



CELESTYAL
CRUISES

IDYLLIC AEGEAN

EXCURSIONS 2022







Why book a Celestyal excursion

Although we say it ourselves, the destinations on a Celestyal cruise are rather special. Call us biased but we think they are among the most exciting, beautiful, historic, iconic and evocative in the world.

So a very warm welcome to our Idyllic Aegean excursions.

Joining us on the seven night itinerary, you will be immersed in the most fabulous experiences living and breathing the myths and legends of Ancient Greece, discovering long past civilisations, following in the footsteps of great figures from history and seeing some of the most wondrous scenery on the planet.

From classical Athens to beautiful Mykonos, Thessalokini awe-inspiring Ephesus, Milos, Rhodes, Crete and stunning Santorini.

You will be amazed at what we can see and do in a week.

We like to feel that we are taking you on your very own Greek Odyssey across the Aegean. And nobody knows the Eastern Mediterranean and the Greek Islands better than we do. You can be sure of that.

Whether the history and culture is your thing or you are more about the outstanding natural beauty, the magnificent beaches or indeed the whole experience wrapped up together, we have something to match.

Our specially designed excursions are central to your Celestyal experience with our expert guides taking you step by step through your voyage of discovery and really bringing our destinations alive.

Sometimes in history it's not easy to work out where facts end and legends begin. So please fire up your imagination and join us to find out.

We really mean it when we say every moment is a destination and 'every destination is a wonder'.

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Your included excursions



KUSADASI

ANCIENT EPHEBUS THROUGH THE AGES - HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN

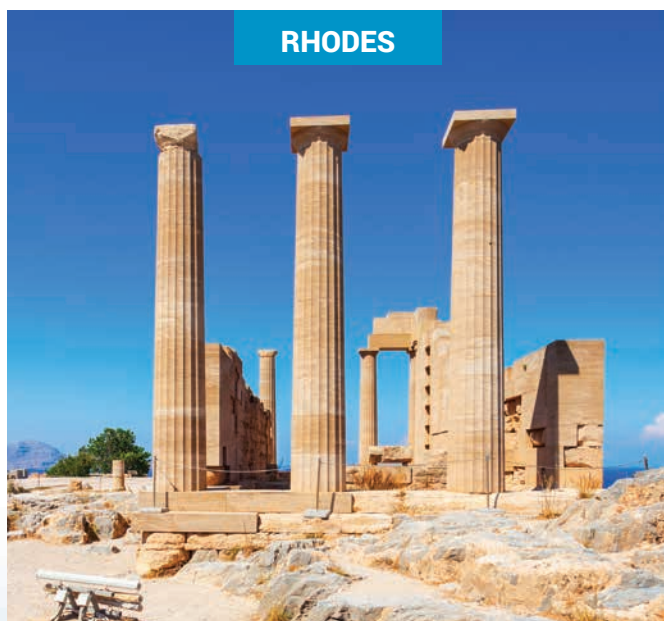
Duration: Half day
Tour code: KUS - 02



This is a wonderful journey through some of the most important and formative periods of history and we hope you will be enthralled by the stories of the Hellenes, Romans, the Ottomans and of Christianity in our fascinating exploration of Ephesus.

This marvellous city, sitting on the hills outside Kusadasi is a fabulous open air archaeological wonder founded by the Greeks around 2000 BC. It was one of the most important cities of the region and was dedicated to the goddess Artemis.

See page 12 for full details



RHODES

MEDIEVAL TOUR - ACROPOLIS OF LINDOS AND THE CITADEL OF THE KNIGHTS

Duration: Half day
Tour code: RHO - 01



Lindos is situated 55 km (40 miles) from the city of Rhodes and "bears" above it the Acropolis of Lindos, with the ancient Temple of Athena, built in 300 B.C. In the centre of the village lives and breathes the Church of the Virgin Mary (Panagia) of Lindos, with frescoes from the 15th century. Ascend to the Acropolis of Lindos. Here lies the Temple of Athena, of Doric order, which was erected on the location of an older monument.

At the old city of Rhodes you will go through D'Amboise Gate to walk on the Street of the Knights. Along this street you will find the residences of the Knights.

See page 16 for full details



Guide to symbols



Short or no walking involved.



Easy walking: General walking over an even surface.



Moderate walking: Moderate amount of physical activity such as walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs. Might not be recommended for guests with walking difficulties.



Hard walking: High amount of physical activity for extended periods of time. Recommended only for sporting guests with good physical health.



Includes visits to religious sites, knees and shoulders must be covered.



It is recommended to bring your swimming suit and a towel.



Shopping with an experienced guide.



Meal included on this excursion.



Refreshments included on this excursion.



Please be advised it is recommended that you take a bottle of water for your journey.



Panoramic, nature, landscapes.



Cultural experience: This tour will feature art, architecture, history and religion.



Folklore: We focus on local habits, traditions, food and tasting.



Adventure and fun.



Suitable for families travelling with children.

Half day up to 5 hours
Full day 6 hours and above

All timings and order of visits are subject to change depending on traffic congestion of the sites and weather conditions.

Operation of tours may be subject to the time of the year - please check at time of booking.

Excursions require a minimum participation of 30 guests to operate.

Please be aware of the dress code in order to enter the monasteries; legs and shoulders should be covered, no shorts, long skirts (below the knee).

Terms and conditions are available at:
www.celestialcruises.com/shorex-conditions



THESSALONIKI

EXCURSIONS



St Paul Orthodox Church



The Golden Chest

THE ROYAL TOMBS OF VERGINA

Duration: Half day

Tour code: THS - 02



**CHILD
€55**

**ADULT
€74**

This is a fascinating half day, step back time.

Vergina was the first ancient capital of the Greek Kingdom of Macedonia and we have the privilege of visiting the Royal Tombs.

The most important tomb is that of Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great.

We will be accompanied into the museum by our guide to look at some of King Philip's most important possessions, including the king's shield and gold-trimmed breast plate.

Legend has it that the golden chest containing the king's bones was washed with wine and wrapped in purple cloth.

We will find out how this was unearthed before being able to discover it for ourselves.

