

Athens to Venice :

**Athens - Mykonos – Rhodes - Santorin – Katakolon - Corfu
– Kotor – Dubrovnik – Hvar - Cres - Venice**

Venice to Athens :

**Venice - Cres - Hvar - Kotor - Dubrovnik – Corfu –
Katakolon - Santorin – Mykonos – 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.

Walking tours in Croatia can only be guided in one language.

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

Excursion prices quoted may vary if entrance fees to sites and VAT increase in 2021.



CROATIA

CRES

The best way to experience the city is to stroll through the Old Town. Here you will find a typically Medieval atmosphere with tall narrow buildings huddling together and a maze of winding streets. Emblems on the house fronts and doors indicate the trades of their former inhabitants – farm labourer, blacksmith, fisherman etc. The hub of the city is the 15th century Municipal Loggia where official announcements used to be made. These days it is the site of a bustling market. Olive growing and sheep farming are the island's main activities and there is a special symbiosis between the two. Sheep graze freely all around the island and thus clear the ground and fertilize the olive groves. Extra virgin Olive oil from Cres has an excellent reputation thanks to the quality of the olives.

DUBROVNIK

Taste and Flavours of Dubrovnik

Transport by air-conditioned motor coach
Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35
Duration 4 hours
Euros 60

The tour starts with a pleasant drive along the Adriatic road to the town of Mali Ston, the “oyster capital” of Croatia. This little town is often described as Dubrovnik in miniature. It boasts impressive 5km long city walls, among the longest defensive walls in the world. Construction of the walls started in 1317, and was finally completed in the 16th century. You will also see the ancient salt pans that were in use during the Dubrovnik Republic; salt is still produced there to this day. However Ston is mainly famed for its oysters, and there are oyster farms dotted all around. Upon your arrival in Mali Ston, you will board a local boat which will take you to the oyster and mussel beds. Your guide will tell you about oyster and mussel production in the area and you will get to taste some of the freshest sea food you have ever eaten, including some Mussel Bouzara, a local dish consisting of mussels cooked in wine, olive oil and garlic. After the visit you will return to your motor coach in Mali Ston and drive back to Dubrovnik. There will be a short guided tour of Dubrovnik Old Town, and then you will be free to do some exploring on your own.

Dubrovnik Sea Kayaking

Minimum 6 participants, maximum 24
Duration 3h30
Euros 45

The Dubrovnik Kayak tour is an unusual and original way to take in all the city highlights. You will start the tour by rowing between the forts of Bokar and Lovrijenac. Bokar fort is one of the oldest of its kind, and was built to protect Pile Gate and City Bridge. It was also used as a prison. Lovrijenac guards the west entrance and, unlike the other city forts which form part of the city wall fortifications, it stands alone perched high on a rock, earning it the name of “the Gibraltar of Dubrovnik”. These days it is used as a venue for Dubrovnik's summer festival, as well as for staging Shakespeare plays, so its thick walls resound to the words of the Bard rather than the thud of canon balls. Next on the agenda is Lokrum island. Legend has it that Richard the Lionheart was cast ashore here after being shipwrecked in 1192, luckily you will be spared a similar fate. After steering a course around the island you will reach Betina cave, a hidden gem accessible only by sea. Here we will stop for some leisure time to go swimming in the crystal clear Adriatic before rowing back to the departure point and returning to port.

2 participants per kayak
We recommend you bring swimsuits, towels, sun hat and sun screen
There is a 15 minute walk to the kayak base



Legends & Curiosities

Off the usual tourist radar

Duration 1h30

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 18

Euros 25

Discover the everyday life of the folk who live within the walls of Dubrovnik's Old Town. A stroll through a maze of narrow streets and little squares will conjure up the shades of the past. Visit the oldest parts of the town off the tourist radar; discover hidden treasures around every street corner, local churches and places not mentioned in any guide books. During your guided tour you will be regaled by stories and legends of Dubrovnik's old town and the history of the Republic of Ragusa.

