



# Iconic Aegean

**4 Night Excursions  
Apr - Oct 2025**





# Explore with us

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, historic, iconic and evocative in the world.

So a very warm welcome to our Iconic Aegean excursions.

Joining us on the four 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 and following in the footsteps of great figures from history.

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

You will be amazed at what we can see and do in just a few days. We like to feel that we are taking you on your very own Greek Odyssey across the Aegean.

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

## Contents

**Package Offers 3**

**Mykonos 4**

**Kusadasi 9**

**Patmos 15**

**Rhodes 21**

**Heraklion 32**

**Santorini 38**

**Athens 43**

**Prices 48**

**Guide to Symbols 53**

# Pre-book and save on shore excursions

Our Mediterranean itineraries are absolutely packed with things to do onshore. Our incredible excursions will take you to places you never imagined, from ancient history to adrenaline-packed thrills. We're talking street food, snorkelling, sailing trips and much more. You won't want to miss out on these experiences, so get ahead and plan your excursions in advance - the more you book, the more you save.

Save up to **10%** when you book 3 tours

Save up to **15%** when you book 4 tours

Save up to **20%** when you book 5+ tours

## Our top picks



**Mykonos**  
Mykonian Dinner



**Kusadasi** - Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman



**Patmos** - Religious visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse



**Rhodes** - Acropolis of Lindos and the Citadel of the Knights



**Heraklion** - Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle



**Santorini** - Spectacular Oia village perched on the Caldera rim

## Choose from the following excursions

### Mykonos

- Mykonian Dinner - MYK-04
- Mykonian countryside tour with Chora and Little Venice - MYK-06

### Kusadasi

- House of Virgin Mary & Ancient Ephesus - KUS-01
- Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman - KUS-02
- Ancient Ephesus & Terrace Houses - KUS-07

### Patmos

- Religious visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse - PAT-01
- Countryside tour with Chora and the Grotto of Apocalypse - PAT-02
- Capturing the true spirit of Chora - PAT-06

### Rhodes

- Acropolis of Lindos and the Citadel of the Knights - RHO-01
- Philerimos church and the Palace of the Knights - RHO-02
- Walking tour in the Medieval City of Rhodes - RHO-11

### Heraklion

- Minoan Palace of Knossos - 1st European civilisation - HER-02
- Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle - HER-04
- Venetian Heraklion and the unique Archaeological Museum - HER-07

### Santorini

- Spectacular Oia village perched on the Caldera rim - SAN-01
- Cruise to Santorini's islands and volcanoes - SAN-02
- Akrotiri Village excavations - SAN-08


**Plus**, receive a further discount with your complimentary shore excursion voucher

(For pre-booking only, must be booked 48 hours prior to embarkation)

# Mykonos



# Mykonian Dinner

 Little Venice



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.

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.



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** MYK-04

**Prices**

# Mykonian countryside tour with Chora and Little Venice

Chora



Monastery of Panagia Tourliani



Paraportiani Church

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.*



**Duration:** Half day

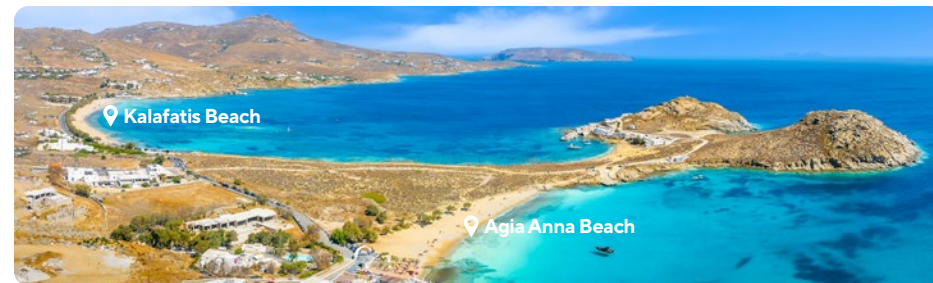
**Tour code:** MYK-06

**Prices**



# Transfer to Kalafatis Beach

📍 Kalafatis Beach



📍 Kalafatis Beach

📍 Agia Anna Beach

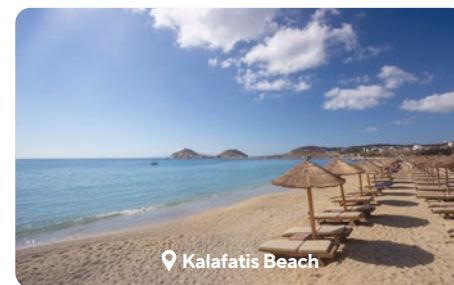
This vast sandy beach is the ideal spot to try your hand at watersports, splash about or simply relax with a good book and the sea breeze. You can hire a sun lounger and umbrella to unwind for hours with glittering blue Aegean in view.