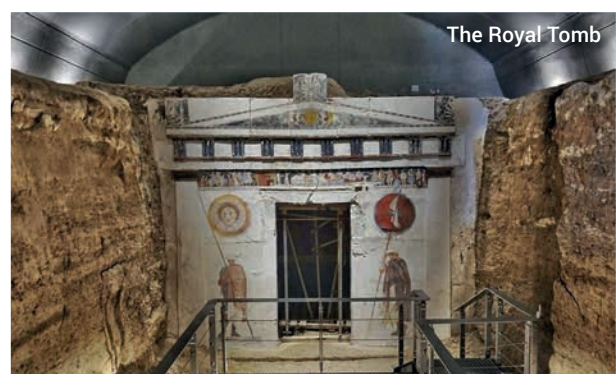
Also on display are gold diadems of unparalleled artistry, lavish wall paintings and a golden wreath of oak leaves.

This is also the site of an extensive royal palace and one of the most important museums in Greece.

The area was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status as "an exceptional testimony to a significant development in European civilisation."



King Philip II tomb



The Royal Tomb



The Arch of Galerius

PANORAMIC THESSALONÍKI

Duration: Half day

Tour code: THS - 06



**CHILD
€44**

**ADULT
€67**

Thessaloniki is the second city of Greece and the capital of Macedonia.

It has a fascinating and colourful history with evidence of Byzantine, Roman and Ottoman remains and it was the richest city in the Byzantine Empire.

It is a glorious blend of beauty, history, and culture, framed by vast and stunning sea views and is considered to be Greece's cultural capital.

Our panoramic tour begins along the waterfront boulevard to Aristotelous Square, named for Macedonia's leading philosopher Aristotle.

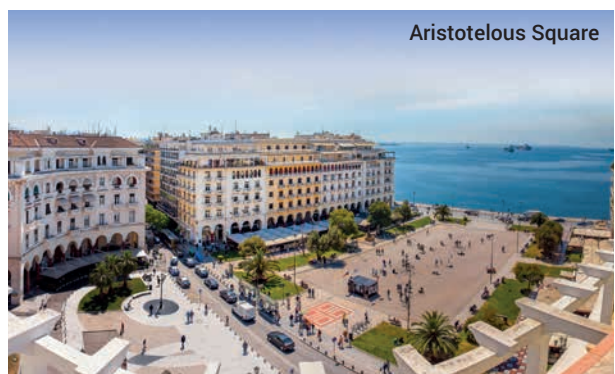
We will see Thessaloniki's most famous sight, the White Tower, part of the lower city's original fortification which has also served as a prison.

We hear the fascinating narrative by our guide as we take in many of the city's highlights including, the Galerius Arch, the Rotunda, and numerous neo-Classical buildings.

We visit the 5th century St. Demetrius' Cathedral as well and stop up to the Upper Town for sweeping views of the city with Mount Olympus and the Thermaic Gulf in the background.



The White Tower



Aristotelous Square



Ancient Pella

LAND OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

Duration: Full day

Tour code: THS - 04

This is a remarkable, historic, full-day excursion combining the glories of Pella with those of Vergina, and it includes lunch overlooking the stunning Aliakmon Valley.

We begin with a 45-minute drive by air-conditioned motor coach to Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great and the second capital of ancient Macedonia.

Alexander, Emperor in the 4th Century BC, was undefeated in battle and is widely considered one of history's most successful military commanders.

For 250 years Pella was the cultural centre of the Ancient Greek world and as the seat of the royal family, enjoyed its greatest prosperity during the reign of Alexander. Archaeological excavations have uncovered public buildings and luxurious private homes with intricate marble-floor mosaics along with a plethora of delicate clay figurines and vases.

We have the opportunity to view these and many other treasures before heading to the city of Veria where we will enjoy a three-course lunch will be served at a local restaurant overlooking the immense Aliakmon Valley.

Our next stop is Vergina, where we visit the tomb of King Philip II of Macedonia. Dating from 335 BC, the bones of the king are covered with a golden wreath of oak leaves. Also here are the king's iron helmet and a cache of weapons. As well as King Philip's tomb and



**CHILD
€80**

**ADULT
€115**

personal effects, we will see well-preserved examples of large-scale classical painting and numerous carved, painted steles of ordinary citizens.

We have an hour's drive by coach back to the ship.





Library of Celsus, Ephesus



House of the Virgin Mary

HOUSE OF VIRGIN MARY & ANCIENT EPHESUS

Duration: Half day

Tour code: KUS - 01

We say with Celestyal every moment is a destination and every destination is a wonder.

That's more than just a figure of speech. In some cases it's literally true. So our visit to Ephesus brings us near to the site of one of the lost Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Artemis.

Ephesus was an Ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia. It's now in Turkey.

The temple, with more than 100 marble pillars each standing 56 feet tall took 120 years to build and it earned the city the name 'Servant of the Goddess.' A single solitary pillar remains standing on the site, found during an excavation in the 1870s.

As with so many places in the Eastern Mediterranean, Ephesus changed hands many times over the centuries. But it remains one of the largest Roman archaeological sites in the region. You will be in awe of this incredible historic complex and the ruins you explore still give some idea of the original splendour of Ephesus.

Among the sights to be admired still are the iconic and instantly recognisable Library of Celsus, the Gate of Augustus, Magnesian Gate, the Agora, Odeon, the Houses of the Patricians, the Great Theatre, Hadrian's Temple and the House of the Virgin Mary.



**CHILD
€55**

**ADULT
€74**

One legend suggests Mary may have spent her last years here following Jesus' instruction to St John the Evangelist to look after his mother. Many consider it to have been her final home and it has become a place of pilgrimage.

In 1957 the Vatican formalised this recognition. Three Popes have visited. Another reason why Ephesus is important in Christianity is that the apostle Paul lived, preached and wrote extensively here including his Letter to the Corinthians.

Our tour includes time to shop for souvenirs, carpets, jewellery, leather and other goods.

Ephesus is one of the largest, most fascinating and most inspiring open-air archaeological museums in the world. This is an excursion you are unlikely to forget.



City of Ephesus,



The Temple of Hadrian

ANCIENT EPHEBUS THROUGH THE AGES - HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN

Duration: Half day
Tour code: KUS - 02



**INCLUDED IN
YOUR FARE**

This is a wonderful journey through some of the most important and formative periods of history and we hope you will be enthralled by the stories of the Hellenes, Romans and of Christianity in our fascinating exploration of Ephesus.

This marvellous city, sitting on the hills outside Kusadasi is a fabulous open air archaeological wonder founded by the Greeks around 2000 BC. It was one of the most important cities of the region and was dedicated to the goddess Artemis.

