

Malta & Greek Isles Discovery

Immerse in the ancient world as you discover the early empires of the Mediterranean and Aegean Seas. Visit historic UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as the Maltese capital of Valletta and Rhodes' Palace of the Grand Masters. Enjoy dramatic views of the Parthenon in Athens, uncover the mysteries of the Minoans on Crete and admire the white facades and azure domes of the clifftop villages of Santorini during this enchanting voyage through the centuries.

Day by Day

Day 1 – Embarkation Valletta, Malta

Day 2 - Valletta, Malta

Day 3 - Sail the Ionian Sea

Day 4 - Kalamáta, Greece

Day 5 - Athens, Greece

Day 6 - Athens, Greece

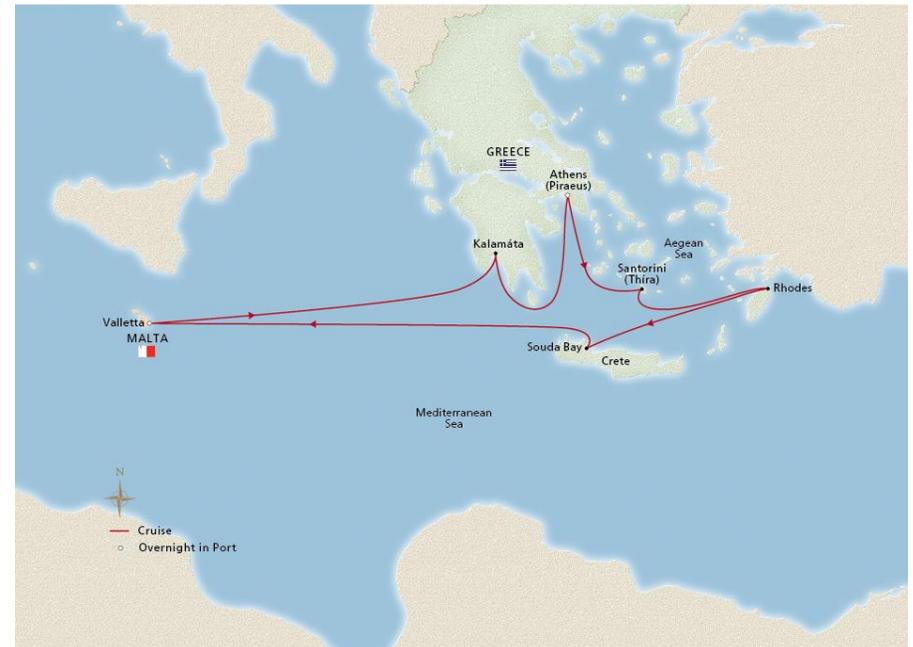
Day 7 - Santorini, Greece

Day 8 - Rhodes, Greece

Day 9 - Crete, Greece

Day 10 - Sail the Mediterranean Sea

Day 11 - Valletta, Malta



Shore excursions vary by itinerary and are subject to change.

Compiled by The Cruise & Travel Group on 14/05/2021

Valletta, Malta

Explore the humble facades of Malta's churches and view grand palaces that hide extravagant interiors of marble, tapestries and paintings. During a stroll around the city's walls and bastions, take in the magnificent bird's-eye view over the spectacular Grand Harbor. At St. John's Co-Cathedral, learn about the city's ties to the Knights of Malta and their emergence as a military order during the Crusades. The legacy of Britain's rule is evident across the island; while Malta remains a republic, the island today is a member state of the Commonwealth of Nations.



MALTA SCENIC DRIVE **INCLUDED TOUR**

DURATION: 3 HOURS

A LEISURELY ISLAND OVERVIEW

Witness the natural and cultural beauty of Malta, from sweeping bays to fishing villages, on a panoramic excursion. You will meet your guide at our berth and drive to the picturesque fishing village of Marsaxlokk, where colorful traditional Maltese luzzu fishing boats bob with the currents in the small harbor. Continue to Żurrieq, one of Malta's oldest towns, for a dramatic view of the Blue Grotto, a series of yawning sea caverns, and the tiny, flat-top rocky island of Filfla; a rest stop for many migrating birds as they journey between Africa and Europe. Continue into the rural reaches of the island toward the medieval fortified city of Mdina, Malta's former capital. From here your route takes you toward the coast again, passing the resort area of Xemxija Bay and St. Paul's Bay, where the patron saint of the island is said to have been shipwrecked in 60 AD.