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.*



📍 Kalafatis Beach



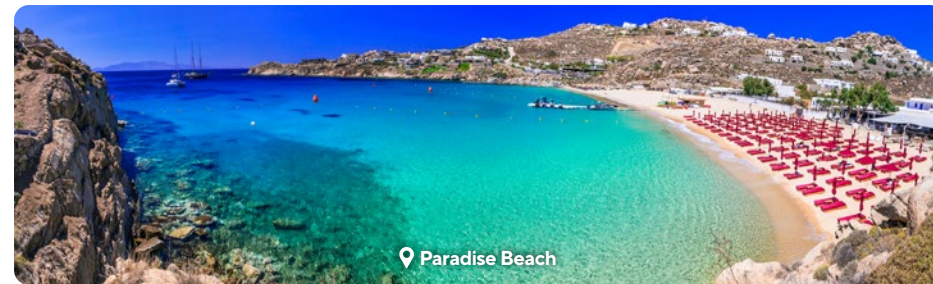
**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** MYK-05

**Prices**

# Transfer to Paradise Beach

📍 Paradise Beach



📍 Paradise Beach

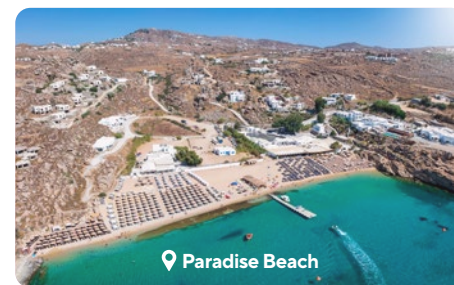
Paradise Beach is a Mykonos icon. Since its hedonistic days in the 60s when its first thrill seekers sought freedom on the sands, it has become the location for many a club, beach bar and party.

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.*



📍 Paradise Beach



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** MYK-08

**Prices**



# Kusadasi





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 to the site of the fourth of our Seven Wonders. Ephesus was an Ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia. It's now in Turkey. It was famed for the nearby Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders, completed around 550BC.

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.

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.

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.

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



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** KUS-01

**Prices**

# Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman

📍 The Temple of Hadrian



📍 Trajan's Fountain



📍 Baths of Scholastica

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.

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



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** KUS-02

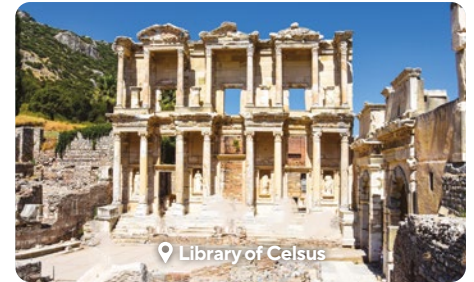
**Prices**

# Ancient Ephesus and the Terrace Houses

📍 Main Street of Curetes



📍 Ancient Roman Mosaics from Terrace Houses



📍 Library of Celsus

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 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.

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



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** KUS-07

**Prices**

# Adventure, spills and thrills at Adaland Water Park



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.



**Duration:** Half day - limited availability

**Tour code:** KUS-06

**Prices**

# Ancient Civilisations with an expert archaeologist

 Ephesus

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.

## Authentic Encounters

Experiences just for you and a few



**Duration:** Half day  
**limited availability - for 10-20 Guests**

**Tour code:** KUS-11

**Prices**

# Patmos



# Religious visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse

📍 St John's Monastery



This excursion takes us to a small but fascinating island with connections to the Bible and to the Gods.

Patmos in the Aegean is among the northernmost islands of the Dodecanese.

It has long been a place of pilgrimage because Patmos is mentioned in the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Christian Bible.

It records that St John the Evangelist received a vision from Jesus here.

Visitors can see the location where John is said to have had the revelation, the Cave or Grotto of the Apocalypse.

Meanwhile a number of churches are named after the apostle and we are able to call at the Monastery of St John.

The picturesque alleyways wind up to the Monastery which was founded by St. Christodoulos in 1088.

We are able to enter the yard, where the monks take their meals and the old bakery.

Of exquisite beauty is our tour of the Byzantine Church of St John, adorned with a wood-carved icon screen, important frescoes from several periods of history.

Next we stop at a small museum which is home to priceless religious treasures including manuscripts, medieval textiles and vestments.

Behind the chapel of St Anne lies the entrance to the Grotto of the Apocalypse.

We will see the cross engraved by St John and the triple fissure in the wall where John is said to have heard God telling of the Apocalypse.

You may feel the historical and religious enormity of this special moment.

In Greek mythology Patmos originally existed at the bottom of the sea but Zeus was persuaded to allow it rise from the waters. The sun dried the land and people from the region began inhabiting the island they named Letois after the goddess Artemis.



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** PAT-01

**Prices**



# Countryside tour with Chora and the Grotto of Apocalypse

📍 Skala



The lovely island of Patmos is a UNESCO World Heritage Monument.

Our panoramic excursion begins in the port of Skala, heading to the centre of the island and the capital of Chora.

Here we see the Monastery of St John the Evangelist and visit the Grotto of the Apocalypse.

This is where, according to the biblical account, Jesus spoke to John and told him of the Apocalypse.

It is mentioned in the Book of Revelation, the last book of the Christian Bible.

It's no surprise then that many people make their way to Patmos each year for pilgrimage.

In the central area of Chora we find the silent windmills which stand sentry-like over the capital.

Our tour continues as we head to some of the more desolate landscapes of the island, typical of the Dodecanese. Rocky hills, barren soil and promontories jutting into the sea creating dozens of coves and bays making up an intricate coastline.



Here you might reflect on the legend of how the island lay at the bottom of the sea and how Zeus was prevailed upon to allow it to rise from the water. Which he did.

We end our exploration back at Skala.

Coffee and other refreshments await you at the atmospheric cafe Arion.



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** PAT-02

**Prices**



📍 Mansion of Simandiri



📍 Mansion of Simandiri

The mansion has been converted into a folklore museum, a genuine cultural gem and monument. It has been beautifully preserved for eight generations now, the second oldest building in the town.

