

4 day Cruise - SHORE EXCURSIONS 2007

HERAKLION

Knossos Palace & Heraklion City - HER 02

Crete is the largest and the most rugged of the Greek islands. It is also the home of the great Minoan Civilization and the mythological home of Zeus. After a short drive through the town of Heraklion the tour will arrive at the Knossos excavations. Here, Sir Arthur Evans' archaeological discoveries revealed a civilization dating back to 4000 BC, when a great empire flourished on the island of Crete. Based on the wealth of artefacts that were found, Evans theorized that this was the site of the ancient Minoan Kingdom. These findings will be viewed in detail, as your guide will lead you on a journey of discovery to learn of the sophisticated culture that flourished thousands of years ago on this island. The Palace, decorated with frescoes and shields houses the Hall of the Royal Guard, the Hall of the Double Axes, the King's Chamber with the alabaster throne, the Queen's Apartment, beautiful courtyards and shrines. Having visited this remarkable site your coach will take you to the heart of Heraklion, where you will be given some free time to explore its beauties combining the facilities of a modern city with the unique Greek islands' ambience. You will then re-board your coach for the return journey to the Venetian lion-guarded port of Heraklion to rejoin your ship.

REMARKS - Walking in the archaeological site of Knossos will be on uneven gravel surfaces. Passengers may not be allowed to enter the site with large bags/rucksacks

A Taste of Crete - HER 04

The tour begins from the Venetian lion-guarded port of Heraklion with a drive through the city to the famous wine producing area of Peza, south of Heraklion. The drive is through breathtaking landscapes of countryside and vineyards as old as Minoan times on the way to the first stop, a modern winery, where you will see the updated methods of wine making and sample some of the delicious Cretan wines. The drive continues through rural villages to the village of Archanes, the municipality in the area. On the way a photo stop is made at Vathypetro to view one of the oldest farmhouses in Crete, dating to the Minoan period 16th century BC. The tour continues through the island's hilly countryside where olive groves and vineyards existed from as far back as 4000 years ago. Arriving at the village of Archanes, situated 10 km south of the Palace of Knossos, the quaint market town of Archanes has many restored sandstone houses dating from the Turkish period. At a local taverna in the villages' tree shaded square, you can sample an assortment of Cretan snacks and locally produced wine as well as a chance to mingle with many of the locals themselves. Some free time to browse before the return drive to the port of Heraklion and the ship.

KUSADASI

Ephesus & the House of Virgin Mary - KUS 01

Drive through the colourful town of Kusadasi to reach Mt Koressos. Situated in a small valley where the humble chapel lies on the site of the little house where The Virgin Mary is believed to have spent her last days. Despite the many controversies, the Christian World still favours this belief and the site has been officially sanctioned by the Vatican for pilgrimage. Continue on to Ancient Ephesus and walk through the Magnesian Gate, which is the entrance to the ancient city of Ephesus. Your guided walking tour will take you through one of the most magnificent excavations in the world. See the Odeon (concert hall), the Fountain of Trajan, the steam-heated Baths of Scolastika, the Temple of Hadrian and the Latrines, the Library of Celsus and The Great Theatre, the largest one in antiquity with a capacity of 24,000 seats where St Paul preached. Walk back to the coach along the Arcadian Way, where Mark Anthony and Cleopatra once rode in procession. While driving back to Kusadasi, just outside Ephesus, view the Basilica of St John, which was erected over his grave in the 6th century AD by Emperor Justinian. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi.

REMARKS - Tour not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties.

Ancient Ephesus - KUS 02

Drive through the colourful town of Kusadasi and along the coast to reach Ephesus, famous in antiquity for its Temple of Diana - one of the seven wonders of the ancient world - and later the home of St. John. During the years of the Roman Empire, the Greek port of Ephesus became the greatest city in Asia Minor. Upon arrival at Ephesus follow your guide and enter the ancient site through the Magnesian Gate. Discover innumerable monuments including the Forum, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Thermal Baths of Scolastika and the Great Theatre, built in the Greek era and reconstructed in the Roman period, still noted for its remarkable acoustics. View the symbols all around and marvel at the fact that one is still able to read the inscriptions in the ancient Greek language. Walk back to your coach along the Arcadian Way, where once Mark Anthony and Cleopatra rode in procession. As you drive back to Kusadasi, on a hill above Selcuk, just outside Ephesus, view the Basilica of St John, which was erected over his grave in the 6th century AD by Emperor Justinian. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time for shopping in Kusadasi.

REMARKS - Tour not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties.