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MALTA’S CAPITALS, OLD & NEW

DURATION: 4 HOURS

MALTA’S GLORIES, PAST AND PRESENT

Compare Malta’s two most influential cities, Mdina and Valletta. You will drive with your guide to the former capital, Mdina, one of the world’s best examples of a medieval walled city. Locals call it the “Silent City,” as cars are not allowed in its streets. During a walking tour with your guide, admire the views of the countryside from centuries-old bastions and soak up the atmosphere. Continue to the present-day capital, Valletta, founded in the 16th century. Walk these bustling cobblestone streets past St. John’s Co-Cathedral and the Magisterial Palace of the Grandmaster. Pass the Auberge de Castile, the Prime Minister’s residence, to Barrakka Gardens, where splendid views of the Three Cities and Fort Ricasoli await.



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MDINA & MOSTA TOUR

DURATION: 4 HOURS

A HILLTOP FORTIFIED CITY AND A MIRACULOUS CHURCH

Step into the medieval splendor of Mdina and see Mosta’s remarkable dome on this fascinating excursion. Drive with your guide to the old walled city of Mdina, sitting atop a hill. En route, you will pause outside the walls at an arts center to witness glassblowing by local artisans. In Mdina itself, enjoy a walking tour through timeless, car-free streets, stopping to enjoy views from the bastions and to step inside the magnificent Mdina Cathedral with its pair of majestic bell towers. Continue to nearby Mosta for a visit to the spectacular Mosta Church. Constructed in the early 19th century by the town’s residents, it boasts one of the world’s largest unsupported domes. During World War II a bomb pierced the dome but miraculously did not explode; you can see a replica of the bomb in the sacristy. Later, enjoy a scenic drive back to your ship.



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PALAZZO PARISIO & PROSECCO

DURATION: 2 HOURS 30 MINUTES

THE IMMACULATE PALACE OF A BARONESS

Visit a fabulous palace lovingly maintained by a baroness in the name of her long line of ancestors, the Sciclunas. You will drive to Naxxar with your guide. Here, in the heart of the village, the 18th-century Palazzo Parisio has stood for generations. This opulent and grand residence features gilded plasterworks, ceiling frescoes, crystal chandeliers, lush paintings and sculptures, as well as formal gardens. On a guided tour, you will gaze upon the ornate grand ballroom, the finely detailed chapel and, weather permitting, the landscaped gardens and orangery. Conclude your visit with a glass of Prosecco and light refreshments. En route back to the ship, stop in the village of Mosta to visit its distinctive church. Built by the town's citizens during the 19th century, it boasts one of the world's largest unsupported domes. During the World War II, a bomb pierced the dome but it miraculously failed to explode.



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VALLETTA & THE KNIGHTS OF MALTA

DURATION: 4 HOURS

THE STUNNING CITY OF ST. JOHN AND HIS FOLLOWERS

Discover Valletta, a UNESCO Site, and learn about its ties to the Knights of Malta from a present-day knight. With a local guide, you will explore this mighty fortress city, viewing the auberges built to house the knights of the Order of St. John. Visit St. John's Co-Cathedral, one of Europe's finest examples of high baroque architecture, in which 375 of the Order's knights and grandmasters are buried. The Cathedral's most famous work, Caravaggio's The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist, hangs in the Oratory. You will also meet a local member of the present-day Hospitaller Military Order of Jerusalem. He will present a short talk about the historical role of the knights, their founding as part of a hospital providing care to sick pilgrims in the Holy Land, their emergence as a military order during the Crusades, and how they conduct business in the present day.

Please note: St. John's Co-Cathedral cannot be visited on Saturday afternoons, Sundays and public holidays. On these days, you'll visit the National Museum of Archaeology.



