

7D ICONIC 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 Acropolis Museum

LAV-07 **AD: 75 CH: 45**

(approx 5hrs)

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

(approx 5hrs)

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.



Istanbul - Ottoman Empire and Byzantine Legacy tour (approx. 9hrs)

(IST - 03) Adult: 104 Child : 64

In the Old City you will visit the Byzantine Hippodrome. It had a capacity for 100,000 spectators, while the horse racing and chariot racing that here offered an opulent spectacle. You will admire the Kaiser's German fountain, the bronze Serpent Column of Delphi, the Egyptian Obelisk and the Walled Obelisk of Constantine VII.

The next monument is the Mosque of Sultan Ahmed or "Blue Mosque". It is the most beautiful mosque of Istanbul, built upon the order of 20 year old Sultan Ahmed I, whose grave lies inside the mosque. The Church of the Holy Wisdom of God is your next magnificent destination. Hagia Sophia is a symbol of the city and a very important monument that is a pole of attraction not only for those seeking religious tourism. After a delicious meal at a local restaurant, you will visit the Topkapi Palace. In the interior of the Palace, which is declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

For the end of this excursion you will have plenty of free time to stroll around the maze-like complex of the Grand Bazaar; where 400,000 visitors meet daily, among the 4,000 shops and 58 streets!

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



Istanbul - Religious visit to Orthodox churches and Greek Patriarchate

(approx. 8,5 hrs)

(IST - 15) Adult: 72 Child: 42

After passing briefly through the commercial center of the modern city and the Galata Bridge, you will reach the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople at Fener. Here, a visit to the Patriarchal Church of St. George is a must. Next stop, the Church of the Holy Savior in Chora, also known as Kariye Mosque, which is considered as the second most important monument in Istanbul after Hagia Sophia and one of the largest galleries of Byzantine mosaics internationally. In the Spice Bazaar or Egyptian Bazaar that follows, you will have the free time to explore, smell and touch a great variety of imported seasonings, confectionery, nuts, cheeses and delicatessen meats. For the conclusion of the excursion, you will have the opportunity to "lose yourself" in the Grand Bazaar, the Kapali Carsi with its 4,000 shops.

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

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



Istanbul - Bosphorus Cruise from Europe to Asia & the Grand bazaar (approx 3 hrs)

(IST - 12) Adult: 33 Child: 21

Istanbul is the only city in the world that belongs to two continents: Europe and Asia. The Bosphorus strait divides these two continents and the two parts of Istanbul are connected by the Galata and Ataturk Bridges.

In your private tender boat you will find yourselves gliding through the Bosphorus, among various other vessels with both sides of the city, the Orient and the Occident, looking at you and the rich past emerging. With your boat you will pass by the palaces Dolmabahce and Ciragan.

On the Asian side, you will visit the Beylerbeyi Palace, the summer residence of the sultans, the Castle of Anatolia and the magnificent Kanlica Villa, which seems to "lean" on the Bosphorus. The magic of this voyage comes to a close at the never-sleeping market of the Grand Bazaar.

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



Istanbul - Discover the hidden secrets of Sultanahmet Square (approx. 4 hrs)

(IST - 13) Adult: 52 Child: 32

The Mosque of Sultan Ahmed or "Blue Mosque" was built upon the orders of 20 year old Sultan Ahmed I, whose grave lies inside the mosque.

The tour will bring you to the symbol of Constantinople (Istanbul's historical name): Hagia Sophia. The Byzantine Shrine of the Holy Wisdom of God was the Orthodox Cathedral of Constantinople. After the conquest of the city by the Ottomans, it was turned into a mosque until 1934, when it became a museum.

Your next destination is an entire world hidden under the surface of the city. The Cistern of Philoxenos or else the "Sunken Palace", Justinian's water reservoir was constructed in 535 A.D. The 336 marble columns, of Doric, Ionian and Corinthian order, which tower to 9 meters in height (30 ft) are characteristic. At the end of the chamber you will be impressed by the two carved column bases featuring the mythological Medusa head.

Για την ολοκλήρωση της εκδρομής, θα έχετε την ευκαιρία να «χαθείτε» στη Μεγάλη Αγορά ή Κλειστή Αγορά, στο Καπαλί Τσαρσί με τα 4.000 μαγαζιά!

Κατά την διάρκεια της εκδρομής θα έχετε την ευκαιρία να κάνετε διάφορα ψώνια, όπως χαλιά, κοσμήματα,



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

(KUS - 02)

Adult: 62

Child: 38

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 4th 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 1st 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 101st 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.



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.



