

# EXCURSIONS

ICONIC AEGEAN - 3 NIGHT

2021 - 2022





## Why book a Celestyal excursion

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

So a very warm welcome to our Iconic Aegean excursions.

Joining us for the three 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, 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'.

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# Your included excursions



## KUSADASI

### ANCIENT EPHEBUS THROUGH THE AGES - HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN

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



This is a wonderful journey through some of the most important and formative periods of history and we hope you will be enthralled by the stories of the Hellenes, Romans, the Ottomans 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.

See page 12 for full details



## HERAKLION

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

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



As we venture into the incredible open-air museum of the Palace of Knossos, our bus tour will take you along the proud Venetian heritage of Heraklion.

As you explore the Palace of Knossos, considered Europe's oldest city, you are entering and experiencing the incredible world of the legendary Minoan civilisation. The long and winding roads of Crete's ancient city gradually expose the art, architecture and daily life of the Minoan people.

Enjoy free time to savour the beauty and uniqueness of Crete's largest city (and the fourth largest in Greece).

See page 21 for full details

# 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.

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.

Excursions require a minimum participation of 30 guests to operate.

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)

**Half day up to 5 hours**  
**Full day 6 hours and above**



Mykonos

## MYKONIAN DINNER

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

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

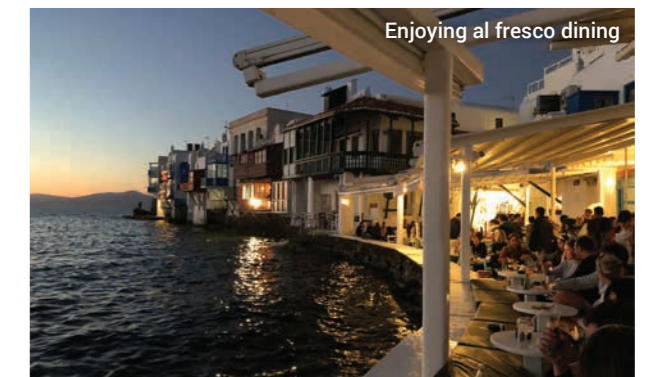
Our tour continues with a walk to Alefkhandra and the ubiquitous windmills, the symbol of Mykonos, recognised the world over. This part of the town is known as Little Venice. The houses belonging to wealthy merchants and sea captains were built on the water in the 18th century and their wooden balconies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



**CHILD**  
**€55**

**ADULT**  
**€78**

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.



Enjoying al fresco dining



Mykonos



Chora

### MYKONIAN COUNTRYSIDE TOUR WITH CHORA AND LITTLE VENICE

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



**CHILD**  
**€44**

**ADULT**  
**€67**

We set off by coach from Mykonos Town, also known as Chora and head for Omos.

It's a picturesque fishing harbour and popular anchorage sitting on a narrow isthmus between two beaches and its streets are lined with tavernas.

We visit the lovely colourful beaches of Agia Anna and 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.*



Monastery of Panagia Tourliani



Paraportiani Church





Library of Celsus, Ephesus



Library of Celsus

### HOUSE OF VIRGIN MARY & ANCIENT EPHESUS

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



**CHILD**  
**€55**

**ADULT**  
**€74**

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.

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

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



City of Ephesus



The Temple of Hadrian



Main Street of Curetes

## ANCIENT EPHEBUS THROUGH THE AGES - HELLENISTIC AND ROMAN

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



**INCLUDED IN  
YOUR FARE**

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.



Trajan's Fountain



Baths of Scholastica

## ANCIENT EPHEBUS AND THE TERRACE HOUSES

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



**CHILD  
€55**

**ADULT  
€74**

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.

There will be time for souvenir shopping before we return to the ship at Kusadasi.



Ancient Roman Mosaics from Terrace Houses



Library of Celsus



Patmos



St John's Monastery

### RELIGIOUS VISIT TO ST JOHN'S MONASTERY - GROTTA OF APOCALYPSE

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



**CHILD**  
**€44**

**ADULT**  
**€67**

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 a 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.



St John's Monastery



Skala

### COUNTRYSIDE TOUR WITH CHORA AND THE GROTTA OF APOCALYPSE

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



**CHILD**  
**€44**

**ADULT**  
**€67**

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.

