

# WHY BOOK A CELESTYAL EXCURSION

Although we say it ourselves, the destinations on a Celestyal cruise are rather special. Call us biased but we think they are among the most exciting, beautiful, historic, iconic and evocative in the world.

So a very warm welcome to our Idyllic Aegean excursions.

Joining us on the seven night itinerary, you will be immersed in the most fabulous experiences living and breathing the myths and legends of Ancient Greece, discovering long past civilisations, following in the footsteps of great figures from history and seeing some of the most wondrous scenery on the planet.

From classical Athens to beautiful Mykonos, Thessaloniki awe-inspiring Ephesus, Milos, Crete and stunning Santorini.

You will be amazed at what we can see and do in a week.

We like to feel that we are taking you on your very own Greek Odyssey across the Aegean. And nobody knows the Eastern Mediterranean and the Greek Islands better than we do. You can be sure of that.

Whether the history and culture is your thing or you are more about the outstanding natural beauty, the magnificent beaches or indeed the whole experience wrapped up together, we have something to match.

Our specially designed excursions are central to your Celestyal experience with our expert guides taking you step by step through your voyage of discovery and really bringing our destinations alive.

Sometimes in history it's not easy to work out where facts end and legends begin. So please fire up your imagination and join us to find out.

We really mean it when we say every moment is a destination and 'every destination is a wonder'.

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Pre book and cancellation period is up to two weeks prior to embarkation date.

Our Authentic excursions require a minimum participation, noted on each excursion page.

# GUIDE TO SYMBOLS



Short or no walking involved.



Easy walking: General walking over an even surface.



Moderate walking: Moderate amount of physical activity such as walking over uneven surfaces and climbing stairs. Might not be recommended for guests with walking difficulties.



Hard walking: High amount of physical activity for extended periods of time. Recommended only for sporting guests with good physical health.



Includes visits to religious sites, knees and shoulders must be covered.



It is recommended to bring your swimming suit and a towel.



Shopping with an experienced guide.



Meal included on this excursion.



Refreshments included on this excursion.



Please be advised it is recommended that you take a bottle of water for your journey.



Panoramic, nature, landscapes.



Cultural experience: This tour will feature art, architecture, history and religion.



Folklore: We focus on local habits, traditions, food and tasting.



Adventure and fun.



Suitable for families travelling with children.

#### Half day - up to 5 hours Full day - 6 hours and above

All timings and order of visits are subject to change depending on traffic congestion of the sites and weather conditions.

Operation of tours may be subject to the time of the year please check at time of booking.

Normal excursions require a minimum participation as per terms and conditions.

Please be aware of the dress code in order to enter the monasteries; legs and shoulders should be covered, no shorts, long skirts (below the knee).

Terms and conditions are available at: www.celestyalcruises.com/shorex-conditions

# **EXCURSION PACKAGES**

Find your inner explorer and indulge yourself with our discounted excursion packages. If you embark from another port please contact us for your available packages.

# 20% discount package includes:

- ✓ Royal tombs of Vergina (THS-02)
- ✓ Ancient Ephesus through the ages (KUS-02)
- ✓ Minoan Palace of Knossos 1st European Civilization (HER-02)
- ✓ Spectacular Oia Village perched on the Caldera rim (SAN-01)
- ✓ Step back in Time (MIL-02)

Package price ADULT €325, CHILD €245 (includes 20% off)

INCLUSIVE fare: ADULT €250, CHILD €170 ENHANCE fare: ADULT €175, CHILD €95
Prices are per person with your discount applied



# 15% discount package includes:

- ✓ Panoramic Thessaloniki (THS-06)
- ✓ Ancient Ephesus through the ages (KUS-02)
- ✓ Mykonian Countryside with Chora and Little Venice (MYK-06)
- ✓ Step back in Time (MIL-02)

Package price ADULT €249, CHILD €196 (includes 15% off)

INCLUSIVE fare: ADULT €174, CHILD €121 ENHANCE fare: ADULT €99, CHILD €46

Prices are per person with your discount applied



# 10% discount package includes:

- ✓ Ancient Ephesus through the ages (KUS-02)
- ✓ Minoan Palace of Knossos 1st European Civilization (HER-02)
- ✓ Spectacular Oia Village perched on the Caldera rim (SAN-01)

Package price ADULT €219, CHILD €165 (includes 10% off)

INCLUSIVE fare: ADULT €144, CHILD €90 ENHANCE fare: ADULT €69, CHILD €15

Prices are per person with your discount applied









# THE ROYAL TOMBS OF VERGINA

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: THS - 02

This a fascinating half day, step back time.

Vergina was the first ancient capital of the Greek Kingdom of Macedonia and we have the privilege of visiting the Royal Tombs.

The most important tomb is that of Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great.

We will be accompanied into the museum by our guide to look at some of King Philip's most important possessions, including the king's shield and goldtrimmed breast plate.

Legend has it that the golden chest containing the king's bones was washed with wine and wrapped in purple cloth.

We will find out how this was unearthed before being able to discover it for ourselves.

Also on display are gold diadems of unparalleled artistry, lavish wall paintings and a golden wreath of oak leaves.

This is also the site of an extensive royal palace and one of the most important museums in Greece.

The area was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status as "an exceptional testimony to a significant development in European civilisation."

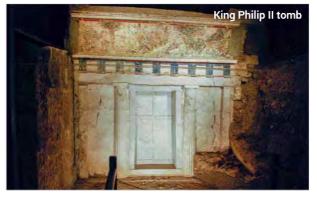








**ADULT** €81







# **PANORAMIC THESSALONÍKI**

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: THS - 06

Thessaloniki is the second city of Greece and the capital of Macedonia.

It has a fascinating and colourful history with evidence of Byzantine, Roman and Ottoman remains and it was the richest city in the Byzantine Empire.

It is a glorious blend of beauty, history, and culture, framed by vast and stunning sea views and is considered to be Greece's cultural capital.

Our panoramic tour begins along the waterfront boulevard to Aristotelous Square, named for Macedonia's leading philosopher Aristotle.

We will see Thessaloniki's most famous sight, the White Tower, part of the lower city's original fortification which has also served as a prison.

We hear the fascinating narrative by our guide as we take in many of the city's highlights including, the Gallerius Arch, the Rotunda, and numerous neo-Classical buildings.

We visit the 5th century St. Demetrius' Cathedral as well and stop up to the Upper Town for sweeping views of the city with Mount Olympus and the Thermaic Gulf in the background.

















# LAND OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

**Duration: Full day** Tour code: THS - 04

This is a remarkable, historic, full-day excursion combining the glories of Pella with those of Vergina, and it includes lunch overlooking the stunning Aliakmon Valley.

We begin with a 45-minute drive by air-conditioned motor coach to Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great and the second capital of ancient Macedonia.

Alexander, Emperor in the 4th Century BC, was undefeated in battle and is widely considered one of history's most successful military commanders.

For 250 years Pella was the cultural centre of the Ancient Greek world and as the seat of the royal family, enjoyed its greatest prosperity during the reign of Alexander. Archaeological excavations have uncovered public buildings and luxurious private homes with intricate marble-floor mosaics along with a plethora of delicate clay figurines and vases.

Our next stop is Vergina, where we visit the tomb of King Philip II of Macedonia. Dating from 335 BC, the bones of the king are covered with a golden wreath of oak leaves. Also here are the king's iron helmet and a cache of weapons. As well as King Philip's tomb and personal effects, we will see well-preserved examples of large-scale classical painting and numerous carved, painted steles of ordinary citizens.

We have an hour's drive by coach back to the ship.















# TRANSFER TO SAHARA BEACH

Duration: Half day Tour code: THS - 08

Step foot onto Sahara Beach and you'll have a view of endless golden sands and sparkling turquoise waters. It is located in the Halkidiki region, which is well-loved by Greeks and visitors alike for its lush forests and sheltered bays.

Sahara Beach is the place to escape and unwind with a book and cocktail in hand. Here you'll find the biggest beach bar in Greece – just one of many on the shores – complete with bean bags, a fantastic menu and all-day tunes to bring a vibrant atmosphere.

If you want to explore the shoreline, you can swim with confidence knowing that it has been awarded a Blue Flag for safety and pristine waters. You can also hire water sports equipment to adventure out onto the open water.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.







SOLD ONLY ON BOARD



# **RICH HISTORY OF A FAMOUS GREEK WINERY**

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 10-15 GUESTS

Tour code: THS - 09

This is what we might call a full bodied tour to the slopes of Epanomi Hills, a short distance from the city of Thessaloniki.

More than any other type of alcohol, wine has the uncanny ability to stimulate your senses and bring the greatest pleasure to your taste buds as well as sight and smell.

A good wine can have magical qualities which is why people talk about it in the way they do.

So for wine lovers, our trip to Ktima Gerovasilliou will be an unforgettable and fully sensual experience.

This is one of the most reputed wine companies in Greece having been in business for more than 40 years.

We are led by a knowledgeable wine-guide who will share their passion and show us the meticulously tended 71-hectare vineyard, wine production, bottling, ageing areas and the wine museum.

You can choose the labels you wish to taste or opt for one of the specially designed wine experiences.

Among the international names, the grapes used include Chardonnay, Viognier, Sauvignon Blanc, Syrah and Merlot.

