



Iconic Greek Islands

3 Night Excursions
Apr - Oct 2026





Explore with us

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, historic, iconic and evocative in the world.

So a very warm welcome to our Iconic Greek Islands excursions.

Joining us on the four 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 and following in the footsteps of great figures from history.

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

You will be amazed at what we can see and do in just a few days. We like to feel that we are taking you on your very own Greek Odyssey across the Aegean.

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

Contents

Bundle offers 3

Mykonos 4

Kusadasi 9

Patmos 16

Heraklion 22

Santorini 28

Athens 34

Prices 38

Guide to Symbols 42

Pre-book and save on shore excursions

Our Mediterranean itineraries are absolutely packed with things to do onshore. Our incredible excursions will take you to places you never imagined, from ancient history to adrenaline-packed thrills. We're talking street food, snorkelling, sailing trips and much more. You won't want to miss out on these experiences, so get ahead and plan your excursions in advance - the more you book, the more you save.

Save up to
10%
when you book
2 tours

Save up to
15%
when you book
3 tours

Save up to
20%
when you book
4+ tours

Our top picks



Mykonos
Mykonian Dinner



Kusadasi - Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman



Patmos - Religious visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse



Heraklion
Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle



Santorini
Spectacular Oia village perched on the Caldera rim

Choose from the following excursions

Mykonos

Mykonian Dinner - MYK-04
Mykonian countryside tour with Chora and Little Venice - MYK-06

Kusadasi

House of Virgin Mary & Ancient Ephesus - KUS-01
Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman - KUS-02
Ancient Ephesus & Terrace Houses - KUS-07

Patmos

Religious visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse - PAT-01
Countryside tour with Chora and the Grotto of Apocalypse - PAT-02
Capturing the true spirit of Chora - PAT-06

Heraklion

Minoan Palace of Knossos - 1st European civilisation - HER-02
Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle - HER-04
Venetian Heraklion and the unique Archaeological Museum - HER-07

Santorini

Spectacular Oia village perched on the Caldera rim - SAN-01
Cruise to Santorini's islands and volcanoes - SAN-02
Akrotiri Village excavations - SAN-08

Mykonos



Mykonian Dinner

📍 Little Venice



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.

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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK-04

Prices

Mykonian countryside tour with Chora and Little Venice

📍 Chora



📍 Monastery of Panagia Tourliani



📍 Paraportiani Church

We set off by coach from Mykonos Town, also known as Chora.

We visit the lovely colourful beach of 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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK-06

Prices

Transfer to Kalafatis Beach

📍 Kalafatis Beach



This vast sandy beach is the ideal spot to try your hand at watersports, splash about or simply relax with a good book and the sea breeze. You can hire a sun lounger and umbrella to unwind for hours with glittering blue Aegean in view.

Located on the quieter eastern side of the island, Kalafatis Beach generally attracts fewer people than other Mykonos beaches. Yet the good offshore breeze means that windsurfing and other water sports won't disappoint.

With a restaurant conveniently situated at either end of the beach, you can grab an authentic bite of local cuisine whenever the mood calls.

For an even more tranquil visit, you can wander across to the smaller and just as beautiful Agia Anna beach - the perfect place for a swim in the sun.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.



📍 Kalafatis Beach



Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK-05

Prices

Transfer to Paradise Beach



Paradise Beach



Paradise Beach is a Mykonos icon. Since its hedonistic days in the 60s when its first thrill seekers sought freedom on the sands, it has become the location for many a club, beach bar and party.

With its wide stretch of sand, turquoise waters and close proximity to Mykonos town, Paradise Beach is a hotspot with a buzzing vibe to match.

Beach bars and restaurants border the sands, so there is always a tune to be heard and a delicious meal to be enjoyed. For a taste of the nightlife during the day, head to the western end of the beach for a fruity cocktail in one of the bars.