The Great Dubrovnik Treasure hunt: Five hundred years of Fine Art

On foot

Duration 3 hours

Minimum 10 participants, maximum 18

Euros 40

Take a leisurely guided stroll through this medieval town and learn all about the history of the Dubrovnic Republic and its rich artistic and architectural heritage. The tour includes visits to a choice selection of museums.

The Rector's palace, now the town's cultural history museum, is one of Dubrovnik's priceless treasures; an outstanding secular monument which combines gothic and renaissance architecture. The rector was elected for a period of one month, and during that time not only was he forbidden to bring his family to live with him, he could not leave the palace himself without asking the permission of the senate. Here you will see rooms restored to their former glory and furnished in period style, portraits, coats of arms and coins.

The Sponza palace which now houses all Dubrovnik's historical archives is another fine mix of gothic and renaissance styles. Since it was first built in the XVIth century it has served as a customs house, mint, treasury and armoury as well as being home to Dubrovnik's first literary institution founded by a group of poets at the end of the XVIth century. It holds the distinction of being one of the very few buildings in the Old Town to have emerged unscathed from the terrible earthquake of 1667.

The Church of St Blaise was not so lucky; the original construction dating from 1368 was severely damaged in the quake and was replaced in 1715 by the baroque style building you now see. Saint Blaise is the patron saint of Dubrovnik who averted a catastrophe in 971 by forewarning the City Elders that a surprise attack by the Venetians was imminent. The marble altars in the church are particularly impressive and on the main altar there is a gothic statue of St Blaise himself, dating from the fifteenth century. This gold plated silver statue shows St Blaise holding the town of Dubrovnik (as it was before the earthquake) in his hands. The fact that this statue survived the earthquake which destroyed the original church and a subsequent fire is considered to be something of a miracle.

The Roman Baroque Cathedral of the Assumption of the Virgin is another « new » building, completed in 1713 after the earlier construction was destroyed by the earthquake. It is a veritable treasure trove and houses some 138 gold and silver reliquaries fashioned by local goldsmiths from the 11th to the 17th century. The reliquaries contain relics of St Blaise and a fragment of the Holy Cross. There is also a polyptych (panelled painting) of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary from Titian's studio and a painting attributed to Raphael.

However the best artwork is to be found at the Dominican Monastery Museum. The building dates from the fourteenth century (about the same time as the city walls) and looks more like a fortress than a religious building: all the better to protect the incredible collection of paintings from the fifteenth and sixteenth century. You can admire work by the Dubrovnic school of painters, the Venetian school, Titian's painting of St Blaise, Flemish paintings, relics, jewelry, manuscripts and incunabula.

The tour continues with a visit to the Franciscan Monastery with the church, one of the finest Roman Gothic buildings in Croatia, the pharmacy dates from 1317, the third oldest still functioning pharmacy in the world, the museum library with an exhibition of liturgical artifacts, some paintings of old masters such as "Ecce Homo" by Francesco Raibolini (15th century), a 14th century head relic of St Ursula and the painting of Vlaho Bukovac the founder and chief representative of the Croatian modern art.

The excursion price includes entry to the treasury of the Dubrovnik cathedral, the Dominican Monastery Museum, the Franciscan monastery Museum and Pharmacy.



HVAR

Hvar Island Tour

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 90

Duration 3h30

Euros 60

The island of Hvar is well known for its mild climate and lush subtropical vegetation as well as its cultural and historical monuments.

The coach will take you from Hvar to Starigrad, a small town famous for its large bay which has long been a source of inspiration for artists and poets. The town of Starigrad was the largest settlement on the island and dates back to the 2nd century BC. You will visit the Dominican Monastery, which boasts a well-stocked library and a priceless collection of books and paintings. After a short guided tour you will have some free time to wonder around on your own before continuing the scenic drive to the Village of Vrisnik. Here you will be given a warm welcome at one of the traditional country houses where your host will offer you, local wine. The island wines range from light whites to full-bodied reds, all of them are made locally and produced in small quantities. The wine will be accompanied by local specialities such as smoked ham and home-made cheese.

