

Athens – Kusadasi – Patmos – Amorgos – Mykonos – Monemvassia – Athens

All tours are offered with English speaking guides. The length of the tours is given as an indication only as it may vary depending on the road, weather, sea and traffic conditions and the group's pace. Time spent on site is also given on an indicative basis only. Minimum number of participants indicated per coach or group.

Some excursions are only available on certain dates and/or are dependent on the ship's arrival and departure times.

Depending on what activities you would like to participate in, the general fitness levels vary. If you like to enjoy walks and other sporting activities like hiking, snorkeling and boating, an average to good fitness level is required.

KUSADASI, Turkey

In the Hellenistic Era the resort town of Kusadasi, formerly known as Neopolis, was an outpost of the larger city of Ephesus and a minor port used by merchant ships plying their trade along the Aegean coast. However its importance increased when Ephesus harbour became silted up, causing malaria and many deaths amongst its inhabitants. During the Middle Ages when Venetians and Genoese began trading along the coast the port was renamed "Scala Nuova" or new port. Kusadasi was brought into the Ottoman Empire by Mehmet I in 1413, and much of the city remains, including the city walls, date from this period.

Nowadays with several new hotels, a marina and port, Kusadasi's major activity is tourism. Nevertheless it retains a charming "small town" atmosphere, and you will enjoy strolling down the narrow walkways, exploring the local market place and seeing the shopkeepers playing backgammon and calling out to each other from across the street.



Ephesus & the Virgin Mary's house

By air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 20 participants, no maximum
Duration: 4 hours
€55

Ephesus was the "First and greatest metropolis of Asia". The city dates back to 3000BC and in its heyday was the Roman capital of Asia Minor with a population of a quarter of a million. The remains of this important Ionian city bear witness to its glorious past. The well-preserved ruins include a theatre, the Hadrian Gate, the Celsus Library, Curetes Street (one of the 3 main streets) the Fountain of Trajan and the Odeon (used for poetry readings and prize giving ceremonies). Ephesus had many famous inhabitants and visitors, one of whom was Saint Paul. Saint Paul's diatribe against the cult of Artemis at the theatre of Ephesus caused a riot in the city. The uprising was instigated by the silversmiths and jewellers who made a good living selling silver statuettes of the goddess and were afraid that business would suffer if the citizens adopted a new religion. Nevertheless Ephesus was to become one of the most important cities in early Christianity. Six years after the death of Christ it was visited by the Virgin Mary and Saint John, and the house where Mary is said to have spent her last days is situated at the top of "Bulbul" mountain, 9 km distance from the town. Pope Paul VI in 1969 and Pope John Paul II in 1979 proclaimed the house to be a place of pilgrimage. The building you will see on site is a church dating from the 7th century.

Ephesus & terraced houses

By air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 20 participants, no maximum
Duration: 4 hours
€60
English speaking guides only

Ephesus, which dates back to 3000BC, was one of the most important centres of the ancient world and is certainly the best preserved. The port city of Ephesus was the point of departure for the famous royal highway that led through Sardis into Lydia. Because of its strategic position, Ephesus developed into an important political and economic centre, and became the capital city of the Roman province of Asia. The remains of this important Ionian city are miraculously still standing today and bear witness to its glorious past. The well preserved ruins include the Theatre, the Hadrian Gate, the Celsius Library, Curetes Street, the Fountain of Trajan and the Odeon.

Opposite the Temple of Hadrian on the slopes of Bulbul Mountain you can see terraced houses, the roof of one house forming the terrace of the house above it. These dwellings were also known as the "Houses of the rich" as they are finely decorated with mosaics and frescoes and had heating and hot and cold water. Built in the period of Augustus, they continued to be inhabited until the 7th century, albeit in a modified form. Two of the houses have been totally restored.



Cookery Class in Şirince

By air-conditioned motor-coach

Minimum 12 participants, maximum 30

Duration: 4 hours

€80

English speaking guide only

After leaving the ship at Kusadasi, you will set off for Şirince village. The drive will take approximately 30 minutes. On arrival you will have half an hour's leisure time to explore the village on your own and admire the 200 year old Greco-Turkish houses. The cookery class will take place in a typical village house a five minute walk away.

Turkish food ranks among the top three world cuisines with its unique cultural and historical heritage, fusion of Eastern and Western traditions and the use of an incredibly wide variety of natural ingredients. Each region has contributed its own specific dishes to the national repertoire, adding to the richness and complexity of Turkish cuisine.

- During the cookery class, you will get the opportunity of trying a variety of simple yet delicious recipes all made from high quality natural ingredients. The highlight of the tour comes when you finally get to taste the fruit of your labours, enjoying the true flavour of Turkey in an authentic village setting.
- After the meal Turkish tea or coffee will be served.



