

7 DAY IDYLLIC CRUISE 2018

PIRAEUS



Athens – Athens Monuments and the Acropolis (PIR – 01)

(approx. 3 1/2hrs)

This historical hill of the Acropolis carries the renowned Parthenon atop its shoulders, which is dedicated to the goddess Athena, protector of the city of Athens. Its inauguration took place in 438 B.C. at the Great Panathenaea.

Next to the Propylaea lies the temple of Athena Nike or Wingless Nike. There was kept the wooden statue (xoanon) of Athena which was “wingless”, signifying that she would never leave Athens. Next to the Parthenon rises the Erechtheion, a marble edifice of the Ionic order. The eastern part of the temple was dedicated to Athena Polias and the western to Poseidon-Erechtheus. From the Acropolis hill you will be able to admire the glorious Odeon of Herodes Atticus.

Leaving the historical hill of Acropolis you will pass by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Greek Parliament Building. A stop at the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896, is necessary. Next follows the stylish “Trilogy of Athens”,

which was constructed at the end of the 19th century: the old building of the University of Athens, the National Library and the Academy of Athens. The excursion comes to a close with a trip through the Squares of Omonia and Syntagma, the heart of modern Athens.



Athens – Athens tour and the New Acropolis Museum (PIR – 07)

(approx. 3 1/2 hrs)

Leaving behind you the port, you head by coach along the sea road towards the centre of Athens. The Temple of Olympian Zeus stands at the south east of the Acropolis, it is constructed with Pentelic marble and dedicated to the father of the 12 gods, Zeus.

The tour continues in front of the Greek Parliament Building with your destination the Panathenaic Stadium.

The tour will then convey you to the “Trilogy of Athens”: three 19th century buildings, influenced by classical architecture, on Panepistimiou Street. A trip through Omonia Square and Syntagma Square will bring you to the beautiful, picturesque preserved quarter of Plaka, beneath the Acropolis.

The final destination is the modern, imposing, bright Acropolis Museum. It is a thematic archaeological museum of exceptional aesthetics, which opened its doors to the public in 2009 and houses the most famous works of classical antiquity. The new Acropolis Museum makes use of the elements of light, motion and multiple levels and its collections are exhibited on 3 floors and in an area of 14,000 sq. m (150,000 sq. ft)..



Athens – Panoramic Athens Tour (PIR – 03)

(approx. 3hrs)

A visit to the central of Athens and a walk on the historical hill of the Acropolis which carries the renowned Parthenon atop its shoulders, which is dedicated to the goddess Athena, protector of the city of Athens. Its inauguration took place in 438 B.C. at the Great Panathenaea.

Next to the Propylaea lies the temple of Athena Nike or Wingless Nike. There was kept the wooden statue (xoanon) of Athena which was “wingless”, signifying that she would never leave Athens. Next to the Parthenon rises the Erechtheion, a marble edifice of the Ionic order. The eastern part of the temple was dedicated to Athena Polias and the western to Poseidon-Erechtheus. If you desire to visit the Acropolis hill you will be able to admire the glorious Odeon of Herodes Atticus.

Leaving the historical hill of Acropolis you will pass by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Greek Parliament Building. A stop at the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896, is necessary. Next follows the stylish “Trilogy of Athens”, which was constructed at the end of the 19th century: the old building of the University of Athens, the National Library and the Academy of Athens. The excursion comes to a close with a trip through the Squares of Omonia and Syntagma, the heart of modern Athens.



Athens – Athens Monuments and the Acropolis. Athens tour and the New Acropolis Museum

(PIR – 08)

(approx.4hrs)

Leaving behind you the port, you head by coach along the sea road towards the centre of Athens. The Temple of Olympian Zeus stands at the south east of the Acropolis, it is constructed with Pentelic marble and dedicated to the father of the 12 gods, Zeus.

You will pass by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Greek Parliament Building with destination the Panathenaic Stadium. A stop at the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896, is necessary.

Next follows the stylish “Trilogy of Athens”, which was constructed at the end of the 19th century and comprised of three buildings: the old building of the University of Athens, the National Library and the Academy of Athens, influenced by classical architecture, on Panepistimiou Street. The excursion continuous with a trip through the Squares of Omonia and Syntagma the heart of modern Athens, which will bring you to the beautiful, picturesque preserved quarter of Plaka, beneath the Acropolis.

Then, you will pass through the Propylaea in which lies the temple of Athena Nike or Wingless Nike. There was kept the wooden statue (xoanon) of Athena which was “wingless”, signifying that she would never leave Athens.