The lady of the house, Morfoula Simantiri is our host and guide, gracefully presenting her precious handmade embroideries. She is a member of the eighth generation.

Here you can step back in time in the intimate setting and glimpse everyday life in Patmos during the past centuries through furniture, paintings, photographs, traditional tools and everyday objects.

We hope you will be enthralled by this beautiful home, constructed by craftsmen from Asia Minor. You will be able to admire the traditional architecture of Patmos in the vaulted ceilings in an open ground floor swept by stunning arches.

Discover in the rooms antique furniture and silverware from 17th Century Russia, valuable artwork and icons from the 15th to 17th centuries. The mansion is veritable treasure trove and time machine which intrigues and fascinates.

Our Greek Odyssey has an undoubted spiritual dimension.

Perhaps this is no surprise when you consider how important the history of Christianity is to the places we visit of our voyage of discovery.

This certainly true of Patmos, one of the northernmost islands of the Dodecanese and a significant Christian pilgrimage site.

You can almost feel its strong spiritual character and you may find your time here a truly moving, soulful experience.

The Cave of the Apocalypse is where John of Patmos or St John the Theologian is said have received the visions he wrote of in the Book of Revelations.

A fortresslike, 11th-century monastery dedicated to John overlooks the whitewashed houses of the hilltop capital, Hora (also known as Chora).

In Chora, next to the Monastery of Zoodochos Pigi, is the unique 1625 mansion of Simandiri, which is where we are headed.



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** PAT-06

**Prices**



# Transfer to Agriolivadi Beach

Agriolivadi beach



Agriolivadi beach

Agriolivadi Beach situated in a small, secluded bay on Patmos is a hugely popular destinations for locals and visitors alike.

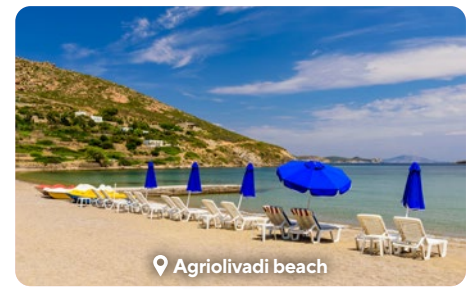
It's as classic an Aegean beach as you will find and the best on the island along with Psili Ammos.

Agriolivadi, about 3km from the port of Skala, means 'wild meadow' and the beach caters for all tastes, sun lounging, swimming or water sports.




The water is beautiful and clean and the atmosphere on the beach is relaxed.

At the end of the beach there is an excellent Greek taverna.

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



Agriolivadi beach

**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** PAT-04

**Prices**



# Traditional feast in Patmos

📍 Typical Greek Taverna



This gastronomic trip features an unforgettable feast served in a traditional Patmos taverna.

Your welcoming hosts are keen to show you the traditional dishes of their beautiful island in one of the loveliest classic hillside villages,

We begin at the port of Scala for the scenic coach ride to the hills.

The island, one of the northernmost in the Dodecanese, is made up of three mountainous parts, linked by two isthmuses at the centre.

Patmos feels off the beaten path and esoteric, thanks to its unspoilt natural beauty, picture postcard villages, stunning vistas and sacred sites.

We drive through numerous fabulous villages - but be sure to look down for incredible views of the Aegean, from which Patmos rose on the orders of Zeus.

At least that's according to Greek mythology and who are we to argue?

Greeted by the scent of wildflowers we take a short stroll to the taverna where the tables are overflowing with traditional Patmian fare.

Local musicians and a dance troupe perform as we enjoy a wonderful meal.

We experience the authentic heart of the Patmos countryside.



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** PAT-05

**Prices**

# Rhodes



# Acropolis of Lindos and the Citadel of the Knights

📍 Acropolis of Lindos



Let's begin in unusual fashion, with what you won't see in Rhodes.

One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World once proudly stood here.

He was the Colossus of Rhodes and is of course long departed, probably destroyed by an earthquake.

Nevertheless as you arrive on this wonderful, historic island, you may just be able to imagine this statue of the Greek sun-god Helios in 280BC, standing 100 feet tall in celebration of Rhodes' victory over Cyprus.

The largest of the Dodecanese islands, Rhodes has a compelling back story and there are still remnants of its occupation by the Knights of St John during the Crusades.

So while the Colossus may not be there, you will be wowed by the many historical sites.

We travel first to Lindos, about 55km from Rhodes Town and high above the village sits the impressive Acropolis of Lindos with the Doric Temple of Athena, built in 300 BC.

Captains' mansions constructed between the 16th and 18th centuries are dotted here and

there and in the heart of Lindos is the Church of the Virgin Mary with lovely frescoes from the 15th Century.

Back in Rhodes is where we are really immersed in the history of the island in the Knights' Quarter.

We stroll through Gate d'Amboise to walk along the Street of the Knights and see where they lived, separated according to Order, their crests still visible today.

We will also see (outside) the imposing Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes, a medieval castle also known as the Castello. It's one of the few examples of Gothic architecture in Greece. The Byzantine citadel was built in the 7th Century, the palace itself in the fourteenth.

Where the palace sits today could well have been the spot where once stood the Colossus according to recent studies.

Either way, this tour takes us into the heart of the fascinating history of Rhodes.



