

4D IDYLLIC AEGEAN Cruise Shorex



Sounion - Ancient Temple of Poseidon and Cape Sounion (approx 2,5 hrs)

(LAV - 06) Adult: 41 Child: 25

The 30 minute trip is enchanting, with images full of nature and pine-trees. The Temple of Poseidon awaits you, dedicated to the god of the sea. This is the southernmost and highest point of the cape and the monument looks like it is washed by the Aegean on all sides.

The construction of the Temple was initially commenced at the beginning of the 5th century B.C. Yet, it was destroyed by the Persians during the Persian Wars and so the Athenians built, in 444 B.C., the newer Temple, parts of which are preserved until today. The Temple is of Doric order and bore a frieze with relief decoration while it was also adorned by immense statues called Kouroi.

The archaeological site of Sounion, apart from the Sanctuaries of Poseidon and Athena, includes the fortress, a small settlement from the Hellenistic era, the propylaea (entrance gateway) and the porticoes.



Athens Monuments and the New Museum

LAV-07 AD: 75 CH: 45

On arriving in Athens, you start the city sightseeing driving past the Temple of Zeus, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, guarded by the "evzones" dressed in their traditional costume, the Parliament and the Panathinaikon Stadium where the first Olympics of modern times were held in 1896. The whole stadium is built of pure white marble. The drive continues by the Library - the Academy - the University, three buildings representing 19th Century architecture blended with the classical influence. The tour then passes by Omonia Square, the commercial centre of the city and Syntagma Square, which is the business and cultural centre. Your Athens' city sightseeing ends at a leading café at the foot of the Acropolis, from where you can view all the majestic monuments of the amazing Acropolis while enjoying your refreshment. The tour continues to the old part of the city called Plaka where you can explore its mainly pedestrian streets with picturesque houses, shops and numerous cafés. After the free time in Plaka you will board your coach for the return journey to Piraeus port.

The new Acropolis Museum is housed in a state-of-the-art building designed by Swiss-born architect Bernard Tschumi. With an area of 226,000 square feet - 10 times larger than the old museum - the new building feels open and full of light. Its design has received mixed reviews from locals, but there is no doubt it is a striking and highly functional work of architecture.

The **Acropolis Museum** houses all of the portable objects removed from the Acropolis since 1834, with the exception of a few bronzes displayed in the National Archeological Museum and inscriptions in the Epigraphical Museum. The museum's artifacts are primarily religious in nature, including a fascinating collection of ancient statues used in religious ceremonies, and they provide a fascinating visual history of Greek religion.



Athens Monuments and the Acropolis

LAV -01 AD: 65 CH: 40

This tour is an introduction to the splendour of the Golden Age of Athens and the modern 21st Century city. On arrival in Athens you visit the Acropolis on which stands the Parthenon, the symbol of classical architecture. The entrance to the top of the hill is through the Propylea, the 'gates' through which the Panathinea processions used to enter. Built totally of white marble covers an area of 50 m across the whole western face of the Acropolis. Next to them is the temple of Athena Niki also known as the 'Wingless Victory'. The Parthenon is the main temple, built in honour of Goddess Athena. Her statue decorated the centre of the temple and it was made of ivory and gold. Next to the Parthenon is the smaller Temple of Erechthion with lovely sculptured young maidens supporting the roof of the porch. From the top of the Acropolis you can admire the ancient theatre of Herodes Atticus with its remarkable acoustics. Performances are still held here each summer being the highlight of cultural events in the Eastern Mediterranean. Leaving the Acropolis the tour takes you by the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, guarded by the "evzones" dressed in their traditional costume, the Parliament and the Panathinaikon Stadium where the first Olympics of modern times were held in 1896. The entire stadium is built of pure white marble. Your drive continues by the Library - the Academy - the University, three buildings representing 19th Century architecture blended with the classical influence. The tour then passes by Omonia Square, the commercial centre of the city and Syntagma Square, which is the business, and cultural centre. There will be time during the tour for you to browse and do a little shopping at the stores located at the base of the Acropolis.

