

## **International Basketball Tour 2024 Itinerary Nicholson Catholic College Basketball Greece – Athens and Thessaloniki**

### **Travel dates:**

March 9-17, 2024. Tour dates can be adjusted by some days if necessary.

### **Itinerary:**

- March 9      Departure from Toronto airport.
- March 10     Arrival Athens airport and transfer to your accommodation. Sightseeing Athens. Options include sights like the Roman Temple of Zeus, Agora, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, etc.
- March 11     Optional tour of the Acropolis. Additional sightseeing in Athens if any free time. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 12     Day excursion to Argolis to tour Mycenae and then continue to Epidaurus to visit the marvelous Ancient Theatre (4th century B.C.), famous for the perfect design and acoustics.
- March 13     More sightseeing Athens and/or final shopping in Athens. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 14     Transfer to Thessaloniki.
- March 15     Guided tour of Thessaloniki. Thessaloniki is a Greek port city on the Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea. Evidence of Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman history remains, especially around Ano Poli, the upper town. The ruins of Roman Emperor Galerius' 4th-century palace include the Rotunda that has been both a church and a mosque. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 16     Visit ancient cities of Vergina and Pella. Get to know the imperial capital, the ancient city where Alexander the Great was born and raised. The excursion travels you to the ancient Greek, byzantine and modern history bringing back in light the lost prestige of Aigai, the first city of the Macedonians. Discover the museum of Aigai; a World Heritage site of UNESCO, against the natural beauty of the area and the view of the Macedonian plain that travels our eye till the end of the horizon, or,  
Visit famous beaches of Halkidiki. Halkidiki is a region in northern Greece known for its jutting peninsulas, which feature Mediterranean forests that give way to sandy beaches in sheltered bays. Cassandra, the westernmost peninsula, is the most developed, offering modern resorts and nightclubs. Evening game vs. a local team.
- March 17     Transfer to Thessaloniki or Athens airport and return flight.

\*The above itinerary is a provisional/suggested itinerary and can/will change depending on your group's specific wishes, the final game schedule for your team(s) and any pro game visit(s) incorporated for your group. Sightseeing admission fees are not included in the prices but can be added and pre-booked based on your group's specific wishes. Consult us for more information.

### **Price per person\*:**

Number of people traveling	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
Participant prices	\$3,598	\$3,446	\$3,348	\$3,274	\$3,218	\$3,178

\* Prices are based on contracted airline fares for 2023. We will know more about fares for 2024 approx. 11 months prior to departure date, when airlines publish flights, and can confirm pricing then.

**Price inclusions:**

- Round trip airfare, including airport taxes and fuel surcharges. Prices are always subject to availability of flights and fares at time of booking.
- Accommodations and meals as specified in this proposal – see below.
- Ground transportation – see below.
- Costs for arranging the sport program – see below.
- Services of a local tour assistant – see below.

**Sport program included:**

We will arrange a total of 3 games per team.

**Accommodation and meals included:**

**Athens:** 3 or 4-star Hotel accommodation in Athens.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Not far from the center of Athens.
- All rooms, double/twin rooms (2 people per room) have private shower, toilet and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.

**Thessaloniki:** 3 or 4-star Hotel accommodation in Thessaloniki.

- Daily breakfast and dinner included.
- Not far from the center of Thessaloniki.
- All rooms, double/twin rooms (2 people per room) have private shower, toilet and TV. The hotel has a lounge, restaurant and bar.

**Ground transportation included:**

During your entire stay a private bus will be available exclusively for your group – 10 hours a day.

**Local guide services included:**

A local bi-lingual tour manager will be assigned to be exclusively with your group full time each day during your stay in each destination to provide you with any assistance when necessary, and help plan or amend your daily schedule as needed.

**Options available (not included in prices)**

**Sport program options:**

- A 2-hour practice session with your own coaching staff – costs approx. \$300.00 per 2 hours.
- Tickets to a pro game – cost approx. \$60.00 - \$100.00+ per person, depending on the game.

**Travel insurance option:**

Your participants have the option to purchase accident, illness and trip cancellation/interruption insurance, including a Cancel for Any Reason Coverage (CFAR) – more information about this insurance is included on your team website page.