PATMOS, GREECE

Known as the “Jerusalem of the Aegean”, life on Patmos seems to revolve around its religious heritage. The island was home to the Apostle Saint John while in exile from Rome. It is here that he wrote the Book of Revelation. Patmos consists of three peaks connected by two isthmuses with a long, narrow coastline and many small bays. The main port Scala is traditionally Greek in style, with white washed houses, narrow lanes, flowered courtyards, tavernas and shops. The city of Chora is reputed to be a hideaway for the rich and famous (such as the Aga Khan). The Holy Monastery of the Theologian is situated on a hill top and is a historical reminder of St John and his time on Patmos.

Saint John’s monastery and the cave of the Revelation

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration : 3hours

€ 49

During his two year exile on Patmos (around 97 AD), Saint John lived in a cave on the way to Chora. It was here that he reputedly heard the voice of God dictating the text of the Book of Revelation and penned the final book of the bible.

The short trip from the Port of Scala to the village of Chora will be by local bus. Here you will visit the Monastery of St John which is protected by fortified walls. The monastery itself is perched high on the top of a hill, overlooking the harbour. It dates back to the 11th century and is one of the holiest places of the Orthodox Church with many sumptuous chapels and treasures. The frescoes on the church walls are outstandingly beautiful and the monastery museum boasts a fascinating collection of Byzantine icons and ancient Gospels from the 6th century. After the monastery you will visit the Grotto of the Apocalypse and see the rock pillow St John slept on and the stone ledge he used as a desk. Three fissures can be seen in the rock face from which the voice of God is said to have issued forth. The fissures represent the Holy Trinity. After seeing the grotto you will return to the ship.

- Shorts and bare shoulders are forbidden in the monastery precincts (this applies to both men & women)
- Photos and videos are not permitted in the churches nor in the monastery museum
- Please be advised there are about 25 steps to at the site of the monastery and the cave of the revelation.
- If the site is too crowded then the order of your visit may be changed.

The essence of icons

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 15

Duration : 4 hours

€ 69

More a spiritual journey of discovery than an excursion, this visit takes you to the heart of religious art and provides a deeper understanding of the harmony and symbolism of the icon.

The coach leaves the port of Skala and takes you to the ancient hill top village of Chora, the island’s capital. First stop is the tiny Convent of Zoodoho Pigi (The Spring of Life) built in 1607. On one side of the cobbled courtyard lies a chapel with recently restored frescoes dating from the 17th century and an intricately carved icon wall. On the other side is a small gift shop selling handicrafts made by the nuns. A winding narrow street leads to the 11th century monastery of St John the Theologian. The main church is covered with icons and frescoes dating back to the 12th century and there is an impressive gilded icon wall. The highlight of the visit is the rare opportunity to visit the monastery’s icon restoration workshop where you can admire the skilful and meticulous work of the craftsmen and learn something about restoration techniques.

Next stop is the monastery museum, a treasure trove of Byzantine objects and documents dating from as early as the 6th century, as well as a wonderful collection of icons by famous artists including an early El Greco. Before leaving Chora there will a stop for refreshments and a chance to enjoy the panoramic view before the coach returns to the Port of Skala. The excursion ends with a visit to an artist’s studio. You will get the opportunity to meet the artist and discover the many different techniques used in ikon and traditional painting



Patmos, Art and History Tour

By air-conditioned motor coach and on foot

Minimum 10 Participants, maximum 15

Duration: 3h15

€56

Our destination is the old village of Chora, the island's capital, which stands high on a hilltop overlooking the port of Skala. Here you will get the opportunity to take some amazing photographs, as well as learning something about the island's history and seeing houses dating from the 15th and 18th centuries.

After a short walk along winding cobbled streets, we will arrive at Simandris House. This three hundred year old building boasts a remarkable collection of antiques including splendid gilded mirrors, paintings, silverware, and exquisite brocades accumulated by 8 generations of the Simandris family.

Just around the corner is the tiny convent of Zoodoho Pigis (the spring of life) built in 1607. On one side of the cobbled courtyard lies a chapel with recently restored frescoes dating from the 17th century and an intricately carved icon wall. On the other side is a small gift shop selling handicrafts made by the nuns.

The excursion continues on foot through a labyrinth of winding streets, past St John's monastery, to the Nikolaidis mansion. This historical house was recently restored by the Greek Ministry of Culture. After the fifteen hundreds, Patmos enjoyed an influx of wealthy ship owners and merchants who built impressive mansions to symbolise their social status; the Nikolaidis mansion, built in the seventeen hundreds, is a wonderful example of these grand houses. On the ground floor you will see the storerooms for foodstuffs as well as a cooking area with its original fourno (oven), water tanks for collecting rain water and a private chapel dedicated to St Nikolas. Three staircases lead to the 2nd floor where you will find verandas, a formal reception room and sleeping area complete with a magnificent ambataros (wooden partition) decorated with traditional folk painting. An ambataros was considered to be a great status symbol.

