

Idyllic Greece

Excursions 2026





Explore with us

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

So a very warm welcome to our Idyllic Greece excursions.

Joining us on the seven night itinerary, you will be immersed in the most fabulous experiences living and breathing the myths and legends of Ancient Greece, discovering long past civilisations, following in the footsteps of great figures from history and seeing some of the most wondrous scenery on the planet.

From classical Athens to beautiful Mykonos, Rhodes, awe-inspiring Ephesus, Milos, Crete and stunning Santorini.

You will be amazed at what we can see and do in a week.

We like to feel that we are taking you on your very own Greek Odyssey across the Aegean. And nobody knows the Eastern Mediterranean and the Greek Islands better than we do. You can be sure of that.

Our specially designed excursions are central to your Celestyal experience with our expert guides taking you step by step through your voyage of discovery and really bringing our destinations alive.

Sometimes in history it's not easy to work out where facts end and legends begin. So please fire up your imagination and join us to find out.

We really mean it when we say every moment is a destination and 'every destination is a wonder'.

Kusadasi



House of Virgin Mary & Ancient Ephesus

📍 Library of Celsus, Ephesus



📍 City of Ephesus

We say with Celestyal every moment is a destination and every destination is a wonder.

That's more than just a figure of speech. In some cases it's literally true. So our visit to Ephesus brings us to the site of the fourth of our Seven Wonders. Ephesus was an Ancient Greek city on the coast of Ionia. It's now in Turkey. It was famed for the nearby Temple of Artemis, one of the Seven Wonders, completed around 550BC.

The temple, with more than 100 marble pillars each standing 56 feet tall took 120 years to build and it earned the city the name 'Servant of the Goddess.' A single solitary pillar remains standing on the site, found during an excavation in the 1870s.

As with so many places in the Eastern Mediterranean, Ephesus changed hands many times over the centuries. But it remains one of the largest Roman archaeological sites in the region. You will be in awe of this incredible historic complex and the ruins you explore still give some idea of the original splendour of Ephesus.

Among the sights to be admired still are the iconic and instantly recognisable Library of Celsus, the Gate of Augustus, Magnesian Gate, the Agora, Odeon, the Houses of the Patricians, the Great Theatre, Hadrian's Temple and the House of the Virgin Mary.

One legend suggests Mary may have spent her last years here following Jesus' instruction to St John the Evangelist to look after his mother. Many consider it to have been her final home and it has become a place of pilgrimage.

In 1957 the Vatican formalised this recognition. Three Popes have visited. Another reason why Ephesus is important in Christianity is that the apostle Paul lived, preached and wrote extensively here including his Letter to the Corinthians.

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

We have time for shopping for carpets, jewellery, leather and other souvenirs at the end of our tour.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: KUS-01

Ancient Ephesus through the ages - Hellenistic and Roman

📍 The Temple of Hadrian



📍 Trajan's Fountain



📍 Baths of Scholastica

This is a wonderful journey through some of the most important and formative periods of history and we hope you will be enthralled by the stories of the Hellenes, Romans and of Christianity in our fascinating exploration of Ephesus.

This marvellous city, sitting on the hills outside Kusadasi is a fabulous open air archaeological wonder founded by the Greeks around 2000 BC. It was one of the most important cities of the region and was dedicated to the goddess Artemis.

The Temple built in her honour was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. It had more than 100 marble pillars each standing 56 feet tall and it earned the city the name 'Servant of the Goddess.'

A single pillar remains standing on the site, found during an excavation in the 1870s. We will be able to see the Agora, Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the marvel-paved Main Street of Curetes, the Baths of Scholastica, Trajan's Fountain, the Temple of Hadrian and the Houses of Koressus, where the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus lived.

Only 13 per cent of Ephesus has so far been uncovered. The finds from the excavations made so far are housed in the Archaeological Museum of Ephesus in the city of Selcuk.

We have time for shopping for carpets, jewellery, leather and other souvenirs at the end of our tour.



Duration: Half day

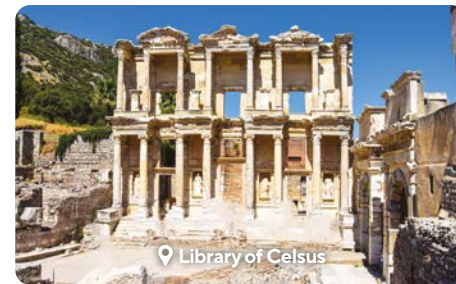
Tour code: KUS-02

Ancient Ephesus and the Terrace Houses

📍 Main Street of Curetes



📍 Ancient Roman Mosaics from Terrace Houses



📍 Library of Celsus

Every step we take in Ancient Ephesus brings us closer to the Hellenistic, Roman and early Christian eras. We will enjoy a truly exceptional experience in one of the most important and complete classical cities in Europe, even though only a fraction of it has been uncovered.