**Not included in prices:**

- Beverages (soda) with meals.
- Gratuities for representatives and bus drivers.
- Admission fees to attractions.
- Single rooms in hotels. Single rooms are available at a supplement of \$40.00 per person per night on top of the double room supplements outlined in the accommodation description.

## Touristic information Athens

Athens is the historical capital of Europe, with a long history, dating from the first settlement in the Neolithic age. In the 5th Century BC (the “Golden Age of Pericles”) – the culmination of Athens’ long, fascinating history – the city’s values and civilization acquired a universal significance. Over the years, a multitude of conquerors occupied Athens, and erected unique, splendid monuments - a rare historical palimpsest. In 1834, it became the capital of the modern Greek state and in two centuries since it has become an attractive modern metropolis with unrivalled charm.

**The Acropolis:** The Acropolis is the most important ancient site in the Western world. Crowned by the Parthenon, it stands sentinel over Athens, visible from almost everywhere within the city. Its monuments and sanctuaries of Pentelic marble gleam white in the midday sun and gradually take on a honey hue as the sun sinks, while at night they stand brilliantly illuminated above the city. A glimpse of this magnificent sight cannot fail to exalt your spirit.

**The Acropolis Museum:** This dazzling modernist museum at the foot of the Acropolis' southern slope showcases its surviving treasures still in Greek possession. While the collection covers the Archaic and Roman periods, the emphasis is on the Acropolis of the 5th century BC, considered the apotheosis of Greece's artistic achievement. The museum cleverly reveals layers of history, floating over ruins with the Acropolis visible above, showing the masterpieces in context. The surprisingly good-value restaurant has superb views; there’s also a fine museum shop.

**Olympic Stadium/Panathenaic Stadium:**

The Panathenaic Stadium is a classical cultural and touristic monument of Greece and one of the most significant monuments not only for Athens, but for the whole Greece.

It is one of our city’s most popular touristic attractions and one of Athens’ landmarks.

Its rich history is directly connected to the Modern Olympic Games as from their revival in 1896 until the Athens Olympic Games in 2004. It is also the place from where the Olympic flame sets up its journey to the cities of the Olympic Games, both Winter, Summer and Youth.

**Olympeion: Temple of Olympian Zeus:** Dedicated to Zeus, the Olympeion was the largest temple in ancient Greece. Though the Parthenon is better preserved, the Temple of Olympian Zeus was an even more monumental structure in its day. The temple dates to the sixth century BC but was not completed until the second century AD by the Emperor Hadrian. It's easy to imagine the grand impression this temple made in its complete form. More than a hundred enormous marble columns once supported the grandiose sanctuary. Only 15 columns remain standing, and another surviving column lies on the ground, but the ruins' monumental presence gives a sense of the massive size of the original building. The gigantic structure was a befitting shrine to Zeus, the ancient Greeks' most all-powerful God, known as the King of Gods. Nearby, just north of the Olympeion, is a small park containing the ruins of Themistokles' wall and the ancient Roman baths.

## **Touristic information Thessaloniki**

Thessaloniki is a Greek port city on the Thermaic Gulf of the Aegean Sea. Evidence of Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman history remains, especially around Ano Poli, the upper town. The ruins of Roman Emperor Galerius' 4th-century palace include the Rotunda that has been both a church and a mosque. Much of the city center was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1917. The rebuilt 20th-century city has a modern European layout.

**Church of Saint Demetrius:** The Church of Saint Demetrius, or Hagios Demetrios is the main sanctuary dedicated to Saint Demetrius, the patron saint of Thessaloniki (in Central Macedonia, Greece), dating from a time when it was the second largest city of the Byzantine Empire.

**Ladadika District:** Ladadika is the name of a historic district and a landmark area of the city of Thessaloniki, Greece. It locates near the Port of Thessaloniki and for centuries was one of the most important market places of the city. Its name came about from the many olive oil shops of the area.

**Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki:** The Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki is a museum in Thessaloniki, Central Macedonia, Greece. It holds and interprets artifacts from the Prehistoric, Archaic, Classical, Hellenistic and Roman periods, mostly from the city of Thessaloniki but also from the region of Macedonia in general.

**White Tower of Thessaloniki:** The White Tower of Thessaloniki is a monument and museum on the waterfront of the city of Thessaloniki, capital of the region of Macedonia in northern Greece.