There will be time to admire the panoramic views and enjoy some refreshments before returning to the ship in the Port of Skala.

AMORGOS, GREECE

Situated in the eastern Cyclades close to the Dodecanese, Amorgos is a small peaceful island of only 121 square kilometres, with about 1650 inhabitants. The general atmosphere is one of great serenity and attractions include beautiful beaches, crystal clear waters, whitewashed houses, windmills and a Venetian castle. In recent years the island has become more popular as a holiday destination, especially since the Luc Besson movie "The Big Blue" was filmed there.

The most notable landmark on the island is the monastery of Panagia Hosviotissa, clinging to the cliff side some 300 metres above sea level. The monastery was founded by the Byzantine Emperor Alexios Komnenos. It was built to house a 9th century religious icon of the Virgin Mary. The icon, which is on public display inside the monastery, was said to have arrived mysteriously on the seashore aboard an unmanned boat coming from Palestine.

The capital of Amorgos is Chora, situated at the centre of the island. Here you will find wonderful examples of Cycladic architecture, picturesque churches and narrow cobbled paths leading to a Venetian fortress. Despite its small size, Amorgos has two ports: Katapola in the south west, full of narrow little streets, windmills, and blue and white painted houses and Aegiali a smaller harbour in the north east.



MYKONOS, GREECE

The reason for Mykonos's enduring popularity is immediately apparent.

A charming little harbour, lined with cafés and colourful fishing boats, greets the eye and provides a scenic façade for the maze of narrow cobble stoned streets that lie behind. On either side of the streets you will find picturesque whitewashed houses, local handicraft shops, boutiques, waterfront cafes and of course the island's mascot: the Pelican. Don't be surprised if you encounter one of them wandering the town with you. Two of the best places to visit are Little Venice, located on the southwestern side of town, with its waterfront cafes and spectacular views of the sunset, and the famous Windmills (adjacent to Little Venice, on Kato Myli Hill), one of the landmarks of Mykonos. Take the time to explore this captivating island; you won't have to venture very far before you come across beautiful beaches and coves with azure blue water lapping on the shore.

Be warned, this island casts a spell on all who visit her and your first trip to Mykonos, will certainly not be your last!

Delos

By boat and on foot

A guided visit of the site

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35

Duration 3h30 (may vary depending on local boat's schedule)

€58

The Cyclades were so called because they formed a Kiklo, or rough circle, around the sacred island of Delos.

Notwithstanding its small size Delos played an important role in antiquity for both commercial and religious reasons, and is nowadays considered to be one of the most important mythological, historical and archaeological sites in Greece.

The sanctuary dedicated to Apollo, who, according to mythology, was born on the island, attracted pilgrims and riches and was one of the most important religious sites in the Greek world. These days Delos is a desolate windswept island; a 2001 census put the number of inhabitants at 14. Only tourists now flock to the shrines and temples, but a sense of awe and religious fervour still pervades the ruins.

The modern quay leads directly to the archaeological site. You will walk into the heart of the sanctuary where you will see the Temples of Apollo, the sacred lake (now dried up) which witnessed the birth of Apollo and the unique marble lions of Delos. You will also visit impressive Hellenistic mansions with superb mosaics decorating the floors and walls and, time permitting, the museum.

- Transfer by public boat takes 30 minutes each way
- The return on board by caique is scheduled at 13h30
- Non-slip, comfortable shoes are recommended for visiting Delos as the pathways are uneven
- No guides are allowed in the museum so you will have to discover its treasures on your own



MONEMVASSIA, GREECE

The Peloponnesian city of Monemvasia was founded by the Byzantines in the 6th century and was fortified during the thirteenth century. The Byzantines also established a successful trading port, with links to Constantinople. When the rest of the region was captured by the Turks in 1460, Monemvasia remained unharmed by placing itself under the control of the papacy (1460-1464) and later under the Venetians (1464-1540).

The Venetians built a 535 ft long fortified bridge to protect them from enemy attacks. During their rule the city flourished, the population reached 30,000 and there was much building of houses and churches.

In 1540 the Turks gained control of Monemvasia and ruled for nearly three hundred years.

The lower town extends along the slopes of a 985ft high crag which projects into the sea on the east side of the Peloponnesian. Protected by a surrounding wall it was once an unassailable stronghold, but over the centuries the population dwindled as many of the inhabitants went to live on the mainland.

However, thanks to a restoration programme aimed at reviving Monemvasia's heritage, the Lower Town has experienced a new lease of life and people from the mainland have started to return to what is now an attractive and bustling tourist centre. The Upper Town is situated on top of the Rock of Monemvasia and is reached via a zigzagging pathway. Formerly an impregnable bastion, it has been uninhabited for centuries, but still retains its impressive appearance.

