



# EXCURSIONS

ECLECTIC AEGEAN - 7 NIGHT

2021 - 2022











# Why book a Celestyal excursion

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

And they lend themselves to incredible tales, some true, some fable but all an integral part of our fascinating storytelling.

You can immerse yourself in ancient civilisations, follow in the footsteps of great figures from history, live and breathe the myths and legends of Ancient Greece and the Mediterranean and journey to places where some of the Seven Wonders of the World once stood - and to the one that's still very much here.

We like to feel that we are taking you on your very own Greek Odyssey across the Aegean, the Mediterranean and beyond to the crossroads of Europe and Asia.

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 the world of 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



## ISTANBUL

### BOSPHORUS CRUISE AND THE SPICE MARKET

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



The mighty Bosphorus, like Istanbul itself, belongs to two continents. It flows between Europe and Asia and connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara. The two parts of Istanbul are linked by the Galata Bridge and the Ataturk Bridge, named after the father of modern Turkey.

Our excursion features a private tender boat gliding along the busy Bosphorus (which comes from a Thracian word meaning 'passage of the cow') the Occident to one side and the Orient on the other.

There is plenty to see on land and on the sea.

**See page 8 for full details**



## SANTORINI

### SPECTACULAR OIA VILLAGE PERCHED ON THE CALDERA RIM

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



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.

Spend some 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 Ammoudi at the foot of the caldera.

**See page 29 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.

**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.

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)





# ISTANBUL

## EXCURSIONS



Blue mosque





Istanbul - Topkapi Palace

## OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND BYZANTINE LEGACY TOUR

**Duration: Full day**

**Tour code: IST - 03**



**CHILD  
€80**

**ADULT  
€124**

There is no place on earth like Istanbul and our nine hour excursion will immerse you in this vibrant, colourful and fascinating city straddling the Bosphorus, at the crossroads of Europe and Asia. Many empires have held sway in the place once called Constantinople including the Greeks, Romans, Venetians and the Ottomans.

The historic heart of old Istanbul is the Sultanahmet district where we will find remnants of the Byzantine Hippodrome where horse and chariot racing once drew crowds of 100,000 or more. Nearby is the Kaiser's German fountain, the bronze Serpent Column of Delphi, the Egyptian Obelisk and the Walled Obelisk of Constantine VII.

Recognised across the globe is the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet, perhaps more popularly known as the Blue Mosque because of the stunning hand painted blue tiles inside. It also has six minarets. Whether you are inside or outside it is well worth taking a few minutes just to gaze and let the amazing beauty sink in. The grave of Sultan Ahmet lies inside the mosque.

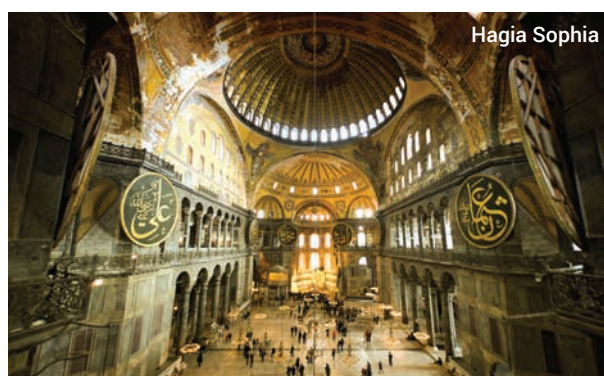
Across the square sits the imposing Church of the Holy Wisdom of God or Hagia Sophia, once a church, then an Ottoman imperial mosque and now a museum. It is considered the epitome of Byzantine architecture.

After lunch we will visit the incomparable Topkapi Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

If all this still leaves you with a thirst for more discovery you can do no better than explore the sights, sounds and colours of Istanbul's incredible Grand Bazaar, with 4000 shops and stalls, 58 streets under one roof, 400,000 visitors daily and millions of things for sale. Not least carpets, rugs, jewellery and leather.

This excursion will give a taste of Istanbul you are unlikely to forget.

*A gentle walking tour is available for this itinerary - please contact us for more information.*



Hagia Sophia





Bosphorus Cruise

## **BOSPHORUS CRUISE AND THE SPICE MARKET**

**Duration: Half day**

**Tour code: IST - 04**



**INCLUDED IN  
YOUR FARE**

The mighty Bosphorus, like Istanbul itself, belongs to two continents. It flows between Europe and Asia and connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara. The two parts of Istanbul are linked by the Galata Bridge and the Ataturk Bridge, named after the father of modern Turkey.