Dotted with sun loungers and umbrellas, this is the perfect place to soak up the vibrant atmosphere that Mykonos is known for the world over.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK-08

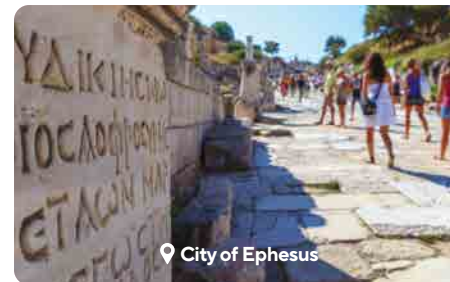
Prices

Kusadasi



House of Virgin Mary & Ancient Ephesus

📍 Library of Celsus, Ephesus



📍 City of Ephesus

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 to the site of the fourth of our Seven Wonders. Ephesus was an Ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia. It's now in Turkey. It was famed for the nearby Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders, completed around 550BC.

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.

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.

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.

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



Duration: Half day

Tour code: KUS-01

Prices

Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman

📍 The Temple of Hadrian



📍 Trajan's Fountain



📍 Baths of Scholastica

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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: KUS-02

Prices

Walk in the Footsteps of Legends

📍 Basilica of St. John



📍 Great Theatre, Ephesus



📍 Library of Celsus, Ephesus

We begin in a place steeped in peace and purpose, the 6th-century Basilica of St. John, built on the hillside where it's believed the Evangelist himself was laid to rest. Today, its ruins may be worn by time, but the feeling? Still powerful. And the views? Simply stunning.

Then it's onwards to Ephesus, one of the best-preserved ancient cities in the world, and once the beating heart of the Roman Empire. You'll enter through the Magnesia Gate and walk along gleaming marble streets once trodden by emperors. Along the way, your guide will bring to life iconic wonders like the Library of Celsus, the grand Odeon, and the Great Theatre, where 25,000 spectators once gathered.

And yes, you'll also wander the Arcadian Way, once graced by none other than Cleopatra and Mark Antony. Just picture it. (Go on, we'll wait).

Between these ancient stories, there's also time for a little present-day treasure hunting. Think handcrafted carpets, glittering jewellery, beautiful leatherwork and more, because let's be honest, who doesn't love a good souvenir?



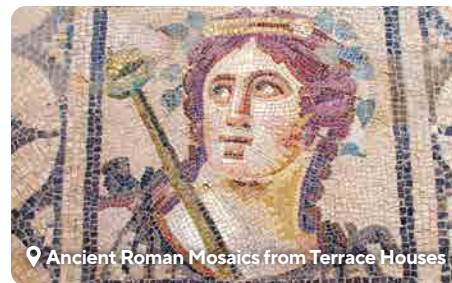
Duration: Half day

Tour code: KUS-03

Prices

Ancient Ephesus and the Terrace Houses

📍 Main Street of Curetes



📍 Ancient Roman Mosaics from Terrace Houses



📍 Library of Celsus

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

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



Duration: Half day

Tour code: KUS-07

Prices

Adventure, spills and thrills at Adaland Water Park



A water world of adventure awaits guests at Adaland, something of a contrast with our more sedate tours.

If a little adrenaline and excitement is what you crave, it's an experience tailor made for you.

This is Turkey's biggest themed water park and one of the largest and best regarded in Europe.

There are 10,000 square metres of slides, wave pools, waterfalls and rides with facilities and thrills for all age groups.

The heart-stopping 'big rides' include the Screamer, Black Thunder and the Anaconda. The names say it all.



At a more gentle pace, there are boat rides in the lazy river that stretches for 300m through the park and on Treasure Island younger visitors can slide through the 25m Pirate Tunnel or test their balance on the Lily-Pad Raft Walk.

There are more than 20 family friendly rides, plenty to keep everyone busy.

Also featured are the children's pool and slides jacuzzi pool, wave pool, activity pool.

The little ones get their own separate areas.



Duration: Half day - limited availability

Tour code: KUS-06

Prices

Ancient Civilisations with an expert archaeologist

📍 Ephesus

Sometimes you visit a place and metaphorically rub your eyes because you can't quite believe you are there.

We think Ephesus is one such destination.

Every step we take brings us closer to the incredible civilisations of the Hellenes, Romans and Ottomans.

Here once stood one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Temple of Artemis.