Akrotiri Excavations

SAN-05

AD: 55

CH: 33

In prehistoric times, the people who inhabited what today is known as Santorini, called the island Strongyle ("round"). These people enjoyed a high standard of living; they built two-story houses, tilled the earth and were skilled artists, recognizing the beauty of color. Around 1650 B.C., a volcanic eruption caused the center of Strongyle to sink, leaving a caldera with high cliffs - one of the world's

most dramatic geological sights. You will be transferred from the ship by local tender boat to Athinios port, where you will join the waiting motor coach. From here you will proceed towards the southern part of the island where you will visit the ruins of the famous windmill for a short photo stop. Here you will have the opportunity to enjoy the panoramic view and capture amazing photos. Further along you will be dropped off in the village of Akrotiri to have a short visit and walk around the village. Leaving here you will proceed to visit the famous antiquities at Akrotiri. There you will be taken back in time when you see these amazing ruins leaving you to imagine what life was like before the village was destroyed around 1650 B.C., by the eruption of the volcano of Thira. The one question you might ask yourself here is why there were no people left in the village at the time of the eruption, as it was abandoned for unknown reasons. You will see buildings that were once two storied, city squares, shops and working areas. This appeared to have been a busy bustling area before the eruption. Some of the most famous Greek frescoes can be found in what is left of the once prominent and disposing homes. Some of the frescoes are also on display at the Pre-historical Museum in Fira town. It is often said in a whimsical way that perhaps Akrotiri is really the lost city of Atlantis. Finally, you will be taken by coach up to the center of the island to Fira town where your tour will end after a short walk at the Metropolis Church. From there you may decide whether to stay in the town and do a bit of shopping or to make your way back to the ship directly by taking the cable car to the pier below.

Crete-Agios Nikolaos



The Minoan Palace of Knossos & Cosmopolitan Heraklion (AGH - 06)

AD: 51 CH: 30

(Approx 5hrs)

We travel by air-conditioned bus to the Minoan Palace of Knossos. Knossos, the capital of the Minoan civilization, was the first civilization in Europe. The hill of Kephala, which hoists the Palace above a valley of pines a few miles outside Heraklion, has been continuously inhabited since 7000 BC.

The Minoan civilization, which endured for about 2000 years, was one of the most advanced in the ancient world, and Knossos is one of the instances in which Greek mythology might dovetail with archeological fact. Minos, a legendary king and lawgiver of Crete, was one of Europa's three sons, all born after her tryst with Zeus, who appeared to Europa as a white bull and carried her off to Crete. The frescoed Palace at Knossos, which comprises more than 1500 rooms and occupies more than 20,000 square meters, may have been the mythical labyrinth designed by Daedalus wherein Minos imprisoned the Minotaur, a monstrous half-bull, half man born to his wife, Pasiphaë, who was impregnated by a bull sent by Poseidon.

We depart from Knossos for lunch in bustling Heraklion, the city of Hercules and the resting place of Nikos Kazantzakis, Crete's most famous son and the author of *Zorba the Greek*. Within the Venetian walls of Heraklion, a busy metropolitan port and the capital of Crete, you'll find unique shops and many lively cafes.



A Delectable Day in Crete (AGH-02) AD: 51 CH: 30

(approx 5hrs)

From Agios Nikolaos we drive to Elounda, a quiet resort on the beautiful Bay of Elounda - its hotels have been designed to complement the area's rocky geography and turquoise waters. Elounda is an unforgettable beauty, famed throughout the Aegean for its gorgeous green hills, its sugar-sand beaches and its pristine, inviting sea.

We leave Elounda for lovely Kritsa. Enjoy an incredible view of the Bay of Elounda and spectacular Mirabello Bay, then wander the narrow streets of this traditional village. Its residents are known for planting flowers and fruit trees in their courtyards and on the balconies and terraces of their houses.

After Kritsa we continue to a local olive farm we particularly love - the owners have designed all of its 2,000 square meters to embrace Cretan countryside life. Olive oil, wine and raki, the traditional drink of Crete, are produced here using traditional methods from the early 20th century. On arrival you will be welcomed with a glass of raki and with a lunch of traditional Cretan meze. Enjoy your delicious meal while you thrill to a performance of Cretan music and folk dances.

We leave the olive farm and return to picturesque Agios Nikolaos, the St. Tropez of Crete and home to many charming cafes and restaurants. The city's most famous landmark is a small lake in the center of the city at the foot of a cliff - the lake, known as "Voulismeni," is where the goddess, Athena, used to bathe. Also noteworthy here, in the capital of Eastern Crete, are the Archeological Museum and the cathedral, just southwest of the lake on Platia Venizelou.