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** RHO-01

**Prices**

# Philerimos church and the Palace of the Knights

📍 Monastery of Panagia Philerimos



📍 Philerimos



📍 Palace of the Grand Master

Our tour begins at the Acropolis of Rhodes, just outside the city. It dates from the Classical Greek period and sits proudly on the hill of St Stephanos.

We wander through the ruins of the Hellenistic Temple of Apollo with its impressive columns. Below is the restored Ancient Stadium of Diagoras and theatre. The stadium once hosted games in tribute to the sun-god Helios.

We then head for Philerimos, one of the great tourist attractions of the island. The beautiful Monastery of Panagia Philerimos is located on a hill above lalyssos, one of the three Rhodian cities that participated in the Trojan War. The Monastery, accessed by stone steps surrounded by Cypress trees, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary the Life-Giving Source and unusually is Gothic in style. It was built in the 15th Century by the Knights of St John.

We also take time to visit the Byzantine Church of St George Hostos with its rare frescoes depicting the Knights. Philerimos is also home to the 'Golgotha' a series of copper reliefs depicting the Passion of Christ.

We return to the capital Rhodes to learn more about the Knights, where they lived and how they were the last bastion of Christianity in a region dominated by the Ottomans who eventually captured the island in 1522. In the Knights' Quarter we visit the magnificent Palace of the Grandmaster also known as the Castello. This too was built in Gothic style.

This is one of the most atmospheric and intriguing areas of Rhodes, where we delve into the very heart and soul of its history.



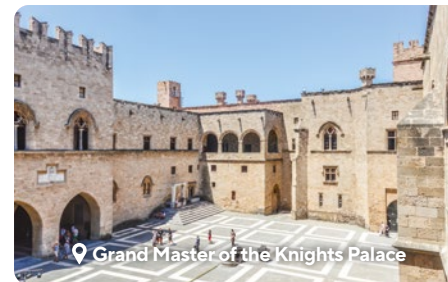
**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** RHO-02

**Prices**

# Walking tour in the Medieval City of Rhodes

📍 Street of the Knights in the Old City



📍 Grand Master of the Knights Palace



Sometimes the best way of immersing yourself completely in the history and atmosphere of a place is to explore on foot. That's exactly what we do on this fascinating tour where we get to the very heart of Medieval Rhodes and the compelling story of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem.

We begin along the Street of the Knights in the Old City. It's one of the best preserved medieval thoroughfares anywhere.

We will see the buildings that were home to the Knights, ranked by Order with the crests still in place today.

The purpose of the Knights originally was to provide medical care for wounded crusaders but they soon became a military order and fought off attempts by the Ottomans to capture Rhodes (which they did eventually). The head of the Order was the Grand Master.

We visit the splendid Palace of the Grand Master, the focal point and most important site of the Knights' Quarter. This magnificent structure is also called the Castello is a fine example of Gothic architecture.

The Byzantine citadel was constructed in the 7th Century, the palace itself in the 14th Century.

Where the palace sits today might have been the spot where once stood the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Our tour also takes in the Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent, Turkish Baths, the Hospital of the Knights and the Church of Our Lady of the Castle, which has stood guard since the 11th Century.



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** RHO-11

**Prices**



# Beauty of butterflies and Ancient Kameiros

📍 Butterfly Valley



After all that has happened in the past two years, you may just want to find a little corner complete and utter tranquillity, away from the noise, chaos and confusion of the world.

Somewhere totally at peace with itself. We can help you with that. We have found such a place and would love to share it with you.

Join us in the beautiful and beautifully named Valley of the Butterflies. An oasis of calm, Butterfly Valley or Petaloudes is a lush green valley, with a little river coursing through it.

There are little wooden bridges, stone steps and a path which leads to the Monastery of the Virgin of Kalopetra, built in 1784.

Each year in this unique natural park from June to July, thousands of multi coloured butterflies appear. They live attached to the tree trunks, living from the sap, then laying their eggs and multiplying.

The valley is a wonderful place to walk in, under the shade of the trees. The distinctive scent of the pine resin, which attracts the butterflies and the coolness from the abundantly flowing waters, make this a paradise that will live long in your memory.

This excursion will first transport us back in time to Ancient Greece and the absorbing history of once powerful Kameiros.

On the northwest coast around 50km from Rhodes Town, the settlement of Kameiros in the 5th century BC formed with Lindos and Ialysos, the city-state of Rhodes. Today, just a few remains still stand.

It was founded by the Dorians in the prehistoric times and built on three levels. On top of the hill was the Acropolis with the temple of the goddess Athena Kameiras. In the 6th century BC, a reservoir was built to provide water for the 400 families. Around this reservoir, the inhabitants constructed a stoa with two rooms of Doric columns.

The main settlement was built around the Acropolis and the lower level consisted of a Doric temple dedicated to Apollo and the Agora, where the political issues of the day were discussed. It's a fascinating insight into the life of the Ancient Greeks.



**Duration:** Half day - June & July only

**Tour code:** RHO-06

**Prices**

# Transfer to Tsambika Beach

📍 Tsambika beach



📍 Walk up to the Tsambika Monastery



📍 Taverna on the beach

We take a bus transfer to one of the most beautiful beaches on Rhodes.

Located on the east coast of the island, the golden beach of Tsambika is long and broad and has fine sand and dozens of coloured flags marking out the numerous eating places and water sports centres.

The crystal clear waters here make swimming and bathing a real pleasure.

The beach is 800m long and situated between two impressive cliffs.