Visitors can explore the ruins of the ancient citadel-castle and look inside the church of Hagia Sofia. There are also amazing panoramic views of the surrounding area.

ATHENS, GREECE

The earliest Athenians were of Ionian stock, arriving on the peninsula in about 2000 BC. Little is known of the early rulers, apart from the fact that they were kings. By the 7th century BC they had been superseded by Eupatrids, the aristocracy of the eleven noble families of Attica. The next development from aristocratic rule came with Solon, the "Father of Democracy", who initiated the idea of rule by the people, creating assemblies of ordinary citizens. Following Solon's democracy came the Age of the Tyrants, a system of rule largely established by Peisistratus in about 546 BC. The idea was to remove much of the power from the nobles and to favour merchants, farmers, and ordinary people. Athens, particularly the Acropolis, became one of the chief religious centres in Greece, and by 600 BC there were many temples, fragments of which are to be found in the Acropolis Museum. The year 450 BC saw the beginning of Pericles and his "Golden Age".

In 1832 Otto, a Bavarian prince descended from the Greek imperial dynasties of Komnenos and Laskaris through his ancestor the Bavarian Duke John II, became the first modern King of Greece. The new city of Athens was planned by the Greek architect Cleanthes and the German, Schaubert, around Otto's austere palace. Situated on a small promontory above the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the palace dominates Syntagma Square (Constitution Square). From Syntagma Square, Amalia Avenue (named after Otto's Queen Consort) leads past the National Garden and the Zappion Park to Hadrian's Arch. Behind the park the stadium built for the first modern Olympic Games held in 1896 occupies the same site as that used in ancient times.

The mountainous region of Attica and Athens, though barren and infertile enjoys a superb climate.



Athens and the new Acropolis museum

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, maximum unlimited

Ends at the airport, €69 (duration 5 hours)

Possibility to be dropped off in Athens, €55 (duration 4 hours)

From the port of Piraeus you pass the charming yacht harbour of Zea where the foundations of the dock dating from the 5th century BC are clearly visible. Next is the attractive Mikrolimanon waterfront lined with inviting al fresco fish restaurants. It is but a short drive into cosmopolitan Athens, a mixture of modern buildings and great monuments. You will pass by the Temple of Zeus, the Panathenaic Stadium, the Parliament at Syntagma (Constitution) square, the National Academy, the University, the Library and Hadrian's Arch before you finally arrive at the New Acropolis Museum. This building, located only 300m south east of the Rock of the Acropolis, was designed by Bernard Tschumi.

The museum was opened to the public in 2009 and nearly 4000 objects are exhibited on three levels with an area of 14000 square metres. Exhibits include findings from the Acropolis archaeological site as well as artifacts from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece.

For those returning to the ship, the tour ends in the centre of Athens; the rest of the passengers will be transferred to the airport.

- The tour will end at Syntagma square in Athens. The guide will then leave and the coach will continue to the airport (arrival 13h00/13h30)
- For the tour to carry on to the airport a minimum of 6 departing guests is required
- Passengers staying on board for the following cruise will be dropped off in Athens (return on your own to the pier).
- The duration of the tour very much depends on the traffic in Athens; if traffic is light the coach will arrive sooner at the airport
- You will spend about 2 hrs in the museum
- The use of cameras and video cameras is free of charge, but flash photography is forbidden in the museum.



**Athens – Rhodes - Bodrum – Dalyan river –
Santorini – Hydra – Athens**

Tours' duration is approximate and may vary depending on traffic and weather conditions. Minimum is indicated per coach or group.

RHODES, GREECE

With its age old history and incredible natural beauty, Rhodes has always been a major pole of attraction. The island boasts a mild climate, a unique and varied landscape, dazzling blue sea and a host of historical monuments. It is the site of one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World – the Colossus of Rhodes.

The Island was inhabited as far back as the 16th century BC. The golden era was from the 5th to the 3rd century BC when Rhodes was an important religious, commercial and political centre. During this period Rhodes became one of the most important trading centres in the Mediterranean. Thanks to its strategic location, Rhodes was also of vital importance to the Crusaders and the Ottoman Empire. The present day city of Rhodes is a fascinating medieval city completely enclosed by a five mile flower covered wall. The medieval part of the city, once occupied by the Turks, is absolutely fascinating with narrow stone paved streets, 15th century buildings, archways, flying buttresses, minarets and fountains. The Street of the Knights is the finest example of a late Gothic street to be found anywhere in Europe. The Fifteenth century inns of the Knights of Seven Languages were built along this street, and four of them remain standing to this day. At the end of the Street of the Knights is the imposing 14th century Grand Master's palace, a massive citadel that dominates the old town. It was destroyed in 1856 and reconstructed in 1939.