There are many vantage points for experiencing a wonderful Istanbul perspective and the water is most definitely one of them.

Our excursion features a private tender boat gliding along the busy Bosphorus (which comes from a Thracian word meaning 'passage of the cow') the Occident to one side and the Orient on the other.

There is plenty to see on land and on the sea.

We pass the palaces of Dolmabahce and Cirgan.

Our excursion finishes with a distinct change of pace.

After the calm of a river journey we head for the hustle and bustle of the spice market, one of the oldest and largest covered markets in the world.



Spice Market



Beyleybeyi Palace





Head of Medusa

## DISCOVER THE HIDDEN SECRETS OF SULTAN AHMET SQUARE

**Duration: Half day**

**Tour code: IST - 13**



**CHILD  
€55**

**ADULT  
€74**

The Blue Mosque is known the world over and is arguably the most iconic site in Istanbul (and there are many jostling for that accolade.)

The stunning hand painted blue tiles adorning the interior lend it the name.

But it is officially the Mosque of Sultan Ahmet, built on the orders of the 20-year-old Sultan Ahmet 1. His final resting place is inside.

The Blue Mosque is not the only treasure in the Sultanahmet district.

We cross the square to the Church of St Sophia - the Hagia Sophia. This is the enduring symbol of Constantinople, the historical name for Istanbul.

The Byzantine Church of the Holy Wisdom of God was the Orthodox cathedral of Constantinople.

After the Ottoman conquest, the church became a mosque and then a museum in 1934.

From here we discover hidden Istanbul as we enter a whole new world beneath the city. The Cistern of Philoxenos or the 'Sunken Palace', the water reservoir of Emperor Justinian was constructed in 535AD.

There are 338 Doric, Ionian and Corinthian columns of marble, some 30 feet high. At the end of the chamber we will find two carved column bases featuring the head of Medusa, the winged creature of mythology with venomous snakes in place of hair.

Above ground and below it, this is a fascinating glimpse into the past of a great city.

*A gentle walking tour is available for this itinerary - please contact us for more information.*



The Blue Mosque



The Cistern of Philoxenos





Traditional Turkish Hammam

## TURKISH BATHS

**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** IST - 16



CHILD  
€55

ADULT  
€78

No visit to the incomparable city of Istanbul can be really complete without a visit to the Turkish baths. These are an integral part of Istanbul life as they have been for centuries.

Situated between Constantine 1st's Vezirhan monument and the Köprülü Mahmud Pasa mosque, school and tombs, Cemberlitas Hamami is definitely worth experiencing.

Faithfully restored, the Hammam was originally built in 1584 for Nurbanu Sultan.

As you walk through the arches you get a real sense of the historical importance. Traditionally, Turkish baths follow a three-step process, including a sauna and steam, a full body wash and finally a massage.

This opens up all your pores, increases your blood circulation and removes all dead cells. The result is invigorating.

There are separate female and male sections in traditional hammams.







Kadikoy Market

## A TASTE OF ISTANBUL: STREET FOOD TOUR

**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** IST - 17

Sampling the delicious and diverse street food of Istanbul is another experience not to be missed.

The Turkish phrase for Bon Appetit (Afiyet Olsun) may become a battle cry as you catch the public ferry for a ride across the Bosphorus to the Asian side of Istanbul. First stop is the colourful and chaotic Kadikoy Market.

Crammed with all manner of culinary delights - from olives to bread to stuffed grape leaves - the market is bursting with fishmongers, fruit sellers, butchers and gourmet food shops.

Lamb-topped Turkish pizza, sugar-coated sweets and kebabs are all musts. You can then stroll across the low-lying and much photographed Galata Bridge where fishermen have been pulling in the daily catch for generations.

The bridge is also home to countless stalls selling everything from jewellery to simits (Turkish bagels). As you cross to the other side, you'll find yourself in the Beyoglu district and the famous Karakoy Gulluoglu, purveyor of the best baklava in Istanbul. Famous the world over, this Turkish pastry is made from several layers of filo dough filled with chopped nuts and sweetened with honey. The walk continues up the hill to Galatasaray, a neighbourhood that is home to one of Turkey's most famous football teams of the same



**CHILD**  
**€55**

**ADULT**  
**€74**

name. And if you need a rest, you can hop on the tram on Istiklal Caddesi, the city's grand bustling boulevard lined with shops and restaurants, as well as famous landmarks.



