

## 4D ICONIC AEGEAN Cruise Shorex



### Athens - Athens Monuments and the Acropolis

(PIR - 01 )

Adult:

61 Child: 40

This historical hill of the Acropolis carries the renowned Parthenon atop its shoulders, which is dedicated to the goddess Athena, protector of the city of Athens. Its inauguration took place in 438 B.C. at the Great Panathenaea.

Next to the Propylaea lies the temple of Athena Nike or Wingless Nike. There was kept the wooden statue (xoanon) of Athena which was "wingless", signifying that she would never leave Athens. Next to the Parthenon rises the Erechtheion, a marble edifice of the Ionic order. The eastern part of the temple was dedicated to Athena Polias and the western to Poseidon-Erechtheus. From the Acropolis hill you will be able to admire the glorious Odeon of Herodes Atticus.

Leaving the historical hill of Acropolis you will pass by the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in front of the Greek Parliament Building. A stop at the Panathenaic Stadium, where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896, is necessary. Next follows the stylish "Trilogy of Athens", which was constructed at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century: the old building of the University of Athens, the National Library and the Academy of Athens. The excursion comes to a close with a trip through the Squares of Omonia and Syntagma, the heart of modern Athens.

### Athens - Athens tour and the New Acropolis Museum

( PIR - 07 )

Adult:

61 Child: 40

Leaving behind you the port, you head by coach along the sea road towards the centre of Athens. The Temple of Olympian Zeus stands at the south east of the Acropolis, it is constructed with Pentelic marble and dedicated to the father of the 12 gods, Zeus.

The tour continues in front of the Greek Parliament Building with your destination the Panathenaic Stadium.

The tour will then convey you to the "Trilogy of Athens": three 19th century buildings, influenced by classical architecture, on Panepistimiou Street. A trip through Omonia Square and Syntagma Square will bring you to the beautiful, picturesque preserved quarter of Plaka, beneath the Acropolis.

The final destination is the modern, imposing, bright Acropolis Museum. It is a thematic archaeological museum of exceptional aesthetics, which opened its doors to the public in 2009 and houses the most famous works of classical antiquity. The new Acropolis Museum makes use of the elements of light, motion and multiple levels and its collections are exhibited on 3 floors and in an area of 14,000 sq. m (150,000 sq. ft)..

**Mykonos - Transfer to Mykonos town (MYK - 07) Adult: 8**

**Child: 6**

Return Bus transfer to Mykonos town



## Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman (Approx. 3 hrs)

(KUS - 02)

Adult: 58

Child: 36

At Ancient Ephesus you find Immortal relics of the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian era. At the archaeological site you will be given a guided tour among the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of Kouretes, the Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Residences of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, the Temple of Hadrian...

The Great Theatre, built in the 4<sup>th</sup> century B.C., could accommodate 24,000 spectators and it is famous even nowadays for its acoustics. The finds from the excavations, which have yet brought to light only 13% of ancient Ephesus, reside in the Archaeological Museum of Ephesus, in the city of Selcuk.

Your day couldn't close in a better way than a beautiful walk through the Covered Bazaar in Kusadasi. Here, you will be able to ramble, bargain for jewellery, cosmetics or leather products at the little shops.

During the excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.



## Ancient Ephesus and the Terrace Houses

(KUS - 07)

Adult: 62

Child: 38

Passing with your tour guide through the Magnesian Gate **you will wander, feeling awe in time and space**, through the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of Kouretes, the Baths of Scholastica, the Great

Theatre, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Houses of the Patricians, the 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 by the heat and natural elements lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses. Here lived the rich families of Ancient Ephesus and you will be surprised by the excellent state of preservation of these comfortable villas, especially their interior décor. The oldest unearthed houses date since the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C. and were two-storied and built based on the city planning and they even had "heating", and hot and cold water.

The excursion comes to a close at Kusadasi with the colorful Covered Bazaar and the little shops that brimming with the jovial energy of bargaining.

During the excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.