After, you will visit the historical hill of the Acropolis, which carries the renowned Parthenon atop its shoulders, which is dedicated to the goddess Athena, protector of the city of Athens. Its

inauguration took place in 438 B.C. at the Great Panathenaea. Next to the Parthenon rises the Erechtheion, a marble edifice of the Ionic order. The eastern part of the temple was dedicated to Athena Polias and the western to Poseidon-Erechtheus.

From the Acropolis hill you will be able to admire the glorious Odeon of Herodes Atticus.

The final destination is the modern, imposing, bright Acropolis Museum. It is a thematic archaeological museum of exceptional aesthetics, which opened its doors to the public in 2009 and houses the most famous works of classical antiquity. The new Acropolis Museum makes use of the elements of light, motion and multiple levels and its collections are exhibited on 3 floors and in an area of 14,000 sq. m (150,000 sq. ft).



Athens and the Corinth Canal- (PIR-05)

(approx. 6 hrs)

Leaving Piraeus, we'll travel through the port city of Mikrolimano on our way to the historic center of Athens where you'll embark on a panoramic tour of ancient jewels nestled in the very heart of the city. Drive around Syntagma Square – Athens' central plaza – taking in the National Garden, Hadrian's Arch, St Paul's Church, the Greek Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then, it's down historic avenues to Schliemann's House, the cathedral, the Academy of Athens, the University, the National Library and the Russian Orthodox Church. We'll continue to where the first Olympic Games were held in 1896 at the Panathenaic Stadium and pass by the Prime Minister's residence, the former Royal Palace and Zappeion Hall before reaching the towering Temple of Zeus. Out of the city, we'll drive along the scenic coastal highway to Corinth where it's time to hop aboard a boat and cruise up the incredible Corinth Canal – a narrow ancient canal flanked by steep, mesmerizing cliffs connecting the Ionian and Aegean seas.

Afterwards, enjoy some free time for lunch at a resort in Isthmia and the chance to swim in the sea.

MYKONOS



Mykonos – Mykonian countryside tour with Hora and Little Venice

(MYK – 06)

(approx. 3 hrs)

The excursion with the coach and your tour guide sets off from Chora.

Next stop at the south, the leeward beach of Ornos, a picturesque fishing harbour which is a popular anchorage and then on to the small beach of Agia Anna and Kalafatis beach.

During the trip back to Chora, you will visit the traditional village of Ano Mera and the monastery of Panagia Tourliani, founded in 1542. The pretty village square is perfect spot for a short break.

Returning to Chora you will stop at Paraportiani. A few metres down you will meet the Mykonos Folklore Museum, which is housed in an old two-storied merchant baron's house.

You continue towards the "Little Venice" of Mykonos, Alefkandra, with its windmills and the almost otherworldly sunsets.



Delos-Sacred island & Apollo Sanctuary .(MYK-03)

(approx. 4 hrs)

You will be transported by boat to the ancient harbor of Delos and you will travel back in time. In front of the pier is the “Agora of Hermaists” or “Competialists” with altars and shrines. The ancient road crossed two porticoes. Behind the south portico used to be the “Agora of Delians”. Next follows the “Oikos (House) of Naxians”, dated to the 7th century B.C.. Further north you will admire the three “Temples of Apollo”, the oldest of which was already in use by the 6th century. The southernmost temple is known as the “Temple of the Delians”. At the northern side of the temples you will stand in front of the so-called “treasures”. Here, every city of antiquity exhibited its offerings. A monument that will draw your attention is the “Sanctuary of the Bulls”. You will find yourself at the “Agora of Theophrastos”, and will pass by the “Temple of the Twelve Gods” to eventually reach the “Granite Monument”. Next follows the “Avenue of the Lions”, which was encircled by full-sized marble lions. The large building complex that rises in front of you is the “Establishment of the Poseidoniasts of Beirut” and it was built by ship owners and merchants from Beirut.

The excursion comes to an end at Chora with free time for strolling through the alleys and the shops.

Includes: Guide, Boat transfer, Entrance Fees



Cycladic Tastes (MYK-07) (approx.. 2, ½ hrs)

Savor the delights of Mykonos with a foodie tour around the island capital. You'll see the city's highlights and neighborhoods all while sampling the best food and drink that Mykonos Town has to offer. We'll start it all with a caffeine kick at Café Barco where you'll be served a traditional coffee and sweet treat, after which we'll stroll past the famous windmills, through the narrow, cobbled lanes of Little Venice and the Three Mills to the one and only Paraportiani Church. Next, try some Greek peppers and olives washed down with some local raki before heading to Gioras bakery to eat their famous cheese and onion pie. We continue our food odyssey at Popolo where you'll sample local bruschetta, and then it's onto the pretty garden of Cine Manto to taste fresh Greek salad, beer and Mykonian sausage. And last but not least, you'll have some fig cheesecake served with olive marmalade waiting for you at Il Forno di Gerasimo.