Kadikoy Market



Kadikoy Market





Hagia Sophia Museum - Istanbul









Martyrs' Memorial





Ruins of ancient Troy city

## LEGENDARY TROY & THE NEW TROY MUSEUM

**Duration: Half day**

**Tour code: CAN - 01**

Join us on this fascinating excursion and find out more about one of the great tales of history and how much was fact and how much fiction.

For millennia it's been assumed that Homer's Iliad was a piece of fantasy and Troy never existed.

In the story, the city of Troy is besieged for ten years and then conquered by a Greek Army led by Agamemnon.

According to Homer, the abduction of Helen, a beautiful queen from the city state of Sparta was the reason for the war being launched.

And to end the conflict and enter Troy, the Greeks built a wooden horse and hid soldiers inside, including the hero Odysseus.

By the mid nineteenth century the story of Troy was widely regarded as the stuff of legend. Then German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann unearthed stone walls and battlements. On our tour you will see his evidence with your own eyes.

Our guide will relive the story of Troy and bring it to life.

Brad Pitt's 2004 Hollywood epic Troy was the latest big screen attempt to tell the epic tale.

We will visit the recently opened Troy Museum, built on an indoor area of approximately 11,000 square meters at the entrance of the archaeological site.



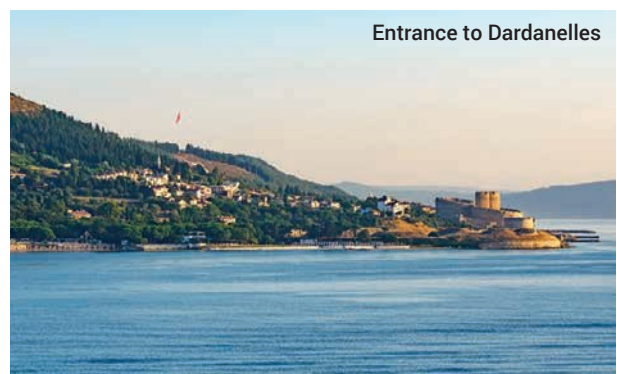
**CHILD**  
**€55**

**ADULT**  
**€74**

The height of the museum has been designed to equal the pre-excavation height of ancient Troy.

The museum plays hosts to 5,000 years of myths, legends and history and provides wonderful context and background to what you have seen outside.

Sculptures, sarcophaguses, inscriptions, altars, milestones, axes and cutters, terra cotta potteries, metal vessels, gold pieces, weapons, coins, bone objects and tools, glass bracelets, ornaments, figurines, glass and terra cotta scent bottles, tear bottles and many other special artefacts are included in this incredible collection.



Entrance to Dardanelles





Martyrs' Memorial

## GALLIPOLI, TROY AND THE NEW TROY MUSEUM

**Duration: Full day**

**Tour code: CAN - 02**

Gallipoli holds a very special place in the vocabulary and remembrance of 20th century conflict and is to this day a poignant place of pilgrimage.

In the Great War of 1914-18, the Gallipoli Peninsular in Turkey was the scene in April of 1915 of a land invasion by British and French troops and divisions of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC).

It was a costly failure with an estimated 115,000 British and dominion troops killed or injured.

Our tour of the Gallipoli Peninsular Historical National Park begins with a visit to ANZAC Cove. It was here that the Australian and New Zealand Forces made their landing. Today it is the home to numerous cemeteries and memorials to remember the fallen.

Lone Pine Cemetery, the largest at Gallipoli, commands spectacular views in all directions over the 1915 battlefield. Remains of trenches are still visible.

We continue with visits to Beach Cemetery, Hell Spit, Shrapnel Valley, Brighton Beach and Quinn's Post, all places to rest and reflect.

After our moving tour we head to another scene of conflict, a much older one.

We visit Legendary Troy, a city besieged and eventually conquered by the Ancient Greeks with the help of the Trojan Horse.



**CHILD  
€75**

**ADULT  
€95**

The story of Troy was featured in Homer's Iliad and widely believed to be just that, a story, until 19th Century excavations by the archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann.

You can see for yourself what he uncovered and decide whether Troy was fact or fantasy.