During the drive back to Hvar there will be a short stop at the site of the fortress which dominates the town, so you can enjoy the magnificent views of Hvar and the Pakleni islands.

This tour includes panoramic drives

You will spend one hour in Starigrad, with a guided tour and some time on your own

The drive from Vrisnik to Hvar takes one hour.

Hvar Jeep Safari

Minimum 4 participants per jeep, maximum 24

Duration 3 hours

Euros 85

The Jeeps are parked just a few minutes away from the tender point.

The route towards the settlement of Milna is lined with vineyards, and from there you will carry on towards the bay of Dubovica on the southern part of the island of Hvar. Here you will turn off the road and follow a track to the highest peak on the island, St Nicola (626m).

From the top you can see the village of St Nedija which is famous for its local wine, "Plavac". The view from the chapel is well worth the short hike, as on a clear day you can see the neighbouring islands of Korcula, Susac, Vis, Brac, Solta, Paklinske and Scedron, as well as the Peljesac peninsula. The area has a tumultuous past and you will hear tales of pirates, local uprising, and sea battles between two Roman fleets near Scedar at the time of the Roman civil war as well as learning how the chapel itself is linked to the theatre in Hvar. It is also a perfect spot for taking photographs.

The jeep tour continues to Roskarnica; here your guide will tell you all about life in the olden days as you admire the stunning views across the fields.

Next stop is the viewpoint of "Vidikovac" from where you will see the oldest city in Croatia, Stari Grad, (Old City) or Pharos, founded in 385 BC. Your guide will tell you about the first sea battle that ever took place in the Adriatic and talk about Hora (Ager) fields, a Unesco site that dates back to Roman times. The drive continues to Malo Grablje, passing the fifteenth century village Velo Grablje on the way. Lavendar oil has been produced at Velo Grablje since the 16th century. The village of Malo Grablje was founded in 1537 and deserted in the mid 20th century. You will learn all about the culture and history of the village and the island itself.

This jeep tour explores the rich history of the island of Hvar, known as the island of sun and lavender. The fragrance of these aromatic plants will delight your senses as you pass through vineyards, olive groves and abandoned villages, and listen to your guide talking about life in the olden days and the half-forgotten customs of yester year.

The jeeps will be driven by English speaking Croatian drivers.

Guides will provide commentary for the whole group at certain designated stops during the tour. The Jeep drivers are not guides.

The jeeps are closed vehicles.



Sailing tour to the Pakleni islands archipelago

By boat

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 10

Duration 3hrs/3h30

Euros 78

Enjoy sailing in one of the most beautiful parts of the Adriatic; a favourite destination for all those who love the sea and islands. This tour is all about sailing, "poetry in motion", as some people call it. Let the wind and weather be your guide as you set sail from the town of Hvar to the labyrinth of islands that compose the Pakleni archipelago.

There will be a stop for swimming in one of the bays.

Hiking Tour

Transfer by bus and on foot

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 20

Duration approx. 4 h30

Euros 89

(The exact duration of the tour depends on the pace of the group)

Your guide will meet you at the pier and accompany you on to the bus. After a 20 minute transfer by bus (14 km), you will reach the village of Velo Grablje, the starting point of the hiking tour. The path from Velo Grablje to Malo Grablje is part of an old trail which in medieval times used to link Hvar with Stari Grad on the north side of the island. The trail is practically all downhill, starting with approximately 20 steps and continuing as a short trek of approximately 1.5 km. Thereafter the route to Malo Grablje is on a wide gravel path.

It takes about one hour to walk from Velo Grablje to Malo Grablje with various stops on the way. Your guide will provide a running commentary during the hike, including such topics as traditional island life, the history of the villages, the most common medicinal plants and much more.