SYROS

Panoramic Syros **SYR-03**

AD: 29 CH 18 (Approx 4hrs -

Limited maximum participation)

The port of Ermopouli in Syros is the capital of the Cyclades and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Our tour takes you south from Ermopouli to Anastasi Church, above Ermopouli, to visit this lovely domed church and to enjoy a breathtaking view of Tinos and Mykonos. From Anastasi we drive through the beach villages of Vari, Megas Gialos, Possidonia, Finikas, Galissas and Kini: the beach at Vari, a traditional fishing village, lies along a sheltered bay, while the beach at Megas Gialos

stretches beneath the brightly-painted houses of the village; Possidonia is home to a number of ornate mansions and a picturesque blue church

We drive one kilometer from Kini to the Agia Varvara (Santa Barbara) Monastery, which was founded in 1900 and exhibits icons from the life of Agia Varvara and many stunning embroideries. After Agia Varvara we stop at a traditional loukoumi factory to see how loukoumi, also known as Turkish delight, is made. After enjoying some samples, we return to Ermopouli.

On arriving in Ermopouli we disembark from the bus and continue on foot. We visit the Holy Cathedral of the Dormition of the Virgin to see El Greco's *The Dormition of the Virgin*, which was painted before 1567. We then walk to the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Metamorphosis, the first high school of modern Greece and now part of the Aegean University. Our tour continues on to the impressive Orthodox Cathedral of Agios Nikolaos, then up the hill to the Vaporia district, "Little Venice," to see the neoclassical mansions built by the island's bankers, merchants and ship owners. We travel downhill from the Vaporia to the Apollon Theater, the first opera house in Greece and a copy of La Scala in Milan, then on to the Museum of Cycladic Art and the Archeological Museum, which includes a number of treasures unearthed on Syros, Paros and Amorgos. We conclude our tour of sublime Syros in the center of Ermopouli, at the town hall in magnificent Platia Miaouli, which is adjacent to interesting shops and atmospheric cafes.

Cesme

The sugar-sand beaches of Cesme will dazzle you, as will Cesme Castle, built in the early 1500s and home to the fascinating Archeological Museum. A short stroll from the castle brings you to an Ottoman **caravanserai (a large inn with a courtyard for caravans) built in 1528** which is now a luxury hotel, and to the Church of Saint Charalambos, which dates to the 19th century. You'll love the city's traditional Ottoman houses and its many fountains (Cesme means "fountain" in Turkish).



Experience Ancient Ephesus CES-01 AD: 69 CH: 40 (Approx 4h)

We travel by bus approximately two hours to the ancient city of Ephesus, passing many typical rural Turkish villages along the way.

Ephesus, one of the 12 cities of Ionia, is a stunning marvel in the hills above the Aegean coast. Founded by the ancient Greeks circa 2000 BC, it became the second-largest city in the Roman Empire, at one time home to a quarter-million people. It was the first and most significant city in the Roman province of Asia and one of its key ports. Millennia ago the Aegean receded west, stranding the city on its sun-seared hillsides. It is believed the Virgin Mary lived and died here, and that Paul wrote his Letter to the Ephesians here.

Ephesus is rivaled only by the Forum and the Acropolis as one of the most complete classical cities in Europe. Stroll between the marble colonnades of Curetes Street to visit Trajan's Fountain, Hadrian's Temple, the Scholastica Baths and the astonishing Terrace Houses, where many of the floor mosaics are still intact. Nearby, the spectacular Library of Celsus, which has been almost entirely reconstructed, towers above the famed Marble Road. The Great Theater of Ephesus, where St. Paul once preached, was carved into the side of Mt. Pion in the 4th century BC. It held up to 24,000 spectators and is still renowned for its outstanding acoustics.

There will be some free time to shop before returning to the ship.



Sole Mare Beach Club and Alacati CES-02 AD:49 CH:30 (Approx 4hrs)

Sole Mare Beach Club is located on Aya Yorgi Bay, beloved of Cesme locals for its turquoise waters and pristine sand. For the past decade, Sole Mare has been a popular beach club during the day and, after sunset, one of Cesme's most popular nightclubs. Spend some time in one of Sole Mare's plush sun beds or in one of its boutique cafes, then travel with us to Alacati, a charming resort popular with the elite of Izmir, who visit year-round to enjoy the lovingly restored homes along its cobblestone streets.