Our final stop is the New Troy Museum, standing at the entrance to the archaeological site. It spans thousands of years of history with many fascinating artefacts, bringing to life what you have seen outside. These include weapons, coins, sarcophaguses, altars and glass bracelets.

The height of the museum is equal the pre-excavation height of ancient Troy.



Turkish Soldier Carrying  
Australian Soldier,  
Canakkale





Temple of Athena

## FULL DAY TRIP TO TROY & ASSOS

**Duration: Full day**

**Tour code: CAN - 03**

Join us on this excursion to the immortal city of Helen (whose beauty is said to have launched a war) and the Trojan Horse.

Homer wrote of this in the Iliad and for most of the past 3,000 years the world has taken it as a legend, just a tale.

That is until the 1800s when ancient ruins were unearthed by a team of archaeologists led by the German Heinrich Schliemann, who was convinced the legend was fact.

We will have time to see the stone walls and battlements at what was declared a World Heritage Site in 1998.

Our next stop is Assos, the historically rich town in the Canakkale Province and today an Aegean seaside retreat.

We shall see the ruins of the Temple of Athena, the marketplace, and the city walls which date from the age of King Hermias and the philosopher Aristotle who arrived from Athens. In fact Aristotle married the king's daughter in the Academy of Assos and then became the head of a group of philosophers here. He fled to Macedonia when the Persians attacked.



**CHILD  
€75**

**ADULT  
€95**

Reference is made in the Acts of the Apostles to visits to Assos by Luke the Evangelist and St Paul on his third missionary journey. Word has it that Paul sent a message back to his previous stopping off point at Alexandria Troas asking for his cloak and notebooks to be forwarded to him in Assos.

Our historic day out will feature lunch at a local restaurant at the ancient harbour of Assos.



Assos





Monument in memory of the Anzac soldiers, Gallipoli

## GALLIPOLI

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

Among the names synonymous with the bravery and sacrifices of World War One, that of Gallipoli ranks high.

And this is without doubt one of our most poignant excursions, if not the most.

The Gallipoli Peninsular in Turkey was the scene in April 1915 of a land invasion by British and French troops and divisions of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC).

But casualties were high and little headway made. It was a costly failure with an estimated 115,000 British and dominion troops killed or injured.

Our tour of the Gallipoli Peninsular Historical National Park begins with a visit to ANZAC Cove. It was here that the Australian and New Zealand Forces made their landing. Today it is the home to numerous cemeteries and memorials to remember the fallen. Places of pilgrimage.

Lone Pine Cemetery, the largest at Gallipoli, commands spectacular views in all directions over the 1915 battlefield. Remains of trenches are still visible.

We continue with visits to Beach Cemetery, Hell Spit, Shrapnel Valley, Brighton Beach and Quinn's Post, all places to rest and reflect.



**CHILD**  
**€55**

**ADULT**  
**€74**

At the Chunuk Blair Cemetery, visitors are able to appreciate why Kemal Ataturk's intervention marked a turning point in the Gallipoli campaign and the history of Turkey itself.





# THESSALONIKI

## EXCURSIONS



St Paul Orthodox Church





The Arch of Galerius

## PANORAMIC THESSALONÍKI

**Duration: Half day**

**Tour code: THS - 06**



**CHILD  
€44**

**ADULT  
€67**

Thessaloniki is the second city of Greece and the capital of Macedonia.

It has a fascinating and colourful history with evidence of Byzantine, Roman and Ottoman remains and it was the richest city in the Byzantine Empire.

It is a glorious blend of beauty, history, and culture, framed by vast and stunning sea views and is considered to be Greece's cultural capital.

Our panoramic tour begins along the waterfront boulevard to Aristotelous Square, named for Macedonia's leading philosopher Aristotle.

We will see Thessaloniki's most famous sight, the White Tower, part of the lower city's original fortification which has also served as a prison.

We hear the fascinating narrative by our guide as we take in many of the city's highlights including, the Galerius Arch, the Rotunda, and numerous neo-Classical buildings.

We visit the 5th century St. Demetrius' Cathedral as well and stop up to the Upper Town for sweeping views of the city with Mount Olympus and the Thermaic Gulf in the background.



The White Tower



Aristotelous Square





The Golden Chest

## THE ROYAL TOMBS OF VERGINA

**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** THS - 02



**CHILD**  
**€55**

**ADULT**  
**€74**

This is a fascinating half day, step back time.