The Temple built in her honour was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It had more than 100 marble pillars each standing 56 feet tall and it earned the city the name 'Servant of the Goddess.'

A single pillar remains standing on the site, found during an excavation in the 1870s. We will be able to see the Agora, Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marvel-paved Main Street of Curetes, the Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Temple of Hadrian and the Houses of Koressus, where the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus lived.

Only 13 per cent of Ephesus has so far been uncovered. The finds from the excavations made so far are housed in the Archaeological Museum of Ephesus in the city of Selcuk.

We have time for shopping for carpets, jewellery, leather and other souvenirs at the end of our tour.



Trojan's Fountain



Baths of Scholastica



Main Street of Curetes

ANCIENT EPHESUS AND THE TERRACE HOUSES

Duration: Half day
Tour code: KUS - 07

Every step we take in Ancient Ephesus brings us closer to the Hellenistic, Roman and early Christian eras. We will enjoy a truly exceptional experience in one of the most important and complete classical cities in Europe, even though only a fraction of it has been uncovered.

We pass through the Magnesian Gate and wander through the Agora, Odeon, the magnificent and restored Library of Celsus, the marble-paved Main Street of Curetes, Baths of Scholastica, The Great Theatre, Trajan's Fountain, the Houses of the Patricians, 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 from the heat and natural elements, lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses.

It was here that the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus lived. These villas are excellently preserved, especially the interior decor. The oldest houses so far unearthed date from the 1st Century BC, were built on two storeys and even had hot and cold water and a heating system, clay pipes under the floor. They were even constructed to a city plan in which roads intersected with each other at right angles.

Ephesus, which became the second largest city in the Roman Empire, was dedicated to the goddess Artemis and the magnificent temple built to honour her took



CHILD
€55

ADULT
€74

120 years to complete. It is one of six of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that have long gone.

Our tour includes time to shop for souvenirs, carpets, jewellery, leather and other goods.



Ancient Roman Mosaics from Terrace Houses



Library of Celsus



The Great Theatre of Ephesus

ANCIENT EPHEBUS & MILETUS

Duration: Full day

Tour code: KUS - 08

This is a truly spectacular day. We leave the port city of Kusadasi for Ephesus, one of the 12 cities of Ionia. This is a stunning marvel in the hills above the Aegean and one of the world's largest and important open-air archaeological museums. It was also the home to one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Artemis.

Ephesus was founded by the Ancient Greeks around 2000 BC. It was the wealthiest of the Ionian cities and became one of the key cultural centres in the Mediterranean. The city was dedicated to the goddess Artemis. The temple built in her honour took 120 years to complete. Ephesus later became the second largest city in the Roman Empire and is rivalled only by the Forum and the Acropolis as one of the most complete classical cities in Europe. Even so, only 13 per cent of Ephesus has been uncovered.



**CHILD
€60**

**ADULT
€90**

We wander through the Odeon and the Prytaneion, stroll the marble colonnades of Curetes Street to visit Trajan's Fountain, Hadrian's Temple, Scholastica Baths and the astonishing Terrace Houses. Nearby is the spectacular Library of Celsus, almost entirely reconstructed, and the Agora. The Great Theatre of Ephesus where St Paul once preached, held crowds of up to 24,000. Today it still hosts concerts and other performances. Our tour takes us to the Rug Village for lunch and a demonstration of traditional Turkish carpet weaving. We then head for the ancient coastal city of Miletus, another of the greatest and wealthiest cities in Ancient Greece and one of the first to mint coins. Homer mentioned Miletus in The Iliad and Paul preached here on the way back to Jerusalem. There are many well preserved ruins, including the Temple of Apollo and a Byzantine church.



Temple of Artemis

RHODES

EXCURSIONS



Town of Lindos and Acropolis on the island of Rhodes



Acropolis of Lindos

ACROPOLIS OF LINDOS AND THE CITADEL OF THE KNIGHTS

Duration: Half day
Tour code: RHO - 01



**INCLUDED IN
YOUR FARE**

Let's begin in unusual fashion, with what you won't see in Rhodes.

One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World once proudly stood here.

He was the Colossus of Rhodes and is of course long departed, probably destroyed by an earthquake.

Nevertheless as you arrive on this wonderful, historic island, you may just be able to imagine this statue of the Greek sun-god Helios in 280BC, standing 100 feet tall in celebration of Rhodes' victory over Cyprus.

The largest of the Dodecanese islands, Rhodes has a compelling back story and there are still remnants of its occupation by the Knights of St John during the Crusades.

So while the Colossus may not be there, you will be wowed by the many historical sites.

We travel first to Lindos, about 55km from Rhodes Town and high above the village sits the impressive Acropolis of Lindos with the Doric Temple of Athena, built in 300 BC.

Captains' mansions constructed between the 16th and 18th centuries are dotted here and there and in the heart of Lindos is the Church of the Virgin Mary with lovely frescoes from the 15th Century.

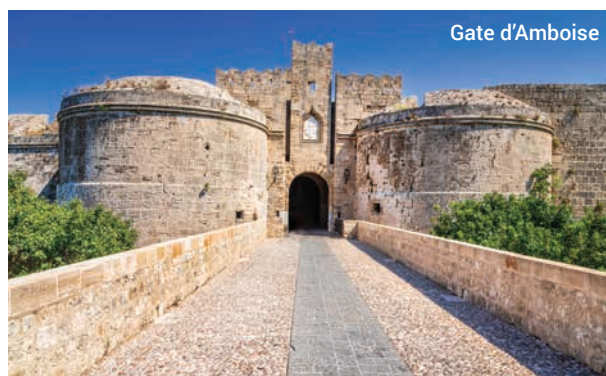
Back in Rhodes is where we are really immersed in the history of the island in the Knights' Quarter.

We stroll through Gate d'Amboise to walk along the Street of the Knights and see where they lived, separated according to Order, their crests still visible today.

We will also see (outside) the imposing Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes, a medieval castle also known as the Castello. It's one of the few examples of Gothic architecture in Greece. The Byzantine citadel was built in the 7th Century, the palace itself in the fourteenth.

Where the palace sits today could well have been the spot where once stood the Colossus according to recent studies.

Either way, this tour takes us into the heart of the fascinating history of Rhodes.