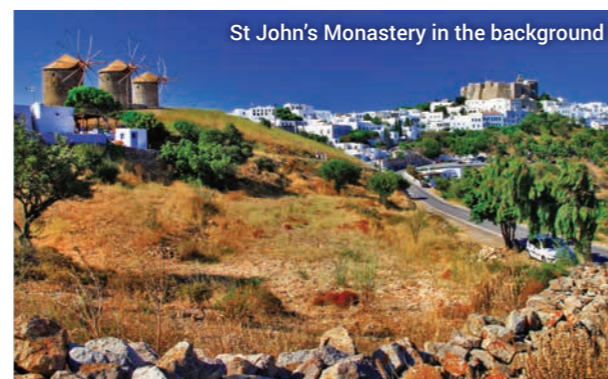
In the central area of Chora we find the silent windmills which stand sentry-like over the capital.

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.

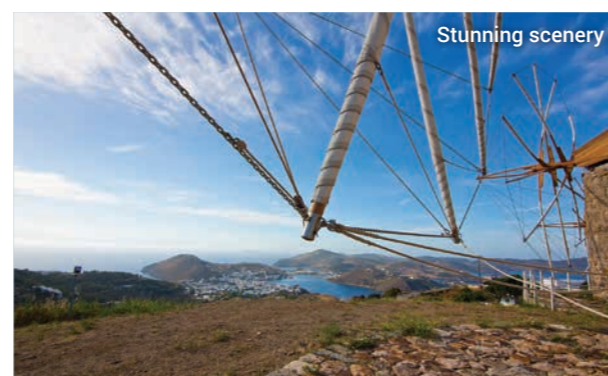
Here you might reflect on the legend of how the island lay at the bottom of the sea and how Zeus was prevailed upon to allow it to rise from the water. Which he did.

We end our exploration back at Skala.

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



St John's Monastery in the background



Stunning scenery



Agrio Livadi Beach

### TRANSFER TO AGRIOLIVADI BEACH

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



**SOLD ONLY**  
**ON BOARD**

Agrio Livadi 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.

Agrio Livadi, 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.





Typical Greek Taverna

## TRADITIONAL FEAST IN PATMOS

**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** PAT - 05

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.



CHILD  
€41

ADULT  
€58



Hillside villages



St John's Monastery



The ancient city of Knossos

## MINOAN PALACE OF KNOSSOS - 1ST EUROPEAN CIVILISATION

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



**INCLUDED IN  
YOUR FARE**

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.