Izmir Up-close CES-03 AD: 35 CH: 20 (Approx 4h30m)

Izmir, more than 12,000 square kilometers and home to more than three million people, is Turkey's third-largest city. It presents itself as a modern, teeming metropolis, but as we tour Izmir its magnificent ancient past comes alive. The remains of the ancient agora, built by Marcus Aurelius in 178 BC, lie at the heart

of the city. Our guides will also show you the only two-storey agora yet discovered - its first floor was dedicated to trade, manufacturing and storage, its second to civic meetings and retailing. Many of the artifacts recovered from this remarkable site are on display at Izmir's New Archeological Museum, whose galleries are arranged to send you on an evocative journey through history.

BODRUM

A Twist of Moonlight **BOD-03** **AD: 39** **CH: 20** (Approx 3 hrs)



Bodrum, once a small fishing village, has been described as the St. Tropez of Turkey, thanks to its pristine beaches and stellar nightlife. Homer called this exquisite peninsula "the land of the eternal blue."

Looking for the ultimate in romance upon the sparkling turquoise waters of the Aegean? Our moonlight cruise on a private sailboat will take you deep into the eternal, romantic blue along the Bodrum coast, home to tranquil harbors and magical bays. As night falls, savor the richness of Turkish culture with a performance by local belly-dancers and delicious cocktails served with a twist of moonlit

Bodrum Shuttle Bus **BOD-04** **AD: 8** **CH: 6**

The shuttle bus delivers you to the heart of Bodrum, the birthplace of ancient historian Herodotus.

Kos

Asklepion, Zia and the Platane of Hippocrates KOS-01 AD: 45 CH: 25
(Approx 4hrs)



We start this excursion just outside Kos Town with a visit to the Asklepion, a health and healing center and a temple to Asklepios, son of Apollo and the god of healing - built in the 4th century BC, its Doric temple dates to the 2nd century BC. This is where Hippocrates, the father of medicine, developed and practiced many of the healing methods we still use today.

We depart from the Asklepion for the lovely mountain village of Zia, where a spectacular panoramic view of Kos and a number of traditional cafes and tavernas await you. Zia is fast becoming popular with local artists and craftspeople, and you'll find unique, handmade art and crafts on sale throughout the village. This is also a great place to try the diverse local herbs grown near Zia and used in Greek gastronomy, and thyme honey! While strolling about the village, make sure to visit its picturesque cathedral.

We walk through Kos Town to its main square, where we will take a guided tour of the Archeological Museum. Its exhibition halls feature Hellenistic and Roman statuary, including a statue of Hippocrates. On our way back to port we make a final stop at the Plane (Platanos) tree of Hippocrates, near the Knights' Castle on the harbor. It is said Hippocrates instructed his students under this very tree more than 2500 years ago.

Bravo Beach Transfer (SOB)* KOS-05 AD: 25 CH: 15 (Approx 3hrs)



Our shuttle bus takes you to Bravo Beach, an expansive white sand beach on the northern coast of Kos. Drop yourself in a sun bed beneath one of the beach's palm-frond umbrellas for a few blissful hours, or challenge yourself on a windsurfer in Bravo's sparkling blue waters. If you're hungry or thirsty, you can visit Bravo's traditional taverna or have drinks and snacks delivered, with a smile, to your sun bed.

Kos "Lazy Day" Cruise **KOS-06** **AD: 55** **CH: 33**
(Approx 4hrs)



You'll board our "caico" boat in Kos Harbor and set sail for the island of Pserimos, a trip of about 45 minutes on beautiful blue seas. We will dock close to Vathy Beach, where you'll have time to swim and relax in its warm, clear waters. We leave Vathy Beach and sail to Vasiliki Beach for more swimming, followed by our arrival at Pserimos Central Beach, one of the true gems of the island's coastline - the deep blue of its waters will astonish you. While you enjoy your third splendid swim of the day, our crew will be busy preparing a mouthwatering buffet lunch, served on the beach. After lunch, and a bit of time to digest, we board the caico for a relaxing return cruise to Kos harbor.

A Taste of Tradition with Zia **KOS-07** **AD: 45** **CH: 25**
(Approx 4hrs)

Our "Taste of Tradition in Zia" tour is an excellent way to get to know the traditional side of Kos. We leave the harbor via air conditioned bus for our first stop, a family-run winery built on some of the island's most fertile land, at the foot of Mt. Dikeos. You'll have a chance to learn about winemaking and to sample some of the winery's outstanding wines, which are made from some of the finest local and international varieties of green and red grapes. Our next stop is the village of

Kefalos, the most south-western village on Kos. At Kefalos we'll visit a family of beekeepers, where you'll learn how Greek honey is produced. You'll also have a chance to taste thyme honey, traditional "loukoumades" (mini honey donuts) and raki flavoured with honey.