Because of its length, Tsambika (named after a place of pilgrimage on the island) never feels overcrowded and if beach life is your thing, even for just a few hours, you will love this.

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

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



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** RHO-08

**Prices**

# Making pottery fit for the Gods



If you have ever wanted to get into the very heart and soul of Greek culture and civilisation, this is the perfect opportunity.

This highly specialist tour give a fascinating insight into and a greater understanding of the history of Greece and how it developed. Pottery has played a huge part in Greek culture since the earliest times.

It's extraordinary beautiful, distinctive, colourful and elaborate and was considered to be a gift worthy of dedication to the Gods. And it represents an important record to help us understand the different periods of Ancient Greek life.

There were four major pottery styles in Ancient Greece, red figure and black figure, Corinthian and geometric.

The ancient Greeks used ceramic vessels in every aspect of their daily lives, for storage, carrying, mixing, serving, and drinking, and as cosmetic and perfume containers. Today pottery plays a big role in the souvenir industry.

This tour gives us a fascinating insight into this key aspect of Greek history.

Rhodes has long been known is known for its

tradition in pottery and ceramics.

Records show how clay bricks from Rhodes were used in the construction of the dome of the magnificent Hagia Sofia Byzantine church in Istanbul.

We head to the north side of the island enjoying the panoramic views of the sweeping Rhodian countryside.

At the Bonis Ceramic Factory we find out about the various techniques adopted in pottery making. After a demonstration from one of the craftsmen, you will be invited to enhance your pottery skills and gain a very good hands-on understanding of the various techniques in order to help you make your own ceramic item. It will be shipped back to you.

After your hard work you will have earned some refreshing ouzo and Greek meze at the factory showroom before we head back to Rhodes Town.

**Authentic Encounters**

Experiences just for you and a few



**Duration: Half day**  
**limited availability - for 10-16 Guests**

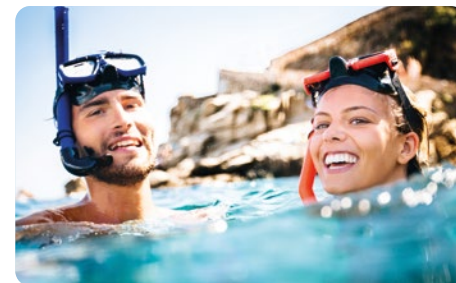
**Tour code: RHO-17**

**Prices**

# A kayak adventure discovering pirate coves



Anthony Quinn Bay



Now this is the way to see Rhodes. From a very different and enthralling perspective.

Our Sea Kayak trip is quite an adventure.

Enjoy the rock formations and sea caves along the island's spectacular coastline.

Our expert guides know the best routes to the tucked away beaches, the marine life and the beautiful natural sculptures.

Our starting point is the beach at Kathara, near Faliraki and just 20 minutes from Rhodes Town, where we meet the guide for a safety briefing and our equipment.

The route includes the famous inlet and beach of Anthony Quinn - where the popular wartime epic film of 1961 'The Guns of Navarone' in which he starred was filmed.

It also featured Gregory Peck and David Niven. Quinn who was also the star of Zorba the Greek, was so taken with Rhodes, he bought some land nearby.

Enjoy panoramic vistas of stunning rock formations before venturing into hidden sea caves along the coast. There's also the chance to swim or snorkel in the clear blue waters of the Mediterranean.

All you need to concentrate on is the spectacular scenery and your paddling technique.

It's a rare opportunity to feel completely at one with the coastline of Rhodes at its most dramatic and thrilling.

**Authentic Encounters**

Experiences just for you and a few



**Duration: Half day**  
**limited availability - for 4-16 Guests**

**Tour code: RHO-18**

**Prices**

# Rhodes Uncharted Discovery

*Your purchase has purpose. Every purchase helps support the U.S.-based global nonprofit National Geographic Society. To learn more, visit [natgeo.com/info](https://natgeo.com/info). Based on our commitment to sustainable tourism, this National Geographic Day Tour is certified against the Global Sustainable Tourism Council criteria.*

📍 Saint Nikolaos Holy Church



## DAY TOURS

Our adventure begins as we board a 4x4 vehicle and drive south from the main town of Rhodes. Along with your guide Thanasis Christodoulou, a published contributor to National Geographic Magazine in Greece, and a permanent citizen of Rhodes, you'll drive through local villages and on uncharted trails. Along the way, stop for brief walks around various points of interest on the island.

After passing the villages of Filerimos and Pastida, your first stop will be at a historical landmark that offers a spectacular panoramic view of Rhodes from high above. The journey continues an exciting off-road route, passing through Psinthos Village and arriving at Ranger Hut View, a spot where North and South Island conifers, oaks, thyme, capers, cyclamens, and many other wildflowers can be observed.

Thanasis will share his local experience about the vegetation and wildlife of the area. You'll also learn about how the climate and the island's location are vital regulators in the growth of various plants, as well as which animals have survived here over the years. During the drive you'll be captivated by the stunning landscapes, country roads, quaint villages, natural springs, and local stories.



📍 Greek mezedes

As you continue our off-road exploration, you'll reach Fountoukli, where you'll visit the Saint Nikolaos Holy Church, which is in a vibrant plot of greenery with noble, centuries-old olive trees, figs and plane trees. The village of Platania is your next stop where you'll visit a family-owned taverna, Perama, for a specially prepared platter of Greek mezedes, a selection of small dishes. During your meal, you'll have time to share your impressions of Rhodes with Thanasis.