Bus Transfer to Paradise Beach (MYK-08)*

If you're in search of sun, sea and some party spirit, then Paradise Beach on the south coast of Mykonos is just the ticket. Join a half-day or full-day transfer to spend a few hours doing exactly what you want, whether that's sunbathing on the renowned beach or trying out a new water sport. As soon as you step foot on the warm soft sand, you'll want to jump right into the inviting turquoise waters to cool off from the heat of the midday sun. Then take your pick from a selection of waterfront bars where you can kick back with an ice-cold cocktail in your hand as you watch the hubbub of activity before you. And once you've spent a few hours here, you'll soon fall in love with Mykonos' unique way of life.

***Sold on board only**

Bus Transfer to Super Paradise Beach (MYK-09)*

If you're in search of sun, sea and some party spirit, then Super Paradise Beach is just the ticket. Enjoy your sea dips and relax early in the day, while getting yourselves ready to party as time passes by. In mid-afternoon, the music gets louder and the party starts.

Meet a great mix of personalities and bodies enjoying the vibes of the beach while worshipping

the sun and don't blink your eyes twice if you spot a celebrity dancing next to you. Super Paradise is a popular beach paradise for everyone, packed with clubbers, jet-setters, models and VIPs.

***Sold on board only.**

Bus Transfer to Kalafatis Beach (MYK-05)*

Travel along the southern coast of Mykonos and you'll encounter a long line of pristine beaches that unravel like a string of pearls set against bright azure waters. And with a bus transfer to Kalafatis Beach, you can enjoy either half a day or a full day making the most of these coastal delights. Quiet by nature, Kalafatis Beach is where you can sit back, soak up the sun and watch the world go by with only the sound of the waves in the background. You'll have plenty of free time to try out snorkeling, diving or even windsurfing as the gentle sea breeze and long sweeping bay makes it perfect for trying new water sports. You can then lie back under the cool shade of the trees in the background or sit down at the local taverna to sample some delicious food and drink – the choice is completely yours.

***Sold on board only.**

MILOS



Step Back in Time – (Religious) MIL-02R

(Approx 5hrs – Restricted Maximum Participation 110 pax-Catacombs visit during the afternoon tour upon request)

We invite you to step back in time with us on the incredible volcanic island of Milos, one of the most beautiful places on earth. A short drive from the harbor takes us to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. This startlingly beautiful, otherworldly spot is one of the island's many geological wonders and perhaps one of the most photographed places in the Cyclades. We'll walk down to the inlet so you can experience this one-of-a-kind beach and take photographs. You'll feel as if you've landed on the moon.

We then travel along the picturesque main road along the coast to the cobblestone streets and alleys of Plaka, a classic Cycladic village of white stone houses and bougainvillea flowers 250 meters above the Aegean. We'll stroll through the village to admire its traditional architecture and its stunning view of the sea, and we'll sample some homemade sweets at a few of the village's local pastry shops.

Just 100 meters from Plaka lie early Christian catacombs, the largest in Greece, and the ruins of ancient Melos and its Roman amphitheater, which is cut into the rocky slope of the hill near the ancient agora. Our path from the catacombs to the amphitheater takes us through a small olive grove beneath the retaining walls of ancient Melos, where you'll find large Dorian walls and column fragments. The marble amphitheater, to which you'll have unrestricted access, still includes seven intact rows of seats and offers a lovely view of the bay. On our way back to the bus, we will visit the site where the Venus de Milo (now residing in the Louvre in Paris), was discovered in 1820.



-Step Back in Time (MIL-02)

(approx. 4 1/2hrs)

We invite you to step back in time with us on the incredible volcanic island of Milos, one of the most beautiful places on earth. A short drive from the harbor takes us to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. This startlingly beautiful, otherworldly spot is one of the island's many geological wonders and perhaps one of the most photographed places in the Cyclades. We'll walk down to the inlet so you can experience this one-of-a-kind beach and take photographs. You'll feel as if you've landed on the moon.

We continue our drive along the dramatic Milos coastline toward Papafranga, a cluster of deep-sea inlets and sea caves at the base of a pristine ravine which, like Sarakiniko, was shaped by volcanic activity. We'll linger for a short while at this picturesque locale, where you can peer down into clear turquoise waters and watch some rather adventurous tourists swimming and snorkeling in the caves at the bottom of the ravine.