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Kalamáta, Greece

Discover the city of Kalamáta today, Messinia's capital and the second-largest city in the Peloponnese. On the southern coast of Greece's mainland, it is the perfect base to see some of the country's most impressive ancient sites. During an included tour, visit the Palace of Nestor, an important center in Mycenaean times. Alternatively, join an optional tour to explore the ancient city of Messene and view its amphitheater, old market and animal heads carved in stone. Or, view the Byzantine ruins of the City of Mystras, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



PALACE OF NESTOR INCLUDED TOUR

DURATION: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

REMNANTS OF LATE BRONZE AGE MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION

Explore the Palace of Nestor, one of the best-preserved structures of the Mycenaean civilization. The Mycenaeans ruled over the Ancient Greek mainland during the Late Bronze Age, before collapsing for unknown reasons sometime during the 12th century BC. Situated on a nearby hilltop above Navarino Bay, visit the remains of the palace of Nestor at Pylos. Built during the 13th century BC by the fabled king of the Homeric epics, the palace was almost completely destroyed by fire a century later. Extensive excavations viewed from an elevated platform provide insights to its former grandeur; see the sprawling floorplan, including the throne room with its circular clay heath, discover various workshops and the wine cellar, and view the frescoes that adorn the palace walls. Admire the sweeping views of the bay and surrounding countryside before returning to your ship.



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NIOKASTRO & METHONI CASTLES

DURATION: 4 HOURS 30 MINUTES

HISTORIC FORTIFICATIONS OF THE PELOPONNESE PENINSULA

Discover the ruins of Niokastro and Methoni, which once guarded the Peloponnese peninsula. Originally built by the Ottomans during the late 16th century, the hulking stone battlements and projecting bastions of Niokastro's upper castle sit strategically atop a hill, while the walls of its larger lower castle sweep down the hillside to the sea. Walk the grounds, enjoy panoramic views of Navarino Bay and learn more about Greek history at the two onsite museums. Then, continue down the coast to Methoni, built by the Venetians during the early 13th century and surrounded on three sides by water. Cross over the stone bridge that spans its wide moat and enter this fortified acropolis. Learn the castle's storied history and see the remains of several buildings, including the fortified octagonal tower on the islet of Bourtzi. Afterward, you will return to your ship.



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ANCIENT MESSENE

DURATION: 4 HOURS

WELL-PRESERVED REMAINS OF A FORMER CAPITAL CITY

Marvel at the complex urban development of ancient Messene at its impressive archaeological site. Journey inland to ancient Messene at the fertile foothills of Mt. Ithome. Founded in 369 BC, the layout for this former capital city was based on the geometric principles of Greek architect and urban planner Hippodamus. Extensive excavations of the site have revealed the ambitious extent of Hippodamus's city planning and how it harmoniously conforms to the surrounding landscape. With your knowledgeable guide, walk through this well-preserved piece of history and view the sights, including the fortified city walls, a gigantic stadium and the impressive temple dedicated Asklepios, the Greek god of medicine. At the onsite museum, tour its extensive collection of artifacts to gain more insight about what you have just seen. Afterward, you will return to your ship.



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MYSTRAS

DURATION: 5 HOURS 30 MINUTES

FORTIFIED HILLTOP TOWN AND INFLUENTIAL ART CENTER

Uncover the beauty rich culture and historical influence of the former Byzantine capital of Mystras. Located on the slopes of Mt. Taygetos, the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Mystras was known for spearheading the Palaeologan Renaissance. Prosperous and powerful, Mystras was second only to Constantinople at the height of its power during the 14th and 15th centuries. Follow your guide up the hill and through the castle gate, walk along the narrow cobblestone lanes and pass the ruins of palaces, monasteries and churches. Visit the Church of Saint Demetrios and view the two-headed eagle embedded in its floor, a symbol of the Palaeologos Dynasty. You will also tour the heavily renovated Palace of Despots and stop to admire the well-preserved frescoes inside the Late Byzantine church of Hagia Sophia and the Pantanassa Monastery.



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Athens (Piraeus), Greece

Journey into ancient Athens via a panoramic drive, passing the promenade at Mikrolimano Marina as you enter the city's heart. There, you will see the Hellenic Parliament, Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the Panathenaic Stadium, the Temple of Zeus and the iconic Acropolis. Explore the bustling Plaka District at the base of the Acropolis. Or, as an option, explore the interior of this UNESCO Site; climb 80 steps to the entrance for an unforgettable view of the Parthenon at its peak.