After the beekeepers we climb to the lovely mountain village of Zia, where a spectacular panoramic view of Kos and a number of traditional cafes and tavernas await you. Zia is fast becoming popular with local artists and craftspeople, and you'll find unique, handmade art and crafts on sale throughout the village. This is also a great place to try the diverse local herbs grown near Zia and used in Greek gastronomy. While strolling about the village, make sure to visit its picturesque cathedral.

IOS

Panoramic Ios: Skarkos Chora & Maganari beach IOS-01 AD: 35 CH: 18
(Approx 4hrs - Limited maximum participation)



From the port of Ios our bus rolls toward Skarkos, a prehistoric settlement that proves Ios has been inhabited since the early Cycladic period. Skarkos had a modern system for the disposal of rainwater and a sewer system. Its two-storey buildings included stone-built scales, domes, built-in door cases and stone-covered floors; inside these buildings archeologists have found metal, bone and stone utensils and tools, as well as earthen pots and containers, evidence of a very complex society. For its exceptional conservation efforts at Skarkos, Ios was one of six European locations awarded the EU Cultural Heritage prize in 2008.

We leave Skarkos for Chora, a typical Cycladic village, where you'll enjoy a stunning panoramic view of the harbor. Chora is one of the most picturesque villages in the Cyclades - its bright white buildings line narrow streets and nestle beside twisting

staircases. Inaccessible to vehicles, it's a paradise for pedestrians, particularly its main thoroughfare, which is packed with unique boutiques, stylish bars, lively cafes and traditional tavernas.

From Chora we drive to magnificent Manganari Beach. The large bay at Manganari is one of the most famous in the Cyclades thanks to its exquisite beaches. Enchanting Manganari comprises one large and four smaller, idyllic beaches, all of them known for their soft, golden sand and transparent, aquamarine waters. Enjoy a snack in a lovely tavern, or challenge yourself with a variety of water sports, particularly windsurfing - the beaches at Manganari are also perfect for families with children. Welcome to paradise.

Magnificent Maganari (SOB) * IOS-02 AD: 25 CH: 15
(Approx 5 hours - Limited maximum participation)



The large bay at Manganari is one of the most famous in the Cyclades, thanks to its exquisite beaches. Enchanting Manganari comprises one large and four smaller, idyllic beaches, all of them known for their soft, golden sand and transparent, aquamarine waters. Enjoy a snack in a lovely tavern, or challenge yourself with a variety of water sports, particularly windsurfing - the beaches at Manganari are also perfect for families with children. Welcome to paradise.

Magnificent Manganari Beach - by Boat! (SOB)* IOS-04 AD: 25 CH: 15



(Approx 5 hours - Limited maximum participation)

The large bay at Manganari is one of the most famous in the Cyclades, thanks to its exquisite beaches. Enchanting Manganari comprises one large and four smaller, idyllic beaches, all of them known for their soft, golden sand and transparent, aquamarine waters. Enjoy a snack in a lovely tavern, or challenge yourself with a variety of water sports, particularly windsurfing - the beaches at Manganari are also perfect for families with children. Welcome to paradise. Let us take you there by boat!

Set sail on a Pirate Boat **IOS-03** **AD: 45** **CH: 25**



(Approx 5 hours - Limited maximum participation)

Ahoy, mateys! Dare ye stand beneath our black sails and trust us to take you to some of the most beautiful beaches in the Aegean? You'll need your trusty scabbard and your sunscreen.

From port we sail southwest past a number of lovely beaches to reach the stunning bay of Agios Ioannis, where can dive from the plank into the bay's crystal-clear waters. After a brief swim we'll sail to the amazing beach at Pikri Nero, where we'll take you 15 at a time straight to the beach, one of the true treasures of the island of Kos and only accessible by boat. Pikri Nero is actually a cluster of three small beaches in a protected, unspoiled cove. The landscape here is pure Cyclades, soft golden sand and transparent aquamarine water.



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 on board only**