Our visit to Ephesus is the very essence of experiential travel and we are proud to be able to show it to you in the company of an expert archaeologist-guide as we feel, see and touch ancient history.

What a magnificent experience to take away and hold onto forever.

Ephesus ranks among the world's most beautiful classical cities.

St John and the Virgin Mary visited and here St Paul wrote one of his most celebrated epistles, the Letter to the Ephesians.

Beginning at the Magnesium Gate we walk gently and leisurely downhill through Ephesus' marble streets, passing historically-significant sites such as the gymnasium, Temple of Hadrian, Upper Agora and Roman Baths.

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 and a heating system, clay pipes under the floor.

Then we come to the breathtaking Celsus Library, built in 135 B.C. and lavishly decorated with facades, columns and sculptures. The library once housed 12,000 scrolls of papyrus manuscripts, making it one of the largest in the ancient world.

A short walk away is the spectacular Greek Theatre, able to seat 24,000.

From here St. Paul preached to the populace, imploring them to give up their worship of Artemis and embrace the Christian faith.

Only foundations and fragment of the magnificent Temple of Artemis remain at Ephesus but just being at the site of one of the Seven Wonders is something special.

Authentic Encounters

Experiences just for you and a few



Duration: Half day
limited availability - for 10-20 Guests

Tour code: KUS-11

Prices

Patmos



Religious visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse

📍 St John's Monastery



📍 St John's Monastery

This excursion takes us to a small but fascinating island with connections to the Bible and to the Gods.

Patmos in the Aegean is among the northernmost islands of the Dodecanese.

It has long been a place of pilgrimage because Patmos is mentioned in the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Christian Bible.

It records that St John the Evangelist received a vision from Jesus here.

Visitors can see the location where John is said to have had the revelation, the Cave or Grotto of the Apocalypse.

Meanwhile a number of churches are named after the apostle and we are able to call at the Monastery of St John.

The picturesque alleyways wind up to the Monastery which was founded by St. Christodoulos in 1088.

We are able to enter the yard, where the monks take their meals and the old bakery.

Of exquisite beauty is our tour of the Byzantine Church of St John, adorned with a wood-carved icon screen, important frescoes from several periods of history.

Next we stop at a small museum which is home to priceless religious treasures including manuscripts, medieval textiles and vestments.

Behind the chapel of St Anne lies the entrance to the Grotto of the Apocalypse.

We will see the cross engraved by St John and the triple fissure in the wall where John is said to have heard God telling of the Apocalypse.

You may feel the historical and religious enormity of this special moment.

In Greek mythology Patmos originally existed at the bottom of the sea but Zeus was persuaded to allow it rise from the waters. The sun dried the land and people from the region began inhabiting the island they named Letois after the goddess Artemis.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: PAT-01

Prices

Countryside tour with Chora and the Grotto of Apocalypse

Skala



St John's Monastery



The lovely island of Patmos is a UNESCO World Heritage Monument.

Our panoramic excursion begins in the port of Skala, heading to the centre of the island and the capital of Chora.

Here we see the Monastery of St John the Evangelist and visit the Grotto of the Apocalypse.

This is where, according to the biblical account, Jesus spoke to John and told him of the Apocalypse.

It is mentioned in the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Christian Bible.

It's no surprise then that many people make their way to Patmos each year for pilgrimage.

In the central area of Chora we find the silent windmills which stand sentry-like over the capital.

Our tour continues as we head to some of the more desolate landscapes of the island, typical of the Dodecanese. Rocky hills, barren soil and promontories jutting into the sea creating dozens of coves and bays making up an intricate coastline.

Here you might reflect on the legend of how the island lay at the bottom of the sea and how Zeus was prevailed upon to allow it to rise from the water. Which he did.

We end our exploration back at Skala.

Coffee and other refreshments await you at the atmospheric cafe Arion.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: PAT-02

Prices



Mansion of Simandiri



Mansion of Simandiri

Our Greek Odyssey has an undoubted spiritual dimension.

Perhaps this is no surprise when you consider how important the history of Christianity is to the places we visit of our voyage of discovery.