**Ancient Ephesus - House of Virgin Mary & Ancient Ephesus** (approx.4hrs)

**(KUS - 01)**      **Adult: 62    Child: 38**

Before his crucifixion, Jesus entrusted the safety of the Virgin Mary to St. John the Evangelist. St. John moved Mary to Ephesus for safety.

Virgin Mary lived here until the 101<sup>st</sup> year of her life. In 1957 the Vatican recognized the "House of the Virgin Mary" as the place where the Virgin spent the last years of her life and since then it is an important pilgrimage site for both Christians and Muslims.

Next stop the city of Ancient Ephesus, the Ionian colony, which is one of the largest open-air archaeological museums in the world. Together with your tour guide, you will pass the Magnesian Gate. Traces of the Hellenistic, Roman and Early Christian period are scattered everywhere: the Agora, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marble-paved main Street of the Kouretes, the Thermal Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Public Latrines, the Houses of the Patricians, the Prytaneum, Hadrian's Temple, the Great Theatre.

The excursion is completed at the Covered Bazaar of Kusadasi with some free time for shopping and... bargaining!

During the excursion you will have the opportunity to do some shopping such as carpets, jewelry, leather and other souvenirs.

**Patmos- Transfer to Agriolivadi beach (SOB)\* (PAT - 04)**      **Adult: 14**  
**Child: 10**

Bus transfer to beautiful Agriolivadi beach. Agriolivadi is an organized beach with all modern facilities (not included in the price).



**Patmos - Patmos country side tour with Hora and Grotto of Apocalypse** (approx 2hrs)

**(PAT - 02)**      **Adult: 45 Child: 35**

Thanks to its religious value but also for its particularities, in 1999 Patmos was proclaimed a "World Heritage Monument" by UNESCO.

The panoramic excursion begins at the port of Scala heading towards the centre of the island, to Chora. At the main town you will visit the Grotto of the Apocalypse and at the top of the "castle" behind the walls, you will see the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist, of Byzantine architecture.

The silent windmills in Chora have witnessed important events on the island which attracts thousands of tourists for religious, and also recreational, tourism.

The tour of the island continues towards more desolate landscapes, which are the trademark of the Dodecanese. Rocky hills, barren, dry soil, promontories which, like earthly tongues, delve into the sea, dozens of bays and coves, and an intricate coastline. After this enlightening excursion through the island, the tour will conclude at Scala, the port, where the atmospherical café "Arion", the oldest and most picturesque of the area, will be waiting for you for coffee, refreshments or juice.



**Patmos - Religious visit to St John's Monastery - Grotto of Apocalypse**  
(approx 2 hrs)

**(PAT - 01)**      **Adult:47 Child: 35**

The picturesque alleyways wind upwards, towards the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist, founded in 1088 by St. Christodoulos. The visit will open the doors for you of the Monastery's yard, the place where the monks take their meals and the old bakery. Of exquisite beauty is the tour of the Byzantine Church of St. John,

which is adorned with a wood-carved icon screen, important frescoes from several periods, with both mosaic and other icons. Next stop, the small museum which hosts religious treasures of inestimable value, like manuscripts, medieval textiles, sacerdotal vestments and others.

Walking down the stairs, the religious energy that you will experience is soul touching. Behind the chapel of St. Anne lies the entrance to the Grotto of the Apocalypse. You will see the cross engraved by St. John the Evangelist, according to tradition, the triple fissure in the wall of the cave, from where St. John heard God dictating to him the Apocalypse. And also the spot where he lay down to sleep.



**Rhodes - Religious and Medieval tour - Philerimos church and the Palace of the Knights** (approx 4 hrs)

**(RHO -12)**

**Adult: 57    Child: 35**

The Acropolis of ancient Rhodes stands proudly on the hill of St. Stephanos, also called Monte Smith. You will wander through the ruins of the Hellenistic Temple of Apollo, with its amazing columns. Further below, the restored Ancient Stadium of Diagoras once hosted games in honour of the sun god Helios.