The local white wine includes Malagaousia and Assyrtiko and the reds Limnio, Mavroudi and Mavrotragano.





ADULT €143

All have a rich history.

Current and rare past vintages, tasty combinations and the magnificent view of the imposing vineyard are at the heart of your visit to Ktima Gerovassiliou.







#### THESSALONIKI FOOD ON FOOT

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 9-18 GUESTS

Tour code: THS - 10

Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, tastes, aromas and culture of historic Thessaloniki in an all round, sensory experience.

This is what travel and discovery are all about.

Not just a superficial passing through, but something that offers a much deeper understanding of your destination, creating vivid memories that will stay with you. You will see, feel, hear, taste and smell Thessaloniki.

This a remarkable city that is easy to fall in love with, the home of fine food, rich history and stunning coastlines.

It has Greek, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman influences.

Soak up the atmosphere around the historic centre, see how the past and present fuse together, enjoy the places where locals go, try some of the local delicacies and learn how they fit into Thessaloniki's culture.

The starting point is a walk along the seafront Promenade to Aristotelous Square, the largest and most central square of the city.

There is the famous landmark of Thessaloniki, the White Tower, built by the Ottomans in the 15th century to defend the eastern end of the city's sea walls.



We'll walk to Navarinou Square, to see the ruins of a palace, part of Caesar Galerius' Royal Complex of buildings, the Arch of Galerius and Rotunda.

The nearby St. Sophia Church is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As the history unfolds before our eyes so we sample local specialities in various establishments as we go.

We will walk through to the old olive oil market, today known as Ladadika. The area is a gem, full of life day and night with everything from luxurious restaurants to typical Greek taverns.

This is the perfect taste of intriguing Thessaloniki.









#### **HOUSE OF VIRGIN MARY & ANCIENT EPHESUS**

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: KUS - 01

We say with Celestyal every moment is a destination and every destination is a wonder.

That's more than just a figure of speech. In some cases it's literally true. So our visit to Ephesus brings us near to the site of one of the lost Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Temple of Artemis.

Ephesus was an Ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia. It's now in Turkey.

The temple, with more than 100 marble pillars each standing 56 feet tall took 120 years to build and it earned the city the name 'Servant of the Goddess.' A single solitary pillar remains standing on the site, found during an excavation in the 1870s.

As with so many places in the Eastern Mediterranean, Ephesus changed hands many times over the centuries. But it remains one of the largest Roman archaeological sites in the region. You will be in awe of this incredible historic complex and the ruins you explore still give some idea of the original splendour of Ephesus.

Among the sights to be admired still are the iconic and instantly recognisable Library of Celsus, the Gate of Augustus, Magnesian Gate, the Agora, Odeon, the Houses of the Patricians, the Great Theatre, Hadrian's Temple and the House of the Virgin Mary.







**CHILD** 

**ADULT** €92

One legend suggests Mary may have spent her last years here following Jesus' instruction to St John the Evangelist to look after his mother. Many consider it to have been her final home and it has become a place of pilgrimage.

In 1957 the Vatican formalised this recognition. Three Popes have visited. Another reason why Ephesus is important in Christianity is that the apostle Paul lived, preached and wrote extensively here including his Letter to the Corinthians.

Our tour includes time to shop for souvenirs, carpets, jewellery, leather and other goods.

Ephesus is one of the largest, most fascinating and most inspiring open-air archaeological museums in the world. This is an excursion you are unlikely to forget.





# **ANCIENT EPHESUS THROUGH THE AGES - HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN**

Duration: Half day Tour code: KUS - 02

This is a wonderful journey through some of the most important and formative periods of history and we hope you will be enthralled by the stories of the Hellenes, Romans and of Christianity in our fascinating exploration of Ephesus.

This marvellous city, sitting on the hills outside Kusadasi is a fabulous open air archaeological wonder founded by the Greeks around 2000 BC. It was one of the most important cities of the region and was dedicated to the goddess Artemis.

The Temple built in her honour was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It had more than 100 marble pillars each standing 56 feet tall and it earned the city the name 'Servant of the Goddess.'

A single pillar remains standing on the site, found during an excavation in the 1870s. We will be able to see the Agora, Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marvel-paved Main Street of Curetes, the Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Temple of Hadrian and the Houses of Koressus, where the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus lived.

Only 13 per cent of Ephesus has so far been uncovered. The finds from the excavations made so far are housed in the Archaeological Museum of Ephesus in the city of Selcuk.



CHILD €61 ADULT €81

We have time for shopping for carpets, jewellery, leather and other souvenirs at the end of our tour.







#### **ANCIENT EPHESUS AND THE TERRACE HOUSES**

Duration: Half day Tour code: KUS - 07

Every step we take in Ancient Ephesus brings us closer to the Hellenistic, Roman and early Christian eras. We will enjoy a truly exceptional experience in one of the most important and complete classical cities in Europe, even though only a fraction of it has been uncovered.

We pass through the Magnesian Gate and wander through the Agora, Odeon, the magnificent and restored Library of Celsus, the marble-paved Main Street of Curetes, Baths of Scholastica, The Great Theatre, Trajan's Fountain, the Houses of the Patricians, Prytaneum and the Temple of Hadrian.

Opposite Hadrian's Temple, at the foot of the Bulbul Hill and the covered part of the archaeological site, protected from the heat and natural elements, lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses.

It was here that the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus lived. These villas are excellently preserved, especially the interior decor. The oldest houses so far unearthed date from the 1st Century BC, were built on two storeys and even had hot and cold water and a heating system, clay pipes under the floor. They were even constructed to a city plan in which roads intersected with each other at right angles.

Ephesus, which became the second largest city in the Roman Empire, was dedicated to the goddess Artemis and the magnificent temple built to honour her took



120 years to complete. It is one of six of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that have long gone.

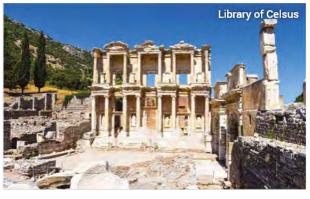
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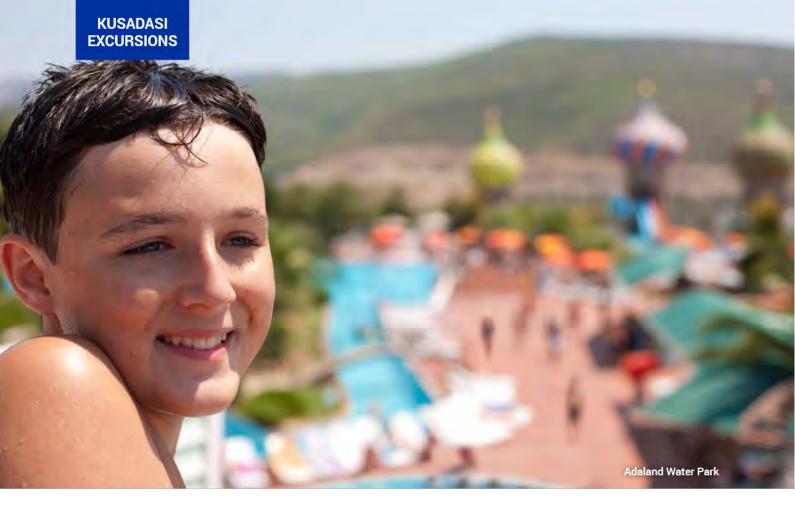
**ADULT** 

€92

Our tour includes time to shop for souvenirs, carpets, jewellery, leather and other goods.







# ADVENTURE, SPILLS AND THRILLS AT ADALAND WATER PARK

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY
Tour code: KUS - 06

A water world of adventure awaits guests at Adaland, something of a contrast with our more sedate tours.

If a little adrenaline and excitement is what you crave, it's an experience tailor made for you.

This is Turkey's biggest themed water park and one of the largest and best regarded in Europe.

There are 10,000 square metres of slides, wave pools, waterfalls and rides with facilities and thrills for all age groups.

The heart-stopping 'big rides' include the Screamer, Black Thunder and the Anaconda. The names say it all

At a more gentle pace, there are boat rides in the lazy river that stretches for 300m through the park and on Treasure Island younger visitors can slide through the 25m Pirate Tunnel or test their balance on the Lily-Pad Raft Walk.

There are more than 20 family friendly rides, plenty to keep everyone busy.

Also featured are the children's pool and slides jacuzzi pool, wave pool, activity pool.

The little ones get their own separate areas.







€35

ADULT €50







#### THRILL OF THE RIDE BUGGY SAFARI

**Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 10-20 GUESTS** 

Tour code: KUS - 10

A visit to Kusadasi is all about Ephesus, correct? Well not quite.

A buggy safari may not have been on your agenda but it's another of our experiential options that is just a little out of the ordinary.

Experience the thrill of the ride in an exciting journey over the natural terrain, while absorbing the fascinating and varied landscape.

Sit behind the wheel, strap in and feel the wind in your hair as we really go off the beaten track.

You will be fully safety briefed, fitted with a helmet and set off with an experienced guide on an easier course.

Once you have gained full confidence you'll head to tougher and more challenging terrain, through forest, marshes, dusty roads, creeks and mud, spotting wildlife on the way and seeing spectacular views of the Aegean.





The buggies are comfortable, safe and easy to steer and manoeuvre and all the while your guide is on hand.