This certainly true of Patmos, one of the northernmost islands of the Dodecanese and a significant Christian pilgrimage site.

You can almost feel its strong spiritual character and you may find your time here a truly moving, soulful experience.

The Cave of the Apocalypse is where John of Patmos or St John the Theologian is said have received the visions he wrote of in the Book of Revelations.

A fortresslike, 11th-century monastery dedicated to John overlooks the whitewashed houses of the hilltop capital, Hora (also known as Chora).

In Chora, next to the Monastery of Zoodochos Pigi, is the unique 1625 mansion of Simandiri, which is where we are headed.

The mansion has been converted into a folklore museum, a genuine cultural gem and monument. It has been beautifully preserved for eight generations now, the second oldest building in the town.

The lady of the house, Morfoula Simantiri is our host and guide, gracefully presenting her precious handmade embroideries. She is a member of the eighth generation.

Here you can step back in time in the intimate setting and glimpse everyday life in Patmos during the past centuries through furniture, paintings, photographs, traditional tools and everyday objects.

We hope you will be enthralled by this beautiful home, constructed by craftsmen from Asia Minor. You will be able to admire the traditional architecture of Patmos in the vaulted ceilings in an open ground floor swept by stunning arches.

Discover in the rooms antique furniture and silverware from 17th Century Russia, valuable artwork and icons from the 15th to 17th centuries. The mansion is veritable treasure trove and time machine which intrigues and fascinates.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: PAT-06

Prices

Transfer to Agriolivadi Beach

📍 Agriolivadi beach



📍 Agriolivadi beach

Agriolivadi Beach situated in a small, secluded bay on Patmos is a hugely popular destinations for locals and visitors alike.

It's as classic an Aegean beach as you will find and the best on the island along with Psili Ammos.

Agriolivadi, about 3km from the port of Skala, means 'wild meadow' and the beach caters for all tastes, sun lounging, swimming or water sports.

The water is beautiful and clean and the atmosphere on the beach is relaxed.

At the end of the beach there is an excellent Greek taverna.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.



📍 Agriolivadi beach



Duration: Half day

Tour code: PAT-04

Prices

Traditional feast in Patmos

📍 Typical Greek Taverna



This gastronomic trip features an unforgettable feast served in a traditional Patmos taverna.

Your welcoming hosts are keen to show you the traditional dishes of their beautiful island in one of the loveliest classic hillside villages,

We begin at the port of Scala for the scenic coach ride to the hills.

The island, one of the northernmost in the Dodecanese, is made up of three mountainous parts, linked by two isthmuses at the centre.

Patmos feels off the beaten path and esoteric, thanks to its unspoilt natural beauty, picture postcard villages, stunning vistas and sacred sites.

We drive through numerous fabulous villages - but be sure to look down for incredible views of the Aegean, from which Patmos rose on the orders of Zeus.

At least that's according to Greek mythology and who are we to argue?

Greeted by the scent of wildflowers we take a short stroll to the taverna where the tables are overflowing with traditional Patmian fare.

Local musicians and a dance troupe perform as we enjoy a wonderful meal.

We experience the authentic heart of the Patmos countryside.