The next destination is Philerimos, to the northwest, one of the great touristic attractions of the island. The hill of Philerimos, above the homonymous bay, once "hosted" ancient Ialyssos, one of the three Rhodian cities that participated in the Trojan War. Stone steps surrounded by cypresses lead to the Gothic Monastery of Our Lady of Philerimos, dedicated to the Virgin Mary (the Life Giving Source). In the area you will also visit the Byzantine Church of St. George Hostos, with rare frescoes from the 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century which depict knights. Here also resides the "Golgotha", a path of 12 copper reliefs which depict the Passion of Christ.

Back to the city of Rhodes where you will stroll through the Street of the Knights, all the way up to the Palace of the Grand Master. Castello.



**Rhodes & Lindos - Medieval tour - Acropolis of Lindos and the Citadel of the Knights** (approx 6hrs)

**(RHO - 01)**      **Adult: 57   Child: 35**

Lindos is situated 55 km (40 miles) from the city of Rhodes and "bears" above it the Acropolis of Lindos, with the ancient Temple of Athena, built in 300 B.C.

Here and there you will come across the captains' mansions, built between the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the centre of the village lives and breathes the Church of the Virgin Mary (Panagia) of Lindos, with frescoes from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.



Ascend to the Acropolis of Lindos. Here lies the Temple of Athena, of Doric order, which was erected on the location of an older monument. The ancient city-state of Lindos was for many centuries the most important on the island. It reached its heyday in the 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.

At the old city of Rhodes you will go through D'Amboise Gate to walk on the Street of the Knights. Along this street you will find the residences of the Knights, separated according to Order, which bear until today their corresponding crests.



### **Rhodes - Walking tour in the Medieval City of Rhodes**

**(RHO - 11)**    **Adult: 32    Child: 20**

Walking along the paved Street of the Knights, one of the best preserved medieval arteries, you will come across residences of people of several different historic nationalities, who once belonged to the Order of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem.

Before you reach the Palace of the Grand Master, you will bid for a while around the area of Bourgos and the Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent, erected in 1808, the Turkish Baths, the Hospital of the Knights in Museum Square the Church of Our Lady of the Castle, which has guarded the place since the 11<sup>th</sup> century A.D.

The pinnacle of this tour in the Medieval City of Rhodes is Castello. The Palace of the Grand Master is a magnificent, endless edifice, the most important sight of the Old Town.

**Rodos - Transfer to Tsampika beach (SOB)\* (RHO - 08)**

**Adult: 19**

**Child: 14**

Bus transfer to beautiful Tsampika beach. Tsampika is an organized beach with all modern facilities (not included in the price).



**Heraklion of Crete - Venetian Heraklion and the unique Archaeological Museum**  
(approx 3,5 hrs)

**(HER - 07)**

**Adult: 51 Child: 30**

Heraklion was founded in 824 and is an important homeland of many contributors to Literature and Art, some examples of which are the Nobel winning poet Odysseas Elytis, the Renaissance painter Domenikos Theotokopoulos (El Greco) and the writer Nikos Kazantzakis.

Heraklion is also endowed with some wonderful edifices: the "Koules" fortress, the award winning Venetian structure of the Loggia, the Morosini Fountain, the Basilica of Saint Mark, the Church of Agios Titos, the medieval monastery of Saint Catherine, the Cathedral of Agios Mina, the Historical Museum of Crete and of course the Palace of Knossos are some exceptional examples.

The tour will come to an end at the Archaeological Museum of the city. Through the exhibits of the Museum, the history of the Cretan culture will unfold and be visualized before you.



### **Heraklion of Crete - Minoan Palace of Knossos - 1st European Civilization** (approx 3hrs)

**(HER - 02 )    Adult: 51    Child: 30**

The ancient city of Knossos, with constant habitation from the Neolithic era until the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D., is beyond doubt the land that "gave birth" to the first civilization of Europe, the Minoans.

The first excavations were begun in 1878 by the Heraklian Minos Kalokairinos. A bit later (1900-1913 & 1922-1930) the excavations by the British Sir Arthur Evans were to complete the scientific research, bringing to light the Minoan palace in its entirety, which was, according to tradition, the residence of the wise King Minos.

The palace of Knossos spreads around the large Central Court. You will reach the awe inspiring Throne Room, the fresco of the "Prince of the Lilies", the imposing Grand Staircase, the Queen's Megaron in the east.

