



# SHORE EXCURSIONS

## **10** nights | **STAR CLIPPER** **Suez Canal Crossing (Athens to Safaga)**

<b>Sat</b>	<b>08-Jun-2024</b>	<b>Piraeus (port of Athens), Greece</b>
Sun	09-Jun-2024	Hydra, Greece
Mon	10-Jun-2024	Monemvasia, Greece
Tue	11-Jun-2024	Santorini, Greece
Wed	12-Jun-2024	Rhodes, Greece
Thu	13-Jun-2024	day at sea
Fri	14-Jun-2024	Alexandria, Egypt
Sat	15-Jun-2024	Port Said, Egypt
Sun	16-Jun-2024	Suez Canal transit
Mon	17-Jun-2024	day at sea
<b>Tue</b>	<b>18-Jun-2024</b>	<b>Safaga, Egypt</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, 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, except the excursion "Overland tour to Cairo", which must be pre-booked with Star Clippers prior your cruise and it is not available on board. For information and reservations, please contact our reservation department or your travel agent.
- 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: 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2023*

### HYDRA, GREECE

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

The town rises up like an amphitheatre from the port area, remaining hidden until the very last moment for those approaching by sea. It owes its unique character to the impressive mansions that were built in the late 18th century for wealthy Hydriot ship-owners by architects from Venice and Genoa. These houses differ from the usual Greek island architecture because of their individuality, size and sloping tiled roofs. During this period, Hydra possessed an important fleet and was sometimes called "Little England" because of its seafaring prowess and flair for commerce. No motor vehicles are allowed on Hydra, a designated Landmark Preservation area, and all transport is by boat, on foot or by donkey. The island is an irresistible mixture of old and new with night clubs, bars, waterfront cafés, restaurants, and boutiques blending harmoniously with picturesque lanes and bare hills dotted with dazzling white chapels and windmills.

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

### 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)**

### 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 whitewashed and pastel-colored buildings. The cafes and hotels built on the hill overlooking the harbor 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 harbor 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.



**Akrotiri, Oia, Fira**

Duration: 04:30 approx.

Price: 79 €

Min 15 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Your tour starts at Athinios pier where local guides and buses are waiting there to take you to the site of Akrotiri, one of the most important prehistoric settlements in the Aegean.

In the last quarter of the 17th century B.C. few earthquakes followed by an eruption forced all the inhabitants to abandon it. The volcanic materials covered the entire island and the town itself. These materials, however, have protected up to date the buildings and their contents, just like in Pompei.

Marvelous frescoes were found in some of the houses as well as many vessels and utensils of everyday use.

After your guided tour of the site, you continue on and after a short drive you arrive in Oia. Together with your guide take a short walk through the village of Oia or spend some time on your own. Also, you will have the opportunity to enter the artists' workshops, to meet them and talk with them. See the architecture and typical Santorinian style of houses and churches. After that will start your return journey to Fira, the attractive capital town. Enjoy some free time in the town and then take the cable car down to the small harbor of Scala from where the tenders will take you back to the ship.

Please note: this tour involves moderate walking on uneven surfaces, inclines, steps, cobblestones.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. There is a bit of uphill walking at Akrotiri and Oia and 28 steps at Fira (on the way to cable car) involved during the visits in the tour.

The use of cameras is free of charge in the site but flash and video cameras are prohibited. The order of the places visited may change.

**Oia village and winery**

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Price: 69 €

Min 15 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

You will enjoy a unique journey by tenders in the "caldera" towards Athinios harbour.

Board the awaiting buses and enjoy a scenic ascent via the colourful rocky sides of the caldera, affording a spectacular panorama of the island.

Your first stop will be Profitis Ilias, the highest peak on the island on altitude of almost 2.000 feet, where you will glimpse the monastery of Profitis Ilias and the breathtaking view of the entire island. After short photo-stop, we continue to the Santo winery where you will have the opportunity to taste wines from the island.

Wine producers prune vines into the shape of a basket or a wreath, called "koulouri", weaving canes around one another to create a ring. This technique allows the fruit to grow inside the basket, protecting it from intense summer heat and wind-blown sand.

Afterwards, you will enjoy in a pleasant drive through the lovely traditional villages of the stunning island towards Oia located on the northern side. Upon arrival in Oia, your guide will give you explanations on the main square, after which you will be able to explore the village on your own and have the opportunity to enter artists' workshops, meet them and talk with them. See the architecture and typical Santorinian style of houses and churches. Revive over a cup of coffee or juice at a place overlooking the volcano (optional).

After a short journey you will reach Fira, the attractive capital town.

Enjoy a leisurely stroll to the town centre where you have time to browse through the shops and boutiques and to sip coffee in one of the cafes affording a spectacular view of the volcano. Take the cable car down to the small harbour of Scala from where the tenders will take you back to the ship.