PANORAMIC ATHENS & ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM **INCLUDED TOUR**

DURATION: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

A MOTOR COACH TOUR OF GREECE'S CAPITAL

See the highlights of Athens by motor coach and visit the National Archaeological Museum. From the port of Piraeus, journey with your guide into ancient Athens. You will pass the small harbor of Zea, whose 5th-century BC dock still survives, and the elegant promenade at Mikrolimano. In the center of historic Athens, you will see the Hellenic Parliament and Syntagma (Constitution) Square, as well as the distinctively uniformed Presidential Guard, or "Evzones," at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Your scenic drive also includes views of Panathenaic Stadium and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. Following the panoramic tour, you will visit the National Archaeological Museum, one of the world's great museums. With more than 11,000 exhibits, it provides a panorama of Greek civilization from the beginnings of prehistory to Late Antiquity.



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ACROPOLIS & PLAKA DISTRICT BY FOOT

DURATION: 4 HOURS 15 MINUTES

EXPLORE THE LANDMARKS OF ATHENS

Immerse yourself in ancient and modern Athens, from the heights of the Acropolis to the intimate Plaka District. Travel with your guide past the harbor of Zea, with its dock dating to the 5th century BC, and the elegant promenade at Mikrolimano. During your visit to the legendary Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, climb 80 steps through its grand entrance, the Propylaeum, to the plateau of the rock. Here, the mighty Parthenon reigns over the Nike, Erechtheum and other temples. You will have time to take it all in. Your panoramic drive also passes the ancient athletic Panathenaic Stadium as well as the Hellenic Parliament, Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Temple of Olympian Zeus. Stroll the cobblestone streets of the laid-back Plaka District, admiring the colorful facades of its buildings and views of the Acropolis.



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CAPE SOUNION

DURATION: 4 HOURS

MYTH AND HISTORY AT THE HEADLAND OF CAPE SOUNION

Venture to the romantic reaches of Cape Sounion, with a rich history touched by gods, kings and poets. In Greek mythology, it was here that King Aegeus, a founder of Athens, committed suicide, giving his name to the Aegean Sea. Drive here with a guide, savoring the cape's scenic vistas along the Attic Peninsula. En route you will pass the glamorous marinas of Phaleron, Glyfada and Vouliagmeni. On Cape Sounion, visit the Temple of Poseidon, surrounded by the sea and perched atop dramatic cliffs. When it was constructed in 440 BC, it boasted 42 Doric columns; today, 15 remain. At the base of one, you will see the name "Byron" carved into the marble. The English poet visited here in 1810, but we can only wonder if he was the vandal who left this graffiti. You will have free time here before returning to your ship.



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THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM & PLAKA DISTRICT

DURATION: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

ALL THE ESSENTIALS OF THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION

Gain an in-depth view of Athens, from the shores of Piraeus to the new Acropolis Museum, with a local guide. En route to the city, you can admire Piraeus's scenic Zea and Mikrolimano marinas, where sleek yachts bob on the tide. At Athens's Olympic Stadium, a 19th-century reconstruction built on Roman foundations, imagine the games played here in 1896. Pass some of the city's most important modern sites, including Syntagma (Constitution) Square and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Continue your tour to the new Acropolis Museum, where more than 4,000 objects from the ancient city are preserved, and where you will see a stunning collection spanning the ages. From the second floor of the museum, see the Acropolis on the hilltop in the distance. Enjoy the village-like feel of the laid-back Plaka District as you walk along its cobblestone streets and admire more views of the Acropolis.



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THE FULL ACROPOLIS EXPERIENCE

DURATION: 5 HOURS

EXPLORE THE ACROPOLIS IN DEPTH

Encounter ancient architecture and legends of the Acropolis during a visit to the magnificent site and its museum. Drive with your guide past the ancient harbor of Zea, its dock dating to the 5th century BC, and the elegant promenade at Mikrolimano. Upon arrival at the Acropolis, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, climb 80 steps through the Propylaeum, the grand entrance that delivers you to the plateau of the rock. Here, the mighty Parthenon reigns over the Nike, Erechtheum and other temples. After time to explore, continue to the new Acropolis Museum, where more than 4,000 objects from the ancient city are preserved. Built atop Roman and Byzantine ruins, its stunning collection spans the ages, from the Greek Bronze Age through Byzantine Greece. You will have time to explore its priceless artifacts, then return to your ship.



