



GOLDENSTARCRUISES

Port of Rhodes

Rhodes & the Acropolis of Lindos

By air-conditioned motorcoach / foot

Duration: 4½ hours

RHO-A

RHO-AA

Driving along the picturesque southeastern coastline, scattered with whitewashed villages, arrive at Lindos, the most important of the three great cities of ancient times. Marvel at this entire city, guarded by Medieval walls which were constructed by the Knights of St. John in the 14th Century. Within, stands the ancient Acropolis of Lindos, on the brink of a precipice 400 feet above the sea. From the Acropolis, set your sights on the breathtaking views, which cover the great expanse of the Aegean Sea and St. Paul's Bay, where the Apostle cast anchor during his historic voyage to Ephesos. Follow your guide uphill and reach the Great Staircase which leads from the Hellenistic portico to the Acropolis and the Temple of Athena. For those that wish to make their way up by mule, a fee must be paid to the local muleteer. After your guided tour, enjoy free time to discover this lovely town at your own pace before meeting backup with your guide at the stated time and place. Return to Rhodes and enjoy a panoramic drive through the new part of the city, then on to Mount Smith, where you will view the ruins of ancient Rhodes, the Temple of Apollo and Diagoras Stadium. From here, your motorcoach will drop you off at Porte d'Amboise where you will commence your guided walking tour through the Medieval city of Rhodes. As you follow your guide, make your way through the northern part where once lived the knights and their attendants. View the Palace of the Knights and continue your walk down Chevaliers Road, meeting back up with your motorcoach at the Marine Gate to return directly to the ship.

Take Note!

Please note that a strenuous uphill climb is involved to reach the Acropolis. Comfortable and non-slip shoes are recommended. A short stop is foreseen at a ceramic workshop to see how the traditional and world famous Rhodian ceramics are made.

Rhodes Old Town & Filerimos

By motorcoach / foot

Duration: 4 hours

RHO-C

RHO-CC

Depart the port of Rhodes and enjoy a short drive to the Ancient Acropolis of Rhodes, situated high on the summit of Monte Smith Hill. Here, marvel at the remnants of the Temple of Apollo and the restored edifices of the Ancient Stadium and Odium, which stand dominating the modern city of Rhodes. Continue on and make your way to the Old Medieval Town surrounded by high walls and deep moats. Leave your motorcoach at Porte d'Amboise and accompanied by your guide, commence your walking tour. As you walk through the narrow cobbled streets, note the Byzantine style churches, inns, hospitals and Turkish mosques, all of which co-exist in the most traditional Greek setting touched little by the hectic modern way of life. Enjoy a visit to the Grand Masters Palace, which was restored during the Italian period of the island and today houses a superb collection of original mosaics from Kos island dating from the Hellenistic to early Byzantine period. After your visit, your motorcoach will take you to Filerimos, once the citadel of the ancient town of Ialysos. Here you will discover the restored monastery of Filerimos, the underground Chapel of Agios Georgios and the third century Temple of Athena and Zeus Polias. The Chapel is covered with 15th-century frescoes, some featuring major events in the life of Jesus. The site also includes the Doric Fountain, a 4th century classical fountain fronted by a row of Doric columns, which was accidentally discovered in 1926. As your visit comes to an end, you will be taken directly back to the port.

Take Note!

A short stop is foreseen at a ceramic workshop to see how the traditional and world famous Rhodian ceramics are made. The order of sites visited may change in order to avoid overcrowding of motorcoaches and tourists.

Rhodes & the Acropolis of Lindos with Lunch

By air-conditioned motorcoach / foot

Duration: 8 hours

Minimum Participation: 20 persons

RHO-B

RHO-BB

Enjoy a relaxing drive along the southeastern coastline as you make your way to Lindos, the most important of the three great cities of ancient times. On arrival, follow your guide uphill to explore the Acropolis of Lindos, which overlooks the Aegean Sea and St Paul's Bay. Marvel at the breathtaking views of the Aegean Sea and St. Paul's Bay. After your guided tour, enjoy free time to discover this lovely town at your own pace before meeting backup with your guide at the stated time and place. From here, make your way to Stegna Beach, a secluded beach only a short distance away, where you will be given the opportunity to enjoy a swim in the crystal clear waters of the Aegean before sitting down to lunch at a beachfront restaurant. During your buffet lunch, be entertained by Greek music and folk dancers. After lunch, return to Rhodes and be dropped off at Porte d'Amboise where you will commence your guided walking tour through the Medieval city of Rhodes. As you follow your guide, make your way through the northern part where once lived the knights and their attendants. View the Palace of the Knights and continue your walk down Chevaliers Road, meeting back up with your motorcoach at the Marine Gate to return directly to the ship.