The Magazine in Knossos palace



Knossos

Knossos Palace



Traditional Cretan dancers at the Raki distillery

## EXPERIENCE THE CRETAN COUNTRYSIDE AND LIFESTYLE

Duration: Half day

Tour code: HER - 04

CHILD  
€55ADULT  
€74

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

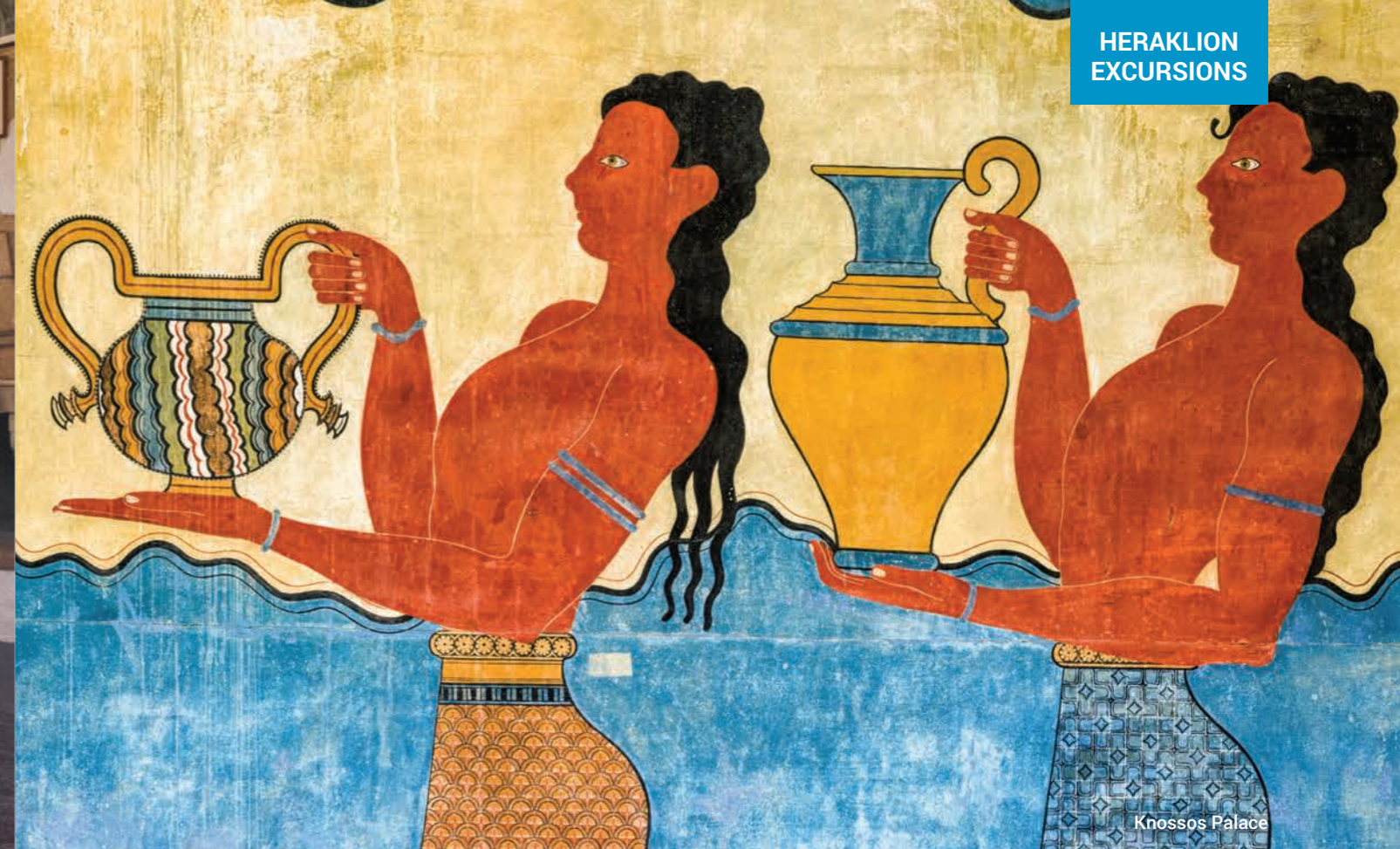
wonderful structures including the 'Koules' fortress, Venetian Loggia, Basilica of St Mark, medieval monastery of St Catherine and the Cathedral of Agios Minas.



Enjoy the Cretan countryside



Agios Minas Cathedral



Knossos Palace

## VENETIAN HERAKLION AND THE UNIQUE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM

Duration: Half day

Tour code: HER - 07

CHILD  
€40ADULT  
€67

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.



The Queen's Megaron, Knossos Palace



Archaeological Museum of Heraklion



Oia Village

## SPECTACULAR OIA VILLAGE PERCHED ON THE CALDERA RIM

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



**CHILD**  
**€55**

**ADULT**  
**€74**

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.



Ammoudi Bay



Bell tower at  
Megalochori Village



Nea Kameni

## CRUISE TO SANTORINI'S ISLANDS AND VOLCANOES

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



CHILD  
€42

ADULT  
€69

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.*



Nea Kameni



Fira



Akrotiri Village

## AKROTIRI VILLAGE EXCAVATIONS

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



CHILD  
€55

ADULT  
€74

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Excavations at Akrotiri



Acropolis

## ATHENS MONUMENTS AND THE ACROPOLIS

**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** ATH-101

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

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

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

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

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

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



**CHILD  
€55**

**ADULT  
€78**

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.



Panathenaic Stadium



Acropolis

## ATHENS TOUR AND THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

**Duration:** Half day  
**Tour code:** ATH-107

We head along the coast road 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.



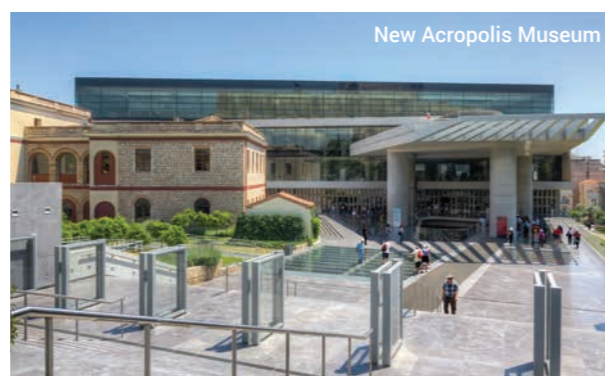
CHILD  
€55

ADULT  
€78

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



The Hellenic Parliament building in Syntagma Square



New Acropolis Museum





For more information and bookings please visit  
**[celestyal.com](http://celestyal.com)**  
or your local travel agent