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THE KOKOTOS ESTATE & PANORAMIC ATHENS **PRIVILEGED ACCESS**

DURATION: 7 HOURS

AN ORGANIC FARM VISIT AND A TOUR OF ATHENS'S TREASURES

Meet a wine-producing couple, savor a lunch prepared from their estate's organic produce, then tour Athens. Journey into the hills outside the city to the private estate of George and Anne Kokotos. Their family vineyard, originally planted in 1980, produces excellent cabernet sauvignon, Merlot and chardonnay grapes. Tour their farm, which includes 400 olive trees that produce high-quality extra-virgin olive oil. During a cooking demonstration, observe your host create delicious dishes using organic vegetables from the farm's garden. You will dine on your host's creations and enjoy the estate's wine for lunch. During an informative panoramic drive through Athens with your guide, you will see the Hellenic Parliament and Syntagma (Constitution) Square, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Panathenaic Stadium, Temple of Olympian Zeus and Acropolis. Take time to explore the shop-lined Plaka District before returning to your ship.



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ATHENS BY ELECTRIC BIKE

DURATION: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

FAMOUS ANCIENT LANDMARKS AND COLORFUL PLAKA DISTRICT

Pedal past the highlights of ancient Athens on an electric bike and enjoy time in the Plaka District. Take a short drive into the city center, where you will meet your guide and receive your e-bike. After a short safety briefing and time to familiarize yourself with your ride, head out along the wide promenade that rings the storied Acropolis. Your bike-friendly route will give you the opportunity to do some sightseeing as you ride. Pass landmarks such as the Acropolis Museum, the Odeon of Herodes Atticus, the Thision Open Air Cinema, the Temple of Zeus, Hadrian's Gate and the Lysicrates Monument. Continue riding down to the foot of the hill and into the vibrant Plaka District. Here, enjoy a well-deserved rest and a refreshing beverage. Then ride down to the foot of the hill and into the vibrant Plaka District. Afterward, return to your awaiting ship.



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Santorini (Thíra), Greece

Visit the picture-postcard isle of Santorini, famed for its whitewashed buildings that cascade down towering sea-facing cliffs. Once anchored, board a local boat for the island's main port of Athinios. Ashore, head out to explore the capital of Thíra; its delightful cobblestone squares and charming streets date back to the early Bronze Age. Surrounding islets offer opportunities to experience the region's natural volcanic splendor.



SUMMITS & COUNTRYSIDE INCLUDED TOUR

DURATION: 2 HOURS 30 MINUTES

A GENTLE SOJOURN THROUGH THE NATURAL BEAUTY OF SANTORINI

Journey to Santorini's highest peak and explore two of its prettiest towns. From our anchorage, you will tender to the island's main port at Athinios. Meet your local guide here for a scenic drive to the cliffside town of Oia, where you will have time to explore independently. The Greek island village of dreams, with its whitewashed houses hugging the hills, azure-blue domes and triple bell towers, is a sight to behold. On a clear day, you may see spectacular views of the volcano of Palea and Nea Kameni and the island of Thírassia. Continue your tour to the island's capital, Thíra, where you can explore the shops and stop at a café on your own. Return to the tender pier at your leisure by boarding the scenic cable car using the ticket we have provided.



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ANCIENT & MODERN ISLAND LIFE

DURATION: 5 HOURS

EXPLORE AKROTIRI AND OIA

Discover the incredibly preserved remnants of an ancient civilization and visit a picturesque village. From your ship, tender to the main port at Athinios to join your local guide. Then drive across the island together to the archaeological site of Akrotiri, one of the most important prehistoric settlements in all the Aegean. Minoans from the Bronze Age inhabited this site until a volcanic eruption buried them, preserving their way of life in ash. You can view the marvelous painted frescoes and see the everyday artifacts that provide hints about Minoan life. A modern side of Santorini awaits in Oia. Walk with your guide through this classic whitewashed village perched on a cliff, browsing artists' workshops and marveling at typical village houses and churches. In Thira, enjoy free time before descending to the tender pier on board the cable car using the ticket we have provided.