Then we travel the picturesque main road along the coast to the cobblestone streets and alleys of Plaka, a classic Cycladic village of white stone houses and bougainvillea flowers 250 meters above the Aegean. We'll stroll through the village to admire its traditional architecture and its stunning view of the sea, and we'll sample some homemade sweets at a few of the village's local pastry shops.

Very close to Plaka, next to Trypiti village, we will visit the ruins of ancient Melos and its Roman amphitheater, which is cut into the rocky slope of the hill near the ancient agora. There you'll find large Dorian walls and column fragments. The marble amphitheater, fully

restored in 2015, still includes seven intact rows of seats and offers a lovely view of the bay. On our way back to the bus, we will visit the site where the Venus de Milo (now residing in the Louvre in Paris), was discovered in 1820.

Last stop is at the award winning Mining Museum. It's a stop that summarizes all the bits of our Step back in Time. The mining history of the island, the rich geology and a wide collection of obsidian are displayed allowing you to understand how the rich geology of Milos has shaped the island's history. Also you will have a chance to see the materials that are currently excavated from the island and where we find them in our everyday life.



-The Amazing beaches Tour (MIL-03)

(Approx 4 hrs – Restricted Maximum Participation)

Milos is home to some of the Cyclades' legendary beaches, including Paleochori, which is considered the best beach on the island for swimmers, skin divers, sun-worshippers and water sports enthusiasts. About a thirty-minute drive from the port at Adamas, Paleochori, which actually comprises three beaches totaling 800 meters of sandy coastline, is known for its dramatic cliff faces, which mineral deposits, particularly sulfur, have rendered in dazzling reds and yellows. Your bus will drop you about 200 meters from the beach.

Umbrellas and sun beds are available at the main beach at Paleochori, which is sandy with a smattering of white pebbles. There are some wonderful restaurants perched high above the beach here, including Sirocco, a tavern preparing volcanic food, dishes prepared in the sand

using the high geothermal temperature. Drop yourself into one of its comfy chaise longues with a panoramic view of the Sea of Crete and chill!

After Paleochori we drive to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. This startlingly beautiful, otherworldly spot is one of the island's many geological wonders – *ISLANDS* magazine recently named Sarakiniko one of the world's 30 most beautiful undiscovered beaches. You'll feel as if you landed on the moon as we descend for a delightful swim in Sarakiniko's bright turquoise waters. After our swim we board the bus for a relaxing drive back to port.

Please be advised there are no services available at Sarakiniko.



-Nostalgic Milos Cruise (MIL-06) (max participation 45pax)
(approx.. 6 hrs)

A short drive from the harbor takes us to famous Sarakiniko beach and its landmark white rocks. Naturally sculpted by volcanic eruptions, the sea and strong Aegean winds, it's the ideal backdrop for your snapshots. No wonder why it is one of the favorite photography subjects in the Cyclades. We'll walk down to the inlet in quest of intriguing photo opportunities and for swimming of course. You'll feel as if you've landed on the moon!

The picturesque village of Plaka, at the feet of the venetian castle, comes next. A love at first sight! We'll stroll through its cobblestone alleys, pass by traditional houses and blooming bougainvilleas. We have time to savor karpouzopita and koufeto, the local sweet delicacies at pastry shops, or head to the marble courtyard of Korfiatissa church for the best panoramic views – it's right next to the Folklore Museum, which we can visit optionally.

Last but not least, our tour to Kleftiko. We drive by coach to Kipos, passing by Papikinos beach and the Salt fields. On board "Delfinia" boat we start our journey towards Kleftiko, once a pirate lair that has become an absolute must for any traveler. Its greyish rocks come out of the

turquoise sea and you have the chance to swim through the sea caves. On the way to Kleftiko, the boat will make a shorter swimming stop at Gerondas beach.

SANTORINI



The Essence of Santorini

SAN-06

1. Athinios – Oia – Winery (Wine tasting) – Traditional village Emporio – Perissa (2 hrs free) – Fira – Athinios (appr. 6 hrs)

You will board your coach and head towards the view point of Prophetes Ilias, from here you will be able to take marvellous pictures of all the different aspects of this unique island. Afterward you will be taken to the magical town of Oia, protagonist of the post cards of this unforgettable location. Your panoramic drive will allow you to have breathtaking views of the lava rocks of the islets of Nea Kameni and the Caldera below you. You will have free time to enjoy the landscape of Oia and the colourful shops and cafes with terrace overlooking the Aegean Sea. Your journey will continue to one of the most exclusive wineries of Santorini, where you will have the possibility to taste different kinds of wines. Finally your tour will bring you to see the Church of Panagia Episkopi. Located in the village of Episkopi Gonia, it is a beautiful Byzantine Church, built in the late 11th Century, and considered the best example of traditional ecclesiastical architecture of the island. Your journey will continue at the village of Kamari, placed on the coast of the island. Free time will be allocated, you will have the chance to stroll around the beach that

extends to the feet of the Mesa Vouno mountain that rises up to a height of approx. 400m. Once an agricultural and fishing village, modern Kamari boasts a thriving tourist industry, offering a wide choice of restaurants, cafes and bars, plus several water sport activities. Your excursion will end in Fira where your guide will show you the way to the cable car and you will make your own way back to the ship.