MYKONOS

Mykonos Walking Tour - MYK 01

Mykonos is world famous. It is the most cosmopolitan of all Greek islands and attracts many visitors from all over the globe, including large numbers of artists and intellectuals. Your coach will take you to Hora, the island's capital where you will enjoy a walking tour in the narrow cobbled streets of the town, passing by chic boutiques, elegant nightclubs and whitewashed houses to Alefkandra. Alefkandra is a charming corner of Hora, known also as the Venice of Mykonos. The houses are built on the sea, with wooden balconies that evoke Venice. These were built from the mid 18th century onward and were homes of wealthy merchants and captains. At one of the famed restaurants of Alefkandra enjoy the atmosphere, while drinking your refreshment accompanied by Greek meze. You will return to Mykonos Town (Hora) from where you will take the ship's shuttle service back to the port to meet your ship.

PATMOS

St John's Monastery & Grotto of the Apocalypse - PAT 01

Depart from the port of Scala and enjoy a short drive to the village of Chora, where the monastery of St John is built within the walls of the strong fortification. As you walk uphill towards the entrance of the monastery marvel at this magnificent structure, which was built 900 years ago. View the courtyard, the monks' dining room and the old bakery before you visit the main church noted for its outstanding frescoes and interior decoration. Next, visit the small museum where priceless ecclesiastical treasures, books, manuscripts, mosaics, icons, splendid medieval textiles, vestments and jewellery are housed. Return to your coach and continue to the nearby Grotto of the Apocalypse and the Monastery of the Apocalypse above it. Walk down the steps to the Grotto of the Apocalypse. Here you will see the niches in the wall that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by the author of the Book of the Revelation and the crack in the rock made by the voice of God honouring the Holy Trinity. Afterwards, drive back to the port of Scala and enjoy some free time in this quaint and picturesque town.

REMARKS - Tour not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties.

Scenic Island Tour - PAT 02

An interesting scenic island tour has been designed for those passengers who prefer to discover the beauties of Patmos from the comfort of an air-conditioned coach. Start the tour from the port of Scala and drive to the central part of the island Chora, which is the location of the Majestic Byzantine Monastery of St John the Divine, built in 1088. Your sightseeing will first bring you to the Grotto of the Apocalypse and then to the windmills of Chora, once the landmark of all Aegean islands. Enjoy the view, take photos and continue your drive to visit the modern convent of Evangelismos (Annunciation) in the southern part of the island, where nuns follow the old traditions. Afterwards, continue around the island to see its landscapes of outstanding natural beauty comprising of rocky hills, dozens of tracts of land reaching out into the sea, tranquil beaches and many picturesque inlets. Before arriving at the port, a stop of 10 minutes is made at the square in Kambos in the northern part of the island. The tour ends at the port of Scala to enjoy free time in the quaint and picturesque little town.

Afternoon on the Beach - PAT 03

Enjoy a relaxing afternoon, soaking up the sun and swimming in the crystal clear blue waters of the Aegean Sea. Depart the port by coach for the short drive to the beach. Here, you will spend two hours, swimming, sunbathing and relaxing on the tranquil beaches of Patmos. There are changing facilities in the cafeteria on the beach, sun beds and umbrellas are provided, for your comfort and enjoyment. Relax over refreshments before returning back to the port of Scala.

REMARKS - Clients will need to bring their own beach towel

RHODES

Rhodes & Lindos Combined - RHO 01

Drive along the picturesque south-eastern coastline, dotted with whitewashed villages, to Lindos, one of the most important of the three great cities of ancient times. See how this entire city is guarded by medieval walls which were constructed by the knights of St John in the 13th century. Within them stands the ancient Acropolis of Lindos on the brink of a precipice 400 feet above the sea. From the Acropolis, marvel at the breathtaking views covering the great expanse of the Aegean Sea and St Paul's Bay, where the apostle cast anchor during his historic voyage to Ephesus. Proceed on foot uphill, to the great staircase leading from the Hellenistic Portico to the Acropolis and Temple of Athena. Should you wish to make your way up by mule, a fee must be paid to the local muleteer. After the guided tour of the Acropolis, enjoy some free time on your own in Lindos village before meeting up with your coach. Return to Rhodes city and enjoy a panoramic drive through the new part of the city before continuing to Mount Smith to see the ruins of ancient Rhodes, the Temple of Apollo and the Diagoras Stadium. Afterwards your coach will drop you off at Porte d'Amboise, the start of the walking tour through the medieval city of Rhodes. Follow your guide through the northern part where the knights and their attendants once lived. View the Palace of the Knights and continue your walk down Chevaliers Road to meet up with your coach at the Marine Gate and return back to the ship.

Old City & Philerimos - RHO 02

Drive along the medieval walls to the summit of Mount Smith, the Acropolis of ancient Rhodes. From the tumbled massive pillars of the Temple of Athena, the view encompasses the nearby Temple of Apollo, the stadium of Diagoras and the port, once protected by the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The drive continues across the island to Philerimos. The summit of Philerimos was the site of Ialysos, one of the three ancient cities of Rhodes. Later sites include the restored Byzantine church of our Lady of Philerimos, a chapel with 15th century frescoes, and the ruined Castle of the Knights. After the visit and some free time, return to Rhodes and begin a guided walk of the old walled city to the Porte d'Amboise. It is a pleasure to stroll the street of the Knights with its medieval buildings, winding alleys, towers, turrets and emblazoned facades. You will then visit the impressive Grand Master's Palace and have the chance to see the superb mosaics. The pleasant walk passes through the Marine Gate to meet up with your coach and return to the ship.