Please note: this tour involves moderate walking on uneven surfaces, inclines, steps, cobblestones.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. There is a bit of uphill walking in Oia and 28 steps at Fira (on the way to cable car) involved during the visits in the tour.

The order of the places visited may change.



**RHODES, GREECE**

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

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

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

**Lindos and its Acropolis**

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 72 €

Activity level: strenuous

Min 20 / Max 60 participants

This tour begins with a beautiful 30-mile drive along the East Coast through charming, picturesque villages.

A wonderful scent fills the air as we drive past orange and lemon groves, vineyards and gnarled olive trees.

On this tour you may walk up to the summit of the Acropolis. Once you have reached the site you will visit the 4th century BC Doric temple of Athena Lindia and a double-winged portico, a Byzantine church, the fortifications of the Knights, and the remains of the Governor's quarters. You will enjoy a breathtaking view from the top of the Acropolis; at its foot you will see Saint Paul's bay, where the Apostle is said to have landed in the year 51 AD to preach Christianity to the Rhodians.

Below the Acropolis you will see the old, whitewashed houses and the narrow streets of this most delightful town. Its beauty has long been a source of inspiration to artists and writers. There are many small shops selling enchanting ceramic objects and beautiful crocheted linen.

The trip back to the quayside in Rhodes follows the same scenic route.

Please note: This tour requires extensive walking / standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces with steep inclines and many steps. The village of Lindos is pedestrian-only. To reach the Lindos' Acropolis guests must climb approx. 300 steps.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat, sunscreen and a bottle of water. There is no shade at the top of the Acropolis, take extra precautions against the sun.

The drive between Rhodes and Lindos takes approximately 50 minutes (each way), depending on traffic conditions.

Time permitting, guests will have approximately 30 minutes free time for shopping and browsing in Lindos.



## ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT

The second largest city in Egypt, Alexandria, known as “The Pearl of the Mediterranean”, has an atmosphere that is more Mediterranean than Middle Eastern. Founded by Alexander the Great in 331 BC, Alexandria became the capital of Graeco-Roman Egypt. Its ambience and cultural heritage distance it from the rest of the country although it is actually only 225 km. from Cairo.

The optional tour “**OVERLAND TOUR TO CAIRO AND THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA**” (with overnight in Cairo) takes you to Egypt's capital, where you can visit the ancient monuments of Giza and the Pyramids.

***This shore excursion can only be pre-booked and will not be available onboard.***

**Panoramic Alexandria**

Duration: 02:30 approx.

Price: 75 €

Min 15 / Max 40 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: easy

Discover the beauty of Alexandria city during this exclusive excursion.

Departure from the Port of Alexandria for the drive to the Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa, discovered in 1900.

The largest Roman cemetery in Alexandria is composed of three levels cut approximately 90 feet (about 27 metres) deep into the existing rock. The catacombs date from the beginning of the 2nd century A.D., and started out as a family crypt that was later extended to hold more than 300 dead. Upon arrival, take a guided tour through parts of this subterranean cemetery.

Following the Catacombs visit, you will stop by Pompey's Pillar; erected in 297 A.D., this massive column measures approximately 84 feet (about 26 meters) in height. Originally part of the Temple of Serapis, the pillar was made from a single slab of polished rose granite.

Your tour ends with a visit to the Roman theatre. Unearthed during excavations in 1960, this well-preserved Roman Theatre features galleries, sections of mosaic flooring and marble seating for up to 800 spectators.

Please Note: This tour is primarily panoramic, with limited walking at the guest's discretion during stops.

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

**Roman Alexandria**

Duration: 02:45 approx.

Price: 89 €

Min 15 / Max 30 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Discover the beauty of Alexandria city during this exclusive excursion.

Departure from the Port of Alexandria for the drive to the Catacombs of Kom El Shoqafa, discovered in 1900.

The largest Roman cemetery in Alexandria is composed of three levels cut approximately 90 feet (about 27 metres) deep into the existing rock.

The catacombs date from the beginning of the 2nd century A.D., and started out as a family crypt that was later extended to hold more than 300 dead. Upon arrival, take a guided tour through parts of this subterranean cemetery.

Your tour ends with a visit to the Roman theatre. Unearthed during excavations in 1960, this well-preserved Roman Theatre features galleries, sections of mosaic flooring and marble seating for up to 800 spectators.

Please Note: This tour includes approximately 45 minutes of moderate walking/standing over uneven surfaces, with numerous 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.



**OVERLAND TOUR TO CAIRO AND THE PYRAMIDS OF GIZA**

Duration: 2 days & 1 night                      Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach  
 Price: 519 € per person in double room    Activity level: moderate  
        634 € per person in single

***This shore excursion can only be pre-booked and will not be available onboard.***

*For information and reservations, please contact our reservation department or your travel agent.*

**Day 1, Friday, 14th of June 2024 - Alexandria to Cairo**

Upon disembarking the ship at Alexandria, you will be met and depart for the **three-hour drive to Cairo**. Upon arrival to Cairo, you will be visiting **The Citadel** and **Mohamed Ali Mosque**. It is also referred to as the Alabaster Mosque due to the extensive use of that stone on some of the exterior walls and other surfaces.

