

BEST OF GREECE CRUISE 2021 PRIVATE EXCURSIONS IN EURO



SANTORINI: ISLAND TOUR, VILLAGES, LEGENDS OF ATLANTIS

Visit Fira town, the Prehistoric Akrotiri Archeological Site and breathtaking Oia.

(Duration: approx. 4.5 hours, including an expert local guide, transportation, entry fees and taxes. One way cable car is included.

Per Person €80

Disembark by tender and **board the cable car** to reach the island's **capital Fira** for a guided walk through the narrow pedestrian streets. Board the bus for a pleasant drive through the countryside passing the **village of Pyrgos** to the famous archaeological site of Akrotiri. If Santorini is known as the Greek Pompeii it is because of **ancient Akrotiri**. Excavations uncovered an ancient town frozen in time by ash from an eruption some 3.600 years ago. Remains of sophisticated buildings with great frescoes and other constructions are evidence of an elaborate lifestyle. Continue by bus to the northern coast admiring views of land, sea and skies to reach **Oia, the most picturesque village** of Santorini with its magical views over the Caldera. Our local guide will take you to the most photographed **blue domes**, to insight spots and will give you hints for your time at leisure.

RHODES : A Guided Walk at the Medieval Town

Duration: Approx. 2 hours. Includes professional guide, transfers, entry fees and taxes.

Per Person € 45

The beautiful town of Rhodes is a strange mixture of **Medieval monuments** and modern life. The port welcomes visitors with the statue of a deer on one side, the symbol of the island. Following the **Knight's street**, the most traditional paved path of the town with the 14th century buildings on both sides, you meet at the end the **Palace of the Grand Master** of Rhodes. This castle was constructed in the 14th century by the Knights of Saint John who had conquered the island. Although it suffered many damages along time, it was reconstructed in the mid-20th century and now it hosts exhibitions and cultural events. Walk around the Medieval Town with the picturesque square, the impressive constructions and the magnificent walls that separate it from the Modern Town.

BODRUM, TURKEY: Colourful city explorations with a local food tasting

Duration: Approx. 4 hours. Includes professional guide, transportation, entry fees, a local food tasting and all taxes.

Per Person € 78

Docking at the charming resort of Bodrum, your guide will lead you through the streets of the town that will embrace you at once with its architecture and historical monuments. Stroll through the **Crusaders' Castle of St. Peter** and explore the English Tower that is decorated as feast-hall of the knights of St. John who were once the masters of this gigantic edifice. Inside the castle, there are individual small museums displaying attractive works of archaeology such as

BODRUM cont'd

the skull of Carian Princess and relics of underwater archaeology. You will continue your morning visiting the site of **Mausoleum of King Mausoleus**.

During 4th century BC, Bodrum was the Capital of Kingdom of Caria having King Mausoleus as her ruler. The king was so full of his ego that he got such a tomb built for himself that got to be known as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Today, there are still fragments of the famed Mausoleum and mural reliefs which will display to you the high taste of architecture of this marvellous monument. After completing our visits we will savour some delicious local dishes and will have some time on our own to explore beautiful Bodrum.

PATMOS : St. John's Monastery and Patmos Chora

Visit the famous St. John Monastery and Grotto with a guided walk of Chora village, both declared as UNESCO World Heritage sites.

(Duration about 3 hours including a professional guide, transportation, entry fees and taxes.)

Per Person € 58

Depart the picturesque harbor of Skala for a short drive to the **Grotto of the Apocalypse** and the imposing **Monastery of St. John**, built 900 years ago, exceptional in its architecture. Its thick, high walls are crowned all around with battlements and eight chapels. Visit the Treasury museum in the Monastery with its jeweled chalices, crowns, vestments and old manuscripts dating back to 1073. We will then continue for an insight exploration in **Chora** (Patmos main town) led by our local expert. Chora is of unique charm not only because of the dominating **Castle** and Monastery but for the Byzantine residences said to be the strongest ones built in the Aegean. Whitewashed houses, mansions with antique furniture and embroideries, captain's residences, narrow streets and alleyways all of which date back to the 15th century. Enjoy some time at leisure before returning to our ship.

DELOS: BIRTHPLACE OF GODS

Visit the tiny uninhabited island, one of the most famous archaeological sites of Greece and a UNESCO World's Cultural Heritage site.

(Approx. 3,5 hrs duration, including our expert local guide, transportation, entry fees and taxes)

Per Person € 68

In antiquity, Delos was considered to be the spiritual and **commercial centre** of the Aegean. After a short ferry/tender ride disembark on the island and gather for an introduction before proceeding with your lecturer guide on a unique walk through the original streets of the site's best preserved quarters. There you will see **Hellenistic houses** with beautiful **mosaics** in amazingly good condition, further along you will come to **the Sanctuary**, where you can see the ruins of a temple dedicated to Apollo – Delos being **Apollo's** mythological birthplace - while over the **Sacred Way** you will see the famous five 7th century B.C. **marble lions**, guardians of the Sacred Lake. On **to the Theatre** and the Roman quarter, where you will find ancient statues dedicated to Dionysus and optionally visit the **museum** with its interesting exhibits.

SYROS: ARISTOCRACY, ELEGANCE AND CONCORDE

Explore the island's Capital Ermoupolis and learn its hidden secrets

(Duration about 2,5hrs including a local escort, entry fees and a local meze treat)

Per Person € 45

Expect to be pleasantly surprised while we start exploring together the truly unique town of **Ermoupolis** (= town of Hermes). Walk on streets paved with marble, used instead of asphalt or stones! Syros has been constantly inhabited for 7000 years, but together we will find out why this island follows a completely different path in history than the rest of Greece during Renaissance. Admire the European influence that has created a distinctive blend of **Neoclassic, Byzantine, Venetian** while a strong Greek aura is present everywhere. See the impressive **Town Hall**, the **Apollo Theater** (a miniature of Scala di Milano), the **Captain's Quarter**, visit the **local grocery, fish and pastry market**, a chance for a culinary surprise. Try some authentic **meze** recipes among locals. A tour that is ever-changing as the egalitarian locals are always ready to surprise us with something new every time!

REMARKS:

*The tours are **exclusively run** for our Variety small groups and require a **minimum of 14 guests**.*

Our tours do perfectly match with our cruise itinerary timings and are led by local certified English speaking guides to the "must see" sites and hidden spots.

They are subject to changes due to site restorations, weather, heavy traffic or other conditions. Should sites or museums be closed on our visiting days, alternative visits will be offered instead. The tours are quite active and require good physical condition. Due to slippery sites we recommend comfortable shoes, sun tan lotion, a hat and water. Dress code for Church and Monastery visits.

Gratuities for drivers and local guides are not included.