Santorini – Spectacular Oia Village perched on the caldera rim (approx 3hrs)

(SAN – 01)

First we head to Santos Winery ,for a breath-taking view, deep inhalations of clean, pure, Cycladic air and memorial photos, so as to be the envy of all who didn't come along. The tour continues its passage towards Oia.

To the east, in the background, you will have settlements like Kamari and Monolithos, while you will pass through Fira, the small traditional villages of Firostefani and Imerovigli with delicate architecture and beauties, to eventually arrive at the settlement of Oia. During the entire route, to the west you will have before your eyes the lace-like caldera, the little islands of Thirasia, Palea and Nea Kameni and an unsurpassable panoramic view. In Oia you will have plenty of time to stroll through the marble-paved alleys, to gaze at the adorably cute shops, to take pictures, to become acquainted with the characteristic buildings, carved into the rocks and the unusual captains' manors, the settlement Ammoudi at the foot of the caldera... After your curiosity has been sated of the area which is characterized as being of "exceptional natural beauty", your return begins ...



- Santorini – Cruise to Santorin's islands and volcanoes .(SAN – 02)

(approx 3hrs)

The little islands of Palea and Nea Kameni are of particular geological interest, since underneath them lightly slumbers an active volcano.

From the cruise ship you will be transported easily within a few minutes by small boat to Nea Kameni which resembles a moon landscape! You will walk up to the verge of the crater, the heart of the volcano, a unique geological phenomenon which will overwhelm you with awe. In Nea Kameni nowadays there is gas-steam activity at the top of the crater, while its beaches are embraced by thermal springs.

The next stop of this special excursion, is Palea (or Palia) Kameni with its therapeutical, warm waters. The sea temperature here is 5°C higher than in the rest of the locations and the green-yellow water contains sulphur. After the trip to the volcano, you will have the chance to walk, take keepsake photos, to touch the magic and energy of Fira. Finishing your trip in the main town of Santorini, you will descend by funicular (the ticket is included in the fee of this excursion) to the Old Port to reach the cruise ship by small boat.



-Akrotiri Village Excavations (SAN-08) (approx. 3 hrs)

The people who lived on prehistoric Santorini called the island “Strongyle” (round). In 1650 BC the massive Thira volcano erupted, sinking the center of Strongyle and leaving behind an incredible caldera. You will marvel at its towering cliffs as tender boats convey you to the port at Athinios, where our air conditioned bus waits to take you to Santorini’s most significant archeological site, the village of Akrotiri.

From Athinios we will drive south. We will stop at the ruins of the island’s famous windmill for photos, and to enjoy the incredible panoramic view. We leave the windmill for Akrotiri, where you’ll have a chance to explore this ancient village – its amazing ruins will take you back in time. These advanced people built two- and three-storey homes and grew crops, and you will marvel at the remnants of the houses, shops and workshops that surrounded the village square thousands of years ago. Akrotiri had been a bustling town, but its inhabitants abandoned it before the Thira eruption, a mystery archeologists and historians are still trying to solve. The ash from the volcano buried the city, preserving many of its structures and some of its incredible frescoes. Could Akrotiri be the lost city of Atlantis? We’ll let you decide.

After Akrotiri we’ll drive to Fira, the capital of Santorini and its largest town, where we’ll visit the Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, also known as the Church of Ypapantis, famed for its elegant construction and its beautiful frescoes, which were painted by Santorini artist Christoforos Assimis. After our visit to the cathedral, you can linger in Fira to shop and enjoy a coffee or a snack, or you can take the Santorini Cable Car, the teleferik to the port below, an incredible descent of more than 200 meters toward the deep blue waters of the caldera. Our tender boats will be ready, once you disembark from the teleferik, to bring you back to the ship.

- Santorini – Off the beaten track - Jeep Safari Adventure (SAN – 10)

(approx. 3 1/2hrs)

This alternative excursion combines the wild, more desolate beauty of the south (SW) with the generally more touristic eastern Santorini.