The mosque, the largest such structure built during the first half of the 19th century, is more impressive at a distance than close-up. Though its artistic merit is questionable, the mosque is an unparalleled contribution to the Cairo skyline. Situated on the summit of the Citadel high atop the Citadel grounds, its great dome and towering minarets are the first features that catch your eye at the fortress.

Check in at your **5 stars hotel**.

This evening you will enjoy the spectacular **Sound and Light show** at the Pyramids' area.

After the show **dinner** will be served at your hotel.

**Overnight in Cairo.****Day 2, Saturday, 15th of June 2024 - Cairo to Port Said**

After a buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will check-out and depart for the visit of Sakkara.

The **Step Pyramid of Sakkara** overlooks Zoser's mortuary complex. Dating from 2700 BC, the Step Pyramid is the oldest stone structure in the world and was designed by Imhotep for King Djoser. In addition to Djoser's Step Pyramid, there are another 16 pyramids on the site in various states of preservation or decay.

Sakkara is also home to an impressive number of mastaba tombs. Because the necropolis was lost beneath the sands for much of the past two millennia, many of the mastaba tombs have been superbly preserved, with both their structures and lavish internal decorations intact.

Following Sakkara visit, you will be visiting the **Great Pyramids of Giza**, which are considered the most famous of Egypt's attractions and the only monuments left of the ancient wonders. The three main Pyramids at Giza were built as tombs by Cheops, his son Chephren, and Chephren's son Mykiernus to preserve each of the pharaohs' mummified body for eternity. For centuries, these unique structures have intrigued the world while surviving the rise and fall of great dynasties.

Southeast of the great Pyramid stands **the Sphinx** carved out of solid rock around 2650 BC.

**Lunch** will be served at one of the deluxe restaurants, before a quick shopping stop.

Next, you will visit the **Egyptian museum of antiquities** located in Tahrir square, the present museum building was built in 1900, in the neo classical style by the French architect Marcel Bourgeon. The museum exhibited collections now exceed 12000 objects range from prehistoric era to the Greco Roman period. The museum consists of two floors, The museum's ground floor follows the history of ancient Egypt, the second floor consist of thousands of smaller items from the span of Egyptian history. One of the most important rooms in the Egyptian museum hosts the Treasure of Tutankhamun, the boy-king who ruled Egypt for nine years. The mightiness of his treasures still fascinates us to this very day.

Finally, a **three-hour drive will take you to Port Said** and your awaiting ship.

Your overland program includes:

- 1 night accommodation at a 5\* hotel in Cairo.
- Entrance fees to all sites mentioned in the program.
- Breakfast, two lunches and one dinner. Beverage package during meals (bottled water, tea and coffee).
- Local English-speaking guide (Egyptologist).
- Transportation by air-conditioned coach equipped with WC.
- High security arrangements for the group.



Your overland program does not include:

- Tips for the driver and local guide.
- Personal expenses.
- All other services not mentioned in the program.

Please note :

- The local currency is the Egyptian pound.
- Expected weather: sunny and very hot.
- Protect yourself from the sun: wear hat, sunglasses and bring sunscreen.
- This tour involves extended walking.
- We advise you to wear comfortable clothing and shoes.
- For the visit of Mohamed Ali Mosque, shoes must be removed before entering. No shorts are allowed for men and women. Women are required to cover their head and shoulders. We recommend bringing your own scarf.
- The order of the visits may be reversed.
- Driving time between Cairo and Alexandria / Port Said is approximately 3:00 hours (each way).

### PORT SAID, EGYPT

Port-Saïd is a city-port in the northeast of Egypt, on a coastal strip between the Suez Canal, the Mediterranean Sea and Lake Manzaleh. In 1859, during the construction of the strait, the city of Port Said was initially established as a camp for the workers who participated in the excavation of the Suez Canal. It then becomes a modern urban center, and it is now the fifth largest city of Egypt in terms of population.

#### **Port Said by Horse drawn Carriage**

Duration: 02:00 approx.

Transportation: horse carriage

Price: 49 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 10 / Max 30 participants

Explore the highlights of Port Said in a horse-drawn carriage for two. Board your horse-drawn carriage to enjoy the landmarks of the city, including the Roman Catholic Cathedral, the picturesque Obelisk Memorial (erected to honor those lost during the Suez Crisis), the beautiful Al Salam Mosque and its two stately minarets, and the National Stadium. At the end of the city tour you will visit the Port Said military museum, where you'll find mementoes of armed conflicts such as the 1956 Anglo-French War, before returning to the pier.

Please Note: This tour is primarily panoramic in nature with limited walking at the guest's discretion during stops. The order of sites viewed or visited may vary. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