Lindos with Lunch by the Beach - RHO 03

Enjoy a relaxing drive along the south-eastern coastline on the way to Lindos. On arrival, follow your guide and proceed on foot uphill to explore the Acropolis of Lindos, which overlooks the Aegean Sea and St Paul's bay and marvel at the breathtaking views. Afterwards there is free time to discover this lovely town at your own pace before meeting up again with your guide. Continue to Hotel Blue Sea, a modern luxury hotel, where you will be able to swim either in the crystal clear waters of the sea in front of the hotel or in the swimming pool. A buffet lunch with a variety of traditional Greek dishes is served in the hotel. You can use the hotel's changing facilities and sun beds. Return to Rhodes and drive beside the walls of the medieval city, stopping at Port d'Amboise, where you will start your stroll through the old town. Walk down Chevaliers Road to view the Palace of the Knights and the medieval houses of the knights. Continue passing by the hospital of the Knights of St John, before meeting up with your coach at the Marine Gate to return back to the ship.

REMARKS - Clients will need to bring their own beach towel.

SANTORINI

Thira & Oia Village - SAN 01

Driving along the road you will have the unique opportunity to admire the panoramic view of the Aegean Sea and the neighbouring islands. A unique sight is the various layers of lava that can be seen on the rock face, each layer being another phase of the activity of the volcano. Built on the Caldera rim, Oia Village is an excellent example of Cycladic architecture. Accompanied by your guide, explore the village walking along the cobblestone streets and the whitewashed houses with blue shutters, where one gets the impression that they are within a beautiful travel poster. The tour will then proceed to the town of Thira, an attractive town perched on the Caldera rim. Here, you will have time to stroll along the lanes of the little town or relax over a coffee as you gaze down upon Kamenes, the two black volcanic islets in the Caldera bay. A short cable car ride will take you down to the pier to rejoin the ship.

Santorini Sailing & Volcano - SAN 02

Enjoy a cruise around the active crater of Nea Kameni islet. Sail along the strange formations of its volcanic shores, where black lava rocks and white pumice are combined beautifully with the red colour of the lava. Take a walk to the top of the volcanic island where sulphur is spewed into the air from one of the craters. Enjoy this surreal landscape as your guide narrates the creation and history of the volcano and the last eruption leading to the destruction of the island of Santorini. The tidal wave created by the eruption was of such an immense magnitude, it destroyed the thriving city of Knossos on the island of Crete. As your caïque enters the narrows of the two lava islets, Palea and Nea Kameni, the colour of the water changes from dark blue to sulphur green. In the distance, admire the breathtaking sight of Thira Town with its white washed houses clinging precariously on the rim of the Caldera. Take time to swim in the warm waters heated by Hot Springs on the sea floor.

REMARKS - It is recommended to bring your swimsuit and a towel

4 DAY CRUISE EX PIRAEUS Shore Excursions Prices 2007					
PORT	DESCRIPTION	CODE	ADULT €	CHILD €	APPROX. DURATION
Heraklion	Knossos Palace & Heraklion City	HER 02	57.00	40.00	3.5 hrs
Heraklion	A Taste of Crete	HER 04	50.00	25.00	3.5 hrs
Kusadasi	Ephesus & the House of Virgin Mary	KUS 01	57.00	39.00	3.5 hrs
Kusadasi	Ancient Ephesus	KUS 02	53.00	37.00	3 hrs
Mykonos	Mykonos Walking Tour	MYK 01	40.00	25.00	3 hrs
Patmos	St. John's Monastery & Grotto of Apocalypse	PAT 01	45.00	28.00	2 hrs
Patmos	Scenic Island Tour	PAT 02	31.00	20.00	2.5 hrs
Patmos	Afternoon at the beach	PAT 03	29.00	19.00	3 hrs
Rhodes	Rhodes & Lindos combined	RHO 01	48.00	24.00	4.5 hrs
Rhodes	Old City & Philerimos	RHO 02	44.00	28.00	4 hrs
Rhodes	Lindos with lunch by the beach	RHO 03	71.00	38.00	8 hrs
Santorini	Thira & Oia Village	SAN 01	49.00	32.00	3.5 hrs
Santorini	Santorini Sailing & Volcano	SAN 02	47.00	24.00	3 hrs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prices in Euro per person Adult or Child - Children: 3 - 12 years - Shore excursions prices are subject to change. These changes may occur due to unexpected increases in the cost of transportation, land arrangements and/or major currency fluctuations 					