You have your driver's license, you have the wheel in your hands, of course the camera in the glove-compartment and your tour guide, a useful and informative compass, as your co-driver and... off we go!

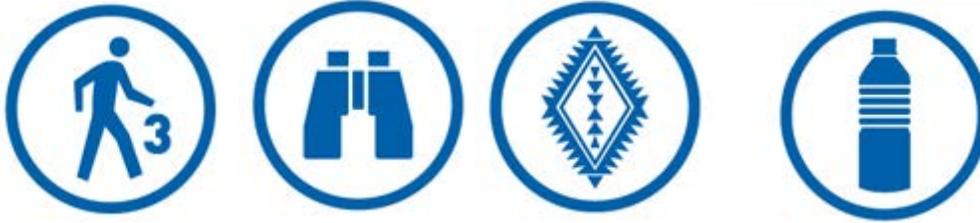
You start from Akrotiri, at the south western part of the island. The light-house, next stop, the virgin Vlychada beach then the popular Perissa beach with its black sand, Prophet Ilias, the little village Exo Gonia, which is built amphitheatrically on a slope, the penultimate stop will be the peaceful Monolithos with its hidden beauties and its long beach. This unforgettable excursion comes to a close at Fira.

Transfer to Perissa (SAN-13)*

Journey to southeast Santorini, and you're greeted by huge craggy mountains diving into bright azure waters. The coastline is dotted with quaint fishing villages, idyllic beaches and ancient treasures – all of which can be discovered in Perissa. Take a half-day or full-day transfer to this whitewashed village to make the most of a silky black lava beach bordered by crystal clear water with time to spend exactly as you wish. Seafront tavernas and cafes churn out all your favorite Greek specialties. And if you're feeling adventurous, there's a 3km hike up Mesa Vouno – a mountain that overshadows every view in the village. But it's well worth it: at the top, you'll find the ruins of Ancient Thira – a must-see archaeological site – as well as attention-grabbing panoramas over the neighboring land and sea. The village itself features pretty white churches, cobbled lanes and a distinctly Santorini vibe – an ideal day trip during your stay on the island.

*Sold on board only

[HERAKLIO-CRETE](#)



– Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle (HER – 04) (approx 3.5 hrs)

We leave the Venetian walls of Heraklion behind us and drive deep into the beautiful Cretan countryside, through the villages of Episkopi and Sgourokefali, we arrive at the traditional village of Stironas. Take a deep breath here, and enjoy the fresh mountain air as you take in the majestic view – you are 550 meters above sea level. Stironas comprises traditional stone buildings arranged amphitheatrically, with a view toward the mountains. Here we'll show you how traditional Cretans lived centuries ago. We'll also visit a botanical parterre which is home to various aromatic and medicinal herbs from the mountains of Crete.

Wine has been made in Crete since the Minoans, and we'll have a chance to literally put our lips to the deep cup of traditional Cretan winemaking when we visit a raki distiller and sample traditional raki directly from the barrels in his cellar! We'll learn about wine production and bottling, followed by Cretan meze with pure Cretan olive oil and other local products, and traditional Cretan dancers will perform for us during our meal! This is a deep, satisfying draught of the countryside of Crete. Enjoy

We will stop in Heraklion on the way back to the ship.

Heraklion was founded in 824 and is an important homeland of many contributors to Literature and Art, some examples of which are the Nobel winning poet Odysseas Elytis, the Renaissance painter Domenikos Theotokopoulos (El Greco) and the writer Nikos Kazantzakis.

Heraklion is also endowed with some wonderful edifices: the “Koules” fortress, the award winning Venetian structure of the Loggia, the Morosini Fountain, the Basilica of Saint Mark, and the Church of Agios Titos. Starting the walk from Liberty square of Heraklion guests will pass by the shopping streets of Dedalou and 25th August and see the aforementioned sights along the way.



Knossos Palace and the Archeological Museum (HER- 01)

(approx. 3 hrs)

The ancient city of Knossos, with constant habitation from the Neolithic era until the 5th century A.D., is beyond doubt the land that “gave birth” to the first civilization of Europe, the Minoans. The first excavations were begun in 1878 by the Heraklian Minos Kalokairinos. A bit later (1900-1913 & 1922-1930) the excavations by the British Sir Arthur Evans were to complete the scientific research, bringing to light the Minoan palace in its entirety, which was, according to tradition, the residence of the wise King Minos.

The palace of Knossos spreads around the large Central Court. You will reach the awe inspiring Throne Room, the fresco of the “Prince of the Lilies”, the imposing Grand Staircase, the Queen’s Megaron in the east.