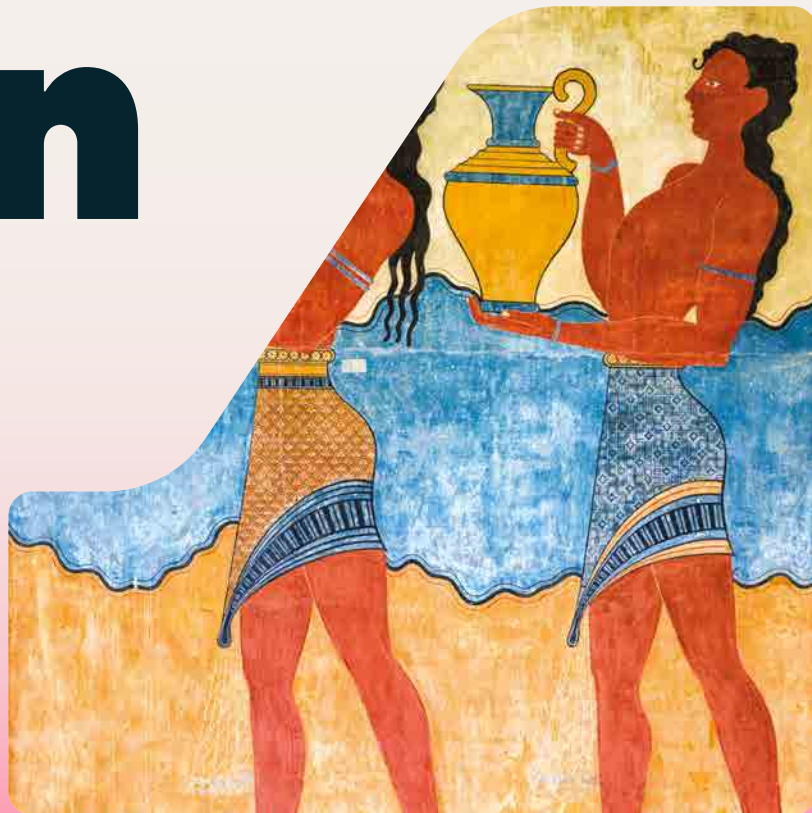


Duration: Half day

Tour code: PAT-05

Prices

Heraklion



Minoan Palace of Knossos – 1st European civilisation

📍 The ancient city of Knossos



📍 The Magazine in Knossos palace



📍 Knossos

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.

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 full impressive scale of the Palace of Knossos, according to legend the residence of wise King Minos.

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 in awe of 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 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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: HER-02

Prices

Venetian Heraklion and the unique Archaeological Museum

Heraklion



The Queen's Megaron, Knossos Palace



Archaeological Museum of Heraklion

Crete is Greece's largest island and the birthplace of Zeus according to mythology.

Our tour enables us to find out more of the important period of Venetian rule and explore the jewels in the crown of the capital Heraklion's wonderful structures including the 'Koules' fortress, Venetian Loggia, Basilica of St Mark, medieval monastery of St Catherine and the Cathedral of Agios Minas.

The Venetian Loggia is an especially eye-catching and beautiful structure that still functions as the Town Hall of Heraklion. It was built in 1620 and was a place for Venetian nobleman to gather. The fortifications of Heraklion surround the old city. They were first constructed in the Middle Ages but they were completely rebuilt by the Republic of Venice and resisted the Ottoman Turkish forces for 22 years in the 1600s. They are among the best preserved city walls in the Mediterranean.

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 oldest city. We can really feel the sense of history and understand some of the myths and legends of Ancient Greece here in Heraklion.

We also learn about some of Crete's leading figures, including Nobel Prize winning poet Odysseas Elytis, the painter El Greco and the writer Nikos Kazantzakis.

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



Duration: Half day

Tour code: HER-07

Prices

Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle

📍 Traditional Cretan dancers at the Raki distillery



📍 Agios Minas Cathedral

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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: HER-04

Prices

Transfer to Ammoudara Beach

📍 Ammoudara Beach



Located 5km west of Heraklion, Ammoudara Beach is a popular spot that caters for all types of travellers, from solo adventurers to couples and families. Sunbathe, swim or take a trip on a jet ski - you can do it all here.

With its long stretch of golden sand, Ammoudara Beach has different areas to suit every visitor. There are a few great local eateries, sun loungers and water centres, and with calm shallow waters, it's an ideal spot to take the kids. To find solitude and really take in the views, simply wander towards Heraklion and you'll find a quieter stretch.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: HER-10

Prices

A journey through ancient Gortyna

📍 Ancient city of Gortyna



📍 Basilica of St Titus



📍 Cathedral of St. Minas

Take a guided journey through Crete's ancient past, where crumbling ruins and sacred churches tell stories of power, faith and civilization.

Your adventure starts at Gortyna – or Gortyn – once the Roman capital of Crete and one of the island's oldest Christian centers. Visit the early Christian Church of St Titus, nestled among olive trees and scattered ruins. Dedicated to the island's first bishop and disciple of St Paul, the remains of this 6th Century basilica reflect Crete's evolution from pagan temples to Christian faith.