We pass through the Magnesian Gate and wander through the Agora, Odeon, the magnificent and restored Library of Celsus, the marble-paved Main Street of Curetes, Baths of Scholastica, The Great Theatre, Trajan's Fountain, the Houses of the Patricians, Prytaneum and the Temple of Hadrian.

Opposite Hadrian's Temple, at the foot of the Bulbul Hill and the covered part of the archaeological site, protected from the heat and natural elements, lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses.

It was here that the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus lived. These villas are excellently preserved, especially the interior decor. The oldest houses so far unearthed date from the 1st Century BC, were built on two storeys and even had hot and cold and a heating system, clay pipes under the floor. They were even

constructed to a city plan in which roads intersected with each other at right angles.

Ephesus, which became the second largest city in the Roman Empire, was dedicated to the goddess Artemis and the magnificent temple built to honour her took 120 years to complete. It is one of six of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World that have long gone.

We have time for shopping for carpets, jewellery, leather and other souvenirs at the end of our tour.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: KUS-07

Rhodes



Acropolis of Lindos and the Citadel of the Knights

📍 Acropolis of Lindos



📍 Gate d'Amboise

Let's begin in unusual fashion, with what you won't see in Rhodes.

One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World once proudly stood here.

He was the Colossus of Rhodes and is of course long departed, probably destroyed by an earthquake.

Nevertheless as you arrive on this wonderful, historic island, you may just be able to imagine this statue of the Greek sun-god Helios in 280BC, standing 100 feet tall in celebration of Rhodes' victory over Cyprus.

The largest of the Dodecanese islands, Rhodes has a compelling back story and there are still remnants of its occupation by the Knights of St John during the Crusades.

So while the Colossus may not be there, you will be wowed by the many historical sites.

We travel first to Lindos, about 55km from Rhodes Town and high above the village sits the impressive Acropolis of Lindos with the Doric Temple of Athena, built in 300 BC.

Captains' mansions constructed between the 16th and 18th centuries are dotted here and

there and in the heart of Lindos is the Church of the Virgin Mary with lovely frescoes from the 15th Century.

Back in Rhodes is where we are really immersed in the history of the island in the Knights' Quarter.

We stroll through Gate d'Amboise to walk along the Street of the Knights and see where they lived, separated according to Order, their crests still visible today.

We will also see (outside) the imposing Palace of the Grand Master of the Knights of Rhodes, a medieval castle also known as the Castello. It's one of the few examples of Gothic architecture in Greece. The Byzantine citadel was built in the 7th Century, the palace itself in the fourteenth.

Where the palace sits today could well have been the spot where once stood the Colossus according to recent studies.

Either way, this tour takes us into the heart of the fascinating history of Rhodes.



Duration: Half day

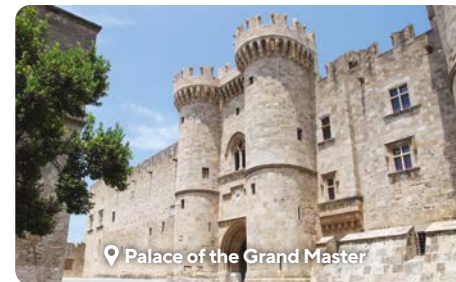
Tour code: RHO-01

Philerimos church and the Palace of the Knights

📍 Monastery of Panagia Philerimos



📍 Philerimos



📍 Palace of the Grand Master

Our tour begins at the Acropolis of Rhodes, just outside the city. It dates from the Classical Greek period and sits proudly on the hill of St Stephanos.

We wander through the ruins of the Hellenistic Temple of Apollo with its impressive columns. Below is the restored Ancient Stadium of Diagoras and theatre. The stadium once hosted games in tribute to the sun-god Helios.

We then head for Philerimos, one of the great tourist attractions of the island. The beautiful Monastery of Panagia Philerimos is located on a hill above lalyssos, one of the three Rhodian cities that participated in the Trojan War. The Monastery, accessed by stone steps surrounded by Cypress trees, is dedicated to the Virgin Mary the Life-Giving Source and unusually is Gothic in style. It was built in the 15th Century by the Knights of St John.

