



SHORE EXCURSIONS

6 nights | **STAR CLIPPER**
Sicily & Greece (Malta to Athens)



Sun	Valletta, Malta
Mon	Syracuse, Sicily
Tue	At sea
Wed	Pílos, Greece
Thu	Monemvasia, Greece
Fri	Nafplio, Greece
Sat	Piraeus (port of Athens), Greece

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, boating, 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: 30th of June 2023

SYRACUSE (SICILY), ITALY

Classical Syracuse and Ortygia

Duration: 04:15 approx.

Price: 59 €

Min 15 / Max 35 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Your air-conditioned motor coach will be waiting at the port to take you on a 15-minute drive to the Archaeological Park of Neapolis.

During a guided walking tour lasting 1.5 hrs, you will visit the sites' major highlights including Paradise Quarry and the "Ear of Dionysius".

The stone quarries of Syracuse were excavated using slave labor and afterwards they were used as prisons, as was the case with Paradise Quarry. "The ear of Dionysius" refers to an ear-shaped cavern with unusual acoustics. Legend has it that Dionysius, the Greek tyrant who ruled Syracuse, used to listen in on prisoners' conversations to find out if they were plotting against him. You will also see the Greek Theatre and the Roman Amphitheatre.

The amphitheater is one of the largest and most complete theatres bequeathed to us by Antiquity. The ruins give an idea of the enormous arena.

After the visit you will drive back to the old town of Ortygia. Buses are not allowed inside the historical old city so you will leave the coach in the car park and continue on foot for a guided tour of the old town center.

Starting with the Arethusa Fountain, you will proceed with a brief visit to the cathedral, and view other attractions such as the ruins of Temple of Apollon, Archimedes' Square with the Fountain of Diana, and Corso Matteotti, the main shopping area of Ortygia with its elegant boutiques. At the end of your visit you will have some free time before returning to the pier on foot.

Please note: The order of the visits may vary. This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone, uneven surfaces and 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 (no bare shoulders or shorts are allowed).

Noto

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Price: 59 €

Min 15 / Max 35 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

After a 45-minute drive by air-conditioned motor coach, you will arrive at Noto, considered to be one of the most beautiful towns in Sicily. Totally destroyed by an earthquake in 1693 and rebuilt in the 18th century, the town is a perfect treasure trove of Baroque architecture.

UNESCO has awarded it World Heritage status and is funding the restoration of monuments damaged in the most recent earthquake in 1990.

When you arrive at Noto you will leave the coach and start your tour of the town on foot. Admire the imposing gateway known as the Porta Nazionale which leads to the main street where the most important monuments can be seen.

At the heart of the city stands the 18th century cathedral which is currently being restored after being damaged by the 1990 earthquake.

Other impressive buildings include the city hall, the archbishop's palace, the Sant'Alfano Palace, the Church of Santissimo Salvatore and the Villadorata Palace – all are fine examples of typical Sicilian baroque architecture from the early 18th century.

At the end of the visit, you will have some free time on your own to do some shopping or maybe have an ice cream at the famous Caffé Sicilia before driving back to Siracusa.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone, uneven surfaces and inclines.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The driving time between Syracuse and Noto takes approx. 45 minutes (each way).



PILOS, GREECE

Nestor's Palace and Methoni Fortress

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 72 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 18 / Max 70 participants

A coach will be waiting at the Port of Pylos to take you on the 30-minute drive to Nestor's palace, which was built in the 13th century BC. King Nestor is mentioned in Homeric epics as a wise old ruler who participated in the Trojan wars.

The palace is strategically located on top of Ano Eglianos Hill, giving a clear view of the coastline, and is surrounded by a fortified wall. It is the central building of a Middle Helladic era settlement. Excavations have revealed some early remains dating from before 1300 B.C., an Old Palace (1280 B.C.) and a New Palace (1250 B.C.).

Nestor's Palace is considered to be the most well-preserved Mycenaean palace in Greece. It was originally a two-storey building, ornamented with frescoes, including amenities such as storerooms, workshops, baths, light wells, reception rooms and a sewage system. The buildings were almost completely destroyed by fire in the 12th century BC, however hundreds of clay tablets bearing inscriptions remained intact and were unearthed during the excavations. The tablets were written in a text known as Linear B, and this important discovery enabled Michael Ventris to decipher the script used by the Mycenaean's and prove that it was in fact an archaic form of Greek.

The tour continues with a visit to the fortress of Methone situated at the southernmost tip of the west Peloponnesian coast, 11 km away from Pylos.

The site has had a tumultuous past, changing hands many times in the course of its history. It was fortified as early as the 7th century B.C., and in the period between 395 A.D. and 1204 A.D. was used as a Byzantine fortress. The area was briefly under Frankish rule before being captured in 1206 by the Venetians who strengthened the fortifications. In 1500 Methoni was captured by the Turk Bayazit Pasha, before being recaptured by the Venetians from 1685 until 1715, when it was once again captured by the Turks who held the fortress until 1829 when it was liberated by the French General Nicolas Maison, along with other towns in the Peloponnese, during the struggle for Greek independence.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over 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.