The Crystal-Clear Waters of Elounda and Spinalonga (AGH-03) AD: 55 CH: 33

(Approx. 4,30 hrs)

We drive from Agios Nikolaos to the resort of Elounda, an unforgettable beauty famed throughout the Aegean for its gorgeous green hills, its sugar-sand beaches and its pristine, inviting sea. From Elounda we sail the calm waters of the Bay of Elounda for the island fortress of Spinalonga, a former Venetian bastion and, until 1957, a leper colony. Spinalonga also features in Victoria Hislop's debut novel, *The Island*, which was adapted by Greek television channel Mega into a 26-part drama, *To Nisi*, the most successful television series ever broadcast in Greece. We leave Spinalonga for a small nearby bay to swim in its turquoise waters and enjoy a barbecue on the beach.

River Trekking Tour (AGH-05) AD: 65 CH: 39

The amazing Richtis Gorge is between Agios Nikolaos and Sitia, on the north of Eastern Crete, and there is water flowing through the gorge year-round. Our hike, which takes between three and four hours, begins just outside the village of Exo Mouliana, at the Lachanas Bridge, a stone arch built in the 19th century. We will travel approximately three kilometers along the gorge, to Richtis Beach, and we will climb about 350 meters total.

The mountain rises above us as we hike, and throughout our journey the air is redolent with the scent of local herbs and flowers, including oleander and sage. The highlight of our trek is the Richtis Gorge waterfall, from which water cascades year-round from a height of more than 20 meters. We will also pass abandoned water mills, which lie in the gorge like footprints from the past. We finish our hike at beautiful Richtis Beach, a pebble beach near the village of Kalabro, where we'll rest and regroup at stone picnic tables under tamarisk trees before returning to the ship.



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 Ialysos, 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 14th-15th 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 16th and 18th century. In the centre of the village lives and breathes the Church of the Virgin Mary (Panagia) of Lindos, with frescoes from the 15th 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 6th 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 bide 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 11th 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.



Rhodes - 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).

Symi

Cruise 7 BBQ SYM-03 AD: 55 CH: 33

(Approx. 3,30 hrs - Restricted Maximum participation)

Round the island cruise. Explore Symi's beautiful coves, bays and secluded beaches, and swim in crystal clear waters all around the island.

Chios



Anavatos, Nea Moni, Chios Town CHI-02 AD: 39 CH: 20

(Approx 4hrs)

Again the visit duration is our suggestion. You will have the final choice. In case you will have to include only one visit either to Anavatos or to Avgonima we recommend this visit should be in Anavatos as it has the biggest historical interest.

We will leave the port of Chios and follow the panoramic road that climbs the foothills of Mount Provatas to reach the center of the island where the monastery of Nea Moni stands.

Nea Moni is today one of the most famous buildings of the Byzantine period. The main church is a very important specimen of Byzantine architecture in the Aegean Sea and is decorated with mosaics world known for their technic and colours. Visitors can also visit the Cistern, which is preserved intact and dates to the 11th century.

The monastery was founded in the middle of the 11th century from the Byzantine emperor Constantine IX Monomachos. For many centuries it was the most important religious centre on the island of Chios but was repeatedly destroyed in the 19th century. Chiois found rescue in the monastery during the massacre of 1822 where they were finally massacred by the Turkish troops. The monastery was severely damaged by an earthquake in 1881, which caused the collapse of the dome, the belltower, as well as the destruction of many mosaics. In modern times, many efforts have been made to restore the monument and preserve the mosaics in the catholicon.

The main temple opened its door to the public in August 2008 after years of restoration works.

In Nea Moni there is a small museum with entrance fee of 2 euro per person for season 2012. With the entrance fee clients can also visit the refectory of the monastery which was recently restored and it is not included in price.

The village of Anavatos is built on a cliff 450 meters above the sea, with steep sides to the south and west. Once again the outside walls of the houses were used together with the cliff, to shape the perimeter of a fortress. The 400 houses inside the walls were narrow, and built of grey stone with flat wooden roofs, low doors, tiny arched windows and wooden terraces.

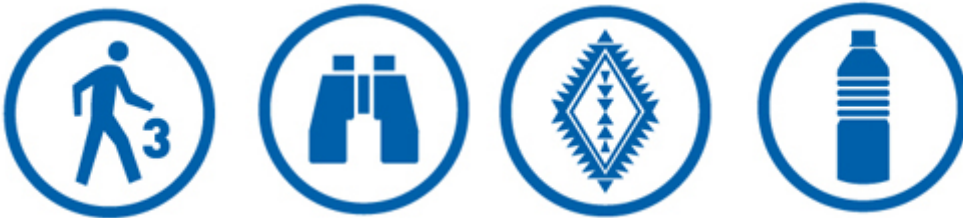
The village was abandoned after the horrible slaughters of 1822 and is now a national monument for all the Chians and Greeks. Although the village is deserted today, it shows us a unique picture of a ghost town .

Coffee break at the small café of the village.

Return to Chios harbour.