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CRUISE & HIKE SANTORINI

DURATION: 3 HOURS

WALK UP AN ISLAND VOLCANO

Hike to a low-lying volcanic crater, where your efforts will be rewarded with stunning views of the caldera. From our anchorage, you will transfer by tender to Santorini's small island port. Here, you will meet your local guide and cruise to the uninhabited island of Nea Kameni, the summit of an underwater volcano. Walk about a half mile up to the crater with your guide, learning about the landscape and lava fragments along the way. Enjoy free time and spectacular views at the rim. After your walk, take a scenic cruise to the hot springs on nearby Palea Kameni island. Upon returning to the main island, visit Thira independently or transfer back to your ship.



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CRUISE THE CALDERA

DURATION: 5 HOURS

SCENIC BEAUTY OF SANTORINI'S STUNNING COASTLINE

Discover the natural beauty of Santorini's coastline during a private sailing to its caldera. The crescent-shaped features of the island are the result of a massive volcanic eruption sinking much of the island and creating its steep cliffs. Travel to the marina in Vlihada, where you will board your private catamaran and meet your experienced crew. Enjoy an array of appetizers and drinks as you head out into the Aegean Sea. Feel the warm sea breeze and admire the views as you sail past beautiful sandy beaches, the rock formations of Akrotiri and the Venetian lighthouse on the southern tip of the island. Keep your camera ready as you sail through the caldera. Gaze up at the whitewashed villages of Thíra, Thírostefani, Imerovigli and Oia perched high above you, and the green and yellow waters of the natural hot springs surrounding the volcano. Afterward, you will return to Thíra and then your ship.



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Rhodes, Greece

Discover the Old Town of Rhodes today. This “Island of Knights” prospered from the wealth brought here from the Holy Land by the Knights of Malta. Follow the Street of the Knights to the most imposing building in Rhodes—the Palace of the Grand Masters is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Tour this fascinating building, which was first a castle, and later, a royal palace. Or, opt to visit the charming village of Lindos and walk up to the Castle of Knights to view the striking remnants of the Temple of Athena Lindia.



RHODES TOWN WALK & PALACE OF THE GRAND MASTERS **INCLUDED TOUR**

DURATION: 2 HOURS 30 MINUTES

STROLL THE STREETS OF A MEDIEVAL TREASURE

Get an excellent overview of the Old Town of Rhodes, Europe’s largest active medieval town. You will enjoy a walking tour of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. Meet your guide at our berth and walk the short distance to the city walls, passing through the imposing gate to explore the atmospheric cobblestone streets. Head first to the Street of the Knights, a narrow byway with medieval structures rising on either side. You will pass colorful shops and the 15th-century Hospital of the Knights, now home to a splendid archaeological museum. This historic lane ends at the most colossal building of medieval Rhodes, the Palace of the Grand Masters. Built in the 14th century, it will astonish you with its crenellated walls, massive towers and unmistakable medieval aura. After a visit, you may choose to linger in town before returning to your ship by foot on your own.



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ACROPOLIS OF LINDOS

DURATION: 4 HOURS 30 MINUTES

ASCEND TO A STUNNING ACROPOLIS WITH SWEEPING AEGEAN VIEWS

Hike up to an ancient acropolis with spectacular vistas of the azure sea and a whitewashed town. Wear comfortable walking shoes, then meet your guide for a scenic drive past picturesque hamlets, lush vineyards and scenic olive groves. In the beautiful whitewashed village of Lindos, walk through narrow cobblestone streets to the foot of the Acropolis. There are 195 steps to the top of the rocky outcropping, and your effort will be rewarded with the sight of the Doric Temple of Lindian Athena, enclosed within the walls of the Castle of the Knights. You can also admire the 18th-century frescoes of the Byzantine Church of St. John. Views of the turquoise sea, Lindos and the small fishing village of Psarto, where St. Paul is said to have landed, are spectacular. Later, descend back to Lindos, where you can browse its charming streets and shops before returning to the ship.



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EAST COAST ISLAND DRIVE

DURATION: 3 HOURS 30 MINUTES

MAGNIFICENT AEGEAN VISTAS

Take in the magnificent Aegean beauty of Rhodes on this leisurely excursion past dramatic vistas. Meet your guide at our berth, then drive along the island's east coast through lush vineyards and fertile olive groves. In Lindos, make a photo stop to take in the village's cluster of whitewashed houses hugging the shore and the rocky outcropping and acropolis overlooking the splendid scene. Later, pause at Psarto, a small fishing harbor where St. Paul is said to have landed on the island. Pass the imposing Castle of Feraklos, built by the Knights of St. John, en route to Kolympia, once a traditional fishing village and now a small resort area. Here, you can enjoy a glass of ouzo or wine with traditional local meze (snacks) in a seaside taverna. Make a final stop at Monte Smith, site of ancient Rhodes's acropolis, for sweeping views over the city and the sea.