There will be a break for lunch at a traditional tavern in Malo Grablje set amidst spectacular scenery. The food will be cooked in an old-fashioned wood oven.

After lunch the walking tour continues to Milna, where you will have some time to swim or just relax on the beautiful shingle beach, before the transfer back to the town of Hvar.

Transfer from Milna to Hvar is approximately 20 minutes each way

The walk is 4 km long

The terrain is downhill practically all the way (90%) and rocky

You will need comfortable walking shoes (no sandals), sun screen and a bottle of water

There are many different hiking trails on Hvar island for all levels of ability. Depending on the group and the time of year, the guide may decide to change the hiking route

Beach wear and shoes for swimming (pebble beach) are recommended



Pakleni Archipelago Sea Kayaking Expedition

Duration 4 hours (depending on the group's pace)

Minimum 4 participants, maximum 14

Euros 49

Activity level: Moderately strenuous

Your guide will be waiting to greet you on the pier and together you will walk to the kayak station.

After a safety briefing and instruction on paddling techniques you will be ready to set off on our sea kayak voyage of discovery along the beautiful Hvar coastline, exploring the little islands which form the famous Pakleni Archipelago. The name is sometimes translated as Hell's Islands (pakleni means hellish) but its origin is more likely to be derived from "Paklina" an archaic word meaning tar or pine resin, the substance which was used for coating local boats.

Far from being "hellish", the islands are a little taste of heaven offering unspoiled scenery, thick pine woods providing shade even on the hottest summer day and crystal blue waters.

The kayak expedition will take us past bays and narrow straits to small pebble beaches where you can swim, snorkel and relax.

You will be provided with a sea kayak (2 seats), paddle, life jacket, dry bag, spray skirt, and snorkeling equipment

Please bring: Sunscreen, hat, sunglasses, a long sleeved shirt (Lycra if you have it, cotton if you don't), quick drying sports shoes, swimming gear, towel

Depending on the final number of participants, the tour may leave from a different location

GREECE**ATHENS**

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, Euros 75 duration 4h30

Possibility to be dropped off in Athens, Euros 60 (duration 3h30)

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.

CORFU**Achilléion and the old town**

By air-conditioned motor-coach and on foot

Minimum 20 participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

Euros 47

Enjoy a pleasant drive through the verdant countryside teeming with orange and lemon trees, cypresses and olive groves, to the village of Gastouri. This typical old village is the site of the marvellous Achilleion, built under the rule of Empress Elisabeth of Austria.

The Empress greatly admired the Greek hero Achilles and named her palace after him. After her assassination the villa was bought by Kaiser Wilhelm II and it was confiscated by the Greeks in 1914.

The building is in the Neo-classical style and boasts large frescoed rooms with traditional motifs, and souvenirs of Elisabeth and Wilhelm II. The Italian style terraced gardens are planted with flowers and trees and adorned with statues including one of the dying Achilles (the work of the German sculptor Herter). William II added a bronze statue of Achilles the Victor which he placed directly opposite.

Inside the palace you will visit the vast impressive rooms and stroll around the magnificent gardens filled with exotic plants and trees and commanding break-taking views of the Ionian Sea.

After leaving the Achilléion, the excursion continues with a panoramic drive to the old town and Spianada square. Explore the old quarter and walk through the narrow cobble-stoned streets known as Kantounia, past the old cricket ground. You will have some free time to stroll through the arcades of the Liston Piazza, once the site of the palace stables and see the old Church of Saint Spyridon with its priceless collection of icons and gifts offered to the patron saint of the island.

The coach will be waiting for you at the entrance to the old fort for the return journey back to the ship.

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

The Achilleion is a very famous site and can be very crowded (especially in July and August). Sometimes several ships dock at the same time which means that places of interest will be over-crowded. Please be patient, follow instructions and keep close to your guide at all times in order to hear the commentary (microphones etc are prohibited in some areas).