During the winter season (Through May) the Ministry of Tourism reserves the right to open museums on Mondays or not as the case may be. Excursions will be modified accordingly



Lindos

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

€60

The tour begins with a scenic 30 mile drive along the east coast passing through picturesque villages, sweetly scented orange and lemon groves, vineyards and olive orchards.

This excursion includes a walk up to the summit of the Acropolis, a visit to the 4th century BC Doric temple of Athena Linda and double portico, as well as a Byzantine church, the fortifications of the Knights of St John and the remains of the Governor's quarters.

The summit of the Acropolis affords breathtaking views; at its foot there lies Saint Paul's bay, where the apostle is said to have landed in the year 51 AD to preach Christianity to the inhabitants. Below the Acropolis you will see the clusters of old white washed houses and narrow streets that make up this charming town, which has long been a haunt of writers and artists. You will find many small shops selling ceramic objects and beautifully crocheted linens.

The return to the quayside in Rhodes takes the same picturesque route. On the way you will get the opportunity to visit a traditional ceramics workshop.

There is a lot of uphill walking. The visit to the Acropolis involves walking up 150 steps, although there is the option of riding up the hill on a donkey (not included in the excursion).



Filerimos and the Medieval town

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

€60

You will leave the port of Rhodes and drive along medieval walls to the summit of Mount Smith. Mount Smith was named after the English admiral, Sir Sydney Smith, who used the place as a strategic observation post from where he could keep an eye on the movements of the Napoleonic fleet. Here you will see the Acropolis of Ancient Rhodes and enjoy panoramic views of Rhodes town.

The coach will then drive along the west coast through a densely wooded area of cypress trees and evergreen oaks heading to Filerimos. Filerimos hill takes its name from the monk who arrived there in the 13th century bearing an icon of the Blessed Virgin, painted, as legend has it, by St Luke. At the top of the hill stood one of the three ancient cities of Rhodes, the city of Ialysos. Here you can admire the monastery of Our Lady of Filerimos and the Byzantine Church of St George which has wall paintings dating back to the 14th and 15th century.

After driving back to Rhodes town you will continue the tour on foot, following your guide through narrow cobblestoned streets.

The most impressive building in Rhodes is the Palace of the Grand Master, originally built on the foundations of the Sun God (Helios) whose cult was widespread. In Medieval times it was the governor's residence and administrative centre and its awe inspiring spherical towers and arched gateway dominate the Street of the Knights.

As you walk down the Street of the Knights you will pass by many medieval buildings and interesting shops as well as the 15th century Hospital of the Knights which was built to give hospitality and care to pilgrims in need of assistance in the Holy Land and later to the crusaders. This imposing edifice is in perfect condition and now houses the archaeological museum (not visited).

At the end of the tour you may choose to explore the town on your own for a while, returning to the ship on foot, or join the coach for the short drive back.

- Visits included: Filerimos & the Grand Master's Palace



BODRUM, TURKEY

Bodrum was founded on the site of the ancient city of Halikarnassos, and the many treasures to be found in the Bodrum museum bear witness to the fact that 5000 years ago it was home to a wealthy and sophisticated people. The magnificently decorated tomb of King Mausolos, "the Mausoleum", was known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient world, and the word "mausoleum" has now passed into current usage. Nowadays the twin bay town is one of the most important centres of tourism in Turkey with a wealth of cultural and historical attractions and an easy bohemian life style. There are many lively cafés near the port as well as a colourful local bazaar. Arts and crafts include carpet and kilim manufacturing.

Bodrum Peninsula tour

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 17 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

€49

The origins of St Peter's castle date back to the Knights of St John. This chivalric order founded in the 11th century built a church and a hospital in Jerusalem. The knights themselves were fervent Catholics, but no-one was ever denied refuge and care on religious grounds. When the knights arrived in Bodrum in the 1400's they ordered that building materials should be taken from the tomb of King Mausolos in order to begin work on the castle. The knights referred to the town as Mesy, as they did not know that they were in the ancient city of Halikarnassos. The fortress became known as the Castle of St Peter the Liberator, and served as a refuge for Christians on the west coast of Asia during the Crusades. For over a century this stronghold remained in the hands of the Knights and then in 1523 Bodrum was taken by the Turks. After 1895 the castle was used as a prison and in 1961 it was converted into a museum.