Not far from the church lies the Gortyn Law Code – an extraordinary wall of stone inscriptions dating back to the 5th Century BC – offering a rare glimpse into everyday life in classical Crete.

From here you'll travel to Crete's capital, Heraklion, and the awe-inspiring Cathedral of St. Minas, one of Greece's largest Orthodox churches. Step inside to admire its soaring domes, sacred icons and peaceful grandeur before concluding your spiritual trail at another Church of St. Titus in the heart of the city. Housing the relics of the saint himself, this is a must visit for all history lovers, and a fitting end to this rich cultural experience.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: HER-14

Prices

Santorini



Spectacular Oia Village perched on the Caldera rim

📍 Oia Village



📍 Ammoudi Bay



📍 Bell tower at Megalochori Village

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.

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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: SAN-01

Prices

Cruise to Santorini's islands and volcanoes

📍 Nea Kameni



📍 Nea Kameni



📍 Palea Kameni and hot mineral springs

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. If you're feeling adventurous, you may swim from your boat to 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.



📍 Fira



Duration: Half day

Tour code: SAN-02

Prices

Akrotiri Village Excavations

📍 Akrotiri Village



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 Athinios 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.

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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: SAN-08

Prices

Transfer to Perissa Beach

📍 Perissa Beach

📍 Perissa beach

📍 Perissa beach bar

📍 Black lava sand at Perissa Beach

Dipping your toes into the black lava sand at Perissa Beach is a unique way to experience Santorini's volcanic geology. And getting closer to nature on Perissa Beach is easy!

Simply paddle in the deep blue and clear waters and gaze at the gigantic Mesa Vouno mountain that seems to climb from the sea. You can hire a sun lounger to bask in the sun or find a shady spot at one of the many cafes and bars that border the sandy stretch.

If you're looking for your next thrill, hire watersports equipment and paddle out into the deep blue, or explore the shallows as you swim in the clean waters that have earned Blue Flag awards over the years.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: SAN-13

Prices

Music, myths and history



Pyrgos is our destination, the highest village on Santorini and one of the most beautiful parts of the island. An exquisite picture-book location which looks and feels as though it belongs in another era, a Greece of yesteryear.

It's charming, enchanting and absorbing and here you can live in the moment with the realisation there you are experiencing something very special.

Here your soul can really rejoice.

The pace of life is peaceful, calm and relaxed, a world away from the what we might know as normal life.

The main square with its tall pine trees and delightful coffee shops is the focal and the perfect place to take in the atmosphere.

Capture the moment and the feelings and hold on to them on our guided walking tour exploring the traditional Cycladic architecture that gives Santorini island its unique look.

**Authentic
Encounters**

Experiences just for
you and a few

Wander through the remains of a Venetian fortress and see the historical 18th century monastery of Profitis Ilias, which is closed to the public but remains home to one solitary monk.

Here are the most breathtaking views over the island.

We travel to Megalochori, a remarkably preserved village of Cycladic and neoclassical architecture. Stroll through rustic streets and marvel at homes dug into the volcanic rock.

Then we head to the Symposion Music and Mythology Cultural Centre for a musical presentation which creates an interactive journey using mythological narration and fifteen hand-crafted wind and string instruments.

The tour explores the history and architecture of the former winery and we will enjoy a cup of honey wine.

Back at Fira Town there is free time to shop and explore on your own.

The cable car ticket is included.



Duration: Half day
limited availability - for 9-14 Guests

Tour code: SAN-16

Prices

Athens



Athens Monuments and the Acropolis

📍 Acropolis



A walk with us through the very heart of Athens brings us to one of the 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.

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.

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.

We also offer transfers to the airport - see the pricing for ATH-101APT



Duration: Half day

Tour code: ATH-101

Prices

Athens tour and the New Acropolis Museum

📍 Acropolis



📍 The Hellenic Parliament building



📍 New Acropolis Museum

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 to 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.