Corfu by sea

There is a short walk to reach the local boat
 Minimum 10 participants, maximum 30
 Duration 4 hours
 Euros 89

Your vessel on this Corfu Swimming Trip is a traditional Greek “Kaliki” fishing boat which has been adapted to transport tourists. Have your cameras at the ready, because we will pass by some of the most photogenic tourist attractions in the area, like Pontikonissi (Mouse Island) and Vidos Island.

The ship will sail in front of “Pontikonissi”, which houses the Byzantine church of Pantokrator, Christ the Almighty, built in the 11th or 12th century. The church contains memorial tablets to Elizabeth Empress of Austria and Archduke Rodolfo. (stop, only weather permitting, wet landing)

The ship will continue to Vidos island (WET LANDING, you will have to swim 30 meters to the beach). This unspoilt green island is totally uninhabited, even though it is only half a mile’s distance from Corfu town. You will see pristine beaches and little wooded paths leading to the old Serbian cemetery. Here you may take a swim in the warm crystal clear waters of the Ionian sea, stroll to the cemetery or just relax at a coffee shop.

On the way back there will be a stop at Espianada square in the old town of Corfu. Explore the old quarter with its fascinating narrow cobble-stoned streets. You will have some time at leisure to stroll through the arcades of the Liston Piazza and admire St Michael and St George’s palace, and the old church of Saint Spyridon before returning to port.

Participants should bring swimsuits and towels

The tour is dependent on weather conditions and may be modified or cancelled at the last minute as per the Captain’s decision

Passenger safety is our priority, and changes to the programme will be made for security reasons only.

Refreshments will be served on board

Itinerary may be reversed

All you ever wanted to know about Olive Oil

(but were afraid to ask!)

Transport by air-conditioned vehicle

Duration 4h30

Minimum 2 participants, maximum 18

Euros 60

Take a trip to the heart of Olive Oil country with a visit to a mill producing award winning olive oil. The mill is located in a protected Natura 2000 region which boasts not only centuries old olive trees but also the remains of a Medieval castle, Castle Gardiki dating from the 13th century.

The Dafnis family, who own the Governor oil mill, will welcome you to their world and take you back in time for the ultimate Olive oil immersion experience! You will hear about the history of Olive oil production and the Dafnis family, as well as learning about the facts and myths surrounding olive oil.

Taste olive oil with one of the highest levels of phenolic compounds (anti-oxidants and free radical scavengers) in the world.

The tour starts with a personally guided walk through the olive groves in the grounds of Gardiki castle. The authentic island atmosphere is unmistakable; you will meet our resident olive oil expert and hear about the world’s oldest variety of olive.

When you arrive at the oil mill you will experience our “taste like a pro” programme and learn how olive oil is produced.

You will find out how to recognise high quality olive oil and tell the difference between top quality and non extra virgin oil.

You will also hear about the amazing therapeutic and health benefits of this “Natural Healer”.

During your time at the mill you will sample olive oil with bread, tomatoes, feta cheese and a homemade cracker as well as enjoying a glass of wine.

The drive to the oil mill is 22km each way.



Panagias Monastery and panoramic transfer to Paleokastritsa

By air-conditioned motor coach

Minimum 15 Participants, no maximum

Duration 4 hours

Euro 44

Enjoy a pleasant drive to the holiday resort of Paleokastritsa, driving through verdant countryside teeming with orange and lemon trees, cypresses and olive groves.

This outstandingly beautiful extended village on the mid-west coast of Corfu is one of the most visited places on the island. The village is set against a high cliff covered with millions of olive trees and other greenery. Admire the five pine clad promontories and small bays of yellow sand or white pebbles bathed by crystal clear water.

You will visit a thirteenth century Byzantine monastery, with its church, Byzantine icon museum and original stone olive oil press. After the visit you will have some free time to go swimming or have a drink at one of the beach front cafés.

