

Athens – Kastellorizo – Fethiye – Symi - Chalki – Milos – 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.

All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions.

Excursions prices quoted may vary if entrance fees to sites increase in 2021.



KASTELLORIZO, GREECE

Kastellorizo is the largest island in an archipelago of 24 islets, and for that reason in ancient times it went by the name of Megisiti which means "the greatest". Despite its grand name Kastellorizo is in fact the smallest in the Dodecanese island group with a surface area of only 9 square kilometres, no roads, no traffic, only one taxi and about 200 inhabitants.

Visitors will be entranced by the picture-perfect shorefront with its neo classical houses whose gaily painted façades are reflected in the clear water, the colourful fishing boats, cobble stone alley ways, and of course the serenely timeless atmosphere which pervades the island.

Located only one nautical mile from the Turkish coast, Kastellorizo is Greece's most Eastern outpost; it was once a part of the Ottoman empire and you can still see a minaret pointing skywards by the harbour, although the old mosque is now a folk museum.

It is hard to imagine, but in its heyday at the end of the nineteenth century, there were about 10.000 inhabitants and the island was extremely prosperous and busy, with a thriving shipping trade and fishing industry (mainly sponges). However, when the island's economy started to decline many of the inhabitants left. Moreover, during the second world war the British evacuated the whole of the island's population to Egypt to protect them from German air attacks. When the war was over many of the inhabitants did not return, preferring to accept the British offer of emigrating to Australia, where there are now about 50.000 people whose families were originally from Kastellorizo.

Take the time to stroll around town, taste some local sweet treats such as "Katoumari" and "Strava", relax in the local taverna or take a boat ride to Galazio Spilaio (the blue cave), the biggest and most spectacular sea cave in Greece.

The town of Fethiye is built over ruins of the ancient Lycian city of Telmessos, and the ruins of the old amphitheatre can be seen right in the city centre. The Lycians were a hardworking, prosperous, peace-loving people who have been compared by some writers to the Swiss because of their neutrality and stable government. The Lycian Federation was a democratic form of government which was the envy of the ancient world. They have left many traces of their culture including impressive funerary architecture and incredible rock cut tombs.

Nowadays Fethiye is a vibrant modern town, known for its stunning beaches, sea front promenade and lively bazaar.

Caunos rock tombs & Dalyan river

Transport by motorcoach and boat

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 4h30

Euros 67

The motorcoach will set off from the port of Fethiye and take you on a 45 minute panoramic drive to Dalyan River. In Greek mythology we are told that the river was formed by the bitter tears of Byblis, a girl who fell in love with, and was rejected by, her own twin brother Caunos, who went on to found the city of the same name. On arrival at Dalyan you will board a motorboat for a romantic canal cruise through the reed delta so you can admire the mysterious Lycian tombs cut into the rock face. These impressive tombs dating from the 4th century BC were evidently the final resting place of very prosperous and influential families; the façades are sculpted to look like Hellenistic temples with two Ionian columns, and inside there are stone benches for laying out the dead.

The excursion continues to the ancient city of Caunos founded in the 9th century BC. Caunos was once an important seaport with a flourishing export trade in salt, dried figs, slaves and supplies for building and repairing wooden boats; nowadays, due to the silting up of the Dalyan Delta, Caunos is located about 8 kilometres inland. As the water got gradually shallower, Caunos was no longer viable as a seaport and the economy declined. It was eventually abandoned altogether in the 15th century after a devastating malaria epidemic. Earthquakes and other natural disasters resulted in the site being completely buried under sand and vegetation until it was discovered by a British archaeologist named Hoskyn. There are a wealth of archaeological remains to be explored in Caunos, reflecting the dynamic and vibrant city it once was: a theatre which could hold up to 5000 spectators, Roman baths and a palaestra (an ancient Greek wrestling school) as well as temples dedicated to various Greek and Roman deities.

