	£1,375

Supplements

- Single occupancy inside ferry cabin: £100 return
- Seaview ferry cabin: £30 per person return (based on two berth cabin)

2014 ferry prices are subject to review/confirmation in December 2013.

What's Included

- Tour Tuesday 9th September - Friday 19th September 2014
- 8 nights bed and breakfast in 3/4 star hotels, five evening meals
- 2 nights on board ship in two berth shared inside cabins
- Single room people will share cabins on board. Single occupancy supplement is available.
- Detailed route plans and Mapsource files
- Motorcycle parking is free at the hotels

Deposits and Cancellation

- A non-refundable tour deposit of £125 per person. This is payable to the BMW Motor Club Oxford Section c/o Geoff Clough, 46 Laurel Drive, Southmoor, Abingdon OX13 5DJ. To guarantee a place the deposit **must be received by 9th December 2013**.
- The balance will be due 12 weeks prior to departure, 17th June 2014.
- The deposit is refundable until December 9th. The whole group may cancel the tour without charge up to 1st April.

Brief Itinerary

Night	Date	Destination	Mileage
1	Tue 9/9	Overnight ferry to Greece, Igoumenitsa	
2	Wed	Ship arrives 08:00 ride to Delphi	213
3/4	Thu/Fri	Athens (Glyfada)	100
5/6	Sat/Sun	Nafplio	107
7/8/9	Mon/Tue/Wed	Olympia	110
10	Thu 18/9	Overnight ferry to Italy, Ancona	220
	Fri 19/9	Ship arrives 16:00	

We Look forward to seeing you in Greece in 2014!