Walking through the apartments of the Knossos palace and observing the finds even as passers-by, you will feel part of this cultural heritage.



**Heraklion, Crete - Experience the Cretan countryside and lifestyle** (approx 3.5 hrs)

**(HER - 04) Adult: 51 Child: 30**

This rustic natural excursion is an ode to the Cretan countryside and its values. It is characteristic, that the island of Crete has the most traditional vineyards of the whole of Europe. Grapes have been cultivated here since the Minoan era, a tradition spanning 4,000 years! So undoubtedly the Cretans are hearty connoisseurs when it comes to wine. In fact, 70% of the production of Cretan wine comes from the "Peza" valley. This will also be the first stop of your excursion.

Next follows Vathypetro, a small Minoan palace with exterior courtyards of ashlar masonry, with storage facilities and porticoes, which was discovered in 1949 by Spyros Marinatos.

Passing through villages and vineyards, you reach Archanes, an important Minoan settlement, built at the foot of Mount Juktas. Here you will have the time to try the Cretan delicacies, taste the local wine and take in the local music at the area's central square, under the generous shade of the trees.



**Santorini - Spectacular Oia Village perched on the caldera rim** (approx 3hrs)

**(SAN - 01)**     **Adult: 55**     **Child :33**

First you head up to the monastery of Prophet Ilias, for a breath-taking view, deep inhalations of clean, pure, Cycladic air and memorial photos, so as to be the envy of all who didn't come along. The tour continues its passage towards the north.

To the east, in the background, you will have settlements like Kamari and Monolithos, while you will pass through Fira, the small traditional villages of Firostefani and Imerovigli with delicate architecture and beauties, to eventually arrive at the settlement of Oia. During the entire route, to the west you will have before your eyes the lace-like caldera, the little islands of Thirasia, Palea and Nea Kameni and an unsurpassable panoramic view. In Oia you will have plenty of time to stroll through the marble-paved alleys, to gaze at the adorably cute shops, to take pictures, to become acquainted with the characteristic buildings, carved into the rocks and the unusual captains' manors, the settlement Ammoudi at the foot of the caldera... After your curiosity has been sated of the area which is characterized as being of "exceptional natural beauty", your return begins ...



## **Santorini - Off the beaten track - Jeep Safari Adventure**

**(SAN - 10)**      **Adult: 55    Child: 33**

This alternative excursion combines the wild, more desolate beauty of the south (SW) with the generally more touristic eastern Santorini.

You have your driver's license, you have the wheel in your hands, of course the camera in the glove-compartment and your tour guide, a useful and informative compass, as your co-driver and... off we go!

You start from Akrotiri, at the south western part of the island. The light-house, next stop, the virgin Vlychada beach then the popular Perissa beach with its black sand, Prophet Ilias, the little village Exo Gonia, which is built amphitheatrically on a slope, the penultimate stop will be the peaceful Monolithos with its hidden beauties and its long beach. This unforgettable excursion comes to a close at Fira.



## **Santorini - Cruise to Santorin's islands and volcanoes (approx 3hrs)**

**(SAN - 02)**      **Adult: 55    Child: 33**

The little islands of Palea and Nea Kameni are of particular geological interest, since underneath them lightly slumbers an active volcano.

From the cruise ship you will be transported easily within a few minutes by small boat to Nea Kameni which resembles a moon landscape! You will walk up to the verge of the crater, the heart of the volcano, a unique geological phenomenon which will overwhelm you with awe. In Nea Kameni nowadays there is gas-steam

activity at the top of the crater, while its beaches are embraced by thermal springs.

The next stop of this special excursion, is Palea (or Palia) Kameni with its therapeutical, warm waters. The sea temperature here is 5°C higher than in the rest of the locations and the green-yellow water contains sulphur. After the trip to the volcano, you will have the chance to walk, take keepsake photos, to touch the magic and energy of Fira. Finishing your trip in the main town of Santorini, you will descend by funicular (the ticket is included in the fee of this excursion) to the Old Port to reach the cruise ship by small boat.

- **(SOB) SOLD ONLY ON BOARD**