



# SHORE EXCURSIONS

**7**  
nights

**STAR CLIPPER**  
**Delightful Dervishes**



<b>Sat</b>	<b>Piraeus (port of Athens), Greece</b>
Sun	Mykonos, Greece
Mon	Patmos, Greece
Tue	Chios, Greece
Wed	Dikili, Turkey
Thu	Bozcaada, Turkey
Fri	At sea
<b>Sat</b>	<b>Istanbul, Turkey</b>

## What you need to know before booking your shore excursion:

- All our 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 weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace.
- The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication. Passengers should be fit and active to join tours which include hiking, biking, snorkelling, kayaking, or similar activities.

## How you can book your shore excursions:

- You can book shore excursions onboard, using our "sign-up lists" available at the library.
- In order to provide the best service and to avoid disappointments, please book your shore excursions as early as possible: places are limited and there is a booking deadline for each port.
- A minimum number of participants is required for tours; if the required number is not attained, the tour may be cancelled.

## Important notes:

- Departure times of the tour are mentioned on the daily program of each port.
- The Captain reserves the right to alter the itinerary in order to suit wind, weather and local conditions.
- Cancellation and changes are possible until the booking deadline. After the booking deadline, 100 % cancellation fees will be charged.
- 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. Last updated tour descriptions are available in a file at the library.

Date of last update: 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2023

### MYKONOS, GREECE

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

A charming little harbor, lined with cafés and colorful 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!

#### Time at leisure (no tours in program)

### PATMOS, GREECE

Known as the "Jerusalem of the Aegean", life on Patmos seems to revolve around its religious heritage. The island was home to the Apostle Saint John while in exile from Rome. It is here that he wrote the Book of Revelation. Patmos consists of three peaks connected by two isthmuses with a long, narrow coastline and many small bays. The main port Scala is traditionally Greek in style, with whitewashed houses, narrow lanes, flowered courtyards, tavernas and shops. The city of Chora is reputed to be a hideaway for the rich and famous (such as the Aga Khan). The Holy Monastery of the Theologian is situated on a hilltop and is a historical reminder of St John and his time on Patmos.

#### Saint John's monastery and the cave of the Revelation

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 65 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 20 participants

The Sacred Island of Patmos lies at the northwestern extremity of the Dodecanese between the islands of Ikaria and Leros. An island of rare beauty captivating the visitor at first glance, with its picturesque harbor dominated by the imposing Monastery of St. John standing on the hill above.

Leaving Skala harbor, you take a drive to the impressive village of Chora. The Monastery of St. John is situated amongst gleaming white houses forming a startling contrast to its dark mass.

The Blessed Christodoulos, Servant of Christ, built the Monastery in 1088.

It has thick, high walls crowned all around with battlements and a total of eight chapels. The courtyard is laid with pebbles and decorated with arches through which one can see the intricately designed frescoes adorning the chapel entrance.

The museum houses a magnificent collection of jeweled chalices, crowns and crosses. In addition, there are old writings dating back as far as 1073, icons and religious paintings including an original El Greco. Many exhibits from the library, which unfortunately is not open to the public, can also be viewed in the museum.

The tour then continues with a visit to the Grotto of St. John, taking the form of a 17th century Monastery built around the cave where St. John lived for two years (95-97AD) during his writings of the Apocalypse. Inside one can see the stone which he is said to have used as a pillow.

After this memorable tour, you will embark the coach for the short ride back to the port.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility concerns, it involves extended walking on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and approx. 100 steps to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites (shoulders and knees must be covered). Taking photos inside the chapel and the cave is not allowed.



**Patmos'art and history tour**

Duration: 03:15 approx.

Price: 69 €

Min 15 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Our main destination is the old village of Chora, the island's capital, which stands high on the hilltop looking down over the port of Skala. From here we will have the opportunity to photograph the breathtaking panoramic view, learn a little about the island's historical background and discover the stunning architecture of houses dating from the fifteen to eighteen hundreds. After a short walk through the winding cobbled streets, we arrive at the House of Simandiris. Here we will have the unique experience of seeing the interior of a traditional Patmian house along with antique furniture, embroidery and paintings collected over 8 generations of the Simandiris family members. Just around the corner is the tiny Convent of Zoodochos Pigi built in 1607. On one side of the cobbled courtyard is the chapel, where we discover an array of recently restored 17th century frescoes, the timeless art of the icon along with a beautifully carved icon wall. On the other side is a small gift shop where one can purchase handicrafts made by the nuns.