Walking through the apartments of the Knossos palace and observing the finds even as passers-by, you will feel part of this cultural heritage.

Our next stop will be at the Archaeological Museum of the city. Through the exhibits of the Museum, the history of the Cretan culture will unfold and be visualized before you.

The tour will come to an end at the Heraklion, where we will stop on the way back to the ship.

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Heraklion is also endowed with some wonderful edifices: the “Koules” fortress, the award winning Venetian structure of the Loggia, the Morosini Fountain, the Basilica of Saint Mark, the Church of Agios Titos, the medieval monastery of Saint Catherine, the Cathedral of Agios Minas are some exceptional examples.

Starting the walk from Liberty square of Heraklion guests will pass by the shopping streets of Dedalou and 25th August and see the aforementioned sights along the way.



Knossos Palace & Cretan Landscapes (HER-05)

(approx. 3 1/2 hrs)

From Heraklion port, we'll travel to the grand ancient city of Knossos – birthplace of Minoan civilization – on this extended bus tour. Take in centuries of history, architecture and art, and learn about the legends of Daedalus, Theseus and the formidable Minotaur as you roam from room to room at Knossos Palace. Step through the remarkable Hall of the Royal Guard and the King's Chamber breathing in the legendary stories of King Minos. Then drive through poetic Cretan countryside to the traditional village of Thrapsano – known as Crete's pottery village. Witness ceramic art and traditional pottery being made before your very own eyes and wander around a pretty hillside village suspended in history. Afterwards, you'll journey along ancient wine routes and soothing landscapes to Myrtia village, just south of Heraklion. Here you'll find the Nikos Kazantzakis Museum, dedicated to the life and work of Greece's famous author.



Samos

– Pythagoras island and its diverse beauty (SAM-01) (Approx 4 hrs)

Samos the land of Pythagoras, Epicurus, Aristarchus and possibly Aesop, is in full bloom. Its fertile soil gives birth to the world renowned Muscat variety of wine. These two elements of nature, earth and water, are in complete control on this island, which is the 8th largest of Greece. You will have so much to see and do!

Starting out on a coach, with an experienced tour guide, from Vathy you will shortly arrive at the Samos Wine Museum. It was inaugurated in the summer of 2005 and both its exhibits and its impressive representations will guide you through paths of fine, aromatic, awarded wine. You will learn about the vats and chemistry equipment, you will see up close the tools and tubes and you will become informed about the white Muscat variety, which reigns supreme over this land.

Traveling towards the south, you will soon come to the Monastery of Panagia Spiliani. It is said that this was the Cave of Pythagoras and that from here, the great mathematician operated a philosophical school.

For the conclusion of the excursion, there awaits the land which gave birth to Pythagoras and which took its name from him: Pythagoreio. At the third largest village of Samos, a vivid and beautifully maintained place, you will have enough time for exploration, walks and shopping



-Samos: Pythagoras Island / Culture, Scenery, Winery (SAM – 02) (Approx 4hrs)

Samos, with its 25 vineyards, the waterfalls and the wetlands, the seaside villages, the traditional pottery craft and the famed Samian wines welcomes you cordially.

The organized excursion, with your tour guide, starts from Vathy, the capital of the island. First stop is the Samos Wine Museum, to be introduced without delay to the tradition, procedure and artistry of the local wine production processes. You will learn about the vats and chemistry equipment, you will see up close the tools and tubes and you will become informed about the

white Muscat variety, which reigns supreme over this land. At the Museum's shop you can pick up supplies of these cultured souvenirs. Next stop of this excursion, after you navigate an amazing, verdant route, is the seaside village of Kokkari. It is one of the most touristically developed villages of Samos and its picturesque qualities are flowing through its alleyways and houses, its little port and enviable beaches. Here you will have the free time to stroll around and search out interesting shops and places.



BBQ -Boat Trip to Samiopoula (SAM-09) (Full Day)

Just off the coast of Samos lies the tiny islet of Samiopoula – our first idyllic destination on this full day boat tour. From Pythagoreio we'll set sail into the open seas watching dramatic coastal scenery pass us by as we head to the shores of this small but sublime island. White sandy arcs roll into crystal clear water and you'll have the chance to swim and relax on its deserted beaches. After a cooling dip, step back on board to venture to the picturesque pebbly beach of Kakorema – only accessible by boat. Here you'll have the chance to sit back and relax as you watch the waves lap against the shore while your crew and captain prepare a fresh BBQ lunch with fish or steak. On our way back, the boat will stop in the middle of the sea where you can jump off for a swim in dazzling blue waters.