We also take time to visit the Byzantine Church of St George Hostos with its rare frescoes depicting the Knights. Philerimos is also home to the 'Golgotha' a series of copper reliefs depicting the Passion of Christ.

We return to the capital Rhodes to learn more about the Knights, where they lived and how they were the last bastion of Christianity in a region dominated by the Ottomans who eventually captured the island in 1522. In the Knights' Quarter we visit the magnificent Palace of the Grandmaster also known at the Castello. This too was built in Gothic style.

This is one of the most atmospheric and intriguing areas of Rhodes, where we delve into the very heart and soul of its history.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: RHO-02

Walking tour in the Medieval City of Rhodes

📍 Street of the Knights in the Old City



📍 Grand Master of the Knights Palace

Sometimes the best way of immersing yourself completely in the history and atmosphere of a place is to explore on foot. That's exactly what we do on this fascinating tour where we get to the very heart of Medieval Rhodes and the compelling story of the Knights of St John of Jerusalem.

We begin along the Street of the Knights in the Old City. It's one of the best preserved medieval thoroughfares anywhere.

We will see the buildings that were home to the Knights, ranked by Order with the crests still in place today.

The purpose of the Knights originally was to provide medical care for wounded crusaders but they soon became a military order and fought off attempts by the Ottomans to capture Rhodes (which they did eventually). The head of the Order was the Grand Master.

We visit the splendid Palace of the Grand Master, the focal point and most important site of the Knights' Quarter. This magnificent structure is also called the Castello is a fine example of Gothic architecture.



The Byzantine citadel was constructed in the 7th Century, the palace itself in the 14th Century.

Where the palace sits today might have been the spot where once stood the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

Our tour also takes in the Mosque of Suleiman the Magnificent, Turkish Baths, the Hospital of the Knights and the Church of Our Lady of the Castle, which has stood guard since the 11th Century.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: RHO-11

Agios Nikolaos



A delectable day in Crete

Elounda



Olive grove



Elounda

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 metres 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 snack of traditional Cretan meze. Enjoy the local delicious snacks 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 centre 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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: AGH-02

The Palace of Knossos & cosmopolitan Heraklion

📍 The ancient city of Knossos



📍 Heraklion



📍 Archaeological Museum of Heraklion

We travel by air-conditioned bus to the Minoan Palace of Knossos. Knossos, the capital of the Minoan civilization, was the first civilisation 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 civilisation, 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 metres, 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 to 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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: AGH-06

The crystal clear waters of Elounda and Spinalonga

📍 The island of Spinalonga



📍 Spinalonga Fortress



📍 Elounda

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.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: AGH-03

Santorini



Spectacular Oia Village perched on the Caldera rim

📍 Oia Village



📍 Ammoudi Bay



📍 Bell tower at Megalochori Village

If you are a first time visitor to Santorini she will take your breath away.

And even if you are a regular visitor, with her soaring landscapes and whitewashed houses she will still do that every time. She is regularly described as one of the most beautiful places on the planet. There are plenty of magic moments on our excursion.

One of the greatest spectacles is Oia village perched on the rim of the Caldera, the remains of a volcanic eruption.

Santorini is a ring of rock around the sea. Think of it as the rim of an old volcano.

First we head to Megalochori, one of the most authentic and unspoiled villages on the island, retaining its distinctive architecture, character and charm.

Our trip continues eastwards through a number of traditional communities like Firostefani and Imerovigli until we arrive at Oia. On our journey we will have had the lace-like caldera to our west, the little islands of Thirasia, Palea and Nea Kameni and an incredible, unsurpassable panoramic view.

There is plenty of time in Oia to explore, stroll the marble-paved alleys, visit the adorable shops and capture the moments on camera.

Admire the traditional buildings carved into the rocks and the unusual captain's manors, the settlement of Ammoudi at the foot of the caldera.

This tour is also available in the evening, tour code: SAN-01EV.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: SAN-01

Cruise to Santorini's islands and volcanoes

Nea Kameni



Nea Kameni



Palea Kameni and hot mineral springs

This trip is a must for those who want to acquaint themselves just a little better with the islands fringing the caldera, the volcanic remnants.

A small boat will take us first to Nea Kameni. Its geology resembles a lunar landscape. We walk up the verge of the crater, the heart of the volcano and its an experience that should fill you with awe. The beaches of Nea Kameni are embraced by thermal springs.

Our next stop on this special excursion is Palea Kameni. If you're feeling adventurous, you may swim from your boat to 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.