MONEMVASIA, GREECE

The island of Monemvasia was separated from the mainland by an earthquake in 375 AD and is sometimes called "the Gibraltar of the East". The city was fortified during the 13th century under Byzantine rule and was established as a successful trading port. The Pope ruled the city for a brief period from 1460-1464 before the Venetians took over, building a 535 ft long fortified bridge to protect them from their enemies. During Venetian rule the city flourished, the population reached 30.000 and many houses and churches were built. Later the city fell to the Turks who ruled for nearly 300 years from the mid sixteenth to the early nineteenth centuries, with the exception of a short-lived takeover by the Venetians.

The Walled lower town extends along the slopes of a 985ft crag that projects into the sea on the east side of the Peloponnese. The population of this impressive stronghold was gradually depleted as more and more of the inhabitants moved to the mainland. However, a restoration program aimed at preserving Monemvasia's heritage has given the Lower Town a new lease of life, and people from the mainland have started to return to this attractive tourist center.

The Upper Town is located on top of the Rock of Monemvasia. It is reached via a zigzagging path. Once an impregnable bastion, it is now completely uninhabited. Visitors can explore the remains of the ancient citadel-castle and have a look inside the church of Hagia Sofia. There are also fantastic views to be had of the surrounding area.

Time at leisure (no tours in program)



NAFPLIO, GREECE

Nafplio is an enchantingly pretty coastal town which has often been called the most romantic destination in Greece, or the Greek Venice. It is the perfect place for strolling around, taking in the sights and generally soaking up the atmosphere. You will see stunning Venetian architecture, neo-classical mansions, a maze of little streets festooned with Bougainvillea, hidden squares and picturesque cafés, perfect for relaxing and watching the world go by.

This one-time Capital of Greece (between 1833 and 1834) has been a major port since the bronze age and its strategic position is highlighted by the fact that it is protected by no less than three fortresses. Palamidi and Bourti built by the Venetians and Akroafplia behind the old town.

Epidaurus Theater & Museum

Duration: 03:00

Price: 72 €

Min 18 / Max 70 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Epidaurus was the site of a shrine devoted to Aesculapius, the Greek God of Medicine. Patients would flock to the sanctuary seeking a cure for their ailments and Aesculapius would either effect a cure during their sleep or appear in a dream to the priests who would then treat the patient according to his instructions.

Apart from praying to be restored to health, Patients could indulge in thermal baths and hydrotherapy as well as “taking in a show”! Indeed, as soon as you arrive at the site you will walk through a beautiful grove to discover the famous theatre, one of the best-preserved monuments of the ancient world. The theatre can seat 14.000 spectators and is famous for its acoustics. It is still in use today and modern visitors enjoy musical productions and performances of Greek drama there. You will have some time to wander around, so you can test the wonderful acoustics for yourself.

The nearby museum houses fragments from the Asklepion sanctuary. Return to Nafplio port.

Please note: This involves extensive walking / standing (approx. 1.5 hours) over uneven surfaces. There is no uphill walking involved in this tour. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

The drive to Epidaurus takes approx. 30 minutes each way.

Mycenae

Duration: 03:30

Price: 72 €

Min 18 / Max 70 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Enjoy a short scenic drive from Nafplio harbor to Mycenae through the beautiful orange and lemon groves of Argolis.

The first stop will be the breathtaking Beehive Tomb situated on Panagitsa hill at Mycenae. Schliemann, the famous amateur archaeologist who discovered both Troy and Mycenae, named the place the Tomb of Agamemnon or Treasury of Atreus because he thought it must have been the final resting place of Agamemnon, leader of the Greeks during the Trojan war. The tomb was constructed during the Bronze Age around 1250 BC, and it is the most impressive of the Mycenaean tholos tombs left standing.

The tour continues to the citadel of Ancient Mycenae on the spur of Mount Zara.

Follow the guide up the ramp of Ancient Mycenae, under the Lion’s Gate and enter Mycenae’s magic castle! Everything here recalls Homer’s Iliad: the Grave Circle, where Schliemann discovered the famous golden mask of Agamemnon, the Cyclopean Walls, the foundations of the Palace, where once Agamemnon lived, the Postern Gate and the entrance to the Underground Cistern. After the visit you will drive back to picturesque Nafplio harbor.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone, uneven surfaces, inclines, steps, with lot of uphill walking.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. Non-professional cameras and video-cameras can be used free of charge, while flash is forbidden in the museum.



ATHENS, GREECE

Athens and Acropolis Museum (ending at the airport)

Drop off at airport: Price: 89 € Duration: 05:00 approx.

Drop off in city center: Price 75 € Duration: 04:00 approx.

Activity level: strenuous Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Min 10 participants

This tour ends at Athens International Airport (ATH) and is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 15:30.

From the port of Piraeus you pass the charming yacht harbor 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 meters southeast 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 meters. 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 center of Athens; the rest of the passengers will be transferred to the airport.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves considerable amount of walking over cobblestone, uneven surfaces and inclines.

We advise guests to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The use of cameras and video-cameras is forbidden in the museum. Museum has toilets, small souvenir shop, cafeteria and restaurant.

The order of the visits may vary. Traffic in Athens may affect the duration of the driving between the places.

The tour guide will leave the group when the coach leaves Athens in direction of the airport.

Star Clippers offers also the following transfer services (optional, upon reservation):**✓ Shared transfer to Athens Airport (ATH)**

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 10:30 am.

This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 12:30 pm.

✓ Private transfers to Athens Airport (ATH) / to hotels in Athens.

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