A stop at a local beach for a swim or a bit of relaxation may also be on the itinerary.

All vehicles and routes are inspected weekly to ensure a safe and comfortable trip.

It's an exceptional tour and something very different, but be warned. You might get a bit muddy or dusty or both!

But take it from us, it's worth it.



#### ANCIENT CIVILISATIONS WITH AN EXPERT ARCHAEOLOGIST

**Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 10-20 GUESTS** Tour code: KUS-11

Sometimes you visit a place and metaphorically rub your eyes because you can't quite believe you are there.

We think Ephesus is one such destination.

Every step we take brings us closer to the incredible civilisations of the Hellenes, Romans and Ottomans.

Here once stood one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Temple of Artemis.

Our visit to Ephesus is the very essence of experiential travel and we are proud to be able to show it to you in the company of an expert archaeologist-guide as we feel, see and touch ancient history.

What a magnificent experience to take away and hold onto forever.

Ephesus ranks among the world's most beautiful classical cities.

St John and the Virgin Mary visited and here St Paul wrote one of his most celebrated epistles, the Letter to the Ephesians.

Beginning at the Magnesium Gate we walk gently and leisurely downhill through Ephesus' marble streets, passing historically-significant sites such as the gymnasium, Temple of Hadrian, Upper Agora and Roman Baths.



Opposite Hadrian's Temple, at the foot of the Bulbul Hill and the covered part of the archaeological site, protected from the heat and natural elements, lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses.

It was here that the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus lived. These villas are excellently preserved, especially the interior decor. The oldest houses so far unearthed date from the 1st Century BC, were built on two storeys and even had hot and cold and a heating system, clay pipes under the floor.

Then we come to the breathtaking Celsus Library, built in 135 B.C. and lavishly decorated with facades, columns and sculptures. The library once housed 12.000 scrolls of papyrus manuscripts, making it one of the largest in the ancient world.

A short walk away is the spectacular Greek Theatre, able to seat 24,000.

From here St. Paul preached to the populace, imploring them to give up their worship of Artemis and embrace the Christian faith.

Only foundations and fragment of the magnificent Temple of Artemis remain at Ephesus but just being at the site of one of the Seven Wonders is something special.







#### KNOSSOS PALACE AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Duration: Half day Tour code: HER - 01

The island of Crete may be best known for being one of Greece's most popular tourist destinations but look a little deeper and you will find something a little fascinating. The ancient city of Knossos, near the capital Heraklion, was the place that 'gave birth' to the very first civilisation of Europe, the Minoans. So we can probably say it's Europe's oldest city.

Our excursion will open up the world of the Minoans as we visit one of the continent's most important archaeological treasures.

The first excavations were undertaken in the 1870s by Minos Kalokairinos, a Cretan himself. A few decades later in the early 1900s, more work by Sir Arthur Evans from Britain brought to the world's attention the Palace of Knossos, according to legend the residence of wise King Minos in its entirety.

We will be able to explore the large Central Court, the wonderful Throne Room, the imposing Grand Staircase and see the fresco of the 'Prince of the Lilies.'

As you stroll through the palace apartments and view the archaeological finds, we think you will be just a little impressed by the rich cultural heritage of the Minoan civilisation.

You will undoubtedly hear the Cretan legend of the Minotaur, half man, half bull who lived in the Labyrinth







CHILD €61 ADULT €81

and was slain by Theseus. But that's a whole other story.

We call in at the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion to find out more of the background to the history and culture of Crete.

Our tours ends in Heraklion and the home to many important historical figures, including Nobel Prize winning poet Odysseas Elytis, the painter El Greco and the writer Nikos Kazantzakis.

The city is also blessed with some beautiful buildings and edifices including the 'Koules' fortress, Venetian Loggia, Morosini Fountain, Basilica of St Mark, Church of Agios Titus, medieval monastery of St Catherine and the Cathedral of Agios Minas.





#### **MINOAN PALACE OF KNOSSOS - 1ST EUROPEAN CIVILISATION**

Duration: Half day Tour code: HER - 02

The ancient city of Knossos, near Crete's capital Heraklion, was the place that 'gave birth' to the very first civilisation of Europe, the Minoans.

So we can say with some certainty it is Europe's oldest city.

Our excursion will open up the world of the Minoans as we visit one of the continent's most important archaeological treasures.

The first excavations were undertaken in the 1870s by Minos Kalokairinos, a Cretan himself. A few decades later in the early 1900s, more work by Sir Arthur Evans from Britain brought to the world's attention the full impressive scale of the Palace of Knossos, according to legend the residence of wise King Minos.

We will be able to explore the large Central Court, the wonderful Throne Room, the imposing Grand Staircase and see the fresco of the 'Prince of the Lilies.'

As you stroll through the palace apartments and view the archaeological finds, we think you will be just a little in awe of the rich cultural heritage of the Minoan civilisation.

You will undoubtedly hear the Cretan legend of the Minotaur, half man, half bull who lived in the Labyrinth and was slain by Theseus. But that's another story.



CHILD €61 ADULT €81

Exploring from room to room we will relive time in the Hall of the Royal Guard and the King's Chamber, hearing about the extraordinary rule of King Minos.







# **EXPERIENCE THE CRETAN COUNTRYSIDE AND LIFESTYLE**

Duration: Half day Tour code: HER - 04

Leaving the Venetian walls of Heraklion behind us, we drive deep into the beautiful countryside of Greece's largest island and the birthplace of Zeus according to mythology. We pass through Episkopi and Sgourokefali before arriving at the traditional village of Stironas. Here you take a deep breath, enjoy the fresh mountain air and take in the majestic view at 550 metres above sea level.

Stironas is made up of traditional stone buildings arranged amphitheatrically looking towards the mountains. You will see how the Cretans lived centuries ago. We also visit a botanical parterre, home to various aromatic and medicinal herbs from the mountains of Crete.

There will be the opportunity for a little wine tasting - wine has been in Crete since the Minoans, so the locals have a bit of experience in the matter. We visit a raki distiller and sample the product straight from the barrels in his cellar. After finding out more about production and bottling there will be a Cretan meze to enjoy with pure local olive oil and traditional dancers performing for their guests. You will have imbibed the true flavour of countryside life for a few hours.

We head back to historic Heraklion which was founded in 824 and learn about some of its key historic figures and the jewels in the crown of its



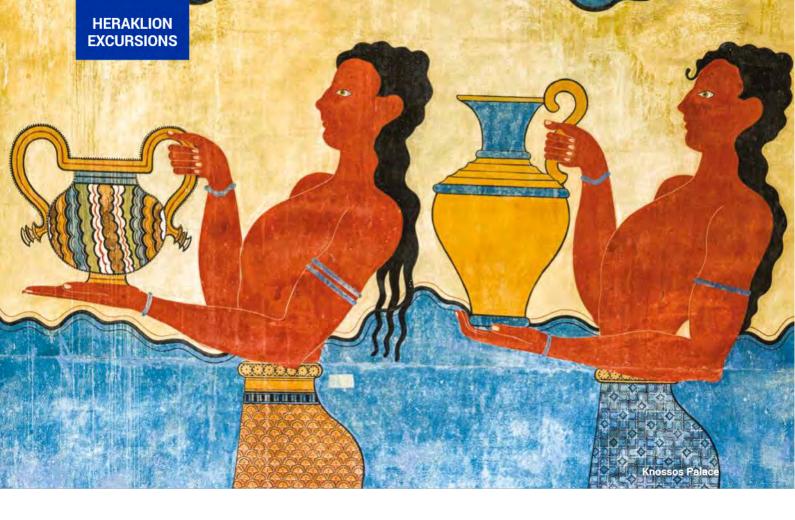


CHILD €61 ADULT €81

wonderful structures including the 'Koules' fortress, Venetian Loggia, Basilica of St Mark, medieval monastery of St Catherine and the Cathedral of Agios Minas.







# **KNOSSOS PALACE & CRETAN LANDSCAPES**

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: HER - 05

This extended coach tour takes us first to the heart of the ancient Minoan civilisation, the grand city of Knossos. Here we will take in many centuries of history, architecture, art and culture and discover the legends of Daedalus, Theseus and the formidable half man, half beast, the Minotaur.

Exploring from room to room we will relive time in the Hall of the Royal Guard and the King's Chamber, hearing the stories of King Minos.

The Minoans can be counted as Europe's oldest civilisation from 2700 BC and Knossos its oldest city.

The Minoans were swept away by the Mycenaeans from mainland Greece and Crete passed through numerous hands over the centuries from the Byzantines, Arabs and Venetians to the Ottomans. Crete became part of Greece in December 1913.

After our discoveries in Knossos we drive through the countryside to Thrapsano, Crete's pottery village.

We can watch traditional craftsmen and women at work producing pottery and ceramics and take a wander around a community suspended in time. We will journey along the ancient wine routes and through soothing, relaxing landscapes to Myrtia. Here is the Nikos Kazantzakis Museum dedicated to the life and work of this famous Greek writer.