Gate d'Amboise



Monastery of Panagia Philerimos

PHILERIMOS CHURCH AND THE PALACE OF THE KNIGHTS

Duration: Half day
Tour code: RHO - 02



CHILD
€55

ADULT
€74

Our tour begins at the Acropolis of Rhodes, just outside the city. It dates from the Classical Greek period and sits proudly on the hill of St Stephanos.

We wander through the ruins of the Hellenistic Temple of Apollo with its impressive columns. Below is the restored Ancient Stadium of Diagoras and theatre. The stadium once hosted games in tribute to the sun-god Helios.

We then head for Philerimos, one of the great tourist attractions of the island. The beautiful Monastery of Panagia Philerimos is located on a hill above Ialysos, one of the three Rhodian cities that participated in the Trojan War. The Monastery, accessed by stone steps surrounded by Cypress trees, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary the Life-Giving Source and unusually is Gothic in style. It was built in the 15th Century by the Knights of St John.

We also take time to visit the Byzantine Church of St George Hostos with its rare frescoes depicting the Knights. The church is also home to the 'Golgotha' a series of copper reliefs depicting the Passion of Christ.

We return to the capital Rhodes to learn more about the Knights, where they lived and how they were the last bastion of Christianity in a region dominated by the Ottomans who eventually captured the island in 1522. In the Knights' Quarter we visit the magnificent Palace of the Grandmaster also known as the Castello. This too was built in Gothic style.

This is one of the most atmospheric and intriguing areas of Rhodes, where we delve into the very heart and soul of its history.



Philerimos



Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes



Street of the Knights in the Old City

WALKING TOUR IN THE MEDIEVAL CITY OF RHODES

Duration: Half day

Tour code: RHO - 11

Sometimes the best way of immersing yourself completely in the history and atmosphere of a place is to explore on foot. That's exactly what we do on this fascinating tour where we get to the very heart of Medieval Rhodes and the compelling story of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem.

We begin along the Street of the Knights in the Old City. It's one of the best preserved medieval thoroughfares anywhere.

We will see the buildings that were home to the Knights, ranked by Order with the crests still in place today.

The purpose of the Knights originally was to provide medical care for wounded crusaders but they soon became a military order and fought off attempts by the Ottomans to capture Rhodes (which they did eventually). The head of the Order was the Grand Master.

We visit the splendid Palace of the Grand Master, the focal point and most important site of the Knights' Quarter. This magnificent structure is also called the Castello a fine example of Gothic architecture.

The Byzantine citadel was constructed in the 7th Century, the palace itself in the 14th Century.

Where the palace sits today might have been the spot where once stood the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



**CHILD
€30**

**ADULT
€47**

Our tour also takes in the Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent, Turkish Baths, the Hospital of the Knights and the Church of Our Lady of the Castle, which has stood guard since the 11th Century.



Grand Master of the Knights Palace



View from the walls of the Palace of the
Grand Master of the Knights

HERAKLION

EXCURSIONS



Knossos Palace



The ancient city of Knossos

KNOSSOS PALACE AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Duration: Half day
Tour code: HER - 01



CHILD
€55

ADULT
€74

The island of Crete may be best known for being one of Greece's most popular tourist destinations but look a little deeper and you will find something a little fascinating. The ancient city of Knossos, near the capital Heraklion, was the place that 'gave birth' to the very first civilisation of Europe, the Minoans. So we can probably say it's Europe's oldest city.

Our excursion will open up the world of the Minoans as we visit one of the continent's most important archaeological treasures.

The first excavations were undertaken in the 1870s by Minos Kalokairinos, a Cretan himself. A few decades later in the early 1900s, more work by Sir Arthur Evans from Britain brought to the world's attention the Palace of Knossos, according to legend the residence of wise King Minos in its entirety.

We will be able to explore the large Central Court, the wonderful Throne Room, the imposing Grand Staircase and see the fresco of the 'Prince of the Lilies.'

As you stroll through the palace apartments and view the archaeological finds, we think you will be just a little impressed by the rich cultural heritage of the Minoan civilisation.

You will undoubtedly hear the Cretan legend of the Minotaur, half man, half bull who lived in the Labyrinth

and was slain by Theseus. But that's a whole other story.

We call in at the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion to find out more of the background to the history and culture of Crete.

Our tour ends in Heraklion and the home to many important historical figures, including Nobel Prize winning poet Odysseas Elytis, the painter El Greco and the writer Nikos Kazantzakis.

The city is also blessed with some beautiful buildings and edifices including the 'Koules' fortress, Venetian Loggia, Morosini Fountain, Basilica of St Mark, Church of Agios Titus, medieval monastery of St Catherine and the Cathedral of Agios Minas.





The ancient city of Knossos

MINOAN PALACE OF KNOSSOS - 1ST EUROPEAN CIVILISATION

Duration: Half day
Tour code: HER - 02



CHILD
€55

ADULT
€74

The ancient city of Knossos, near Crete's capital Heraklion, was the place that 'gave birth' to the very first civilisation of Europe, the Minoans.

So we can say with some certainty it is Europe's oldest city.

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You will undoubtedly hear the Cretan legend of the Minotaur, half man, half bull who lived in the Labyrinth and was slain by Theseus. But that's another story.

Exploring from room to room we will relive time in the Hall of the Royal Guard and the King's Chamber, hearing about the extraordinary rule of King Minos.



The Magazine in Knossos palace



Knossos



Traditional Cretan dancers at the Raki distillery

EXPERIENCE THE CRETAN COUNTRYSIDE AND LIFESTYLE

Duration: Half day

Tour code: HER - 04



**CHILD
€55**

**ADULT
€74**

Leaving the Venetian walls of Heraklion behind us, we drive deep into the beautiful countryside of Greece's largest island and the birthplace of Zeus according to mythology. We pass through Episkopi and Sgourokefali before arriving at the traditional village of Stironas. Here you take a deep breath, enjoy the fresh mountain air and take in the majestic view at 550 metres above sea level.

Stironas is made up of traditional stone buildings arranged amphitheatrically looking towards the mountains. You will see how the Cretans lived centuries ago. We also visit a botanical parterre, home to various aromatic and medicinal herbs from the mountains of Crete.

There will be the opportunity for a little wine tasting - wine has been in Crete since the Minoans, so the locals have a bit of experience in the matter. We visit a raki distiller and sample the product straight from the barrels in his cellar. After finding out more about production and bottling there will be a Cretan meze to enjoy with pure local olive oil and traditional dancers performing for their guests. You will have imbibed the true flavour of countryside life for a few hours.