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MT. FILERIMOS & PALACE OF THE GRAND MASTERS

DURATION: 4 HOURS

FROM MOUNTAINS TO SEA: TWO SPECTACULAR CITIES

See the magnificent city of Rhodes from a historic mountaintop and from the intimacy of its medieval streets. You will meet your guide at our berth for a short drive to the summit of Mt. Filerimos. Here, you will have time to explore the ancient city of Ialysos. Admire the Church of our Lady, built by the Knights of St. John in the 15th century, and the Church of St. George, with its impressive wall paintings of the 14th and 15th centuries. Return to the Old Town of Rhodes, where you continue your tour by foot through narrow, cobblestone streets. Follow the Street of the Knights past colorful shops and the 15th-century Hospital of the Knights to the colossal Palace of the Grand Masters, built in the 14th century. After a visit, you may choose to linger in town before returning to the ship by foot on your own.



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RHODES JEWISH HERITAGE

DURATION: 4 HOURS

A REMARKABLE HISTORY BROUGHT TO LIGHT

Uncover the precious history of Rhodes's Jewish community during an enlightening walking tour. Meet your guide and drive through the New Town of Rhodes, passing Mandraki Harbor and Fort Nicholas before pausing at Monte Smith, site of the acropolis, where you will admire sweeping vistas of the city, the castle and the Turkish coast. Continue to the Old Town for a walking tour of Jewish Rhodes. During its height in the 1930s, the Jewish community here numbered approximately 4,000; only 150 of Rhodes's Jews survived the Holocaust. From Martyrs' Square, walk to the Kahal Shalom Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in Greece and the sole remaining synagogue on the island that is still used for services. In six rooms formerly used for women's prayer, you will have time to explore the Jewish Museum of Rhodes. Following your poignant visit, enjoy free time in the Old Town before returning to your ship.



* Moderate - Walking portions may be long and somewhat challenging with occasional step-ups, stairs and inclines. Total time walking or standing normally ranges from 1.5 to 3 hours.

Shore excursions vary by itinerary and are subject to change.

Compiled by The Cruise & Travel Group on 14/05/2021

ANCIENT LINDOS, PANORAMIC VISTAS & GRAND MASTERS PALACE

DURATION: 8 HOURS

LAYERS OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

Travel to an ancient acropolis with spectacular seaside vistas and explore the remarkable Old Town of Rhodes. First follow the medieval Street of the Knights to the sprawling Palace of the Grand Masters, built in the 14th century with the fortunes of knights returning from the Holy Lands. Then drive along the scenic coast to a rocky outcropping overlooking the whitewashed village of Lindos and the Aegean Sea; reach the summit either by a short walk or astride a donkey. Atop, stroll among the ruins of the Castle of the Knights and the 18th-century frescoes of the Byzantine Church of St. John. Later, descend to Lindos and browse its charming streets. Next, stop for lunch and pause at Filerimos for spectacular views of Rhodes's coast, the city of Rhodes and the Turkish coast. Enjoy a short walking tour of the Old Town of Rhodes before returning to your ship.



* Moderate - Walking portions may be long and somewhat challenging with occasional step-ups, stairs and inclines. Total time walking or standing normally ranges from 1.5 to 3 hours.

Crete (Souda Bay), Greece

Explore Souda Bay today, an important port since antiquity because of its natural harbor and location along Mediterranean trade routes. Discover the complicated and dramatic history of the Arkadi Monastery, a 16th-century fortress-like complex situated on a high plateau that once provided refuge for nearby townspeople, and visit the charming seaside fishing village of Rethymnon. Alternately, see the influences of former rulers such as the Venetians and Ottomans during a walking tour of Chania's Old Town, once a major port city for the mysterious Minoan civilization.