Fira



Duration: Half day

Tour code: SAN-02

Akrotiri Village Excavations

📍 Akrotiri Village



📍 Excavations at Akrotiri

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 at 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 Athinios to head for Santorini's most important archaeological site, the village of Akrotiri. On the way we make a brief stop at the ruins of the island's famous windmill and take in the wonderful view.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Duration: Half day

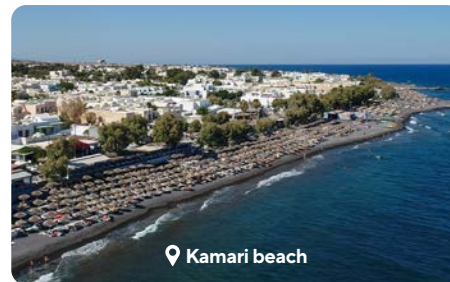
Tour code: SAN-08

The Essence of Santorini

📍 Venetsanos Winery



📍 Cable cars in Fira



📍 Kamari beach

We hope you will be overwhelmed by the beauty of this trip. We're confident you will.

We head to the stunning viewpoint of Mount Profitis Ilias (Prophet Elias) where you will be able to take marvellous pictures of the different aspects across this unique island.

On the other hand you may just wish to simply gaze in awe, soaking up the vistas. Sometimes a camera just gets in the way.

At the summit of the mountain is the beautiful Monastery of Profitis Ilias, one of the oldest on the island.

From here we visit the magical town of Oia, without doubt the most photographed place on Santorini and familiar all over the world.

Our panoramic drive gives us breathtaking views of the lava rocks of the islets of Nea Kameni and the Caldera below, with free time to enjoy the landscape of Oia and the colourful shops and cafes with terraces overlooking the Aegean Sea.

We call at one of the most exclusive wineries of Santorini and of course there will be the chance for a little tasting.

Our tour brings us to the Church of Panagia Episkopi. Located in the village of Episkopi Gonia, it is a beautiful Byzantine Church, built in the late 11th Century, and the best example of traditional ecclesiastical architecture on the island.

At the coastal village of Kamari on the coast we will have free time to stroll along the beach that comes to the foot of the Mesa Vouno mountain, rising up to 400m. Once an agricultural and fishing village, modern Kamari boasts a thriving tourist industry, offering a wide choice of restaurants, cafes and bars and several water sports activities. The excursion ends in Fira where we make our way down to the harbour side by cable car.



Duration: Full day

Tour code: SAN-06

Mykonos



Mykonian countryside tour with Chora and Little Venice

Chora



Monastery of Panagia Tourliani



Paraportiani Church

We set off by coach from Mykonos Town, also known as Chora.

We visit the lovely colourful beach of Kalafatis.

On our return trip to Chora we call at the traditional village of Ano Mera and the monastery of Panagia Tourliani, founded in 1542.

It houses a wonderful collection of icons and has a beautiful bell tower and marble fountain, well worth seeing.

The delightful village square of Ano Mera is the perfect spot for a short break and maybe a coffee. You'll be relaxing in one of the island's oldest communities.

Back in Mykonos Town we stop at the Paraportiani church (which literally means Our Lady of the Side Gate and is actually made up of five churches) and the Folklore Museum. Here you can see many exhibits including traditional costumes, furniture and personal items typical of Mykonos life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It's a fascinating glimpse into the island of more than 100 years ago

We finish at Little Venice, the neighbourhood of Alefkhandra to admire those famous windmills, a sight you can surely never tire of.

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



Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK-06

Delos - Sacred Island & Apollo Sanctuary

📍 Terrace of the Lions, Delos



📍 House of Cleopatre



📍 House of Dolphins

From Mykonos we sail to the ancient harbour of Delos to explore one of the most important mythological and historical sites in all of Greece, 'the sacred of all islands.'

Excavation work is still ongoing in this incredible location and archaeologists consider the island to be one of the finest sites in the Mediterranean. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Once again we really will travel back in time and experience a rich historical wonder.

Delos was a holy sanctuary and one of the most important and prosperous commercial ports in the eastern Mediterranean during the 1st millennium BC. Olympian mythology made it the birthplace of Apollo and his twin sister Artemis and it attracted pilgrims from all over Greece.

There are numerous ruins to marvel at including Doric temples, an amphitheatre, houses with mosaics, Agora, the Oikos (House) of Naxians and the iconic statues at the Terrace of the Lions. Seven of the original full sized marble lions still stand.