Vergina was the first ancient capital of the Greek Kingdom of Macedonia and we have the privilege of visiting the Royal Tombs.

The most important tomb is that of Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great.

We will be accompanied into the museum by our guide to look at some of King Philip's most important possessions, including the king's shield and gold-trimmed breast plate.

Legend has it that the golden chest containing the king's bones was washed with wine and wrapped in purple cloth.

We will find out how this was unearthed before being able to discover it for ourselves.

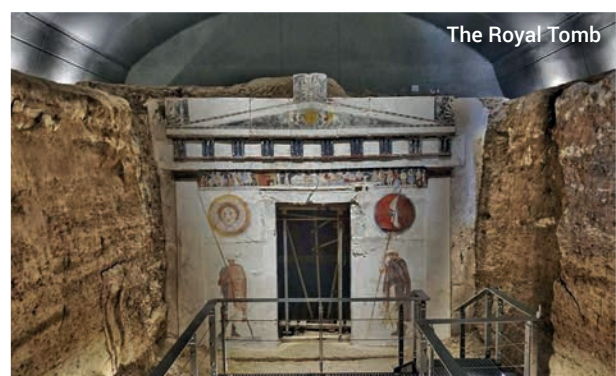
Also on display are gold diadems of unparalleled artistry, lavish wall paintings and a golden wreath of oak leaves.

This is also the site of an extensive royal palace and one of the most important museums in Greece.

The area was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Site status as "an exceptional testimony to a significant development in European civilisation."



King Philip II tomb



The Royal Tomb





Ancient Pella

## LAND OF ALEXANDER THE GREAT

**Duration: Full day**

**Tour code: THS - 04**

This is a remarkable, historic, full-day excursion combining the glories of Pella with those of Vergina, and it includes lunch overlooking the stunning Aliakmon Valley.

We begin with a 45-minute drive by air-conditioned motor coach to Pella, the birthplace of Alexander the Great and the second capital of ancient Macedonia.

Alexander, Emperor in the 4th Century BC, was undefeated in battle and is widely considered one of history's most successful military commanders.

For 250 years Pella was the cultural centre of the Ancient Greek world and as the seat of the royal family, enjoyed its greatest prosperity during the reign of Alexander. Archaeological excavations have uncovered public buildings and luxurious private homes with intricate marble-floor mosaics along with a plethora of delicate clay figurines and vases.

We have the opportunity to view these and many other treasures before heading to the city of Veria where we will enjoy a three-course lunch will be served at a local restaurant overlooking the immense Aliakmon Valley.

Our next stop is Vergina, where we visit the tomb of King Philip II of Macedonia. Dating from 335 BC, the bones of the king are covered with a golden wreath of oak leaves. Also here are the king's iron helmet and a cache of weapons. As well as King Philip's tomb and



**CHILD  
€80**

**ADULT  
€115**

personal effects, we will see well-preserved examples of large-scale classical painting and numerous carved, painted steles of ordinary citizens.

We have an hour's drive by coach back to the ship.







Meteora





Balcony of Mt. Pelion

## VOLOS & MT. PELION

**Duration: Half day**

**Tour code: VOL - 01**

We will have the opportunity to travel through the ages, both to the prehistoric times, but also to the tradition and culture of Volos and Pelion.

The sense of mystery engendered by the mountain's impenetrable forests has given rise to many legends. It was said by the ancients that during the battle between the gods and the giants, the latter tried to challenge Olympus by piling Pelion in Ossa. Mount Pelion was also the remote home of Chiron, the wisest of the centaurs, who played an important role in the Greek fables. Moreover, Pelion was the mountain that the Gods held their weddings and beauty contests.

We will drive up to one of the most interesting villages in Pelion, Makrinitza at an altitude of 700m. We shall leave the coach in the square at the entrance to the village and take a stroll through the narrow streets among the splendid old houses. Owing to the abundant water resources, they are also scattered; many are built in the traditional style with jutting upper storey's, supported on wooden sorbels, and slate roofs, with overhanging eaves. The main square (platia) is especially attractive due to its fountain, plane trees and tiny church (13th c.).



**CHILD  
€40**

**ADULT  
€65**

There will be plenty of time for those wishing to stroll along the cobble paths of the village, visit the museum of culture and tradition, or just have coffee at the square of the village, gazing at Volos and the Gulf.