We head back to historic Heraklion which was founded in 824 and learn about some of its key historic figures and the jewels in the crown of its

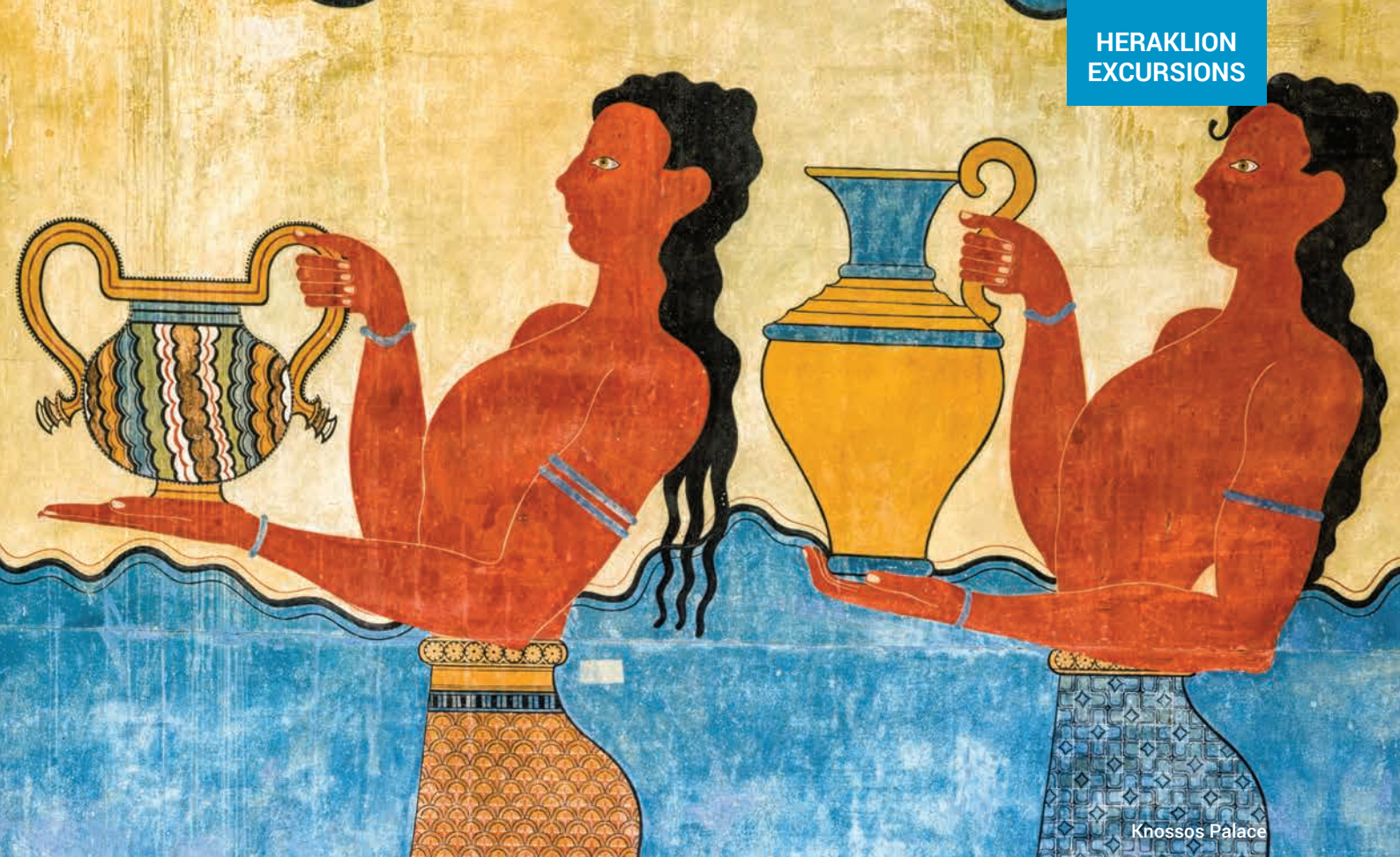
wonderful structures including the 'Koules' fortress, Venetian Loggia, Basilica of St Mark, medieval monastery of St Catherine and the Cathedral of Agios Minas.



Enjoy the Cretan countryside



Agios Minas Cathedral



Knossos Palace

KNOSSOS PALACE & CRETAN LANDSCAPES

Duration: Half day

Tour code: HER - 05

This extended coach tour takes us first to the heart of the ancient Minoan civilisation, the grand city of Knossos. Here we will take in many centuries of history, architecture, art and culture and discover the legends of Daedalus, Theseus and the formidable half man, half beast, the Minotaur.

Exploring from room to room we will relive time in the Hall of the Royal Guard and the King's Chamber, hearing the stories of King Minos.

The Minoans can be counted as Europe's oldest civilisation from 2700 BC and Knossos its oldest city.

The Minoans were swept away by the Mycenaeans from mainland Greece and Crete passed through numerous hands over the centuries from the Byzantines, Arabs and Venetians to the Ottomans. Crete became part of Greece in December 1913.

After our discoveries in Knossos we drive through the countryside to Thrapsano, Crete's pottery village.

We can watch traditional craftsmen and women at work producing pottery and ceramics and take a wander around a community suspended in time. We will journey along the ancient wine routes and through soothing, relaxing landscapes to Myrtia. Here is the Nikos Kazantzakis Museum dedicated to the life and work of this famous Greek writer.



CHILD
€60

ADULT
€85



Cretan landscape



The Magazine in Knossos palace

SANTORINI

EXCURSIONS





Oia Village

SPECTACULAR OIA VILLAGE PERCHED ON THE CALDERA RIM

Duration: Half day

Tour code: SAN - 01



**CHILD
€55**

**ADULT
€74**

If you are a first time visitor to Santorini she will take your breath away.

And even if you are a regular visitor, with her soaring landscapes and whitewashed houses she will still do that every time. She is regularly described as one of the most beautiful places on the planet. There are plenty of magic moments on our excursion.

One of the greatest spectacles is Oia village perched on the rim of the Caldera, the remains of a volcanic eruption.

Santorini is a ring of rock around the sea. Think of it as the rim of an old volcano.

First we head to Megalochori, one of the most authentic and unspoiled villages on the island, retaining its distinctive architecture, character and charm.