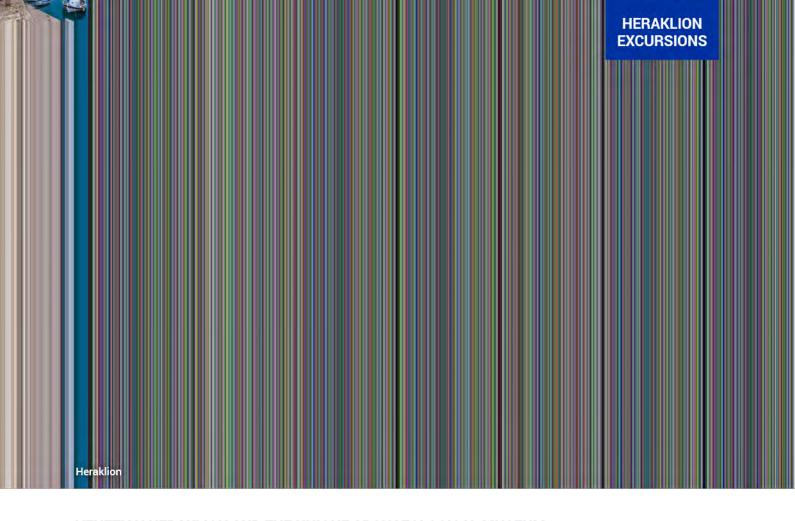




**ADULT** €92







# **VENETIAN HERAKLION AND THE UNIQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM**

Duration: Half day Tour code: HER - 07

Crete is Greece's largest island and the birthplace of Zeus according to mythology.

Our tour enables us to find out more of the important period of Venetian rule and explore the jewels in the crown of the capital Heraklion's wonderful structures including the 'Koules' fortress, Venetian Loggia, Basilica of St Mark, medieval monastery of St Catherine and the Cathedral of Agios Minas.

The Venetian Loggia is an especially eye-catching and beautiful structure that still functions as the Town Hall of Heraklion. It was built in 1620 and was a place for Venetian nobleman to gather. The fortifications of Heraklion surround the old city. They were first constructed in the Middle Ages but they were completely rebuilt by the Republic of Venice and resisted the Ottoman Turkish forces for 22 years in the 1600s. They are among the best preserved city walls in the Mediterranean.

The ancient city of Knossos, near the capital Heraklion, was the place that 'gave birth' to the very first civilisation of Europe, the Minoans. So we can probably say it's Europe oldest city. We can really feel the sense of history and understand some of the myths and legends of Ancient Greece here in Heraklion.

We also learn about some of Crete's leading figures, including Nobel Prize winning poet Odysseas Elytis, the painter El Greco and the writer Nikos Kazantzakis.



CHILD €61

ADULT €77

We end at the Archaeological Museum of Heraklion to find out more of the background to the history and culture of Crete.







#### **HERAKLION FOOD ON FOOT**

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 9-15 GUESTS
Tour code: HER-09

A rich flavour of Crete this tour certainly is. It will stimulate your senses and leave you with enduring memories of the most wonderful tastes and smells.

Close your eyes long after you have returned home and those aromas will come drifting back to remind you of a unique Cretan experience.

The island's cuisine is famous - some say miraculous.

Our expert guides are true food lovers and wine connoisseurs, so you will be in the best possible hands.

With them you will discover some of Heraklion's wonderful hidden gems to sample the very best of Mediterranean cuisine. At nine different places you will enjoy a flavour of what's on offer.

Original Cretan herbal tea with thyme-infused honey, a variety of cheeses, olives, Greek custard pie with phyllo, delicious meze dishes paired with local wine and Cretan raki, as well as street food, all the while admiring the stunning scenery.

Tasting the very best of Crete is interwoven with a tour of the historic monuments of Heraklion immersing you in the capital's fascinating history.

The ancient city of Knossos 'gave birth' to the very first civilisation of Europe, the Minoans. The Minotaur, half man, half bull lived in the Labyrinth and was slain by Theseus. But that's another story, one of many.



Cretan food is renowned across the globe as the original Mediterranean Diet, perhaps the world's healthiest, abundant in fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes and olive oil. It features fish and poultry - lean sources of protein - over red meat. It has well-being at its heart and reflects Crete's rich diversity in landscape and plant life producing an amazing array of aromas and flavour.

It has inspired menus across Europe and beyond.

Historically Cretans have only eaten what their land produced.

Now it's your turn. There's so much food for thought.

This is truly a unique, unforgettable and sensory experience.

Who knows, it might even change your life.





# TRANSFER TO AMMOUDARA BEACH

Duration: Half day Tour code: HER - 10

Located 5km west of Heraklion, Ammoudara Beach is a popular spot that caters for all types of travellers, from solo adventurers to couples and families. Sunbathe, swim or take a trip on a jet ski - you can do it all here.

With its long stretch of golden sand, Ammoudara Beach has different areas to suit every visitor. There are a few great local eateries, sun loungers and water centres, and with calm shallow waters, it's an ideal spot to take the kids. To find solitude and really take in the views, simply wander towards Heraklion and you'll find a quieter stretch.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.













# SPECTACULAR OIA VILLAGE PERCHED ON THE CALDERA RIM

Duration: Half day Tour code: SAN - 01

If you are a first time visitor to Santorini she will take your breath away.

And even if you are a regular visitor, with her soaring landscapes and whitewashed houses she will still do that every time. She is regularly described as one of the most beautiful places on the planet. There are plenty of magic moments on our excursion.

One of the greatest spectacles is Oia village perched on the rim of the Caldera, the remains of a volcanic eruption.

Santorini is a ring of rock around the sea. Think of it as the rim of an old volcano.

First we head to Megalochori, one of the most authentic and unspoiled villages on the island, retaining its distinctive architecture, character and charm.

Our trip continues eastwards through a number of traditional communities like Firostefani and Imerovigli until we arrive at Oia. On our journey we will have had the lace-like caldera to our west, the little islands of Thirasia, Palea and Nea Kameni and an incredible, unsurpassable panoramic view.

There is plenty of time in Oia to explore, stroll the marble-paved alleys, visit the adorable shops and capture the moments on camera.



CHILD €61 ADULT €81

Admire the traditional buildings carved into the rocks and the unusual captain's manors, the settlement of Ammoudi at the foot of the caldera.







# **CRUISE TO SANTORINI'S ISLANDS AND VOLCANOES**

Duration: Half day Tour code: SAN - 02

This trip is a must for those who want to acquaint themselves just a little better with the islands fringing the caldera, the volcanic remnants.

A small boat will take us first to Nea Kameni. Its geology resembles a lunar landscape. We walk up the verge of the crater, the heart of the volcano and its an experience that should fill you with awe. The beaches of Nea Kameni are embraced by thermal springs.

Our next stop on this special excursion is Palea Kameni with its therapeutic warm waters.

The sea temperature here is five degrees higher than elsewhere and the green-yellow water contains sulphur.

After our trip to the volcano we have a change of pace as we visit the energetic Fira, the island's main town, for a stroll around, a quiet drink or simply the chance to soak up the atmosphere. We descend by funicular (ticket included in the excursion) to the Old Port for the transfer back to the ship.

Tour may not be available at certain times of the year.















#### **AKROTIRI VILLAGE EXCAVATIONS**

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: SAN - 08

Modern day Santorini has been shaped quite literally by one event in ancient history.

In 1650 BC the huge volcano Thira erupted, sinking the centre of the island then known at Strongyle and leaving behind an incredible caldera.

And it is on that small, circular, remnant that Santorini now sits, about 200 miles from the Greek mainland.

The municipality includes the inhabited islands of Santorini and Therasia and the uninhabited ones of Nea Kameni, Palea Kameni, Aspronisi and Christiana.

The soaring landscapes that give Santorini its unique look were formed by the eruption and you will almost certainly gaze in awe as you journey on a tender boat to the port of Athinios to head for Santorini's most important archaeological site, the village of Akrotiri. On the way we make a brief stop at the ruins of the island's famous windmill and take in the wonderful view.

The settlement of Akrotiri was destroyed in the eruption and buried in volcanic ash which preserved many of its buildings, structures and fine frescoes. The site has been excavated since the 1960s.

You will find a place held in time and it is an incredible experience.









CHILD

**ADULT** €81

It has been suggested Akrotiri could have been the inspiration for Plato's story of Atlantis, but there are numerous other places vying for that honour.

After Akrotiri we head for the capital Fira, the island's largest town, to visit the Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, also known as the Church of Ypapantis. It is famed for its elegance and beautiful frescos painted by Santorini artist Christoforus Assimis.

We have time to linger in Fira for shopping, a stroll or a relaxing coffee before making our way back to the tender boats by way of the teleferik, the Santorini Cable Car. It's an impressive descent of more than 200 metres to the blue waters of the caldera at the harbour side.

Tour may not be available at certain times of the year.





#### THE ESSENCE OF SANTORINI

**Duration: Full day** Tour code: SAN - 06

We hope you will be overwhelmed by the beauty of this trip. We're confident you will.

We head to the stunning viewpoint of Mount Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elias) where you will be able to take marvellous pictures of the different aspects across this unique island.

On the other hand you may just wish to simply gaze in awe, soaking up the vistas. Sometimes a camera just gets in the way.

At the summit of the mountain is the beautiful Monastery of Profitis Ilias, one of the oldest on the island.

From here we visit the magical town of Oia, without doubt the most photographed place on Santorini and familiar all over the world.