On your drive back to the port you'll follow an asphalt route that takes us through the villages of Eleousa, Archipoli and Seven Springs.



**Duration: Half day**  
**limited availability - for 6-18 Guests**

**Tour code: RHO-19N**

**Prices**

# Bluetopia: A Marine Biology Experience

Your purchase has purpose. Every purchase helps support the U.S.-based global nonprofit National Geographic Society. To learn more, visit [natgeo.com/info](https://natgeo.com/info). Based on our commitment to sustainable tourism, this National Geographic Day Tour is certified against the Global Sustainable Tourism Council criteria.



## DAY TOURS

Your first stop is Skala in Kamiros where the marine biology experience will start. From there, head to Makri Island by private rib boat. There will have a brief presentation on marine biology to gain an understanding of aquaculture and food production, and its importance in relation to food safety. Understand everyday farm management practices and the steps of the production cycle.

Gain insight into how human activities impose threats to the marine environment as well as ways to diminish these impacts, while offering examples such as Bluetopia's own fish farm where instead of polluting, they strengthen the biodiversity of the area.

Next, visit Strongyli Island, a Natura 2000 area, and visit LAMAR fish farm, located inside a protected area—an exclusive treat for those who love the sea and marine life. Operating at the highest standards, the fish farm contributes to the preservation and flourishing of a rich aquatic environment around the island, where a vibrant ecosystem prospers. Snorkel around and inside the fish farm cages, where you'll witness up close the role of aquaculture and how it integrates with the natural ecosystem. Following the theory, you'll observe the wildlife around the cages, the role of invasive species and general threats of the marine environment.

The next destination is Alimia Island, another Natura 2000 area, which was inhabited from the antiquity until the mid-20th century. You'll



📍 Fish farm cage

explore the crystal blue waters and rich marine life, but also many interesting relics which are spread from the ruins of the island's medieval castle. With its diverse coastline that engulfs pristine beaches and challenging diving sites, it is the perfect destination for adventurers and travellers alike.

As you make your way back to Skala, enjoy snacks, fruits and refreshments aboard the vessel.

Once in Skala, a fish-based meal from the production of LAMAR fish farm (Bluetopia's production) will be served at a local restaurant before heading back to port.

Meals Included: Snacks and refreshments onboard the vessel, fish-based lunch at a local restaurant.



**Duration:** Half day  
**limited availability - for 6-8 Guests**

**Tour code:** RHO-20N

**Prices**

# The fascinating world of Bees

Your purchase has purpose. Every purchase helps support the U.S.-based global nonprofit National Geographic Society. To learn more, visit [natgeo.com/info](https://natgeo.com/info). Based on our commitment to sustainable tourism, this National Geographic Day Tour is certified against the Global Sustainable Tourism Council criteria.

📍 Beehive

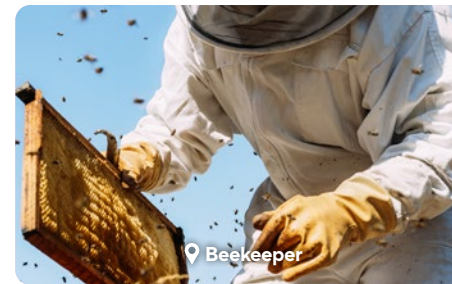
NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC

## DAY TOURS

Your introduction to this fascinating world begins at the Bee Museum of Rhodes, where you'll immerse yourself in a variety of interactive exhibits. Satisfy your curiosity as a guide leads you through the history of beekeeping in the South Aegean islands. Watch bustling beehive life through transparent observation hives and discover intriguing facts about pollination and apitherapy—the medicinal use of bee products. You'll also learn various simple ways to protect these creatures so crucial to our planet's ecosystem.

Then, follow your guide to a private seminar room, where you'll take part in a hands-on honey extraction simulation. Practice professional techniques like honeycomb scratching and use tools, such as manual extractors, to fill empty jars. When you finish, sample and savor local honey offerings, which feature complex varieties like pine, thyme and erica. Plus, try the famous Melekouni, a traditional sweet snack from Rhodes!

After the tasting, walk next door to an active apiary, where you'll wear a protective suit and examine an open hive with an experienced beekeeper. Surrounded by happy buzzing, you'll learn about important tools, such as frames, smokers, and scrapers, as well as gain a practical understanding of how bee colonies are organized.



📍 Beekeeper



📍 Local honey

As the trip ends, you'll drive back to the port with a new understanding of the humble honeybee, our planet's ecosystem and what you can do to protect it.



**Duration:** Half day  
**limited availability - for 10-25 Guests**

**Tour code:** RHO-21N

**Prices**

# Heraklion





# Minoan Palace of Knossos – 1st European civilisation

📍 The ancient city of Knossos



📍 The Magazine in Knossos palace



📍 Knossos

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.

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.



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** HER-02

**Prices**

# Venetian Heraklion and the unique Archaeological Museum

Heraklion



The Queen's Megaron, Knossos Palace



Archaeological Museum of Heraklion

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's 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.

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



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** HER-07

**Prices**

# Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle

📍 Traditional Cretan dancers at the Raki distillery



📍 Agios Minas Cathedral

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



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** HER-04

**Prices**

# Transfer to Ammoudara Beach

📍 Ammoudara Beach



📍 Ammoudara Beach

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.*



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** HER-10

**Prices**

# Heraklion food on foot

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.