Our trip continues eastwards through a number of traditional communities like Firostefani and Imerovigli until we arrive at Oia. On our journey we will have had the lace-like caldera to our west, the little islands of Thirasia, Palea and Nea Kameni and an incredible, unsurpassable panoramic view.

There is plenty of time in Oia to explore, stroll the marble-paved alleys, visit the adorable shops and capture the moments on camera.

Admire the traditional buildings carved into the rocks and the unusual captain's manors, the settlement of Ammoudi at the foot of the caldera.



Ammoudi Bay

Bell tower at
Megalochori Village



Nea Kameni

CRUISE TO SANTORINI'S ISLANDS AND VOLCANOES

Duration: Half day

Tour code: SAN - 02



**CHILD
€42**

**ADULT
€69**

This trip is a must for those who want to acquaint themselves just a little better with the islands fringing the caldera, the volcanic remnants.

A small boat will take us first to Nea Kameni. Its geology resembles a lunar landscape. We walk up the verge of the crater, the heart of the volcano and it's an experience that should fill you with awe. The beaches of Nea Kameni are embraced by thermal springs.

Our next stop on this special excursion is Palea Kameni with its therapeutic warm waters.

The sea temperature here is five degrees higher than elsewhere and the green-yellow water contains sulphur.

After our trip to the volcano we have a change of pace as we visit the energetic Fira, the island's main town, for a stroll around, a quiet drink or simply the chance to soak up the atmosphere. We descend by funicular (ticket included in the excursion) to the Old Port for the transfer back to the ship.

Tour may not be available at certain times of the year.



Nea Kameni



Fira



Akrotiri Village

AKROTIRI VILLAGE EXCAVATIONS

Duration: Half day

Tour code: SAN - 08

Modern day Santorini has been shaped quite literally by one event in ancient history.

In 1650 BC the huge volcano Thira erupted, sinking the centre of the island then known as Strongyle and leaving behind an incredible caldera.

And it is on that small, circular, remnant that Santorini now sits, about 200 miles from the Greek mainland.

The municipality includes the inhabited islands of Santorini and Therasia and the uninhabited ones of Nea Kameni, Palea Kameni, Aspronisi and Christiana.

The soaring landscapes that give Santorini its unique look were formed by the eruption and you will almost certainly gaze in awe as you journey on a tender boat to the port of Athina to head for Santorini's most important archaeological site, the village of Akrotiri. On the way we make a brief stop at the ruins of the island's famous windmill and take in the wonderful view.

The settlement of Akrotiri was destroyed in the eruption and buried in volcanic ash which preserved many of its buildings, structures and fine frescoes. The site has been excavated since the 1960s.

You will find a place held in time and it is an incredible experience.



CHILD
€55

ADULT
€74

It has been suggested Akrotiri could have been the inspiration for Plato's story of Atlantis, but there are numerous other places vying for that honour.

After Akrotiri we head for the capital Fira, the island's largest town, to visit the Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, also known as the Church of Ypapantis. It is famed for its elegance and beautiful frescos painted by Santorini artist Christoforus Assimis.

We have time to linger in Fira for shopping, a stroll or a relaxing coffee before making our way back to the tender boats by way of the teleferik, the Santorini Cable Car. It's an impressive descent of more than 200 metres to the blue waters of the caldera at the harbour side.

Tour may not be available at certain times of the year.



Excavations at Akrotiri

MYKONOS

EXCURSIONS





MYKONIAN COUNTRYSIDE TOUR WITH CHORA AND LITTLE VENICE

Duration: Half day
Tour code: MYK - 06



CHILD
€44

ADULT
€67

We set off by coach from Mykonos Town, also known as Chora and head for Omos.

It's a picturesque fishing harbour and popular anchorage sitting on a narrow isthmus between two beaches and its streets are lined with tavernas.

We visit the lovely colourful beaches of Agia Anna and Kalafatis.

On our return trip to Chora we call at the traditional village of Ano Mera and the monastery of Panagia Tourliani, founded in 1542.

It houses a wonderful collection of icons and has a beautiful bell tower and marble fountain, well worth seeing.

The delightful village square of Ano Mera is the perfect spot for a short break and maybe a coffee. You'll be relaxing in one of the island's oldest communities.

Back in Mykonos Town we stop at the Paraportiani church (which literally means Our Lady of the Side Gate and is actually made up of five churches) and the Folklore Museum. Here you can see many exhibits including traditional costumes, furniture and personal items typical of Mykonos life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It's a fascinating glimpse into the island of more than 100 years ago

We finish at Little Venice, the neighbourhood of Alefkhandra to admire those famous windmills, a sight you can surely never tire of.

Tour may not be available at certain times of the year.



Monastery of Panagia Tourliani



Paraportiani Church



Delos

DELOS - SACRED ISLAND & APOLLO SANCTUARY

Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK - 03

From Mykonos we sail to the ancient harbour of Delos to explore one of the most important mythological and historical sites in all of Greece, 'the sacred of all islands.'

Excavation work is still ongoing in this incredible location and archaeologists consider the island to be one of the finest sites in the Mediterranean. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Once again we really will travel back in time and experience a rich historical wonder.

Delos was a holy sanctuary and one of the most important and prosperous commercial ports in the eastern Mediterranean during the 1st millennium BC. Olympian mythology made it the birthplace of Apollo and his twin sister Artemis and it attracted pilgrims from all over Greece.



CHILD
€55

ADULT
€74

There are numerous ruins to marvel at including Doric temples, an amphitheatre, houses with mosaics, Agora, the Oikos (House) of Naxians and the iconic statues at the Terrace of the Lions. Seven of the original full sized marble lions still stand.

There are the remains of the Sanctuary of Apollo and the Establishment of the Poseidoniasts of Beirut, built by ship owners and merchants from that city across the Mediterranean.

There is much more to see in this awe-inspiring open air museum.

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

The excursion includes guide, boat and entrance fees.



Delos



Mykonos

MYKONIAN DINNER

Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK - 04

This popular excursion on foot takes us up close to the wonders of Mykonos Town or Chora and the sights, sounds, tastes and flavours that make it one of the world's best loved destinations. We begin with a stroll along the narrow cobbled streets, past the boutiques, whitewashed houses and elegant cafes until we come to Kastro, home of the famously beautiful Paraportiani Church, a must for every visitor. We may visit the Folklore Museum or Aegean Maritime Museum. The Folklore Museum is housed in an old two storey captain's house. The museum's exhibits include traditional costumes, furniture and household items typically found on Mykonos in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as jewellery and textiles. The Maritime Museum used to be the home of the legendary Master of the merchant ship "Enosis", Nikolaos Sourmelis. Its exhibits include models of ships from the pre-Minoan period to this day, historical shipping documents, rare engravings and maps, ancient artefacts, navigational instruments, equipment and tools.