Our panoramic drive gives us breathtaking views of the lava rocks of the islets of Nea Kameni and the Caldera below, with free time to enjoy the landscape of Oia and the colourful shops and cafes with terraces overlooking the Aegean Sea.

We call at one of the most exclusive wineries of Santorini and of course there will be the chance for a little tasting.







**CHILD** €66

**ADULT** €92

Our tour brings us to the Church of Panagia Episkopi. Located in the village of Episkopi Gonia, it is a beautiful Byzantine Church, built in the late 11th Century, and the best example of traditional ecclesiastical architecture on the island.

At the coastal village of Kamari on the coast we will have free time to stroll along the beach that comes to the foot of the Mesa Vouno mountain, rising up to 400m. Once an agricultural and fishing village, modern Kamari boasts a thriving tourist industry, offering a wide choice of restaurants, cafes and bars and several water sports activities. The excursion ends in Fira where we make our way down to the harbour side by cable car.





#### **OFF THE BEATEN TRACK - 4X4 ADVENTURE**

Duration: Half day Tour code: SAN - 10

You are at the wheel of this exciting Jeep excursion with your guide as co-driver to show you the way!

This alternative trip combines the wild, rugged and more desolate beauty of the south west of Santorini with the generally more touristy eastern part of the island.

We start from Akrotiri, in the south-west.

The settlement of Akrotiri was destroyed in the eruption and buried in volcanic ash which preserved many of its buildings, structures and fine frescoes. The site has been excavated since the 1960s. Akrotiri could have been the inspiration for Plato's story of Atlantis.







€71

ADULT €102

We see the lovely lighthouse of Akrotiri, built in 1892 and one of the oldest in Greece, then stop at the virgin Vlychada beach and the popular Perissa beach with its black sand washed by the beautiful crystal waters of the Aegean.

Our journey takes in Mount Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elias) the little village of Exo Gonia built amphitheatrically on a slope and the peaceful Monolithos with its hidden beauties and its long and popular beach.

This is a great opportunity to see Santorini off the beaten track.

It's unforgettable excursion with you in charge and it comes to an end at Fira.





# TRANSFER TO PERISSA BEACH

Duration: Half day Tour code: SAN - 13

Dipping your toes into the black lava sand at Perissa Beach is a unique way to experience Santorini's volcanic geology. And getting closer to nature on Perissa Beach is easy!

Simply paddle in the deep blue and clear waters and gaze at the gigantic Mesa Vouno mountain that seems to climb from the sea. You can hire a sun lounger to bask in the sun or find a shady spot at one of the many cafes and bars that border the sandy stretch.

If you're looking for your next thrill, hire watersports equipment and paddle out into the deep blue, or explore the shallows as you swim in the clean waters that have earned Blue Flag awards over the years.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.







SOLD ONLY ON BOARD



# **HIKING TO THE ULTIMATE BEAUTY OF OIA**

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 10-15 GUESTS
Tour code: SAN - 17

This tour is only suitable for fit persons. Not available in July and August.

Is there a more awe-inspiring, captivating place than Oia? Unequivocally no many would say and who are we to disagree.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder and this is beauty personified.

After all, it is one of the most photographed places in the world, famed also for its spellbinding sunrises and sunsets.

Picture postcard just doesn't get anywhere near doing it justice. Mere words are not enough.

Oia is our ultimate destination on this walking tour, so you will be able to make up your own mind, but without doubt the experience will live long in the memory.

We make our way by coach up the hills from Athinios, following the twists and turns of the road, all the while taking in the astonishing landscape.

We pass by the former capital Pyrgos and the vineyards on the slopes.

The walking tour along a natural trail begins at Imerovigli.



Passing abandoned chapels, the stunning caldera is always in view and on the horizon we can see the islands of Nea Kameni, Palea Kameni and Thirasia

Then we reach Oia, high up on the ridge of red rocks and hanging on the caldera.

From this panorama of whitewashed houses with colourful rooftops and pretty churches the views across the dazzlingly blue Aegean and the caldera below simply take your breath away.

Try some Greek meze and and enjoy a little free time to visit the art galleries and antique shops, before our return to port - by coach of course, not on foot!





#### **MUSIC, MYTHS AND HISTORY**

**Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 9-14 GUESTS** 

Tour code: SAN-16

Pyrgos is our destination, the highest village on Santorini and one of the most beautiful parts of the island. An exquisite picture-book location which looks and feels as though it belongs in another era, a Greece of yesteryear.

It's charming, enchanting and absorbing and here you can live in the moment with the realisation there you are experiencing something very special.

Here your soul can really rejoice.

The pace of life is peaceful, calm and relaxed, a world away from the what we might know as normal life.

The main square with its tall pine trees and delightful coffee shops is the focal and the perfect place to take in the atmosphere.

Capture the moment and the feelings and hold on to them on our guided walking tour exploring the traditional Cyladic architecture that gives Santorini island its unique look.

Wander through the remains of a Venetian fortress and see the historical 18th century monastery of Profitis Ilias, which is closed to the public but remains home to one solitary monk.

Here are the most breathtaking views over the island.





We travel to Megalochori, a remarkably preserved village of Cycladic and neoclassical architecture. Stroll through rustic streets and marvel at homes dug into the volcanic rock.

Then we head to the Symposion Music and Mythology Cultural Centre for a musical presentation which creates an interactive journey using mythological narration and fifteen hand-crafted wind and string instruments.

The tour explores the history and architecture of the former winery and we will enjoy a cup of honey wine.

Back at Fira Town there is free time to shop and explore on your own.

The cable car ticket is included.





## A TASTE OF WINE AND TRADITION

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 10-15 GUESTS Tour code: SAN-15

You may already know this, but there is nowhere quite like beautiful and breathless Santorini, one of the most photographed destinations in the world.

Imagine yourself in a stunning, whitewashed walled mountain village, in the warm, gentle, sunny breeze, gazing out over the sparking blue Aegean.

You may not know which way to point your camera or smart phone because the vista is overwhelming whichever way you look.

But perhaps don't worry about taking pictures, at least not yet.

Just gaze in awe.... Live in the moment.

If ever there a time for mindfulness, surely this is it.

This could be you at Pyrgos, a charming village that once served as the capital of Santorini.

On a walking tour explore the traditional Cyladic architecture that gives Santorini its unique look and feel.

Strolll through the remains of a Venetian fortress and see the historical 18th century monastery of Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elias) one of the oldest on the island. It is closed to the public but remains home to one solitary monk and this vantage point offers the most spectacular views over the island.



At Venetsanos Winery, the oldest winery on the island, savour a variety of extraordinary, authentic local vintages.

Then at the Avanti Winery, enjoy a range of varietals, learning of the island's unique viticulture, which produces some of the crispest whites and seductively sweet wines in the Mediterranean.

In the capital Fira there is free time to shop and explore on your own before returning to ship with some wonderful images - in your mind and maybe in the camera.







## MYKONIAN COUNTRYSIDE TOUR WITH CHORA AND LITTLE VENICE

Duration: Half day Tour code: MYK - 06

We set off by coach from Mykonos Town, also known as Chora.

We visit the lovely colourful beach of Kalafatis.

On our return trip to Chora we call at the traditional village of Ano Mera and the monastery of Panagia Tourliani, founded in 1542.

It houses a wonderful collection of icons and has a beautiful bell tower and marble fountain, well worth seeing.

The delightful village square of Ano Mera is the perfect spot for a short break and maybe a coffee. You'll be relaxing in one of the island's oldest communities.

Back in Mykonos Town we stop at the Paraportiani church (which literally means Our Lady of the Side Gate and is actually made up of five churches) and the Folklore Museum. Here you can see many exhibits including traditional costumes, furniture and personal items typical of Mykonos life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It's a fascinating glimpse into the island of more than 100 years ago

We finish at Little Venice, the neighbourhood of Alefkhandra to admire those famous windmills, a sight you can surely never tire of.

Tour may not be available at certain times of the year.





ADULT €77







## **DELOS - SACRED ISLAND & APOLLO SANCTUARY**

Duration: Half day Tour code: MYK - 03

From Mykonos we sail to the ancient harbour of Delos to explore one of the most important mythological and historical sites in all of Greece, 'the sacred of all islands.'

Excavation work is still ongoing in this incredible location and archaeologists consider the island to be one of the finest sites in the Mediterranean. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Once again we really will travel back in time and experience a rich historical wonder.

Delos was a holy sanctuary and one of the most important and prosperous commercial ports in the eastern Mediterranean during the 1st millennium BC. Olympian mythology made it the birthplace of Apollo and his twin sister Artemis and it attracted pilgrims from all over Greece.







CHILD €61 ADULT €81

There are numerous ruins to marvel at including Doric temples, an amphitheatre, houses with mosaics, Agora, the Oikos (House) of Naxians and the iconic statues at the Terrace of the Lions. Seven of the original full sized marble lions still stand.

There are the remains of the Sanctuary of Apollo and the Establishment of the Poseidoniasts of Beirut, built by ship owners and merchants from that city across the Mediterranean.

There is much more to see in this awe-inspiring open air museum.

The excursion comes to an end back at Chora with free time for strolling through the alleys and the shops.

The excursion includes guide, boat and entrance fees.