*This tour is not recommended for people with walking difficulties.*

**Authentic  
Encounters**

Experiences just for  
you and a few



**Duration: Half day**  
**limited availability - for 9-15 Guests**

**Tour code: HER-09**

**Prices**

# Santorini





# Spectacular Oia Village perched on the Caldera rim

📍 Oia Village



📍 Ammoudi Bay



📍 Bell tower at Megalochori Village

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.

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

🚶🔭💧

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

**Prices**



# Cruise to Santorini's islands and volcanoes

Nea Kameni



Nea Kameni



Palea Kameni and hot mineral springs

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.*



Fira

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

**Prices**

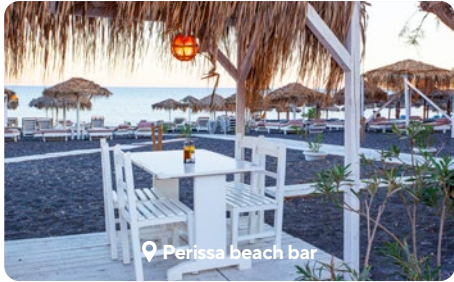




Perissa Beach



Perissa beach



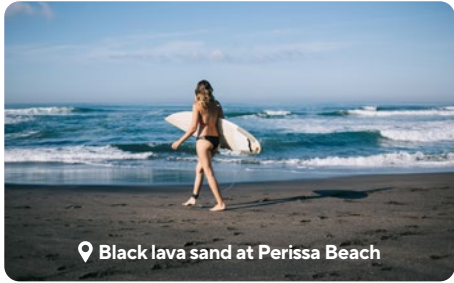
Perissa beach bar

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.*



Black lava sand at Perissa Beach

**Duration:** Half day  
**Tour code:** SAN-13

**Prices**



# Music, myths and history



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 Cycladic architecture that gives Santorini island its unique look.

**Authentic Encounters**  
Experiences just for you and a few

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.

**Duration: Half day**  
**limited availability - for 9-14 Guests**  
**Tour code: SAN-16**

**Prices**

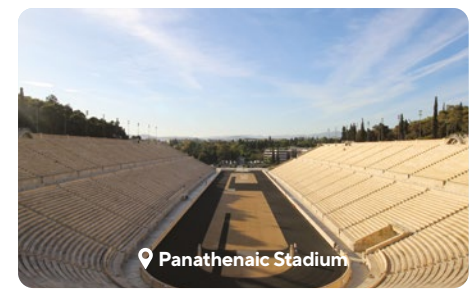
# Athens





# Athens Monuments and the Acropolis

📍 Acropolis



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.

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.

**We also offer transfers to the airport - see the pricing for ATH-101APT**

**Duration:** Half day  
**Tour code:** ATH-101

**Prices**

# Athens tour and the New Acropolis Museum

📍 Acropolis



📍 The Hellenic Parliament building



📍 New Acropolis Museum

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 to 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.

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 seen.

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.



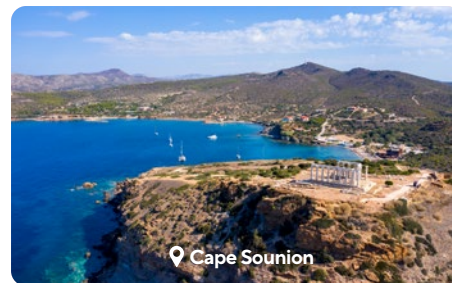
**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** ATH-107

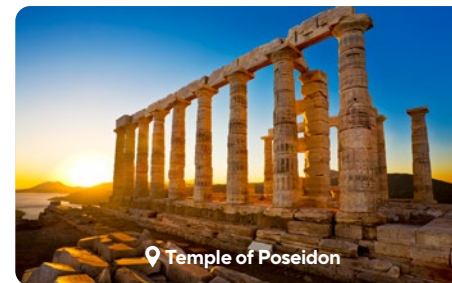
**Prices**

# Ancient Temple of Poseidon and Cape Sounion

📍 Temple of Poseidon



📍 Cape Sounion



📍 Temple of Poseidon

The 30 minute trip is enchanting, with images full of nature and pine-trees. The Temple of Poseidon awaits you, dedicated to the god of the sea. This is the southernmost and highest point of the cape and the monument looks like it is washed by the Aegean on all sides.

The construction of the Temple was initially commenced at the beginning of the 5th century B.C. Yet, it was destroyed by the Persians during the Persian Wars and so the Athenians built, in 444 B.C., the newer Temple, parts of which are preserved until today. The Temple is of Doric order and bore a frieze with relief decoration while it was also adorned by immense statues called Kouroi.

The archaeological site of Sounion, apart from the Sanctuaries of Poseidon and Athena, includes the fortress, a small settlement from the Hellenistic era, the propylaea (entrance gateway) and the porticoes.



📍 Temple of Poseidon



**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** ATH-106

**Prices**

# The history of the Olympic Games

Your purchase has purpose. Every purchase helps support the U.S.-based global nonprofit National Geographic Society. To learn more, visit [natgeo.com/info](https://natgeo.com/info). Based on our commitment to sustainable tourism, this National Geographic Day Tour is certified against the Global Sustainable Tourism Council criteria.