There are the remains of the Sanctuary of Apollo and the Establishment of the Poseidoniasts of Beirut, built by ship owners and merchants from that city across the Mediterranean.

There is much more to see in this awe-inspiring open air museum.

The excursion comes to an end back at Chora with free time for strolling through the alleys and the shops.

The excursion includes guide, boat and entrance fees.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK-03

Mykonian Dinner

📍 Little Venice



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

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

We conclude our trip at a local taverna, where we enjoy traditional food and drink, reflect on what we have seen, chat and savour the tastes, aromas and essence of genuine Greek spirit.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: MYK-04

Milos



Step Back in Time - (Religious)

Christian catacombs



Plaka



Roman amphitheater

We invite you to step back in time with us on the incredible volcanic island of Milos, one of the most beautiful places on earth. A short drive from the harbour takes us to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. This startlingly beautiful, otherworldly spot is one of the island's many geological wonders and perhaps one of the most photographed places in the Cyclades. We'll walk down to the inlet so you can experience this one-of-a-kind beach and take photographs. You'll feel as if you've landed on the moon.

We then travel along the picturesque main road along the coast to the cobblestone streets and alleys of Plaka, a classic Cycladic village of white stone houses and bougainvillea flowers 250 meters above the Aegean. Plaka is known for its local pastry shops with the homemade sweets. Just 100 meters from Plaka lie early Christian catacombs, the largest in Greece, and the ruins of ancient Melos and its Roman amphitheater, which is cut into the rocky slope of the hill near the ancient agora.

Our path from the catacombs to the amphitheater takes us through a small olive grove beneath the retaining walls of ancient Melos, where you'll find large Dorian walls and column fragments. The marble amphitheatre, fully restored in 2015, still includes seven intact rows of seats and offers a lovely view of the bay. On our way back to the bus, we will visit the site where the Venus de Milo (now residing in the Louvre in Paris), was discovered in 1820.

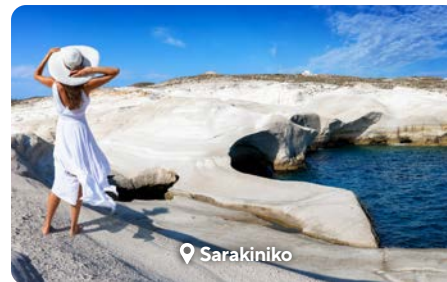


Duration: Half day

Tour code: MIL-02R

Step Back in Time

📍 Plaka village



📍 Sarakiniko

The incredible volcanic island of Milos is one of the most beautiful places on earth. But don't take our word for that. Come and see for yourself.

On this excursion we invite you to step back in time with us. A short drive from the harbour takes us to Sarakiniko, an inlet of pure white stone sculpted by volcanic eruptions. It is a startlingly beautiful, otherworldly spot and one of the island's many geological wonders.

It is probably one of the most photographed places in the Cyclades. We'll walk down to the inlet so you can experience this one-of-a-kind beach and take photographs. You might feel as if you have landed on the moon.

You can peer down into clear turquoise waters and you may see adventurous tourists swimming and snorkeling in the caves at the bottom of the ravine. You may be tempted to join them but there won't be any time!

Our next stop along the picturesque coast road is the cobblestone streets and alleys of Plaka, a classic Cycladic village of white stone houses and bougainvillea flowers 250 meters above the Aegean.

We'll stroll through the village to admire its traditional architecture and its stunning view of the sea, and you'll have time to sample homemade delicacies at the local pastry shops.

Very close to Plaka we'll make a stop to admire from above the ruins of ancient Melos and its Roman amphitheatre which is cut into the rocky slope of the hill near the ancient agora. There you'll see large Dorian walls and column fragments. The marble amphitheatre, fully restored in 2015, still includes seven intact rows of seats and offers a lovely view of the bay. We will have the chance to visit the spot where the Venus de Milo, now residing in the Louvre in Paris, was discovered in 1820.

The last stop is the award-winning Mining Museum which brings together our theme of stepping back in time. The mining history of the island and the fascinating exhibits telling the story gives you an understanding of how the rich geology of Milos has shaped it. You will also see the materials that are still excavated from the island and where we find them in everyday life.



Duration: Half day

Tour code: MIL-02

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.

Normal excursions require a minimum participation as per terms and conditions.

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

Authentic Encounters

Experiences just for you and a few

Pre book and cancellation period is up to two weeks prior to embarkation date.

Our Authentic excursions require a minimum participation, noted on each excursion page.