## **MYKONIAN DINNER**

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: MYK - 04

This popular excursion on foot takes us up close to the wonders of Mykonos Town or Chora and the sights, sounds, tastes and flavours that make it one of the world's best loved destinations. We begin with a stroll along the narrow cobbled streets, past the boutiques, whitewashed houses and elegant cafes until we come to Kastro, home of the famously beautiful Paraportiani Church, a must for every visitor. We may visit the Folklore Museum or Aegean Maritime Museum. The Folklore Museum is housed in an old two storey captain's house. The museum's exhibits include traditional costumes, furniture and household items typically found on Mykonos in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as well as jewellery and textiles. The Maritime Museum used to be the home of the legendary Master of the merchant ship "Enosis", Nikolaos Sourmelis. Its exhibits include models of ships from the pre-Minoan period to this day, historical shipping documents, rare engravings and maps, ancient artefacts, navigational instruments, equipment and tools.

Our tour continues with a walk to Alefkhandra and the ubiquitous windmills, the symbol of Mykonos, recognised the world over. This part of the town is known as Little Venice. The houses belonging to wealthy merchants and sea captains were built on the water in the 18th century and their wooden balconies are a little reminder of the homes along the canals of Venice.



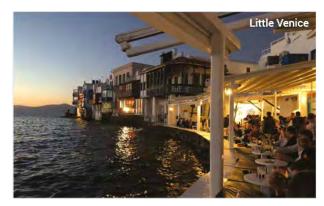




**CHILD** 

**ADULT** 

We conclude our trip at a local taverna, where we enjoy traditional food and drink, reflect on what we have seen, chat and savour the tastes, aromas and essence of genuine Greek spirit.







## **CYCLADIC TASTES (FOOD ON FOOT)**

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: MYK - 07

So we call our tour food on foot and we consider it the best way to taste local specialties!

Mykonos is famous for its many restaurants and wonderful small taverns, and this excursion offers the ideal opportunity to taste the traditional local food while enjoying the atmosphere of the different neighbour-hoods of Mykonos Town.

We start with a cheese pie at Gerasimos Bakery, continue walk next to the famous windmills, in the narrow, cobbled streets of Little Venice and the three Windmills to the incomparable Church of Panagia Paraportiani.

Then, you can taste the traditional souvlaki pork with pita bread at Souvlaki story. At Paraportiani area we will be served with loukoumi delight accompanied with mastic liquor, and the next stop you will be served a Greek vanilla spoon sweet (submarine) will be served.

Last but not least, sit at a local venue and relax with a glass of Ouzo with snacks, like the locals.

This is an enjoyable way to complete a wonderful culinary experience. Bon Appetit and cheers.

Please note that dining areas are subject to change as well as sequence of stops.





**ADULT** 







#### **SACRED DELOS & RHENIA ISLAND**

Duration: Full day Tour code: MYK - 12

Take a memorable cruise to the so-called 'Cycladic Sisters', consisting of, Mykonos, Delos and Rhenia.

You will be transported by boat to the ancient harbor of Delos and you will travel back in time. In front of the pier is the "Agora of Hermaists" or "Competialists" with altars and shrines. The ancient road crossed two porticoes. Behind the south portico used to be the "Agora of Delians". Next follows the "Oikos (House) of Naxians", dated to the 7th century B.C. Further north you will admire the three "Temples of Apollo", the oldest of which was already in use by the 6th century. The southernmost temple is known as the "Temple of the Delians". At the northern side of the temples you will stand in front of the so-called "treasures". Here, every city of antiquity exhibited its offerings. A monument that will draw your attention is the "Sanctuary of the Bulls". You will find yourself at the "Agora of Theophrastos", and will pass by the "Temple of the Twelve Gods" to eventually reach the "Granite Monument". Next follows the "Avenue of the Lions", which was encircled by full-sized marble lions. The large building complex that rises in front of you is the "Establishment of the Poseidoniasts of Beirut" and it was built by ship owners and merchants from Beirut.

After visiting the exquisite archaeological site of Delos we will then sail straight to the mesmerizing beaches and crystal clear waters of the uninhabited island of Rhenia where you can take your time



to swim, snorkel and truly let go. Sandy coves, clear crystal waters and uncrowded beaches are Rhenia island's true specialty.







## TRANSFER TO KALAFATIS BEACH

Duration: Half day Tour code: MYK - 05

This vast sandy beach is the ideal spot to try your hand at watersports, splash about or simply relax with a good book and the sea breeze. You can hire a sun lounger and umbrella to unwind for hours with glittering blue Aegean in view.

Located on the quieter eastern side of the island, Kalafatis Beach generally attracts fewer people than other Mykonos beaches. Yet the good offshore breeze means that windsurfing and other water sports won't disappoint.

With a restaurant conveniently situated at either end of the beach, you can grab an authentic bite of local cuisine whenever the mood calls.

For an even more tranquil visit, you can wander across to the smaller and just as beautiful Agia Anna beach - the perfect place for a swim in the sun.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.







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## TRANSFER TO PARADISE BEACH

Duration: Half day Tour code: MYK - 08

Paradise Beach is a Mykonos icon. Since its hedonistic days in the 60s when its first thrill seekers sought freedom on the sands, it has become the location for many a club, beach bar and party.

With its wide stretch of sand, turquoise waters and close proximity to Mykonos town, Paradise Beach is a hotspot with a buzzing vibe to match.

Beach bars and restaurants border the sands, so there is always a tune to be heard and a delicious meal to be enjoyed. For a taste of the nightlife during the day, head to the western end of the beach for a fruity cocktail in one of the bars.

Dotted with sun loungers and umbrellas, this is the perfect place to soak up the vibrant atmosphere that Mykonos is known for the world over.

Cost of the facilities at the beach is not included in the price of the excursion.







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## THE BEAUTIFUL ART OF MOSAIC MAKING

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 5-25 GUESTS

Tour code: MYK - 13

This is unique opportunity to learn the fascinating secrets of a skill famed across the area.

The art of the mosaic is making images and designs using small pieces of coloured, glass, marble, stones or tiles.

It's astonishingly beautiful and Greek mosaics are said to be the earliest art form still in existence today. They are an integral part of Greek civilisation and culture.

Our talented artist who has been been giving lessons for many years and loves to share her knowledge, will teach you the ancient and contemporary art of mosaic-making in Mykonos.

She also helps you create your own unique work of art which you can take home as a lovely and very personal memento of your visit to the island.

Mykonos is located across the water from Delos, the iconic island of antiquity, known for its ancient history and wealth of knowledge. It is one of the most important archaeological locations in Greece, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the mythical birthplace of Apollo.

After your wonderful, peaceful, creative mosaic experience, there is time to wander the atmospheric streets of Mykonos Town or sit and enjoy a leisurely, contemplative coffee before returning to the ship.











## **HOME COOKING AND HOSPITALITY IN MYKONOS**

Duration: Half day Tour code: MYK - 14

Myconian hospitality is legendary and this tour for a small and select group offers a wonderful taste and flavour of what that means.

We all know food and drink is an important part of any holiday, as you immerse yourself in your destination's culture and lifestyle.

It's an essential ingredient in the whole experience.

The locals on the Island of Winds are proud of and passionate about their way of life.

They love to share it with visitors and you will be made to feel like one of the family.

We are hosted in a traditional homestead or Spiti, for a fun Greek cooking class and some little gastronomic secrets.

A very warm welcome awaits along with loukoumi, Greece's own version of Turkish delight and a cheery glass of Teta's liqueur.

There is a tour of the kitchen and garden and an informative session on how to cultivate your own vegetables all year-round.

In a corner of the garden will be a small taster of local specialities along with locally-made wine and raki.









There will be a masterclass on how to make delicious Greek spinach pie, stuffed tomatoes and peppers and the famous Greek dip, tzatziki - with your help and using fresh seasonal ingredients.

Afterwards enjoy a tasty lunch and savour the fruits of your labour, accompanied by locally produced wine.

Before saying goodbye, enjoy a photo opportunity at the Spiti, a lovely way to mark a memorable few hours.

You may also have some new recipe ideas to try out when you get home.







## **STEP BACK IN TIME - (RELIGIOUS)**

Duration: Half day Tour code: MIL - 02R

We invite you to step back in time with us on the incredible volcanic island of Milos, one of the most beautiful places on earth. A short drive from the harbour takes us to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. This startlingly beautiful, otherworldly spot is one of the island's many geological wonders and perhaps one of the most photographed places in the Cyclades. We'll walk down to the inlet so you can experience this one-of-a-kind beach and take photographs. You'll feel as if you've landed on the moon.

We then travel along the picturesque main road along the coast to the cobblestone streets and alleys of Plaka, a classic Cycladic village of white stone houses and bougainvillea flowers 250 meters above the Aegean. Plaka is known for its local pastry shops with the homemade sweets. Just 100 meters from Plaka lie early Christian catacombs, the largest in Greece, and the ruins of ancient Melos and its Roman amphitheater, which is cut into the rocky slope of the hill near the ancient agora.

Our path from the catacombs to the amphitheater takes us through a small olive grove beneath the retaining walls of ancient Melos, where you'll find large Dorian walls and column fragments. The marble amphitheatre, fully restored in 2015, still includes seven intact rows of seats and offers a lovely view







ADULT €81

of the bay. On our way back to the bus, we will visit the site where the Venus de Milo (now residing in the Louvre in Paris), was discovered in 1820.