The museum specialises in under water archaeology exhibits and houses a collection of Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine artefacts, displayed in chronological order. Bronze age objects dating back 3000 years are on show in a gothic chapel in the courtyard, as well as weaponry and other exhibits from the Mycenaean era, discovered at Ortakent, a necropolis near Bodrum. There is an exhibition devoted to the Gelidonya wreck, a ship which sank in 1200 BC with a full cargo of copper ingots, and was excavated by Professor George Bass in 1960. To the south of the chapel, adjoining the castle wall is a restored Turkish bath; an old building which illustrates the typical characteristics of a Turkish hamam and includes objects associated with the Turkish bathing tradition. A narrow street to the left of the chapel leads to Amphora park and a fascinating display of the amphorae used in Antiquity to stock and transport goods. Next stop is the Hall of the Glass wreck, showing the remains of a medieval ship wrecked at Serce Limani with its precious cargo of glassware and ceramics.

The upper section of the castle consists of towers. In the so called Italian tower there are displays of coins and jewellery from the 7th century BC up until the Roman and Ottoman eras, and there is also an exhibition of 5th century ceramics and bronze statues. The Baltali tower is situated at the highest point of the castle and houses the Carian Princess Hall. This is one of the most interesting exhibits in the museum. In 1989 a sarcophagus was found at the entrance to Bodrum containing a skeleton decked out in costly jewellery. The jewellery helped to identify the skeleton as Princess Ada, the adoptive mother of Alexander the Great.

After this visit the tour continues to the Myndos Gate of ancient Halicarnassus (Bodrum Peninsula) which dates back to 364 BC. The 7km wall surrounded the town from the west side of the harbour to Göktepe. You will then proceed to the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. The mausoleum was built between 353 and 350 BC for Mausolus, a satrap (provincial governor) in the Persian Empire and Artemisia II of Caria who was both his wife and his sister. The mausoleum was considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

The last stop before you go back to the pier will be the Theatre of Halicarnassus, which is located on the slope of a hill, affording fine views of the marina and castle below.



Gulet tour

Minimum 13 participants, maximum 16

Duration 5h30

Lunch included

€ 110

After leaving the ship at Bodrum, you will proceed to your gulet.

A gulet is a handcrafted wooden motor sailing yacht equipped with one or two masts, built for cruising the Mediterranean. Coastal gulets were originally used by fishermen and sponge divers to transport their catch, but they have now been redesigned to cater for yachting holidays. The classic gulet has a rounded aft, low-to-the-water profile and roomy hull. However these days various designs have emerged, all of which are collectively known as gulets.

After a warm welcome from your captain, you will start your tour through the crystal clear Aegean waters. There will be swimming stops at Tavsan Bay and Green bay followed by a delicious onboard lunch consisting of grilled fish, salad and mezzes (Turkish cold starters). After lunch, relax on deck while the gulet continues sailing before stopping off at the bays of Karada, Yildirim and Goktasi for swimming.

The final stop will be beautiful Camel beach where you will enjoy refreshments consisting of honey or water melon before returning to the pier.

- Please take a towel, snorkelling gear, swimsuit, sun hat, sunscreen and extra money on this tour
- Drinks are not included

Etrim Village tour

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 11 participants, maximum 30

Duration: 4 hours

Lunch included

€60

This excursion offers a unique insight into life in a traditional Turkish village.

Minivans and guides will be waiting at the cruise terminal to take you to Etrim village, a thirty minute drive away.

You will arrive at the village centre where you will take a break at a Turkish tea and coffee house and enjoy a drink with the locals before setting off to explore the village. The first stop will be at a traditional Turkish village house where you will get an opportunity to meet the inhabitants and talk to them about their way of life and traditions. This will be followed by a visit to the mosque, where your guide will tell you a bit about Islam.

Next you will see some traditional stone houses, three centuries old, which are still inhabited.

An authentic Turkish lunch will be served under the trees in the garden of a village house. After the meal there will be time for a Turkish coffee and then the village ladies will read your fortune in the coffee grounds.

After 45 minutes at leisure to explore the village on your own, you will head back to Bodrum city centre. If you wish, the bus will drop you off in town so you can stroll around and return to the ship by yourself, otherwise you will be taken back to the terminal.



DALYAN RIVER, TURKEY

The delta of the Dalyan River and Istuzu Beach (4km long) are among the last remaining natural habitats for sea turtles and many species of water bird such as the cormorant, sea eagle, pelican and stork. A boat trip through this reed covered delta is an ideal way to enjoy the scenery. On the banks of the canal, between the sea and lake Köyce, lies the archaeological site of Caunos and many rock hewn tombs adorn the cliffs. The excursion will take you to the village of Dalyan which is known for its fine seafood restaurants serving bass and mullet fresh from the river. Fish have always been plentiful in these waters and the name "Dalyan" literally means "fish-trap".