We will continue by foot through a labyrinth of atmospheric lanes winding their way past the foot of the Monastery of St. John to the Mansion of Nikolaidis. This historical homestead has recently been restored under the supervision of the Greek Ministry of Culture to protect Byzantine Antiquities. After the fifteen hundreds Patmos enjoyed an influx of wealthy ship owners and merchants who built large luxurious houses displaying their powerful class and allowing them protection against numerous pirate attacks.

The Nikolaidis Mansion, built in the seventeen hundreds, is a wonderful example of these grand houses – an excellent exhibition showing not only the islander's way of life but also a varied collection of local archeological finds. On the ground floor we find storerooms for foodstuffs, a cooking area with its original oven, water tanks for the collection of rainwater and its own private chapel named after St. Nickolas.

Three staircases lead to the 2nd floor where we find verandas, the formal reception room and the sleeping area, along with a magnificent ambataros (a separating wooden partition), decorated with traditional folk painting. The ambataros is a grand status symbol of that time.

Before returning to the port of Skala we conclude our tour with refreshments in a beautiful environment with a spectacular view. A bit of shopping in Chora is also an option!

Please note: Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites (shoulders and knees must be covered).

**CHIOS, GREECE****Mastic villages**

Duration: 04:15 approx.

Price: 69 €

Min 15 / Max 80 participants

Transportation: motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

This area of Chios got its name from the Lentisk bush. Each autumn the resin or mastic is collected from the bush and is used for the production of chewing gum. Settled in the time of the Genoese occupation of the island there are 20 mastic villages, all retaining their vivid mediaeval character. Some of the villages were fortified against marauders from Asia Minor.

On our way to Pirgi village, a brief photo stop will be made at mastic plantation, and we will learn how local farmers score the bark of the Lentisk tree, part of the pistachio family, to collect its aromatic gum.

Our next stop will be a delightful village of Pyrgi, which dates back to the 13th century and features a central tower, winding streets and walled gates.

Discover the wonderful architecture, including the many buildings which are decorated in 'Xysta', a system of geometric designs in black and white plaster. Columbus reportedly stayed at a house in this village during his visit to Chios in search of ancient maps. There are also many shops and cafes to explore on our own.

After that we proceed to the fortified village of Mesta. Dating back to the 14th century, it is a perfectly preserved example of a Byzantine castle-town. There will be time to explore the churches, the ancient Aghia Paraskevi church and the old church of



small Taxiarchis which contains a beautifully carved iconostasis. The central village square will be an ideal place to enjoy a glass of Ouzo (not included in price), the local liqueur before returning to the port.

We will return to our ship in Chios via the fishing hamlet of Limenas, the port of Mesta and the Vessa Road which offers fine views of the Barren West Coast with its many beautiful coves.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility concerns, it involves moderate walking on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and some steps.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites (no bare shoulders or shorts are allowed).

## DIKILI, TURKEY

Dikili is a sleepy little beach town, authentically Turkish. The harbour is lined with open air restaurants and shops selling local delicacies. Nearby Berama is well worth a visit especially for its two main monuments: the Acropolis perched at a height of 280m and the Asklepéion.

### Pergamon

Duration: 04:30 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 72 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 12 / Max 90 participants

Pick up from the pier of Dikili and will have short drive to ancient city of Pergamum. Board a cable-car to reach the Acropolis of Pergamum.

Initially a minor settlement during the earliest Archaic period, Pergamum became renowned after Philetairos, became an eminent personality after the fall of Lysimachus. For over a century, Pergamum was considered the centre of all cultural activities during the Hellenistic period. Travellers from all over the land knew about this great city and often journeyed over hundreds of kilometres to visit the beautiful and vibrant city. Pergamum witnessed the rise and fall of many rulers and during the rule of Eumenes the second, Pergamum became the richest city in the world after the spoils of war from Athens were brought to the city and used to fill the coffers of all rich men who lived there.

Art and science flourished in equal measure and some of the greatest artists of the land came from this great city.