## STEP BACK IN TIME

Duration: Half day Tour code: MIL - 02

The incredible volcanic island of Milos is one of the most beautiful places on earth. But don't take our word for that. Come and see for yourself.

On this excursion we invite you to step back in time with us. A short drive from the harbour takes us to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. It is a startlingly beautiful, otherworldly spot and one of the island's many geological wonders.

It is probably one of the most photographed places in the Cyclades. We'll walk down to the inlet so you can experience this one-of-a-kind beach and take photographs. You might feel as if you have landed on the moon.

You can peer down into clear turquoise waters and you may see adventurous tourists swimming and snorkeling in the caves at the bottom of the ravine. You may be tempted to join them but there won't be any time!

Our next stop along the picturesque coast road is the cobblestone streets and alleys of Plaka, a classic Cycladic village of white stone houses and bougainvillea flowers 250 meters above the Aegean.

We'll stroll through the village to admire its traditional architecture and its stunning view of the sea, and you'll have time to sample homemade delicacies at the local pastry shops.



CHILD €61 ADULT €81

Very close to Plaka we'll make a stop to admire from above the ruins of ancient Melos and its Roman amphitheatre which is cut into the rocky slope of the hill near the ancient agora. There you'll see large Dorian walls and column fragments. The marble amphitheatre, fully restored in 2015, still includes seven intact rows of seats and offers a lovely view of the bay. We will have the chance to visit the spot where the Venus de Milo, now residing in the Louvre in Paris, was discovered in 1820.

The last stop is the award-winning Mining Museum which brings together our theme of stepping back in time. The mining history of the island and the fascinating exhibits telling the story gives you an understanding of how the rich geology of Milos has shaped it. You will also see the materials that are still excavated from the island and where we find them in everyday life.



## **NOSTALGIC MILOS CRUISE - LAND & SEA**

Duration: Full day Tour code: MIL - 06

A short drive from the harbor takes us to famous Sarakiniko beach and its landmark white rocks. Naturally sculpted by volcanic eruptions, the sea and strong Aegean winds, it's the ideal backdrop for your snapshots. No wonder why it is one of the favorite photography subjects in the Cyclades. We'll walk down to the inlet in quest of intriguing photo opportunities and for swimming of course. You'll feel as if you've landed on the moon!

The picturesque village of Plaka, at the feet of the venetian castle, comes next. A love at first sight! We'll stroll through its cobblestone alleys, pass by traditional houses and blooming bougainvilleas. We have time to savor karpouzopita and koufeto, the local sweet delicacies at pastry shops, or head to the marble courtyard of Korfiatissa church for the best panoramic views - it's right next to the Folklore Museum, which we can visit optionally.









CHILD €77 ADULT €133

Last but not least, our tour to Kleftiko. We drive by coach to Kipos, passing by Papikinos beach and the Salt fields. We board the boat to start our journey towards Kleftiko, once a pirate lair that has become an absolute must for any traveler. Its greyish rocks come out of the turquoise sea and you have the chance to swim through the sea caves. On the way to Kleftiko, the boat will make a shorter swimming stop at Gerondas beach.

We may have to change the schedule and itinerary for this excursion, without any warning, depending on weather conditions, such as strong north winds.





## THE AMAZING BEACHES TOUR

Duration: Half day Tour code: MIL - 03

Milos is home to some of the Cyclades' most stunning beaches, including Paleochori, considered the best on the island for swimmers, divers, sun-worshippers and water sports enthusiasts.

About a thirty-minute drive from the port at Adamas, Paleochori is actually made up of three beaches totalling 800 meters of sandy coastline.

It is known for dramatic cliff faces given dazzling reds and yellows by mineral deposits including sulphur.

Your coach will drop you conveniently about 200 meters from the beach.

Umbrellas and sun beds are available at the main beach at Paleochori, which is sandy with a smattering of white pebbles.

There are some wonderful restaurants perched high above the beach including Sirocco, a tavern preparing volcanic food, dishes prepared in the sand using the high geothermal temperature. Drop yourself into one of its comfy chaise longues with a panoramic view of the Sea of Crete, And then relax.

After Paleochori we drive to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. This startlingly beautiful spot is one of the island's many geological wonders.

ISLANDS magazine has named Sarakiniko one of the world's 30 most beautiful undiscovered beaches.







SOLD ONLY ON BOARD

You'll feel as if you landed on the moon as we descend for a delightful swim in the bright turquoise waters. Then it's a relaxing drive back to port.





## A GEOLOGICAL WONDER 4X4 ADVENTURE

**Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 3-12 GUESTS** 

Tour code: MIL - 09

This is an intriguing journey of discovery where you will be immersed in the geological treasures of Milos.

It's a tour to stimulate the mind, body and soul.

Milos emerged from the sea during a volcanic eruption so it is little surprise this southernmost island in the Cyclades is a breathtaking geological wonder as well one of the most beautiful places on earth.

We travel by 4x4 and go where conventional vehicles cannot

We can see, feel and hear the real Milos.

You will be awestruck by this experience, based on the Miloterranean Geo Walks, an extensive network of seven stunning paths.

Our tour includes a short guided visit the Milos Mining Museum, an outdoor experience allowing us to learn more about the mining history of the island thanks to a team of cartographers, historians, forestry experts, geologists and mining engineers together with the help of a lecturer from the museum.

There's the chance to see the Obsidian Collection of Zafeiris Vaos. It consists of artifacts made of obsidian. an igneous rock characteristic of Milos and forms a very important chapter in the archeology of early Aegean tool-making.

Then we will experience the abandoned salt fields, the thermal waters of Kanava (weather permitting), the crater of Fyriplaka and the fumaroles of Kalamos.







There's also the famous sulphur mines and Aggeria, one of the biggest open bentonite mines in the world.

This is an exclusive tour with a maximum of four people in each vehicle. And it's a real sensory experience.







## SEA KAYAKING AND THE MESMERISING MILOS COASTLINE

**Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 2-10 GUESTS** Tour code: MIL - 11

From our ship to your kayak.

We have an intrinsic fascination with the sea.

So what better way to experience to stunning volcanic island of Milos than leisurely paddling our way along part of the spectacular, mesmerising and mysterious southern coastline.

It's hard to think of a way to get closer to nature than this.

Here we can get up close and personal with the rich geological wealth of Milos including the breathtaking rock formations, deep sea inlets and caves and turquoise crystal clear waters of the Aegean.

The trip with a small group and a qualified guide begins at Fyriplaka heading to Gerakas beach (completely inaccessible from the land) with a 40 minute stop for swimming and exploring a small sea cave. Then we paddle back on our sit-on-top kayaks towards the famous beach of Tsigrado (the one with the rope ladder) for a snorkelling stop in a small complex of sea caves.

Back at Fyriplaka there is for free time for swimming although this can be omitted to make the tour shorter. Kayaking is said to be one of the best ways to explore the laced outline of the Milos coastline.

On reflection, we think it's the best.







Join us on this beautiful, relaxing and peaceful half day trip and you will find it hard to disagree.

The mysteries will be unlocked during an unforgettable experience.







## **MILOS FOOD ON FOOT**

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 15-20 GUESTS Tour code: MIL - 12

This is an authentic taste of the island of lovers featuring wonderful flavours to bring your taste buds alive in an unforgettable gastronomic experience.

Milos is the southernmost island in the Cyclades and we will be sampling the best of local cuisine on the move, in a tour designed to stimulate and excite the senses.

Trek to the heart and soul of Milos and sample its gastronomy, a delightful and delicious combination of very traditional fare and the up to the moment, with modern restaurants offering the finest dishes but staying true to local ways of doing things. The two things sit side by side very comfortably.

Just some of the delicacies on our menu are the local vegetarian pizza (Ladenia) in Adamas, watermelon pie (Karpouzopita) in Plaka and in Pollonia, dessert (Koufeto) made from honey, pumpkin and almonds at one of the renowned family run pastry shops. Here we will also visit a local cave winery to sample the local specialities and then a family owned establishment producing cheese and other produce.

This is the chance to experience the most mouthwatering delicacies of Milos and drop by some of its renowned restaurants, all the while soaking up the unique atmosphere of the island as we go. Its beauty is astounding, with turquoise bays, stunning beaches, crystal clear waters, romantic atmosphere and the most enchanting towns and villages. Not



bad for an island flung out of the sea by a volcanic eruption a few million years ago. And all this on top of the wonderful food.

The memories are just waiting to be made on Milos.







## TREK TO THE HEART AND SOUL OF MILOS

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 5-15 GUESTS Tour code: MIL - 14

The dazzling white rocks forming large and small caves in the sea, reflect the sunlight by day and the

This wonderful trek of discovery with an experienced guide takes us along the northern part of the island and one of its most impressive and awe inspiring landscapes.

Of all our excursions, this bring us the closest to the natural environment and you may well feel it to have a real spiritual dimension.

Our first stop is the Cave of Papafragas for a chat about its archaeological and geological history.

Centuries ago, Papafragas was a base for pirates to hide and is now one of the most visited destinations on the island.

Now our hike begins.

The coastal path gives us four very different landscapes and is relatively flat making it easy for the average hiker.

Part way through there's a stop for water, fruit and a short break.

There is no shade on the trek so everyone is asked to come fully prepared.

