

## CLASSICAL GREECE CRUISE 2021 PRIVATE SHIP EXCURSIONS IN EURO



### **DELOS: TRIUMPH & TURMOIL, 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.

(3-4 hrs duration, including our expert local guide, transportation, entry fees and taxes)

#### **Per Person € 65**

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.

### **SANTORINI: ISLAND TOUR, VILLAGES, LEGENDS OF ATLANTIS**

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

(Duration: approx. 4.5 hours, an expert local guide, transportation, entry fees and taxes)

#### **Per Person €77**

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. A short drive will bring you back to Fira.

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**CRETE/RETHYMNO: LEGENDARY MINOANS & CRETAN FOOD SECRETS**

A guided tour to the Minoan Palace of **Knossos** and Heraklion district with a special tasting of famous Cretan specialties.

(Duration approx. 6,5 hours, including an expert local guide at the site of Knossos, transportation, entry fees, a specialty food tasting and taxes)

**Per Person € 98**

After about an hour's drive eastwards along the coast and areas where **Cretan wines** grow we arrive at the Prehistoric (2000BC) **Minoan Palace of Knossos** to visit the archaeological site, located in a uniquely quaint scenery. The palace is a monumental symbol of Minoan Civilization due to its impressive size and construction and has been excavated and partially restored in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century by the great English archaeologist **Sir Arthur Evans**. Was it the palace of mythical King Minos bearing **the labyrinth**, where the fearsome Minotaur was said to have lurked?...

After our detailed visit we will proceed by bus to the greater area of Heraklion to **sample healthy local delicacies** at a traditional Cretan Taverna ; we will have some free time before returning to Rethymnon.

**NAUPLION: AGAMEMNON AND THE CYCLOPEAN WALLS**

Mycenae a major centre of Greek civilization between 1600BC and 1100BC and a UNESCO World Heritage site

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

**Per Person € 60**

A short drive through the **fertile countryside of Argolis** takes us to the ancient **city of Mycenae**, home to the kingdom of mythical **Agamemnon**.

The importance of the city, which **Homer calls "rich in gold"** begins in 1650 B.C and ceases around 1100 B.C with the fall of the civilization to which it gives name. Visit the remains of the glorious city including the **Lion's Gate**, the Palace and the tomb of Agamemnon.

Mycenae in legend was the royal seat of the ill-fated House of Atreus, and from Mycenae Agamemnon, "king of men", went off as the leader of the Achaean expedition to war against Troy.

**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.*