After the Acropolis visit, descend to the coach parking and board the coach for a short drive to reach the Asclepion.

Visit one of the oldest therapy centre of the world. After the visit, you will drive back to our pier in Dikili.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility concerns, it involves extended walking on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and steps.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

Driving time from Dikili to Pergamum takes approx. 40 minutes (each way). The drive from the Acropolis parking and the Asklepion takes approx. 15 minutes. There is a cable-car service between the coach parking of the site of the Acropolis and the site.



**Ayvalik and Cunda island**

Duration: 06:00 approx.

Price: 105 €

Min 10 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Lunch included

After a pleasant 45 minute drive through the countryside, dotted with pine trees and olive groves, you will reach the seaside town of Ayvalik.

During the Ottoman era, the town was mostly inhabited by Greek merchants and its Greek name is Kydonia.

This cultural melting pot including the former Greek residents and immigrants from the island of Crete, together with the Ottoman and modern Turkish inhabitants, has created a unique and richly flavoured cuisine using a wide variety of herbs, fresh vegetables, and olive oil. You will get the opportunity to sample some local specialties during a coffee shop stop on the way. The excursion continues with a short drive from Ayvalik to Cunda Island, which is connected to the mainland by a bridge. Here you will visit one of the island's iconic landmarks, the Greek Orthodox cathedral which bears witness to the island's past. You will also see a windmill which has been converted into a library, holding the private collection of Necdet Kent, a diplomat who is said to have risked his life to save Turkish Jews during the second world war.

Enjoy glorious views of the sea and the island itself and explore the picturesque village with its narrow streets and quaint old houses.

There will be an Aegean style lunch at a local fish restaurant, and some leisure time to explore on your own before the 45-minute drive back to port.

Please note: This tour involves extended walking (approx. 2.5 km) on cobblestone and uneven surfaces.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

Driving time from Dikili to Ayvalik town takes approx. 45 minutes (each way).

**BOZCAADA, TURKEY****Bozcaada old city & wine tasting**

Duration: 03:30 approx.

Price: 59 €

Min 12 / Max 40 participants

Transportation: walking tour, air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Enjoy a sweeping view of Bozcaada Town from atop a 15th-century castle and then stroll the town's captivating streets, admiring the Turkish and Greek architecture.

After tendering from ship, you will soon arrive on Bozcaada, a beautiful island at the entrance of the narrow Dardanelles Strait. Known as Tenedos in ancient times, the island was mentioned in "The Iliad," Homer's epic poem written in 800 BC. Bozcaada is the third-largest island in Turkey and is situated close to the entrance to the Dardanelles. Established two thousand years ago, the island was later captured and destroyed by the Persians, attacked by Alexander the Great, occupied by the Romans, contested by the Crusaders, and settled by soldiers from Venice and Genoa. Bozcaada became a part of the Ottoman Empire in the 15th century, but its vivid and tumultuous history has left an indelible air of timelessness.

Visit Bozcaada Castle majestic and well preserved, although its true provenance remains a bit of a mystery. However, it is widely acknowledged that the existing form you see today dates back to the 1400s. Follow your guide to the castle and take in the sweeping view of the town below.

Take photos at the Church of Mother Mary, whose four-story bell- and watchtower beckon the Orthodox devout. Situated in the heart of the Greek neighbourhood, the church's earliest construction is believed to date back to the Venetian era. It sports a placard stating '1869' on the door. The village has two distinct neighbourhoods one Turkish; the other Greek. Each proudly presents its own cultural characteristics. A walk with your guide through the narrow cobblestone streets showcases the differences between the old Greek and Turkish houses.

Colourful streetscapes lead to some vineyards a reminder that the islanders have been engaged in viticulture for centuries. Have a look at the stages of wine production, from vine to palate. You'll enjoy a wine tasting session your chance to become



part of the story you are listening to. You will drive to the nearby Vineyard. The vineyards blanket the southern hills of the island, an ideal spot for growing grape varieties such as Cavus, Merlot and Cabernet Franc. During the wine sampling that follows the enlightening tour of the vineyard, which you will have a chance to see from first-hand how the grapes are grown. Head back to the port with plenty to ponder after this interesting day out.

