

# myADVENTURES with THE EXPERT TRAVELER

## GIG GOES GREEK

Just in time for the games of the Twenty-Eighth Olympiad, Gig takes us on whirlwind tour of Greece.



Visit beautiful Greece in time for the Olympics.

**T**he real embodiment of Greece lies in the historic landmarks of Athens, Delphi, Meteora, Corinth, Mycenae and Olympia. To appreciate the bedrock of western culture, buy a tour or rent a car and be prepared for the beautiful, countryside of Greece, filled with olive groves, high-peaked mountains and countless inlets to the sea.

### ATHENS

As soon-to-be host of the 2004 Olympic games, Athens is an ideal place to start your Greek adventure. Although the traffic and roads will seem to some visitors almost impossible to navigate, travelers can take heart since most of the historic sites are within walking distance of each other. Athens' "high hill," the Acropolis, contains the Parthenon which is probably the most well-recognized building in the world. It features a complex of ancient temples and theaters and a superb view of the city all the way to the Port of Pyreus. Once you've experienced the Acropolis, here's a tip: Walk down to the ancient Agora—a well-preserved market area with a splendid

museum and easy accessibility to the Plaka, an entertainment district. This charming maze of streets full of shops and quaint *tavernas*—Greek eating establishments—will delight the senses.

After a leisurely perusal of the shops, sit down in a taverna and find on the menu hearty fare, western palates will find appealing. Start with a traditional Greek salad of fresh tomatoes, crisp cucumbers, olives and feta cheese. Then choose an entrée of pork, lamb, chicken or beef, usually prepared kabob-style. Fish and spaghetti are also menu staples. And don't pass up the smooth local wines. The relaxed, European atmosphere will encourage you to linger a bit longer over your meal than is customary in the U. S. as you savor the flavorful food and enjoy intimate conversation. For a treat, complete your dinner with a traditional Greek *ouzo*—a liquor made from a precise combination of pressed grapes, berries and herbs including aniseed, licorice, mint, wintergreen, fennel and hazelnut. Feel free to start dinner at six or seven, but don't expect the locals to arrive until near ten.