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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: ATH-107

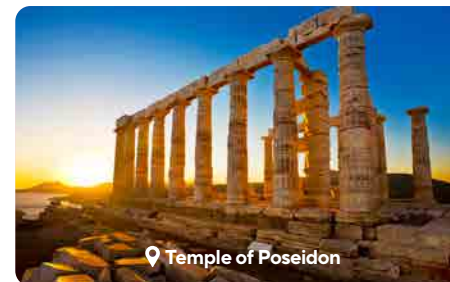
Prices

Ancient Temple of Poseidon and Cape Sounion

📍 Temple of Poseidon



📍 Cape Sounion



📍 Temple of Poseidon



📍 Temple of Poseidon

The 30 minute trip is enchanting, with images full of nature and pine-trees. The Temple of Poseidon awaits you, dedicated to the god of the sea. This is the southernmost and highest point of the cape and the monument looks like it is washed by the Aegean on all sides.

The construction of the Temple was initially commenced at the beginning of the 5th century B.C. Yet, it was destroyed by the Persians during the Persian Wars and so the Athenians built, in 444 B.C., the newer Temple, parts of which are preserved until today. The Temple is of Doric order and bore a frieze with relief decoration while it was also adorned by immense statues called Kouroi.

The archaeological site of Sounion, apart from the Sanctuaries of Poseidon and Athena, includes the fortress, a small settlement from the Hellenistic era, the propylaea (entrance gateway) and the porticoes.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: ATH-106

Prices

Mykonos

Tour Code	Title	EURO	
		Adult	Child
MYK-04	Mykonian Dinner	93	67
MYK-05	Transfer to Kalafatis Beach	SOB	SOB
MYK-06	Mykonian countryside tour with Chora and Little Venice	82	65
MYK-08	Transfer to Paradise Beach	SOB	SOB

Kusadasi

Tour Code	Title	EURO	
		Adult	Child
KUS-01	House of Virgin Mary & Ancient Ephesus	116	72
KUS-02	Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman	101	66
KUS-03	Walk in the Footsteps of Legends	116	72
KUS-06	Adventure, spills and thrills at Adaland Water Park	75	61
KUS-07	Ancient Ephesus and the Terrace Houses	116	72
KUS-11	Ancient civilisations with an expert archaeologist	162	-

Patmos

Tour Code	Title	EURO	
		Adult	Child
PAT-01	Religious visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse	82	65
PAT-02	Countryside tour with Chora and the Grotto of Apocalypse	82	65
PAT-04	Transfer to Agriolivadi Beach	SOB	SOB
PAT-05	Traditional feast in Patmos	SOB	SOB
PAT-06	Capturing the true spirit of Chora	86	65

Prices are per person. SOB = Sold on Board.

Heraklion

Tour Code	Title	EURO	
		Adult	Child
HER-02	Minoan Palace of Knossos - 1st European civilisation	95	74
HER-04	Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle	95	74
HER-07	Venetian Heraklion and the unique Archaeological Museum	88	74
HER-10	Transfer to Ammoudara Beach	SOB	SOB
HER-14	A journey through ancient Gortyna	99	69

Santorini

Tour Code	Title	EURO	
		Adult	Child
SAN-01	Spectacular Oia village perched on the Caldera rim	86	65
SAN-02	Cruise to Santorini's islands and volcanoes	86	65
SAN-08	Akrotiri Village excavations	100	75
SAN-13	Transfer to Perissa Beach	SOB	SOB
SAN-16	Music, myths and history	135	-

Athens

Tour Code	Title	EURO	
		Adult	Child
ATH-101	Athens Monuments and the Acropolis	110	92
ATH-101APT	Athens monuments and the Acropolis - including airport transfer	189	129
ATH-106	Ancient Temple of Poseidon and Cape Sounion	110	92
ATH-107	Athens tour and the New Acropolis Museum	102	70

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.

Normal excursions require a minimum participation as per terms and conditions.

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

Authentic Encounters

Experiences just for you and a few

Pre book and cancellation period is up to two weeks prior to embarkation date.

Our Authentic excursions require a minimum participation, noted on each excursion page.