Please note: This tour involves moderate walking on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The order of the visits may change. The visit of Bozcaada village is entirely on foot, the driving time between Bozcaada and the winery is approx. 20 minutes (each way).

### **Troy ancient city**

Duration: 04:30 approx.

Price: 79 €

Min 12 participants

Transportation: ferry and air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

The City of Troy is known throughout the world as the setting of the mythological Trojan wars, theme of Homer's epic poem the Iliad. The events described were fictional, but the city itself did actually exist. The ruins of Troy are located at 32 km distance from Bozcaada, and, thanks to the work of amateur archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, constitute a site of unparalleled importance. During his excavations Schliemann discovered no less than 9 different levels of ruins, one on top of the other, showing that the city had been destroyed and rebuilt several times.

Founded between 3000-2500 BC, Troy I was a walled city possessing two towers. There was an imposing gate to the east measuring 3,50 m, walls built in a herringbone pattern and the foundations of a house, referred to as number 102, all of which can be clearly seen. When the first incarnation of Troy was destroyed, a new more extensive city, Troy II, was built on the same site. On this level we can see the remains of the so-called "megaron" houses (with a large central hall containing a hearth) and their foundations. It was here, near the door on the FM ramp, that Schliemann discovered some precious gold artefacts which he thought must have belonged to king Priam.

This treasure bears witness to the sophistication of Trojan culture. Excavations on this level have revealed the existence of a layer of ash one meter thick indicating that the city was almost certainly destroyed by fire during an invasion. In terms of customs and habits the successive levels dating from 2200 to 1800 BC (Troy III, IV and V) were a continuation of Troy II, however the cultural richness of Troy II remains unequalled. Troy VI dating from 1800-1275 B.C consists of no fewer than eight strata that can be divided into three main periods. The walls you will see on the right-hand side at the start of the visit, the tower designated VI H, and the gate designated VI S are all from Troy VI, which must have been more extensive than its predecessors. After the visit you will return to the ship and cruise back to Bozcaada.

Please note: This tour involves moderate walking on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The timing of the tour is subject to the ferry timetable.





## ISTANBUL, TURKEY

**Gems of Istanbul (ending at IST airport)**

Duration: 05:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 69 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 10 participants

*This tour ends at Istanbul International Airport (IST) and is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 15:30*

Take the opportunity to discover beautiful Istanbul, where East and West meet, capital of the eastern Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire.

During the drive your guide will fill you in on the history of magnificent Constantinople as it was once called. You will cross the Galata Bridge and proceed to the Süleymaniye Mosque for an inside visit. Next on the agenda is the old Hippodrome followed by a visit to the Yerebatan or Underground Cistern.

The Cistern was built to provide water for the city of Istanbul during the reign of Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century. It is an underground chamber with 336 marble columns, which are supported by columns and arches. Two Medusa heads are used as pedestals at the bottom of two columns.

After this visit, you will proceed to the Grand Bazaar, located inside the walled city of Istanbul. It is one of the largest covered markets in the world with its 4400 shops, 64 streets, 25,000 employees, 4 fountains, 2 mosques and 22 gates. Its construction started during the winter of 1455/56, shortly after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople.

You will have a few minutes of free time to browse around and then we will continue to the Hagia Sophia. This magnificent monument is one of the finest architectural works in the world, so it is no surprise that it is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. It was built in just five years (532-537 AD) on the orders of Emperor Justinian. For 900 years Hagia Sophia was the centre of Orthodox Christianity until the city was conquered by the Ottomans in 1453. For the next 500 years it was used as the grand mosque of the sultans. Its interior is decorated with marble pillars and exquisite mosaics.

Following this visit you can either take your luggage from the coach and proceed to your hotel on your own (taxis are available) or you can continue by coach to Istanbul Airport for your flight back home.

Please note: The order of the visits may change. This tour involves extensive walking on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites.

**Star Clippers offers also the following transfer services (optional, upon reservation):**✓ **Shared transfer to Istanbul airport (IST)**

Guests who have purchased a shared transfer cannot choose their pickup time. There will be one fixed departure from the port at about 09:00am, the arrival at the airport will be around 10:00 am.

This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 1:00 pm.

✓ **Private transfers to Istanbul Airport (IST) / to hotels in Istanbul**

Latest pick-up time from the pier will be at 10:00 am.