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



Gullet Tour

By boat

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 30

Duration 6 hours

Lunch included

Euros 110

A Gullet is a traditionally built wooden sailing vessel with one or two masts, designed with a rounded aft, low-to-the-water profile and spacious hull. Originally from south western Turkey, they used to be used for fishing or sponge diving, but nowadays most of them have been converted and their precious cargo is more likely to be holiday makers rather than fish. After disembarking the ship, you will walk to your gullet where the captain will be waiting to greet you. This panoramic tour through the crystal clear Aegean waters will pass by Gocek (known as Daydala in Lycian times) a quaint little town in the Gulf of Fethiye and Yassica islands a group of 5 beautiful islands, one of which was said to be the Devil's chosen dwelling place after the Fall, as it was the next best thing to Heaven! Other highlights include Kizilada island, named after its reddish-brown soil, and Tersane island, also known as Dockland island, because it was used as a dockland by the Ottoman navy during the First World War, when they fought alongside Germany. After the war ended the Ottoman empire was divided up and under the terms of the 1923 Treaty of Lausanne, Greece and Turkey agreed to uproot two million people in a massive population exchange. The Greek inhabitants of Tersane Island were thus forced to leave, and the ruins of their abandoned homes are still scattered over the island. You will also see Hammam Bay, where, according to legend, Marc Anthony built a Roman bath for Cleopatra and gave it to her as a wedding gift. The spot was chosen because they found a thermal spring there, and Marc Anthony even went so far as to import golden sand from Egypt for his beloved's pleasure. The baths were subsequently destroyed by an earthquake, but the ruins remain. Lunch will be served onboard.

There is a five-minute walk from the disembarkation point to the gullet.

Please take a towel, snorkeling gear, a swimsuit, sun hat, sunscreen and bring some extra money

There will be swimming breaks during the tour. During these breaks you will get the opportunity to swim over to the little islands, walk along the seashore and swim back to the gullet at anchor.

You will have to use the ladder to get down from the boat and go swimming.

The itinerary may be reversed or modified depending on weather conditions.

Lunch is a three-course meal with a bottle of water



Xanthos & Letoon

By Motor coach

Minimum 15 participants, no maximum

Duration 6h30

Lunch included

Euros 80

You will disembark at Fethiye Port where your coach will be waiting to set off on the short drive to Xanthos, followed by the visit to Letoon. These archaeological twin sites have been on UNESCO's World Heritage list since 1988 and together constitute the most perfect example of ancient Lycian civilization. The history of Lycia is that of a highly principled fiercely independent people who on two occasions preferred mass suicide to foreign domination. In 540 BC the Persians attacked Xanthos, the Lycian capital city; the Lycians put up a heroic fight but when all was lost they assembled their wives, children and all their possessions in the Acropolis and then set fire to it, before rushing back to the battle field where every last man died fighting. The city was later repopulated by citizens from neighbouring towns. However, 500 years later history tragically repeated itself when Brutus attacked Xanthos and its citizens once more chose mass suicide rather than surrendering to a foreign power.

Xanthos, was an extremely important cultural and commercial hub and Persians, Greeks and later on Romans all turned their covetous eyes on the city and in turn conquered it and occupied the surrounding territory. After the fall of Constantinople and the dissolution of the Byzantine empire in the 15th century, the region came under Turkish rule.

Xanthos offers visitors some unique examples of funerary architecture, blending Lycian and Hellenistic traditions. In 1838 the British archaeologist Charles Fellows discovered the ruins of Xanthos, the ancient capital city of Lycia. After obtaining official permission from the Sultan, he returned to the site for further exploration and sent many sculptures and statues to the British Museum where they are exhibited to this day. On site at Xanthos you will see the Harpy tomb, so called because it is ornamented with reliefs depicting four carved female winged figures. The tomb is that of an Iranian prince or possibly a governor of Xanthos and dates from 480-470 BC, it consists of a marble chamber on a pillar 8.87m tall. The space inside the tomb was later occupied by an early Christian hermit and the archaeologist Charles Fellowes noted that inside, the tomb still bore traces of the hermit's paintings and Christian symbols. The unknown hermit was probably a disciple of Simeon Stylites who spent 37 years on top of a pillar in prayer and meditation. Other highlights include the well-preserved Roman theatre, Stage building, Agora (public meeting place) and of course the rock tombs.