Ancient Caunos and Dalyan river

By Boat

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration : 3h30

€ 48

The village of Caunos lies beside a canal flanked by ruins. A motorboat will take you on a romantic canal cruise through the reed delta so that you can admire the mysterious Lycian tombs cut into the rock face. The façades of the tombs are sculpted to look like temples and inside there are stone benches for laying out the dead. Remains from the tombs show that they date from the fourth century BC. A boat will pick you up from the ship's gangway and take you right to the foot of the cliff side tombs. Afterwards, you will get back onboard and be taken to Caunos to visit the theatre, the watch tower and the roman baths

- This excursion involves getting on and off boats as well as a fair amount of walking at Caunos.
- On the way back there will be the chance to enjoy a beach stop

Dalyan river and mud baths

By boat

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35

Duration : 3h30

€ 48

Admire the ruins on a romantic canal cruise by motorboat. On the cliffs above you will see Lycian tombs with impressive architectural façades hewn from the rock face. They are designed to look like small temples and each tomb contains stone benches for laying out the dead. Remains from the tombs show that they date from the 4th century BC. Since Caunos is situated on the border between Caria and Lycia, tombs from both areas are built side by side. There are also burial mounds.

The tour continues with a mud beauty treatment. The mud not only cleanses and tones the skin but has anti-aging properties and is said to help rheumatism. The mud is allowed to dry and is then washed off in a clear natural sulphur pool with a temperature of around 40° Celsius, leaving you feeling relaxed and refreshed.

On the way back there will be the chance to enjoy a beach stop



SANTORINI, GREECE

Upon arriving at Santorini, you are greeted by dramatic views of vertical cliffs of gray lava and white pumice rising nearly 1,000 feet above the sea. The island is part of the remains of an ancient island destroyed in a catastrophic volcano eruption which took place around 1350 BCE. The explosion is said to have altered the course of history in the ancient world. What remains has become one of the most famous of the Greek Isles simply because of its dramatic beauty. The town of Thira situated on the rim of the volcano is stunningly attractive with white washed and pastel coloured buildings. The cafes and hotels built on the hill overlooking the harbour offer one of the most spectacular views in the world. Santorini will start to weave its magic as soon as you take the cable car from the harbour to the town, and gaze upon the awesome spectacle of Nature in all its dramatic beauty. The more adventurous among you can take a donkey ride to the top of the mountain - a special treat in itself. The striking beauty of Santorini is something every visitor long remembers.

Santorini Volcano Hiking

By boat and by foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Duration : approx. 3hours

€ 50

Climb onboard a traditional local boat called a "caique" which will take you straight from the ship's side on a boat trip to Nea Kameni. You will sail along volcanic shores with strangely shaped rock formations, black volcanic rock and white pumice providing a startling contrast. After disembarking, an uphill walk will take you to the crater of the volcano which is still active. On the way up you will see fragments of lava and volcanic rock formations.

Once you have reached the crater you will have time to relax and enjoy the view of Santorini island and the amazing cliff of Caldera. After your descent back to the caique you will sail towards the thermal springs of Palea Kameni. The boat will stop for a while in the dark green sulphur waters, allowing you to enjoy a relaxing swim in the warm water. Afterwards the caique will take you back to the ship.

- The visit to the volcanic islet involves strenuous uphill walking (approx 1 km).
- Appropriate footwear (walking or sport shoes) is mandatory.
- There is no shade on the volcano and you should apply sun screen and make sure you have comfortable shoes
- The tour may be cancelled if weather conditions are bad.
- This tour is not recommended for guests who suffer from seasickness and those with mobility problems.
- To do this excursion you need to be physically fit and a good swimmer.
- Don't forget to bring your swimsuit, sunscreen and a towel. Due to high sulphur levels light coloured bathing suits may become discoloured.
- The climb is 30 minutes up and 20 down
- The transfer to the volcano port is only 15 minutes
- The transfer to the hot spring is 20 minutes and then 25 back to the ship



Flavours of Santorin: Akrotiri & Oia

By air-conditioned motor-coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration : 4h30

€67

From the vessel, you will board local tenders to Athinios, where motor coaches will be waiting to take you to the prehistoric site of Akrotiri, considered to be one of the most important cities of Minoan society. Fascinating ruins have been excavated here, buried deep into the earth after the eruption of the volcano; a 3500 year old city with its squares, narrow cobbled streets, houses and shops. Marvelous frescoes were found in some of the houses as well as utensils for everyday use.

After your guided tour of the site, the tour continues to Oia, a picturesque village on the northern tip of the island. Its wonderful view of the volcano, narrow streets lined with whitewashed houses and blue domed churches make Oia a photographer's delight. Enjoy some free time on your own and take the opportunity to visit the artists' workshops and talk to them about their work. Admire the architecture and the typical Santorinian style of houses and churches.

After a short journey you will arrive in Fira, the attractive capital town. After your visit, take the cable car down to the small harbour of Scala where the vessel's tender will take you back to the ship.