Take Note!

A short stop is foreseen at a ceramic workshop to see how the traditional and world famous Rhodian ceramics are made. The order of sites visited may change in order to avoid overcrowding of motorcoaches and tourists. Umbrellas and sun-beds will be available on the beach for use. Changing facilities, rest rooms and showers are located in the restaurant and on the waterfront. This shore excursion will ONLY be operated from the month of May until October and is for prepaid groups only.



GOLDENSTARCRUISES

Port of Kusadasi

Ancient Ephessos

By air-conditioned motorcoach / foot

Duration: 3 hours

KUS-A

KUS-AA

Depart the thriving town of Kusadasi and drive along the coast and through the flourishing countryside in order to reach Ephessos, famous in antiquity for its Temple of Diana - one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World - and later the home of St. John. As you arrive at Ephessos, disembark your motorcoach and enter the ancient site through the Magnesian Gate. Continue on, following your guide as you marvel at the innumerable monuments such as the Forum, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Thermal Baths of Scolastika and the Great Theatre, built in the Greek era and reconstructed in the Roman period, which is still eminent for its remarkable acoustics. Observe the symbols all around and marvel at the fact that one is still able to read the inscriptions in the ancient Greek language. As your guided tour comes to an end, walk back to your motorcoach along the Arcadian Way, where once Mark Antony and Cleopatra rode in procession. Driving back to Kusadasi, on a hill above Selcuk, just outside Ephessos, view the Basilica of St. John, which was erected, over his grave in the 6th Century AD by the Emperor Justinian. And just downhill, lies the site of the famous Temple of Diana, today in ruins. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi to shop for every conceivable item, such as carpets, jewellery, local souvenirs, leather goods and Turkish delights.

Take Note!

Due to extensive walking, comfortable and non-slip shoes are recommended.

The House Of Virgin Mary & Ephessos

By air-conditioned motorcoach / foot

Duration: 3½ hours

KUS-B

KUS-BB

Depart the thriving town of Kusadasi and drive along the highway in order to reach Mt Koressos. Situated in a small valley, it is here where you will visit the humble chapel, which lies on the site of the little house where The Virgin Mary is believed to have spent her last days. Despite the many controversies, the Christian World still favours this belief and the site has been officially sanctioned by the Vatican, for pilgrimage. Continue on to Ancient Ephessos and accompanied by your Turkish guide, walk through the Magnesian Gate, which is the entrance to the ancient city of Ephessos. Your guided walking tour will take you through one of the most magnificent excavations in the world. See the Odeon (concert hall), the Fountain of Trajan, the steam-heated Baths of Scolastika, the Temple of Hadrian and the Latrians, the Library of Celsus and The Great Theatre, where St. Paul preached, which is the largest theatre in antiquity having a capacity of 24,000 people. Walk back to your motorcoach along the Arcadian Way, where Mark Anthony and Cleopatra once rode in procession. While driving back to Kusadasi and just outside Ephessos, view the Basilica of St. John, which was erected over his grave in the 6th Century AD by the Emperor Justinian. And just downhill, lies the site of the famous Temple of Diana, today in ruins. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi to shop for every conceivable item, such as carpets, jewellery, local souvenirs, leather goods and Turkish delights.

Take Note!

Due to extensive walking, comfortable and non-slip shoes are recommended.