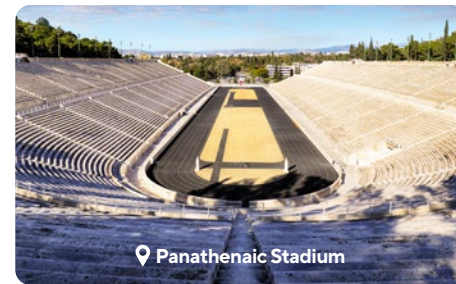


## DAY TOURS

Meet a National Geographic-trained guide and set off on a tour of the Panathenaic Stadium, a marble stadium that hosted ancient Greek athletes as well as those who competed in the 2004 Olympics. Originally built for sporting competitions and official events in the fourth century B.C., the stadium was neglected for millennia before being resurrected by a wealthy benefactor for the first modern Olympics in 1896. These games saw competitions of fencing, gymnastics, weightlifting, and more, with some 240 athletes from 12 countries competing. They also marked the world's first marathon, conceived by a Frenchman but based on the tale of an ancient Greek courier, who is said to have run across the plains of Marathon to Athens to announce the defeat of Persian invaders.

Continue to the new Athens Olympic Museum, where a state-of-the-art exhibition traces the history of the games from their birth in ancient Olympia to their revival in 1896, to their return to Greece in 2004. Through dynamic digital and interactive displays, as well as tangible artifacts from ancient to modern times, delve into the stories of celebrated athletes and the important role of sports and the Olympics in the evolution of Athens.

Your final stop is the Athens Olympics Complex, the city's main modern sports facility, which was given a thorough redesign by



📍 Panathenaic Stadium

famed Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava in preparation for the 2004 Summer Olympics. Here, by special arrangement, you'll meet with a former Olympic athlete for a tour of the site and a personal perspective on the games. As you walk along Calatrava's soaring Wall of Nations and into arenas and halls where the world's top gymnasts and sprinters competed, gain insight into the daily life of an Olympic athlete and what it is like to participate in the games. Take home your very own Olympic medal for participating in this experience as well as a commemorative photograph to remember it!



**Duration:** Half day  
**limited availability - for 10-25 Guests**  
**Tour code:** ATH-110N

**Prices**

## Mykonos

Tour Code	Title	USD	
		Adult	Child
MYK-04	Mykonian Dinner	104	73
MYK-05	Transfer to Kalafatis Beach	SOB	SOB
MYK-06	Mykonian countryside tour with Chora and Little Venice	92	73
MYK-08	Transfer to Paradise Beach	SOB	SOB

## Kusadasi

Tour Code	Title	USD	
		Adult	Child
KUS-01	House of Virgin Mary & Ancient Ephesus	131	80
KUS-02	Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman	114	74
KUS-06	Adventure, spills and thrills at Adaland Water Park	80	52
KUS-07	Ancient Ephesus and the Terrace Houses	131	80
KUS-11	Ancient civilisations with an expert archaeologist	179	-

## Patmos

Tour Code	Title	USD	
		Adult	Child
PAT-01	Religious visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse	92	73
PAT-02	Countryside tour with Chora and the Grotto of Apocalypse	92	73
PAT-04	Transfer to Agriolivadi Beach	SOB	SOB
PAT-05	Traditional feast in Patmos	SOB	SOB
PAT-06	Capturing the true spirit of Chora	97	73

## Athens

Tour Code	Title	USD	
		Adult	Child
ATH-101	Athens Monuments and the Acropolis	115	80
ATH-101APT	Athens monuments and the Acropolis - <b>including airport transfer</b>	196	126
ATH-106	Ancient Temple of Poseidon and Cape Sounion	104	73
ATH-107	Athens tour and the New Acropolis Museum	115	80
ATH-110N	The history of the Olympic Games	138	-

Prices are per person. SOB = Sold on Board.

## Heraklion

Tour Code	Title	USD	
		Adult	Child
HER-02	Minoan Palace of Knossos - 1st European civilisation	103	80
HER-04	Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle	107	80
HER-07	Venetian Heraklion and the unique Archaeological Museum	99	80
HER-09	Heraklion food on foot	173	-
HER-10	Transfer to Ammoudara Beach	SOB	SOB

## Santorini

Tour Code	Title	USD	
		Adult	Child
SAN-01	Spectacular Oia village perched on the Caldera rim	97	73
SAN-02	Cruise to Santorini's islands and volcanoes	97	73
SAN-13	Transfer to Perissa Beach	SOB	SOB
SAN-16	Music, myths and history	150	-

## Rhodes

Tour Code	Title	USD	
		Adult	Child
RHO-01	Acropolis of Lindos and the Citadel of the Knights	103	80
RHO-02	Philerimos church and the Palace of the Knights	103	80
RHO-06	Beauty of butterflies and ancient Kameiros	110	85
RHO-08	Transfer to Tsambika Beach	SOB	SOB
RHO-11	Walking tour in the Medieval City of Rhodes	72	45
RHO-17	Making pottery fit for the Gods	144	-
RHO-18	A kayak adventure discovering pirate coves	202	-
RHO-19N	Rhodes Uncharted Discovery	162	-
RHO-20N	Blutopia: A Marine Biology Experience	420	-
RHO-21N	The fascinating world of Bees	139	-



## 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.celestialcruises.com/shorex-conditions](http://www.celestialcruises.com/shorex-conditions)

**Authentic Encounters**  
 Experiences just for you and a few

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC  
**DAY TOURS**

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.