- The tour at the archaeological site is entirely on foot so comfortable shoes are recommended. There is some uphill walking at Akrotiri.
- Exploration of Oia is on foot. Some of the walking involves cobble stoned surfaces and steps.
- The rate includes the transfer by boat to Athinios to take your coach, as well as the funicular ticket to get down to the pier in Scala

HYDRA, GREECE

According to legend this beautiful island was once the home of the Hydra, the many headed monster killed by Heracles, hence its name. These days it is considered the most cosmopolitan of the Greek islands and many celebrities from Greece and abroad spend their vacations here. It is also beloved by artists from all over the world for its natural beauty and distinctive architecture, which have also made it a favourite film making location.

The town rises up like an amphitheatre from the port area, remaining hidden until the very last moment for those approaching by sea. It owes its unique character to the impressive mansions that were built in the late 18th century for wealthy Hydriot ship-owners by architects from Venice and Genoa. These houses differ from the usual Greek island architecture because of their individuality, size and sloping tiled roofs. During this period, Hydra possessed an important fleet and was sometimes called "Little England" because of its seafaring prowess and flair for commerce. The old ship's canons in front of the harbour bear witness to this glorious past. In some measure the long naval tradition is upheld to this day, as the island is home to the Merchant Navy Officer's training school.

No motor vehicles are allowed on Hydra, a designated Landmark Preservation area, and all transport is by boat, on foot or by donkey.

The island is an irresistible mixture of old and new with night clubs, bars, waterfront cafés, restaurants, and boutiques blending harmoniously with picturesque lanes and bare hills dotted with dazzling white chapels and windmills.



ATHENS, GREECE

The earliest Athenians were of Ionian stock, arriving on the peninsula in about 2000 BC. Little is known of the early rulers, apart from the fact that they were kings. By the 7th century BC they had been superseded by Eupatrids, the aristocracy of the eleven noble families of Attica. The next development from aristocratic rule came with Solon, the "Father of Democracy", who initiated the idea of rule by the people, creating assemblies of ordinary citizens. Following Solon's democracy came the Age of the Tyrants, a system of rule largely established by Peisistratus in about 546 BC. The idea was to remove much of the power from the nobles and to favour merchants, farmers, and ordinary people. Athens, particularly the Acropolis, became one of the chief religious centres in Greece, and by 600 BC there were many temples, fragments of which are to be found in the Acropolis Museum. The year 450 BC saw the beginning Pericles and his "Golden Age".

In 1832 Otto, a Bavarian prince descended from the Greek imperial dynasties of Komnenos and Laskaris through his ancestor the Bavarian Duke John II, became the first modern King of Greece. The new city of Athens was planned by the Greek architect Cleanthes and the German, Schaubert, around Otto's austere palace. Situated on a small promontory above the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the palace dominates Syntagma Square (Constitution Square). From Syntagma Square, Amalia avenue (named after Otto's Queen Consort) leads past the National Garden and the Zappion Park to Hadrian's Arch. Behind the park the stadium built for the first modern Olympic Games held in 1896 occupies the same site as that used in ancient times. The mountainous region of Attica and Athens, though barren and infertile enjoys a superb climate.

Athens and the new Acropolis museum

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, maximum unlimited

Ends at the airport, €69 (duration 5 hours)

Possibility to be dropped off in Athens, €55 (duration 4 hours)

From the port of Piraeus you pass the charming yacht harbour of Zea where the foundations of the dock dating from the 5th century BC are clearly visible. Next is the attractive Mikrolimanon waterfront lined with inviting al fresco fish restaurants. It is but a short drive into cosmopolitan Athens, a mixture of modern buildings and great monuments. You will pass by the Temple of Zeus, the Panathenaic Stadium, the Parliament at Syntagma (Constitution) square, the National Academy, the University, the Library and Hadrian's Arch before you finally arrive at the New Acropolis Museum. This building, located only 300m south east of the Rock of the Acropolis, was designed by Bernard Tschumi.

The museum was opened to the public in 2009 and nearly 4000 objects are exhibited on three levels with an area of 14000 square metres. Exhibits include findings from the Acropolis archaeological site as well as artifacts from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece.

For those returning to the ship, the tour ends in the centre of Athens; the rest of the passengers will be transferred to the airport.

- The tour will end at Syntagma square in Athens. The guide will then leave and the coach will continue to the airport (arrival 13h00/13h30)
- For the tour to carry on to the airport a minimum of 6 departing guests is required
- Passengers staying on board for the following cruise will be dropped off in Athens (return on your own to the pier).
- The duration of the tour very much depends on the traffic in Athens; if traffic is light the coach will arrive sooner at the airport
- You will spend about 2 hrs in the museum
- The use of cameras and video cameras is free of charge, but flash photography is forbidden in the museum.