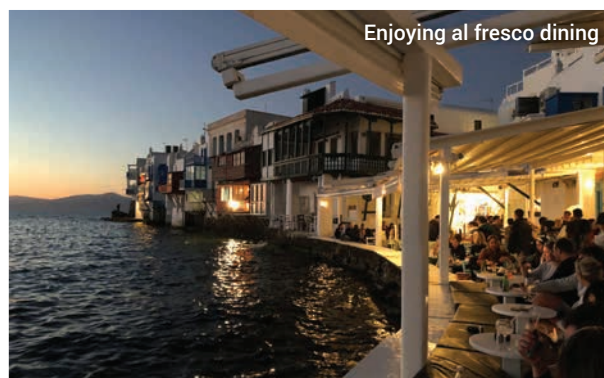
Our tour continues with a walk to Alefkhandra and the ubiquitous windmills, the symbol of Mykonos, recognised the world over. This part of the town is known as Little Venice. The houses belonging to wealthy merchants and sea captains were built on the water in the 18th century and their wooden balconies are a little reminder of the homes along the canals of Venice.



CHILD
€55

ADULT
€78

We conclude our trip at a local taverna, where we enjoy traditional food and drink, reflect on what we have seen, chat and savour the tastes, aromas and essence of genuine Greek spirit.





Enjoy lunch in Mykonos

CYCLADIC TASTES (FOOD ON FOOT)

Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK - 07

This is what we call our food on foot tour and we think it's a very healthy way to eat!

Mykonos is famed for its many restaurants and delightful little eateries so this excursion gives us the perfect opportunity to sample the traditional local fare while taking in the atmosphere of Mykonos Town's different neighbourhoods.

We start off with a caffeine injection at Cafe Barco where we will be served with a delicious coffee and sweet treat.

This sets us up nicely for a stroll past those famous windmills, along the narrow, cobbled lanes of Little Venice and the Three Mills to the incomparable Paraportiani Church.

Next there is the chance to sample Greek peppers and olives washed down with local raki before we head to Gioras bakery for some of their very delicious and renowned cheese and onion pie. At Popola we will be served local bruschetta, followed by a visit to the pretty garden of Cine Manto to enjoy fresh Greek salad, Mykonian sausage and beer.

Last but by no means least there is fig cheesecake served with olive marmalade waiting for us at Il Forno di Gerasmo. Now that's a delightful way to round off a superb culinary experience. Bon appetit and yamas (good health).

Please note that venues are subject to change.



**CHILD
€55**

**ADULT
€74**



Sun-dried octopus



Traditional Greek salad



SACRED DELOS & RHENIA ISLAND

Duration: Full day

Tour code: MYK - 12

Take a memorable cruise to the so-called 'Cycladic Sisters', consisting of, Mykonos, Delos and Rhenia.

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.

After visiting the exquisite archaeological site of Delos we will then sail straight to the mesmerizing beaches and crystal clear waters of the uninhabited island of Rhenia where you can take your time



**CHILD
€65**

**ADULT
€110**

to swim, snorkel and truly let go. Sandy coves, clear crystal waters and uncrowded beaches are Rhenia island's true specialty.





Sarakiniko



Christian catacombs

STEP BACK IN TIME - (RELIGIOUS)

Duration: Half day

Tour code: MIL - 02R

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 harbour 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



**CHILD
€55**

**ADULT
€74**

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.



Plaka



Roman amphitheater



Plaka village

STEP BACK IN TIME

Duration: Half day

Tour code: MIL - 02

The incredible volcanic island of Milos is one of the most beautiful places on earth. But don't take our word for that. Come and see for yourself.

On this excursion we invite you to step back in time with us. A short drive from the harbour takes us to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. It is a startlingly beautiful, otherworldly spot and one of the island's many geological wonders.

It is probably 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 might feel as if you have landed on the moon.

You can peer down into clear turquoise waters and you may see adventurous tourists swimming and snorkeling in the caves at the bottom of the ravine. You may be tempted to join them but there won't be any time!

Our next stop along the picturesque coast road is 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 homemade delicacies at the local pastry shops.



**CHILD
€55**

**ADULT
€74**

Very close to Plaka we call at the ruins of ancient Melos and its Roman amphitheatre 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 amphitheatre, fully restored in 2015, still includes seven intact rows of seats and offers a lovely view of the bay. We will also see where the Venus de Milo, now residing in the Louvre in Paris, was discovered in 1820.

The last stop is the award-winning Mining Museum which brings together our theme of stepping back in time. The mining history of the island and the fascinating exhibits telling the story gives you an understanding of how the rich geology of Milos has shaped it. You will also see the materials that are still excavated from the island and where we find them in everyday life.



Paleochori beach

THE AMAZING BEACHES TOUR

Duration: Half day

Tour code: MIL - 03

Milos is home to some of the Cyclades' most stunning beaches, including Paleochori, considered the best on the island for swimmers, divers, sun-worshippers and water sports enthusiasts.

About a thirty-minute drive from the port at Adamas, Paleochori is actually made up of three beaches totalling 800 meters of sandy coastline.

It is known for dramatic cliff faces given dazzling reds and yellows by mineral deposits including sulphur.

Your coach will drop you conveniently 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 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 then relax.

After Paleochori we drive to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. This startlingly beautiful spot is one of the island's many geological wonders.

ISLANDS magazine has named Sarakiniko one of the world's 30 most beautiful undiscovered beaches.



**SOLD ONLY
ON BOARD**

You'll feel as if you landed on the moon as we descend for a delightful swim in the bright turquoise waters. Then it's a relaxing drive back to port.



Sarakiniko



Kleftiko

NOSTALGIC MILOS CRUISE - LAND & SEA

Duration: Full day

Tour code: MIL - 06

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.



**SOLD ONLY
ON BOARD**

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.



Kleftiko

ATHENS

EXCURSIONS



Parthenon



Acropolis

ATHENS MONUMENTS AND THE ACROPOLIS

Duration: Half day

Tour code: PIR-101

A walk with us through the very heart of Athens brings us to one of most recognisable, historic and most photographed sites in the world, the famous Acropolis with the Parthenon at its summit.

