

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

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

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication without any knowledge of our passenger's individual abilities. Broadly speaking to enjoy activities such as hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating or other activities involving physical exertion, passengers should be fit and active. Passengers must judge for themselves whether they will be capable of participating in and above all enjoying such activities.



RHODES, GREECE

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

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

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

Lindos

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

€60

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

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

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

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

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



Filerimos and the Medieval town

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

€60

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visits included: Filerimos & the Grand Master's Palace



BODRUM, TURKEY

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

Bodrum Peninsula tour

(depending on date of re-opening after renovation of the museum)

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 17 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

€50

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

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

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

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

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



Gulet tour

Minimum 13 participants, maximum 16

Duration 5h30

Lunch included

€ 110

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

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

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

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

Please take a towel, snorkelling gear, swimsuit, sun hat, sunscreen and extra money on this tour

Drinks are not included

Menu is given as an indication and may vary

Itinerary may be reversed or changed depending on weather conditions

Etrim Village tour

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 11 participants, maximum 30

Duration: 4 hours

Lunch included

€60

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

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

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

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

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

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



DALYAN RIVER, TURKEY

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

Ancient Caunos and Dalyan river

By Boat

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 3h30

€ 50

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

This excursion involves getting on and off boats as well as a fair amount of walking at Caunos.

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

Dalyan river and mud baths

By boat

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35

Duration 3h30

€ 50

Admire the ruins on a romantic canal cruise by motorboat. On the cliffs above you will see Lycian tombs with impressive architectural façades hewn from the rock face. They are designed to look like small temples and each tomb contains stone benches for laying out the dead. Remains from the tombs show that they date from the 4th century BC. Since Caunos is situated on the border between Caria and Lycia, tombs from both areas are built side by side. There are also burial mounds. The tour continues with a mud beauty treatment. The mud not only cleanses and tones the skin but has anti-aging properties and is said to help rheumatism. The mud is allowed to dry and is then washed off in a clear natural sulphur pool with a temperature of around 40° Celsius, leaving you feeling relaxed and refreshed.

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

SANTORINI, GREECE

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



“On the Road to Paradise”

This excursion is not available in July & August

Transfer by air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 25

Duration approximately 5 hours

Experienced hikers only

€68

The tender boat will take you to the port of Athinios where a local guide will be waiting to greet you. Together you will board the motor coach for a panoramic drive along the steep winding road to the highest point of the island.

From this vantage point, the beauty of the island can be seen in all its glory. First you will pass by the picturesque village of Pyrgos set amidst vineyards; once the capital of the island, Pyrgos is known as “the balcony of the Aegian”. The next village you pass is Fira the actual capital of the island with its dazzling white buildings with their blue windows and doors and blue domed churches. The coach continues its ascent until you reach the village of Imerovigli, at the highest, most central point of the island (500M). Its strategic location offers commanding views of the whole island and made it an ideal look out post to watch for marauding pirates, indeed the name derives from the latin vigilare which means to stand guard or keep watch. These days it is just the perfect spot to enjoy the tranquil beauty of the island. Here, at the highest point of the caldera, you will start your hike.

The hike from Imerovigli to the village of Oia take about 2 hours, depending on the group’s pace. The dazzling white village can be seen from quite a distance; it is said that during the Ottoman rule of Greece which lasted over 400 years the population was not allowed to fly the country’s white flag, so the proud inhabitants painted the whole village white in defiance.

As the hike progresses you will be amazed at the beauty of the dramatic landscape unfolding before your eyes and when you reach the village you will agree that it was well worth the effort to get there. Oia is quite simply one of the most romantic and interesting places in the whole world. Once home to a community of seafarers, the village is known for its traditional architecture. You can admire the Captain’s houses belonging to the affluent ship owners and cave dwellings hewn from the rock face, to accommodate the crew. You will have time at leisure to discover the beauties of Oia by yourselves especially the iconic blue double domed church which features on so many postcards.

Afterwards the coach will take you back to Fira where you can decide whether to spend more time on site or whether you prefer to make your way back to the ship via cable car and tender from the pier of the Old port.

We recommend you take sun protection, sunscreen, a hat and bottled water

You will need suitable shoes for hiking

The excursion price includes the transfer by local boat to Athinios, the transfers by coach to Imerovigli (40 minutes) and from Oia to Fira (45 minutes) as well as refreshments and snacks in Oia and the return cable car fare from Fira.

There is practically no shade on this hike

The views are spectacular, you will walk through villages and along the rim of the caldera all the way to Oia

Some of the trails are paved and some are merely dirt tracks

You will see white washed villages scattered all over the caldera, and boundless sea views

There will be time to enjoy the beauties of Oia at your leisure



Santorini Volcano Hiking

This excursion is available in July and August

By boat and by foot

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Duration approx. 3hours

€ 52

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

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

The visit to the volcanic islet involves strenuous uphill walking (approx 1 km).

Appropriate footwear (walking or sport shoes) is mandatory.

There is no shade on the volcano and you should apply sun screen and make sure you have comfortable shoes

The tour may be cancelled if weather conditions are bad.

This tour is not recommended for guests who suffer from seasickness and those with mobility problems.

To do this excursion you need to be physically fit and a good swimmer.

Don't forget to bring your swimsuit, sunscreen and a towel. Due to high sulphur levels light coloured bathing suits may become discoloured.

The climb is 30 minutes up and 20 down

The transfer to the volcano port is only 15 minutes

The transfer to the hot spring is 20 minutes and then 25 back to the ship

Flavours of Santorin: Akrotiri & Oia

By air-conditioned motor-coach

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

€68

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

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

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

The tour at the archaeological site is entirely on foot so comfortable shoes are recommended. There is some uphill walking at Akrotiri.

Exploration of Oia is on foot. Some of the walking involves cobble stoned surfaces and steps.

The rate includes the transfer by boat to Athinios to take your coach, as well as the funicular ticket to get down to the pier in Scala



HYDRA, GREECE

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

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

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

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

ATHENS, GREECE

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

In 1832 Otto, a Bavarian prince descended from the Greek imperial dynasties of Komnenos and Laskaris through his ancestor the Bavarian Duke John II, became the first modern King of Greece. The new city of Athens was planned by the Greek architect Cleanthes and the German, Schaubert, around Otto's austere palace. Situated on a small promontory above the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, the palace dominates Syntagma Square (Constitution Square).

From Syntagma Square, Amalia avenue, (named after Otto's Queen Consort), leads past the National Garden and the Zappion Park to Hadrian's Arch. Behind the park the stadium built for the first modern Olympic Games held in 1896 occupies the same site as that used in ancient times. The mountainous region of Attica and Athens, though barren and infertile, enjoys a superb climate.



Athens and Acropolis museum

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, maximum unlimited

Ends at the airport, 70€ (duration 5 hours)

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

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

The museum was opened to the public in 2009 and nearly 4000 objects are exhibited on three levels with an area of 14.000 square metres. Exhibits include findings from the Acropolis archaeological site as well as artefacts from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece. For those returning to the ship, the tour ends in the centre of Athens; the rest of the passengers will be transferred to the airport.

The tour will end at Syntagma Square in Athens. The guide will then leave and the coach will continue to the airport (arrival 13h00/13h30)

For the tour to carry on to the airport a minimum of 6 departing guests is required

Passengers staying on board for the following cruise will be dropped off in Athens (return on your own to the pier).

The duration of the tour very much depends on the traffic in Athens; if traffic is light the coach will arrive sooner at the airport.

You will spend about two hours in the museum.

The use of cameras and video cameras is free of charge, but flash photography is forbidden in the museum.