Our walk is around 6.5km and finishes in Saraniko where we will be able to swim in the cove and fully appreciate this unique location.

The north winds have shaped the greyish-white volcanic rock into amazing shape.

The dazzling white rocks forming large and small caves in the sea, reflect the sunlight by day and the moonlight at night, creating the impression of a lunar landscape.

The breathtaking tour is around five hours, with the trek taking three hours.









## ATHENS MONUMENTS AND THE ACROPOLIS

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: PIR - 01

A walk with us through the very heart of Athens brings us to one of most recognisable, historic and most photographed sites in the world, the famous Acropolis with the Parthenon at its summit.

It is a reminder of Ancient Greece's powerful civilisation and the greatest architectural complex bequeathed by Greek Antiquity.

The monuments on the Acropolis (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) have survived for almost 25 centuries.

On this hill that still dominates Athens, democracy and philosophy were born so it is little wonder that a visit to Classical Athens is quite simply awe-inspiring.

The Parthenon is dedicated to the goddess Athena, protector of the city.

At the foot of the Acropolis and its ancient temples lies the oldest neighbourhood of Athens, Plaka. Visitors are mesmerised and charmed by its beautiful houses, cobblestone streets and tiny shops, architecture, elegant atmosphere and neo-classical colours and the well preserved gardens and Byzantine churches.







CHILD €61

**ADULT** €87

As we head away from the Acropolis and Plaka, we pass the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Parliament with the familiar sentries or Evzones, synonymous with the city. No visit to Athens can be complete without a stop at the Panathenaic Stadium where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896.

We also see the 'Trilogy of Athens' which comprises the University of Athens, National Library and the Academy of Athens.

Our three hour odyssey through ancient history ends appropriately at the Squares of Omonia and Syntagma, the very centre of modern day Athens.





## PANORAMIC ATHENS AND CORINTH CANAL CROSSING

Duration: Full day Tour code: PIR - 05

We are following figuratively in the footsteps of some of the greatest names in history.

Socrates. Plato. Pericles. To name just three. And we explore one of the country's more modern feats of engineering.

We travel to the very heart of Athens to a get sense of one of the most historically important capitals in the world. We set off on a panoramic tour of the city named after the goddess of wisdom and warfare and begin to understand why ancient Athens was such a powerful place.

Our excursion takes us around Syntagma Square, the city's central plaza and includes the jewels in the crown of the National Library, Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We travel along the historic avenues to see Schliemann's House, the cathedral and university and the Russian Orthodox Church. We stop at the Panathenaic Stadium which staged the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and pass the former Royal Palace and Zappeion Hall before arriving at the dramatic, towering, Temple of Zeus.

We then leave Athens behind and drive along the scenic coastal highway to Corinth for a cruise along the stunning Corinth Canal opened in 1893. This remarkable structure is flanked by steep and mesmerising cliffs, has no locks and connects



€66

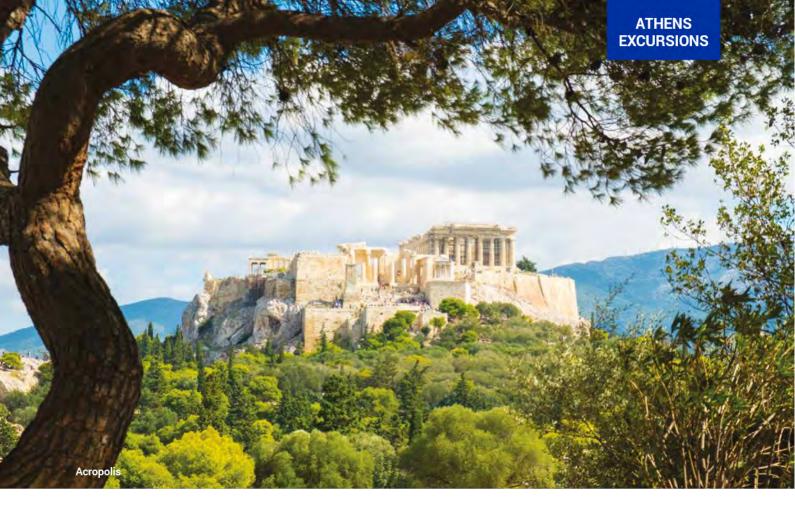
ADULT **€92** 

the Ionian and Aegean seas. It also separates the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland.

Our excursion concludes with free time at the resort of Isthmia.







## ATHENS TOUR AND THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: PIR - 07

We head to central Athens for a panoramic tour of the city named after the goddess of wisdom and warfare.

First we see the magnificent Temple of Zeus, standing at the south east of the Acropolis.

The Temple is dedicated to the father of the 12 gods.

We continue past the Greek Parliament Building and stop at the Panathenaic Stadium which staged the first modern Olympic Games in 1896.

We arrive at the "Trilogy of Athens": three 19th century buildings, influenced by classical architecture, on Panepistimiou Street.

A trip through Omonia Square and Syntagma Square, the epicentre of modern Athens, will bring us to the beautiful, picturesque preserved quarter of Plaka, beneath the Acropolis.

Our final destination is the modern, bright and imposing Acropolis Museum.







CHILD

**ADULT** 

Opened in 2009 and on multiple levels, it houses a whole host of exhibits of classical antiquity and is thematic.

It's the perfect way to draw everything together and give context to the wonderful structures you have just

At the end of our journey we hope you will have a full appreciation of the glories of classical Athens and a sense of one of the most historically important capitals in the world.





## THE ACROPOLIS & THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

**Duration: Half day** Tour code: PIR - 08

Our starting point for this truly monumental tour is the Acropolis, which means 'high city.'

At the end of our journey we hope you will have a full appreciation of the glories of the very heart of Athens.

This historic hill is the home of the Parthenon, dedicated to Athena, and a number of other monuments.

They include the Propylaea, originally part of Pericles' great rebuilding programme and the Temple of Athena Nike. This once contained a wooden statue of Athena. It was wingless signifying she would never leave Athens.

Meanwhile, the Erechtheion and its marble edifice is an Ancient Greek temple on the north side of the Acropolis. The eastern part is dedicated to Athena Polias and the western part to Poseidon-Erechtheus.

From the hill you can marvel at the glorious stone theatre structure of the Odeon Herodes Atticus on the southwest slope. To bring us up to date, many of the world's biggest names have performed here including Frank Sinatra, Luciano Pavarotti and of course Nana Mouskouri.

The modern, bright and imposing Acropolis Museum is our next stop. Opened in 2009 it houses a whole host of exhibits of classical antiquity and is thematic.







CHILD

**ADULT** €97

It's the perfect way to draw everything together and give context to the wonderful structures you have just seen.

We leave the high city and pass the Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We make a stop at the site of the first modern Olympiad in 1896, the Panathenaic Stadium and then visit the stylish 'Trilogy of Athens', the old building of the University of Athens, the National Library and the Academy of Athens. We end our day with a trip through the epicentre of modern day Athens, the Squares of Omonia and Syntagma.

This is a monumental excursion of discovery, literally and figuratively.





#### ATHENS FOOD ON FOOT

Duration: Half day - LIMITED AVAILABILITY - FOR 9-15 GUESTS Tour code: PIR - 11

Join us on a very special journey.

Come and share our love for Athens and its cuisine on a tour that brings the senses well and truly alive in more ways than one.

Sharing our passion for Greece and all things Greek is what we do. It's our mission to inspire you and where better to start than Classical Athens, the cradle of civilisation and the birthplace of democracy.

Here we experience together in a panoramic tour, some of the world's most magnificent and historic sites.

The Acropolis and the majestic and magnificent Parthenon. The Changing of the Guard outside Parliament, Syntagma Square.

The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, National Academy, Academy University, Old Parliament and the Russian Orthodox Church.

There is yet more to marvel at and be inspired by. Panathinaiko Stadium, site of the first modern Olympic Games, the new classical Zappion and the Roman temple of Zeus and Arch of Hadrian.

Then it's time to share the delicious and evocative tastes and smells of traditional Greek cuisine.

We drop into a traditional kafenio - or coffee shop for a Greek coffee and some great hospitality.











Then a stroll through the bustling central market and the spice market.

Once you have taken in the air on Evripidou Street, the distinctive scent will be hard to forget. Breathe in. Scents help make the most wonderful memories too, a proven fact.

The intriguing aromas comes from the mix of foods and spices wafting out from the open-fronted stores.

After this aromatic experience we will most certainly be ready to try the traditional souvlaki in Monastiraki a market neighbourhood in the old town and one of the main shopping districts in Athens.

The area is home to clothing boutiques, souvenir shops, and specialty stores, and is a major tourist attraction bargain shopping.

Then its time to visit a traditional sweet shop for a mouthwatering taste of delicious loukoumades, yeast-risen dough puffs, deep fried to golden brown, drizzled with honey and sprinkled with cinnamon.

Our final stop on this unique tour of history, culture and gastronomy is a visit to one of Athens oldest distilleries in famous Plaka, in the shadow of the Acropolis, to sample the local tsipouro or ouzo.

A perfect end to a day filled with wonderful sights, sounds, smells and flavours.

You won't forget that heady combination.



# YOUR GREEK WELCOME IS WAITING!

We can't wait to share the beautiful Blue.

All we're missing is you!





For more information and bookings please visit **celestyal.com** or your local travel agent