It is a reminder of Ancient Greece's powerful civilisation and the greatest architectural complex bequeathed by Greek Antiquity.

The monuments on the Acropolis (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) have survived for almost 25 centuries.

On this hill that still dominates Athens, democracy and philosophy were born so it is little wonder that a visit to Classical Athens is quite simply awe-inspiring.

The Parthenon is dedicated to the goddess Athena, protector of the city.

At the foot of the Acropolis and its ancient temples lies the oldest neighbourhood of Athens, Plaka. Visitors are mesmerised and charmed by its beautiful houses, cobblestone streets and tiny shops, architecture, elegant atmosphere and neo-classical colours and the well preserved gardens and Byzantine churches.



**CHILD
€55**

**ADULT
€78**

As we head away from the Acropolis and Plaka, we pass the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Parliament with the familiar sentries or Evzones, synonymous with the city. No visit to Athens can be complete without a stop at the Panathenaic Stadium where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896.

We also see the 'Trilogy of Athens' which comprises the University of Athens, National Library and the Academy of Athens.

Our three hour odyssey through ancient history ends appropriately at the Squares of Omonia and Syntagma, the very centre of modern day Athens.



Panathenaic Stadium



Corinth Canal

PANORAMIC ATHENS AND CORINTH CANAL CROSSING

Duration: Full day

Tour code: PIR-105



**CHILD
€60**

**ADULT
€85**

We are following figuratively in the footsteps of some of the greatest names in history.

Socrates. Plato. Pericles. To name just three. And we explore one of the country's more modern feats of engineering.

We travel to the very heart of Athens to get a sense of one of the most historically important capitals in the world. We set off on a panoramic tour of the city named after the goddess of wisdom and warfare and begin to understand why ancient Athens was such a powerful place.

Our excursion takes us around Syntagma Square, the city's central plaza and includes the jewels in the crown of the National Library, Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We travel along the historic avenues to see Schliemann's House, the cathedral and university and the Russian Orthodox Church. We stop at the Panathenaic Stadium which staged the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and pass the former Royal Palace and Zappeion Hall before arriving at the dramatic, towering, Temple of Zeus.

We then leave Athens behind and drive along the scenic coastal highway to Corinth for a cruise along the stunning Corinth Canal opened in 1893. This remarkable structure is flanked by steep and mesmerising cliffs, has no locks and connects

the Ionian and Aegean seas. It also separates the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland.

Our excursion concludes with free time at the resort of Isthmia.



The Hellenic Parliament building in Syntagma Square



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



Acropolis

ATHENS TOUR AND THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

Duration: Half day

Tour code: PIR-107

We head to central Athens for a panoramic tour of the city named after the goddess of wisdom and warfare.

First we see the magnificent Temple of Zeus, standing at the south east of the Acropolis.

The Temple is dedicated to the father of the 12 gods.

We continue past the Greek Parliament Building and stop at the Panathenaic Stadium which staged the first modern Olympic Games in 1896.

We arrive at the "Trilogy of Athens": three 19th century buildings, influenced by classical architecture, on Panepistimiou Street.

A trip through Omonia Square and Syntagma Square, the epicentre of modern Athens, will bring us to the beautiful, picturesque preserved quarter of Plaka, beneath the Acropolis.

Our final destination is the modern, bright and imposing Acropolis Museum.



**CHILD
€55**

**ADULT
€78**

Opened in 2009 and on multiple levels, it houses a whole host of exhibits of classical antiquity and is thematic.

It's the perfect way to draw everything together and give context to the wonderful structures you have just seen.

At the end of our journey we hope you will have a full appreciation of the glories of classical Athens and a sense of one of the most historically important capitals in the world.



The Hellenic Parliament building in Syntagma Square



Odeon Herodes Atticus

THE ACROPOLIS & THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

Duration: Full day

Tour code: PIR-108

Our starting point for this truly monumental tour is the Acropolis, which means 'high city.'

At the end of our journey we hope you will have a full appreciation of the glories of the very heart of Athens.

This historic hill is the home of the Parthenon, dedicated to Athena, and a number of other monuments.

They include the Propylaea, originally part of Pericles' great rebuilding programme and the Temple of Athena Nike. This once contained a wooden statue of Athena. It was wingless signifying she would never leave Athens.

Meanwhile, the Erechtheion and its marble edifice is an Ancient Greek temple on the north side of the Acropolis. The eastern part is dedicated to Athena Polias and the western part to Poseidon-Erechtheus.

From the hill you can marvel at the glorious stone theatre structure of the Odeon Herodes Atticus on the southwest slope. To bring us up to date, many of the world's biggest names have performed here including Frank Sinatra, Luciano Pavarotti and of course Nana Mouskouri.

The modern, bright and imposing Acropolis Museum is our next stop. Opened in 2009 it houses a whole host of exhibits of classical antiquity and is thematic.



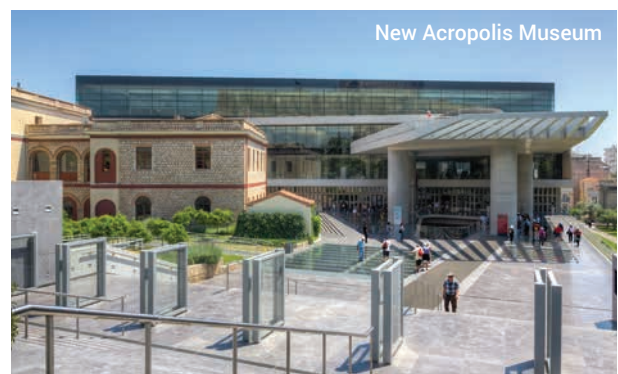
**CHILD
€65**

**ADULT
€88**

It's the perfect way to draw everything together and give context to the wonderful structures you have just seen.

We leave the high city and pass the Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We make a stop at the site of the first modern Olympiad in 1896, the Panathenaic Stadium and then visit the stylish 'Trilogy of Athens', the old building of the University of Athens, the National Library and the Academy of Athens. We end our day with a trip through the epicentre of modern day Athens, the Squares of Omonia and Syntagma.

This is a monumental excursion of discovery, literally and figuratively.



New Acropolis Museum



CELESTYAL
CRUISES

For more information and bookings please visit
celestyal.com
or your local travel agent