Next there will be a short stop at Bella Vista, a famous view point to get a bird's eye view of beautiful Paleokastritsa.

After leaving Bella Vista, you will be driven back to the port of Corfu.

The use of cameras is free of charge in the monastery of the blessed Virgin Mary, but flash photography is forbidden inside the church

If you wish to swim, don't forget your bathing costume and beach towel (there are changing facilities and a shower at the beach)

Depending on timing and the ship's schedule, you may be dropped off in Corfu city to return to port at your own convenience.

KATAKOLON**Olympia**

By air conditioned motor coach and on foot

Duration 4 hours

Minimum 20, no maximum

Euros 60

Relive the wonder and thrill of the original Olympic Games held from 776 BC until 393 AD.

From the little harbour of Katakolon, it is a short drive through the pastoral landscape of Elis to the site of Olympia. Your Greek guide will take you to the heart of the site where athletes used to honour their gods. Discover the great monuments one by one: the Ancient Temple of Hera and the huge Temple of Zeus which once housed one of the Seven Wonders of the World - The Golden Ivory Zeus, as well as the unique Stadium and Bouleuterion where the competitors swore on oath to play fair. Located nearby were Phedias' Workshop, the Palaistra and the Gymnasium. The site is beautifully shaded by Judas and olive trees and dominated by the conical shaped Hill of Kronos. After a short break, the visit continues to the Museum to view the wonderful marble statues in the temple of Zeus, the famous Hermes of Praxiteles and a unique collection of ancient pieces of armour and bronze figurines, all well preserved for centuries in the mud of the adjacent Alpheios River.

Before returning to port, you will have some free time in Olympia village for a coffee or souvenir shopping.

The drive to Olympia is approx. 30 minutes

You will spend about 2 hours at the site and the museum.

There is a lot of walking involved in this tour, but none of it is uphill.

The use of cameras and video-cameras is free of charge at the site and the museum, but it is forbidden to use a flash in the museum.



MYKONOS

The reason for Mykonos's enduring popularity is immediately apparent.

A charming little harbour, lined with cafés and colourful fishing boats, greets the eye and provides a scenic back drop for the maze of narrow cobble stoned streets that lies behind. On either side of the streets you will find picturesque whitewashed houses, local handicraft shops, boutiques, waterfront cafés and of course the island's mascot: the pelican. Don't be surprised if you encounter one of them wandering around town alongside of you.

Two of the best places to visit are Little Venice, located on the south-western side of town, with its waterfront cafés and spectacular views of the sunset, and the famous Windmills (adjacent to Little Venice on Kato Myli Hill), one of the landmarks of Mykonos. Take the time to explore this captivating island; you won't have to venture very far before you come across beautiful beaches and coves with azure blue water lapping on the shore.

Be warned, this island casts a spell on all who visit her and your first trip to Mykonos will certainly not be your last!

Delos

By boat and on foot

A guided visit of the site

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 35 per group

Duration 3h30 (may vary depending on local boat timetable)

Euro 60

Only on Venice to Athens itinerary

The Cyclades were so called because they formed a Kiklo, or rough circle, around the sacred island of Delos.

Notwithstanding its small size Delos played an important role in antiquity for both commercial and religious reasons and is nowadays considered to be one of the most important mythological, historical and archaeological sites in Greece.

The sanctuary dedicated to Apollo on this, the island of his birth, was a magnet for pilgrims and brought wealth to Delos, making it one of the most important religious sites in the Greek world. These days Delos is a desolate windswept island; a 2001 census put the number of inhabitants at 14. Only tourists now flock to the shrines and temples, but a sense of awe and religious fervour still pervades the ruins.

The modern quay leads directly to the archaeological site. You will walk into the heart of the sanctuary where you will see the Temple of Apollo, the sacred lake (now dried up) which witnessed the birth of Apollo and the unique marble lions of Delos. You will also visit impressive Hellenistic mansions with superb mosaics decorating the floors and walls and, time permitting, the museum.