Citrus & Chios Town **CHI-04** **AD: 39** **CH: 20**

(Approx 4 hrs)



Chios town has always been the capital of Chios island. Built from antiquity until nowadays at the center of the east coast, facing Minor Asia it has always been an active and commercial town, center of the whole island.

The Castle of Chios town , coming from the Genoese era of the island , stands really close to the harbour. Guests walk from port to the Castle and through the narrow streets of the fortress they can taste the Genoese and Turkish influence with the Old Turkish graveyard and the old mosque. The Castle is like a small town which also "lives inside" Chios town. Small streets, mostly two floored narrow houses, small yards with pots of flowers in some of the old houses, ruins from old

Turkish houses and baths, new buildings ,shops, The Giustiniani house (Giustiniani family were the "governers" of the island during the Genoese occupation) ,the Turkish Grave Yard with the tomb of Kara Ali (admiral of Turkish fleet that came to the island to stop the greek revolution in 1822) and who was killed when Konstantine Kanaris

blew up the flagship of the Turkish fleet as a revenge to the Chios massacre in 1822.

After our visit to the Castle we walk through the Central square and then through the public garden with the busts of famous Chiots and the bronze statue of Kanaris we will walk through the main market street ,pass outside the cathedral and the Korais Library.

Chios is well known in Greek History for its famous scholars and Korais is one of them and his name was given to the library which is one of the richest ones in Greece.

From Korais Library we walk to the harbour and from there by bus we drive towards

the north part of Chios town.Small photo stop at the famous wind mills of Chios which are a very characteristic point of our town and from there we drive to Daskalopetra.

Daskalopetra (Teacher's Stone) is according to the local legend the place where Homer the blind poet of antiquity was narrating his poems and giving his lessons to his students. There are 7 cities claiming they are the birth place of Homer and Chios is one of them..We will walk up the big stairs that lead to the Teacher's Stone in a field facing Minor Asia .

With the bus we drive to the south of Chios town towards Kambos.

Among the orange and lemon plantations in the south of Chios town, approximately 7 klms from Chios harbour lies Kambos.Kambos is an area with orange and lemon plantations and mensions build among the treeswith 2 floored houses and beautiful yards. During the Genoese occupation of Chios island (12th - 14th century) the

Genoese and the local "high society" have built their mansions to Kambos area among the plantations. Two floored stone made houses, with high painted ceilings ,big windows and verandas looking over the plantation. Pebble made yards with wells that watered the trees and high walls surrounding the estates protecting the trees and secure the families.

Xydas family (owners of one of these estates) has created a small café and museum in one of this estates, Citrus museum. In the museum visitors can see the history of the people of Kambos and history and tools of the cultivation of orange and lemon trees that has made Kambos famous throughout the history of Chios, starting from the Genoese occupation of the island till nowadays.They can also enjoy a coffee and local spoon sweet at the yard of the estate

Return to Chios port

Mesta Anavatos **CHI-05** **AD: 39** **CH: 20**

(Approx. 4hrs)



The village of Mesta is the most distant of the medieval villages but it is also the most well-preserved. the form and architecture here is totally unique. The houses are build side-by-side to each-other, so tightly that there are only two entrances to the village. The streets are very narrow, and most of them are covered with

arches and vaults. The whole village has been intendently planned and built as a maze, in order to prevent the pirate raiding parties from reaching easily the most important buildings located in the center of the village. The oldest monument of Mesta is the church of Palaios (=Old) Taxiarchis on the north-west part. It was originally a vaulted one-nave basilica, dating from the Byzantine period. In 1794 it was extended to become two-aisled. Some traces of old wallpaintings can be seen, although most of them have been covered with plaster. The iconostasis of the church is wood carved and an excellent example of local woodwork (finished in 1833).

About 17 kilometers West from the city of Chios is the village of Anavatos. It is built on a rocky elevation with sides so steep it can only be approach from one point. The natural defenses of the site make it probable it was originally founded to control the island's west coast during the period of piracy. The village is now completely deserted but the overall shape of the settlement is quite well-preserved to give a unique picture of a ghost town surrounded by a wild and rough natural environment.

Karfas Beach Transfer (SOB) * CHI-06 AD; 14 CH: 10



Located a few kilometers south of the city, this is perhaps the most popular beach on the island. It offers full services and a wide range of water sports since it is next to an area where some of the biggest hotels of the islands are built.

Restaurants, bars, shops, hotels and rooms, car rentals are within walk-distance from the beach. The water is very shallow and warm in most of the area of Karfas Bay, and therefore the beach is especially suitable for families with little children. During the high-season time in the mid-summer, the beach can sometimes get a little bit too overcrowded, since it is popular among both locales and tourists.

Mykonos - Transfer to Mykonos town (MYK - 07) Adult: 8 Child: 6

Return Bus transfer to Mykonos town

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