Letoon dates back from the 6th century BC and is a sanctuary dedicated to Leto the Goddess of motherhood, who gave birth to Apollo and Artemis. It was one of the most important religious centres in the region. Archaeologists discovered many inscriptions during their excavations of the site; The most famous one dates from 337 BC and was discovered near the temple of Apollo, the Olympian God of sun and light. The same text is written in three different languages: Lycian, Greek and Aramaic, and has proved invaluable for deciphering the Lycian language in the same way that the Rosetta stone unlocked the mysteries of Egyptian hieroglyphics. Letoon also possessed a Nymphaeum, which was a shrine dedicated to the water nymphs, erected near a sacred spring, although only now only the ruins remain.

The tour continues with a panoramic drive to Patara. In the Lycian federation, which was an association of 23 towns, the large towns had three votes in the common council, the medium sized ones were granted two votes and the small towns had only one vote and paid costs in proportion to their votes. Patara was a three-vote city, being Lycia's main seaport and an important maritime and commercial hub. Although it is hard to believe, this prosperous and influential city still has an impact on our lives today; in 270 AD Patara welcomed a new citizen, a baby boy who in the fullness of time went on to become Saint Nicholas (aka Father Christmas or Santa Claus).

After the tour you will be back to Fethiye Port to rejoin the ship.

A Three-course Lunch and bottle of water are included.



SIMI, GREECE

The island is named after the nymph Simi who was the wife of the Sea God Poseidon; their union produced Hithonios the mythical leader of the island's first inhabitants. Situated some 9 km from the Turkish coast, Simi is a rocky and not very fertile island; it does however boast one of the most beautiful harbours in Greece. The sea front is lined with gaily painted 2-3 storey Neo-Classical houses, which are all listed buildings. These houses are a poignant reminder of Simi's glorious 19th century heyday, when it was home to the world's largest sponge diving fleet. Boats sailed as far as the coast of North Africa and the fishermen were away from home from May to October. Simi was also renowned for its boat building and carpentry, at one stage turning out 500 boats a day; this accounts for the island's rather barren aspect, all the timber of this once densely wooded island was used for boatbuilding. When these industries started to decline, the population shrank from 30.000 to 2500. Now, with the growth in tourism, the population is beginning increase. This picturesque town is divided into two, the Port of Yialos with its Neo-classical houses, and higher up the older part, known as Chorio. In the 19th century rich Symi merchants built a stone stair way known as the Kali Strata to link the old village with the new commercial area.

CHALKI, GREECE

Chalki is a small tranquil island near Rhodes. It is mountainous and arid with no natural water supply, very few inhabitants and a lot of goats roaming around. The island is covered by wildflowers, thyme, marjoram and oregano and offers visitors unspoiled nature, ruggedly beautiful landscapes with secluded coves and hidden beaches.

In bygone days the island was prosperous thanks to the copper mines which were exploited for centuries and which gave the island its name, "Chalki" being the Greek word for copper. Another source of wealth was fishing and the sponge trade, but resources were eventually depleted, and the activity stopped in the middle of the twentieth century. Poverty forced most of the islanders to emigrate to the USA where they established a Greek community in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

The main village, Emborio, is enchantingly pretty with multicoloured houses and Venetian style mansions rising like an amphitheatre above the limpid waters of the harbour. The old capital of the island was called Chorio, it was abandoned in 1970 and is now a Unesco world heritage site. Despite its diminutive size the island boasts 360 churches and monasteries; the main church, Agios Nikoloas, built using marble from the ancient temple of Apollo, can lay claim to the highest bell tower in the Dodecanese. Other attractions include a Crusader's castle built by the medieval knights of St John and three restored windmills. In 1983 Unesco designated Chalki as the "Island of Peace and Friendship", and after your visit we are sure you will agree that the title is well deserved.

MILOS, GREECE

Milos is known as the island of colours, because of its brightly coloured boat houses known as "symmata", where the fishermen stored their boats in winter, and its turquoise waters. It is also where the famous Venus de Milo statue (now in the Louvre Museum, Paris) was found in 1820.