Traditional Turkish Baths

By air-conditioned motorcoach

Duration: 3 hours

KUS-C

KUS-CC

Once thing not to miss out on whilst visiting Turkey, is a visit to a local Turkish Bath, otherwise known as a "hamam". Like the harem, this Roman and Byzantine tradition was adopted and then perfected by the Selcuk Turks. It was not merely a place where believers could fulfill the Islamic precept of cleanliness, but was also a place where one could mingle, socialize and gossip! The Turkish Bath that you will visit today is one of the newest Turkish baths in Kusadasi, located only 4km outside of the center of Kusadasi. Upon arrival, you will be taken into the dressing room where you will be cloaked with a "pestamal", a colourful checked wrap as well as "takunya" wooden clogs. From here, you will be taken to the "Gobek Tasi", a large round stone which graces the center of the hararet (baths), where you will warm up for approximately 15 minutes. Afterwards, enjoy a sauna, followed by a rubbing and then a massage with foam before being taken to a hot steamed bath in order to wash yourself down. After this amazing experience, you will gather in the "saloon" where you will be given a new "pestamal" accompanied by a glass of hot apple tea. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi to shop for every conceivable item, such as carpets, jewellery, local souvenirs, leather goods and Turkish delights.

Take Note!

This Shore Excursion is ONLY operated from May until October.



GOLDENSTARCRUISES

Port of Patmos

St John's Monastery & the Grotto of Revelations

By air-conditioned motorcoach / foot

Duration: 2 hours

PAT-A

PAT-AA

Depart the port of Scala by motorcoach and enjoy a short drive up to the Monastery of St. John, which has been magnificently built within the walls of a strong fortification. As you follow your guide and walk uphill towards the entrance of the Monastery, marvel at this impressive structure, which was built 900 years ago. View the courtyard, the Monks' dining room and the old bakery before visiting the main church with its outstanding frescoes and interior decoration. Your next point of interest is the beautiful but small museum which houses priceless ecclesiastical treasures such as books and manuscripts, mosaics, icons, splendid medieval textiles and vestments as well as jewellery. At the end of your visit, return to your motorcoach and continue on to the nearby Grotto of the Apocalypse, where above stands the church of the Apocalypse, a sub-unit of the main Monastery. Take care as you walk down the steps to visit the Grotto! Once inside, see the silver niches in the wall, that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by the author of the Book of Revelations as well as the three-fold crack, made by the Voice of God, emphasizing the honour of the Trinity. After this splendid glory, return to the port and the ship.

Take Note!

Bare shoulders & shorts are not permitted in the Monastery, please consult the Pursers' Office for the correct dress code. Passengers that have difficulty in walking are advised that a strenuous uphill climb is involved to reach the Monastery.

Patmos Scenic Tour

By air-conditioned motorcoach / foot

Duration: 2½ hours

Minimum Participation: 30 persons

PAT-B

PAT-BB

For those of you wishing to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery that Patmos has to offer, then this tour is designed especially for you. Depart the charming little port of Scala by motorcoach and accompanied by your guide, you will first enjoy a visit to the Grotto of the Apocalypse. Take care as you walk down the steps to visit the Grotto! Once inside, see the silver niches in the wall, that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by the author of the Book of Revelations as well as the three-fold crack, made by the Voice of God, emphasizing the honour of the Trinity. After this visit, you will then make your way to the heart of Patmos, Chora, a unique village with white houses, built in the typical Aegean style. Here you will have a short photo stop, marvelling at the beautiful panoramic views offered. Don't forget your camera! Your drive will then take you south of the island, passing by the idyllic fishing village of Grikos, then onto the northern side of the island, to the rural village of Kampos. Upon arrival, depart your motorcoach and make your way to the central square, where you will be offered a light refreshment accompanied by a traditional local sweet. Afterwards, return to your motorcoach and drive directly back to the port.