Transfer by public boat takes 30 minutes each way

The return on board by caique is scheduled at 13h30

Non-slip, comfortable shoes are recommended for visiting Delos as the pathways are uneven

No guides are allowed in the museum so you will have to discover its treasures on your own



RHODES, GREECE

Only on Athens to Venice itinerary

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

Euro 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

Euro 62

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

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
Euros 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

Euros 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

Euros 69

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



MONTENEGRO

KOTOR

Perast & Kotor

By bus and boat

Minimum 20 participants, maximum 120

Duration 4 hours

Euros 50

Upon disembarkation you will drive through the beautiful bay of Kotor to Perast, a small baroque village hidden behind the islet of the Lady of the Rocks. The most outstanding buildings here are from the 17th and 18th centuries. It is a tranquil place which abounds in sacred monuments such as the Church of St Nicholas, built between the 15th and 17th centuries. You will also get to visit the Maritime Museum.

Afterwards there will be some free time so you can explore Perast on your own before we take a boat to the islet Gospa od Skrpjela or Lady of the Rocks, and its church of the same name.

Gospa od Skrpjela is a baroque church situated on one of the two islets in the Bay of Kotor, just opposite Perast. Legend has it that the island was made over the centuries by devout mariners who, after finding an icon of the Madonna and child on a rock in the sea on July 22nd 1452, swore that they would drop a rock at the site after every successful sea voyage. Thus as time went by, the islet gradually emerged from the sea. The custom remains to this day, and on July 22nd every year at sunset the locals take part in the "fascinada" a tradition whereby they take out their boats and throw rocks into the sea. The church contains 68 magnificent paintings by Tripo Kokolja a famous 17th century artist from Perast. His masterpiece is without doubt a 10m long painting depicting the Death of the Virgin. After visiting the island you will take the boat back to Perast and board the coach for the drive from Perast to Kotor, a charming medieval town lying beside a beautiful fjord.

This UNESCO heritage site is the old maritime centre of Montenegro; it abounds in monuments, shops, cafés and restaurants. The 12th century Cathedral of St Tripun and the orthodox church of St Luka will be viewed from the outside.

Lightweight clothes and sturdy shoes are recommended on this tour

The drive to Perast takes 20 minutes

You will visit the maritime museum in Perast and Gospa od Skrpjela church

Transfer by boat to the islet Gospa od Skrpjela



Blue cave speed boat adventure

Minimum 15 participants, maximum 18

Duration 3h30

Euros 80

The Blue Cave is undoubtedly the jewel in the crown of the Lustica peninsula which separates the Bay of Kotor from the Adriatic Sea. This stunning natural phenomenon is caused by the sun's rays reflecting on the blue water inside the cave and creating a shimmering iridescent blue light.

Enjoy a scenic speed boat ride along the Montenegrin coast, passing villages and picturesque countryside, before you reach the Blue Cave situated just outside the bay.

Enter another world as you penetrate this impressive natural hall with its 9 metres high vault, sculpted from the rock. You will be spellbound by the play of light on crystal clear water so transparent you can gaze right down to the sea bed 13 metres below. If you want to you can go for a swim and make this a truly unforgettable « total immersion » experience.

Afterwards there will be a stop at Zanjice beach. This pebble beach with its mountain views and sheltered swimming was a favourite of Tito, the first President of Yugoslavia.

There will be time for a swim and some rest and relaxation before you board the speed boat for the return trip to Kotor.

This is a high activity level excursion

Participants should bring along comfortable shoes, swimsuits, towel, sunscreen and sun hat

You must be prepared to get wet on this tour ; we recommend you don't take any valuables with you

The speed boat ride to the Blue Cave takes about 45 minutes and you will have approximately one hour's free time at Zanjice beach

Please note that because the entrance to the sea cave is so narrow, the boat will be unable to access the grotto in rough seas. The visit could be cancelled without warning and there will be no reimbursement.