This volcanic island offers visitors a great variety of landscapes with interesting rock formations like the Pafragas cave, thermal springs, whitewashed villages atop multi coloured cliffs and white sandy beaches. The island's capital, Plaka, is situated above the port; here you will find a mixture of dazzling white houses, churches, a history and folk museum, an archaeological museum (which exhibits a copy of the Venus de Milo statue) and a ruined Venetian castle or "Kastro". At the next village, called Tripiti, you can visit early Christian catacombs from the 1st century, where an estimated 2000 Christians were buried. There is also an ancient Roman theatre from the third century BC. On the Northern coast of the island lies the archaeological site of Phylakopi where various prehistoric cities flourished from 3000 to 1000 BC. Volcanic activity on the island has left it rich in minerals which have been the main source of wealth since the Neolithic era. Obsidian was mined by the Minoans and the Mycenaean and exported to the islands of the Aegian, Crete, mainland Greece and Asia minor. Minerals are still being mined on Milos to this very day.

Milos has had a tempestuous history; in the 4th century BC it was brutally conquered by the Athenians who besieged the city and then, when starvation forced the islanders to surrender, they killed every single adult male, and enslaved all the women and children. The island has also suffered numerous pirate attacks and Turkish occupation.

After a morning spent swimming and snorkeling from the gangway or zodiac, the ship will relocate to Adamas Port.



ATHENS, GREECE

The earliest Athenians were of Ionian stock and arrived on the peninsula in about 2000 BC. Little is known about these early rulers, apart from the fact that they were kings. By the 7th century BC, the monarchy had been superseded by the Eupatrids, noblemen hailing from the eleven aristocratic families of Attica. Next came Solon, the "Father of Democracy", who initiated the idea of government by the people, and created assemblies of ordinary citizens. After Solon came the age of the Tyrants, which started when Peisistratus seized power in about 546 BC. This benevolent tyrant helped farmers by giving them loans and land, taken away from the nobles, and provided work for the poor with new building projects. The idea was to weaken the power of the aristocracy in favour of merchants and farmers. Athens, particularly the Acropolis, became one of the chief religious centres in Greece and by 600 BC there were many temples, fragments of which can be seen at the Acropolis Museum.

The year 450 BC saw the dawning of the "Golden Age" of Pericles. The Modern Greek state was born in the 1830's after the Greek revolution of 1821. The Ottomans ceded the Acropolis to a Bavarian detachment and the Bavarian Prince Otto became the new King of Greece. The Greek architect Cleanthes and his German counterpart Schaubert were given the task of setting out the new city, which they planned around Otto's austere palace. The palace dominates Syntagma Square (Constitution Square) and is near the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. From Syntagma Square, Amalia Avenue leads past the National Garden and Zappion Park to Hadrian's Arch. Behind the park lies the stadium, venue of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and built on the site where games were held in ancient times. The mountainous region of Attica and Athens, although barren and infertile, enjoy a superb climate.

Athens and the new Acropolis museum

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 10 participants, no maximum.

Duration 5 hours, ending at the airport, Euro 75

Duration 4 hours, with a drop off in Athens, Euro 60

After leaving Piraeus you will drive past the charming yacht harbour of Zea, where the foundations of the 5th century BC dock are clearly visible. Next comes the Mikrolimanon waterfront, lined with tempting al fresco fish restaurants. From here it is but a short drive to cosmopolitan Athens, where modern buildings cohabit with ancient monuments. You will pass the Temple of Zeus, the Panathenaic Stadium, the Parliament at Syntagma Square (Constitution Square), the National Academy, the University, the Library and Hadrian's Arch, before arriving at the New Acropolis Museum located 300m south east of the Rock of the Acropolis. The museum was designed by Bernard Tschumi and was opened to the public in 2009. It has a surface area of 14.000 m² and houses nearly 4000 exhibits displayed on three levels. You will see findings from the Acropolis archaeological site as well as artefacts from the Greek Bronze age right through to Roman and Byzantine Greece. For those passengers returning to the ship, the tour ends in the city centre, while 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 the tour and the coach will drive on to the airport arriving around 13h00/13h30.

A minimum of 6 guests is required for the tour to continue to the airport

Passengers staying on board for the following cruise will be dropped off in Athens, and make their own way back to the pier

The duration of the tour depends on the traffic situation. If the traffic is fluid, arrival at the airport will be somewhat earlier

You will spend about 2 hours in the museum

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