GOLDENSTARCRUISES

Port of Heraklion

Palace of Knossos

By air-conditioned motorcoach / foot

Duration: 3 hours

HER-A

HER-AA

From the Venetian lion-guarded port of Heraklion town, enjoy a short drive to Knossos, once the capital city of the prehistoric Minoan civilization, and thought to be the basis for the original Labyrinth housing the mythological Minotaur. Upon arrival, follow your guide and visit a section of the excavated and partially reconstructed Palace of King Minos, as well as the surrounding area. Housed in the King's Palace is the Hall of the Royal Guard, decorated with frescoes and shields, the Hall of the Double Axes, and the King's Chamber, housing the alabaster throne amidst paintings of griffins and lilies. And of course, the Queen's Apartment, adorned with murals of dolphins and spirals reminding us of the legend of the Labyrinth. After this extensive visit, return to your motorcoach and drive back to Heraklion. Before returning to the ship by motorcoach, enjoy a guided tour of the extraordinary Archaeological Museum, viewing the unique items from the Minoan culture or, for those that do not wish to do so, enjoy free time in the town, browsing at the many shops available.

Take Note!

Those passengers wishing to visit the Archaeological Museum must pay their own entrance fee. The use of a flash in the Museum is strictly forbidden. The King's Chamber and the Queen's Apartment are presently closed due to planned restoration.

Discover Cretan Lifestyle

By air-conditioned motorcoach

Duration: 4 hours

Minimum Participation: 20 persons

HER-C

HER-CC

Depart the port of Heraklion and enjoy a leisurely drive south, through olive groves, vineyards and numerous picturesque villages in order to reach the historical village of Asites, situated in an area surrounded by mountains and gorges. Your morning will consist of a visit to a honey factory, the village's Orthodox Church, a local distillery where they produce the traditional "Tsikoudia" and a workshop where hand-made copper bells are made for the sheep. Free time will be allow you to walk around the small alleys on your own, where one can admire the traditional architecture and experience the hospitality of the villagers. Before your morning ends, you will be invited into one of the local houses, where the owners will offer you home made sweets accompanied by Tsikoudia. After this memorable visit, your motorcoach will drive you back to the port.

Take Note!

Due to some walking, comfortable and non-slip shoes are recommended.



GOLDENSTARCRUISES

Port of Santorini

Oia Village & Fira Town

By boat / motorcoach / cable car / foot

Duration: 3½ hours

SAN-B

SAN-BB

Your destination this afternoon is Oia Village, the crowning glory of peace and tranquility. Built on the northern part of the caldera rim, it has been the inspiration of many artists due to its magnificent location, and superb views of the caldera, the rest of the island itself and the Aegean Sea. Leave the vessel and by local tender, be taken to Athenios Harbour where you will board your awaiting motorcoach. Drive uphill along the rocky sides of the caldera and pass through an array of traditional villages before reaching the unique village of Oia, with its architecture typically Cycladic and its houses resembling "bird nests" tucked away into the dramatic cliff-side. Follow your guide, and along cobble-stoned streets, walk through the village, marvelling at the wonderful panoramic views as well as the traditional architecture. Enjoy time in Oia on your own, perhaps by wandering through the many art galleries available or just relaxing over a cup of coffee. At the specified time and place, meet back up with your guide and make your way to Fira, the picturesque capital of Santorini, built on the caldera rim. Here, enjoy free time on your own before making your way to the small pier of Scala by cable car or mule, where tenders will take you back to the ship.

Take Note!

In unfavourable weather conditions, this excursion will commence from Fira Town, instead of Athenios harbour.

Local Winery, Pyrgos Village & Fira Town

By boat / motorcoach / cable car / foot

Duration: 3 hours

Minimum Participation: 30 persons

SAN-C

SAN-CC

Enjoy a short trip by local caique, to Athenios harbour. Board your waiting motorcoach and drive up the long, steep winding road, marvelling at the spectacular views of the caldera, seen in the distance. Continue on, until you reach the traditional Greek village of Pyrgos. As you drive through the village, note its unique cycladic architecture. From here, enjoy a short photo stop at Profitis Elias, the highest point of the island. Your next stop will be a local winery. Follow your guide into the winery, where you will watch a visual presentation of wine production. Enjoy a glass of the local wine produced accompanied by cheese and crackers. Afterwards, make your way to Fira Town, where you will have free time on your own. Here is the ideal spot to gaze down upon the Kamenes, the two black volcanic islets in the Caldera Bay. Take the cable car down to the small pier of Scala from where the vessel's tenders will take you back to the ship.

Take Note!

This excursion will commence from Fira Town, instead of Athenios harbour, in unfavourable weather conditions.