Makrinitza





Monastery of Roussanou

## THE SPECTACULAR ROCKS & THE 'HANGING' MONASTERIES

**Duration: Full day**

**Tour code: VOL - 02**



**CHILD  
€60**

**ADULT  
€85**

Without question this is one of our most spectacular excursions to a place that almost seems an impossibility and defies logic.

We guarantee this will take your breath away.

Meteora near Kalambaka in Central Greece is a complex of steep and high ancient rock pillars, sweeping 400 metres into the sky and with famous Eastern Orthodox monasteries perched at their summit.

There are six of the original monasteries still open to visitors including the Monastery of the Holy Trinity.

They have been listed as a World Heritage Site since 1988 and if you need a reference point from popular culture, the climax of the James Bond movie *For Your Eyes Only* was filmed here.

It was also used as a backdrop in *Game of Thrones*, but digitally mastered as it could not be officially used on location because of its protected status.

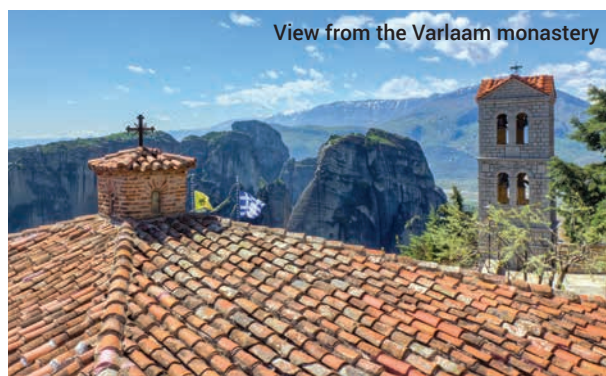
Meteora literally means 'suspended in the air.'

The monastic complex is the second most important in Greece after Mt Athos.

The monasteries have been restored and are decorated with exquisite frescoes.

As well as the Holy Trinity there are the Monasteries of Roussanou, Varlaam and Anapausas, the Convent of Stephen and the Monastery of the Transfiguration of Jesus, known also as the Great Meteoron.

And unlike 007 you will not need grappling hooks to reach the summit on your trip. Just take the steps.



View from the Varlaam monastery





Moutzouris

## LEGENDARY MOUTZOURIS (MOUNTAIN TRAIN RIDE)

**Duration:** Half day

**Tour code:** VOL - 04



**SOLD ONLY  
ON BOARD**

If you like narrow-gauge railways (and even if you don't) you will almost certainly love this special trip.

Following a quarter of a century of inactivity, Moutzouris, Pelion's quaint train is set to meander once again around the region's gorgeous mountainside after renovation and restoration.

Our departure point is Ano Lehonia and our destination is the wonderful village of Milies. Travelling along a stunning route at a stately speed of 25km/h, we'll have the chance to enjoy a panoramic view of the sea, along with the famous five-arched and iron bridges, both built by de Chirico.

In Milies, we will have enough time to visit the church of Pammeggiston Taxiarchon, a unique stone structure featuring a handmade temple, centuries-old icons and a zodiac cycle at the entrance.

At the conclusion of our village tour we will board the bus for our return to Volos and our ship.

The sequencing of the excursion may change.



Moutzouris





Tsipouro

## DRINK AND EAT LIKE A LOCAL

**Duration: Half day**

**Tour code: VOL - 05**



**ADULT  
€59**

This is quite something of a gastronomic outing.

The locals might be a little unhappy if a visitor tried the 'tripouradiko' atmosphere (a very particular Volos taverna experience) and did not enjoy the ritual of tasting of the alcoholic drink tsipouro accompanied by a rather special seafood meze including octopus and lobster.

The history of this tradition in Volos dates back to the 1920s when a few cafes and shops served tsipouro for the first time.

The famous 25ari is a bottle of tsipouro equivalent to a small glass and each bottle consumed required the accompaniment of a different snack. Each customer orders a 25ari until he or she can't take any more!

(For those not familiar with it, tsipouro is a quintessential Greek spirit on a par with ouzo. Grapes left over from wine pressing are distilled. And it's rather potent at 45 per cent proof.)

And this ritual remains to this day. It is a tradition apparently brought from Asia Minor by Greek refugees.

Join us and discover this rather unique experience. It's a real piece of Volos tradition - or indeed a swig of it!