Alluring Samos (SAM-10)

(Full day)

See Samos in all its sun-soaked glory on this full day island tour. Our first stop is one of the most beautiful locations on the island – Pythagoreio – a picture-postcard fishing town fringed by the Aegean Sea. Here you'll walk along its narrow cobbled streets, historic alleys and by the old port where you can still spot colorful wooden boats lined up against the docks. Then it's up and into the hills to the mountaintop village of Koumaradei, famous for traditional ceramics that are still made in family workshops – especially the Pythagoras cup. We'll slow down the pace at Votsalakia where you'll have plenty of time to swim in crystal clear water and relax under the sun before selecting one of the waterfront tavernas for lunch. Following the road, we'll drive through a lush plane tree forest and the charming Valley of the Nightingales – an oasis on hot summer days where you can hear the birds singing in the treetops. Once you reach Kokkari village, enjoy some free time to browse the shops before driving through Samos Town for a glimpse of the island capital, built like an amphitheater around the bay.



Samos 4 x 4 Adventure (SAM-08)

(Approx 4 hrs)

Get acquainted with the verdant island of Sámos with this exciting four-wheel-drive experience, which includes a visit to a beautiful beach for a chance to swim and sunbathe.

At the pier, you will climb into your Suzuki-type four-wheel-drive vehicle to begin your island exploration. The manual-transmission jeep is self-driven, with either you or your travel

companion taking the wheel. Your guide will be in a lead vehicle, ensuring that you see the best of Sámos without having to navigate its roads on your own.

Your route takes you northeast, to the part of Sámos considered to be the most interesting and beautiful. Making your way around the Bay of Vathi, venture through the pine-forested region of Malagari before passing the picturesque fishing village of Kokkari. Nearby is Lemonakia, one of the most dazzling coves on Sámos.

Transfer to Tsamadou Beach (SAM – 05)*

The island of Samos is famous across the Aegean for its exceptional natural beauty and lush flora, making it a must-see for any nature lover. Our half-day tour will feast your eyes and senses as we travel to the most famous beach on Samos - Tsamadou, delicately embraced by the sparkling waters of a bay close to the picturesque village of Kokkari. As we descend on the winding path, the Tsamadou beach will unravel its azure waters and welcome you this haven of serenity and enchanting natural beauty. Your time spent here will not only provide you with the pure joy of swimming in the mild waves of Tsamadou, but also with the option to enjoy snorkeling or photography sessions in unique scenery.

***Sold on board only**

KUSADASI



Ancient Ephesus

– House of Virgin Mary & Ancient Ephesus (approx.4hrs) (KUS – 01)

Before his crucifixion, Jesus entrusted the safety of the Virgin Mary to St. John the Evangelist. St. John moved Mary to Ephesus for safety.

Virgin Mary lived here until the 101st year of her life. In 1957 the Vatican recognized the “House of the Virgin Mary” as the place where the Virgin spent the last years of her life and since then it is an important pilgrimage site for both Christians and Muslims.

Next stop the city of Ancient Ephesus, the Ionian colony, which is one of the largest open-air archaeological museums in the world. Together with your tour guide, you will pass the Magnesian Gate. Traces of the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian period are scattered everywhere: the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of the Kouretes, the Thermal Baths of Scholastica, Trajan’s Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Houses of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, Hadrian’s Temple, the Great Theatre.

During the excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.



-Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman (Approx. 3 hrs) (KUS – 02)

At Ancient Ephesus you find Immortal relics of the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian era. At the archaeological site you will be given a guided tour among the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of Kouretes, the Baths of Scholastica, Trajan’s Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Residences of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, the Temple of Hadrian...

The Great Theatre, built in the 4th century B.C., could accommodate 24,000 spectators and it is famous even nowadays for its acoustics. The finds from the excavations, which have yet brought to light only 13% of ancient Ephesus, reside in the Archaeological Museum of Ephesus, in the city of Selcuk.

During the excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.



-Ancient Ephesus and the Terrace Houses (KUS – 07)

(approx.4hrs)

Passing with your tour guide through the Magnesian Gate **you will wander, feeling awe in time and space**, through the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of Kouretes, the Baths of Scholastica, the Great Theatre, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Houses of the Patricians, the Prytaneum and the Temple of Hadrian.

Opposite Hadrian's Temple, at the foot of the Bulbul hill and the covered part of the archaeological site, protected by the heat and natural elements lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses. Here lived the rich families of Ancient Ephesus and you will be surprised by the excellent state of preservation of these comfortable villas, especially their interior décor. The oldest unearthed houses date since the 1st century B.C. and were two-storied and built based on the city planning and they even had "heating", and hot and cold water.

During the excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.