Tsipouro served with grilled octopus



# SANTORINI

## EXCURSIONS







Oia Village

### SPECTACULAR OIA VILLAGE PERCHED ON THE CALDERA RIM

**Duration: Half day**

**Tour code: SAN - 01**



**INCLUDED IN  
YOUR FARE**

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.

Spend some 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 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 it's 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

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.



**CHILD**  
**€55**

**ADULT**  
**€74**

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



# ATHENS

## EXCURSIONS



Parthenon





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





Corinth Canal

## PANORAMIC ATHENS AND CORINTH CANAL CROSSING

**Duration: Full day**

**Tour code: ATH-105**



**CHILD  
€60**

**ADULT  
€85**

We are following figuratively in the footsteps of some of the greatest names in history.

Socrates. Plato. Pericles. To name just three. And we explore one of the country's more modern feats of engineering.

We travel to the very heart of Athens to get a sense of one of the most historically important capitals in the world. We set off on a panoramic tour of the city named after the goddess of wisdom and warfare and begin to understand why ancient Athens was such a powerful place.

Our excursion takes us around Syntagma Square, the city's central plaza and includes the jewels in the crown of the National Library, Hadrian's Arch, the Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We travel along the historic avenues to see Schliemann's House, the cathedral and university and the Russian Orthodox Church. We stop at the Panathenaic Stadium which staged the first modern Olympic Games in 1896 and pass the former Royal Palace and Zappeion Hall before arriving at the dramatic, towering, Temple of Zeus.

We then leave Athens behind and drive along the scenic coastal highway to Corinth for a cruise along the stunning Corinth Canal opened in 1893. This remarkable structure is flanked by steep and mesmerising cliffs, has no locks and connects

the Ionian and Aegean seas. It also separates the Peloponnese from the Greek mainland.

Our excursion concludes with free time at the resort of Isthmia.



The Hellenic Parliament building in Syntagma Square



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier





Odeon Herodes Atticus

## THE ACROPOLIS & THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

**Duration: Full day**

**Tour code: ATH-108**

Our starting point for this truly monumental tour is the Acropolis, which means 'high city.'

At the end of our journey we hope you will have a full appreciation of the glories of the very heart of Athens.

This historic hill is the home of the Parthenon, dedicated to Athena, and a number of other monuments.

They include the Propylaea, originally part of Pericles' great rebuilding programme and the Temple of Athena Nike. This once contained a wooden statue of Athena. It was wingless signifying she would never leave Athens.

Meanwhile, the Erechtheion and its marble edifice is an Ancient Greek temple on the north side of the Acropolis. The eastern part is dedicated to Athena Polias and the western part to Poseidon-Erechtheus.

From the hill you can marvel at the glorious stone theatre structure of the Odeon Herodes Atticus on the southwest slope. To bring us up to date, many of the world's biggest names have performed here including Frank Sinatra, Luciano Pavarotti and of course Nana Mouskouri.

The modern, bright and imposing Acropolis Museum is our next stop. Opened in 2009 it houses a whole host of exhibits of classical antiquity and is thematic.



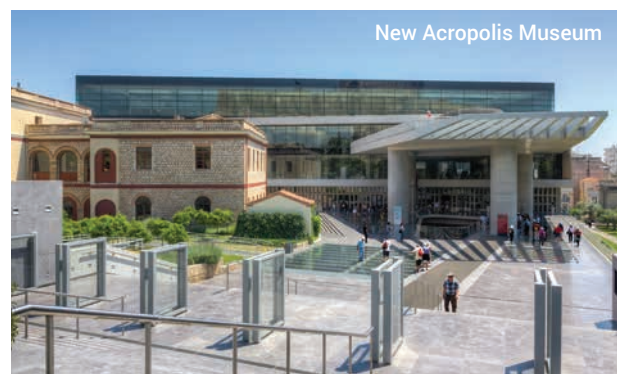
**CHILD  
€65**

**ADULT  
€88**

It's the perfect way to draw everything together and give context to the wonderful structures you have just seen.

We leave the high city and pass the Parliament and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We make a stop at the site of the first modern Olympiad in 1896, the Panathenaic Stadium and then visit the stylish 'Trilogy of Athens', the old building of the University of Athens, the National Library and the Academy of Athens. We end our day with a trip through the epicentre of modern day Athens, the Squares of Omonia and Syntagma.

This is a monumental excursion of discovery, literally and figuratively.



New Acropolis Museum





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