SCENIC CHANIA BY FOOT **INCLUDED TOUR**

DURATION: 2 HOURS 30 MINUTES

CHANIA OLD TOWN, MUSEUM AND VENETIAN HARBOR

Explore vibrant Chania, one of the oldest cities in Europe, during a walking excursion through its Old Town. Once a major city-state of the mysterious Minoan Kingdom, modern Chania was built upon the foundations of the Greek city of Kydonia. Its importance led to several waves of occupation over the centuries, remnants of which can be seen in the mix of eastern and western influences that permeate the city today. You will meet your knowledgeable guide, then set out to walk the winding streets of Chania's charming Old Town, where you will see Ottoman mosques, Minoan ruins and Byzantine churches. Stroll through the promenade of the picturesque Venetian Harbor, and admire the Venetian ramparts, old dockyards and 15th-century lighthouse. At the end of your excursion, you will return to your awaiting ship.



* Moderate - Walking portions may be long and somewhat challenging with occasional step-ups, stairs and inclines. Total time walking or standing normally ranges from 1.5 to 3 hours.

Modifications based on current health and safety protocols may be applied to this shore excursion.

AGIA TRIADA MONASTERY & CHANIA OLD TOWN

DURATION: 4 HOURS

VENERABLE RELIGIOUS SITES AND COLORFUL HISTORIC QUARTER

Explore a Greek Orthodox monastic community and Chania's historical Old Town. Two Venetian brothers built the Agia Triada (Holy Trinity) Monastery in the 17th century after their conversion to the Greek Orthodox faith. The monastery is built in the Byzantine cruciform architectural style with Western influence in its decorative motifs. See the main church, with its three domes, and library that contains rare books. A monastic community still resides here and the monks produce and sell wine and olive oil on the premises. After the monastery, visit the monument to Eleftherios Venizelos, one of the great statesmen of modern Greece, and enjoy sweeping views of the bay and city below. Then, board your motor coach for Chania's Old Town. Walk through its winding streets, where you will discover remains of the many civilizations that occupied this colorful city. See the Venetian Harbor, the Ottoman mosques, Byzantine Churches and Minoan ruins before returning to your ship.



* Moderate - Walking portions may be long and somewhat challenging with occasional step-ups, stairs and inclines. Total time walking or standing normally ranges from 1.5 to 3 hours.

ARKADI MONASTERY & RETHYMNON OLD TOWN

DURATION: 4 HOURS 15 MINUTES

VISIT A BEAUTIFUL BAROQUE CHURCH AND A CHARMING OLD TOWN

Explore a haunting baroque monastery and a quaint seaside village in Crete's dramatic northern shore. Drive along stunning coastal roads past craggy mountains, deep-blue gulfs and soaring sea cliffs. Perched on a plateau, the Arkadi Monastery has a complex and dramatic history. Admire the Venetian-baroque detail of its stone-white church. This fortress-like complex not only provided refuge for townspeople; it was also a scholar's haven for science and the arts. Continue to the welcoming seaside town of Rethymnon, a fascinating and scenic village whose 16th-century buildings echo its once-aristocratic glory. Admire the Venetian Loggia, the charming arched doorways, stone staircases, Byzantine and Hellenic-Roman remains and the small Venetian harbor. Pause in the municipal gardens for shade and tranquility, before returning to your ship.



* Moderate - Walking portions may be long and somewhat challenging with occasional step-ups, stairs and inclines. Total time walking or standing normally ranges from 1.5 to 3 hours.

Modifications based on current health and safety protocols may be applied to this shore excursion.

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Compiled by The Cruise & Travel Group on 14/05/2021

APTERA & CRETAN VILLAGES

DURATION: 4 HOURS

DISCOVER AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE AND OLD TOWN

Visit the archaeological site of Aptera and experience the charming Old Town of Chania. Visit the archaeological site of Aptera and experience the charming Old Town of Chania. Located atop a hill dominating the surrounding coastline, Aptera was one of the most important city-states from the Minoan era through Hellenistic times. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 365 AD and eventually abandoned during the 7th century because of repeated raids by Arab pirates. Here, you will find impressive archaeological remains, including Roman cisterns, baths and the recently excavated theater. Enter the Byzantine monastery of Agios Ioannis Theologos and enjoy a presentation about Aptera. After, head to Chania for a walk through its Old Town. See Ottoman mosques, Minoan ruins and Byzantine churches. Stroll the promenade of the picturesque Venetian Harbor, and admire the Venetian ramparts, old dockyards and 15th-century lighthouse, before returning to your ship.



* Easy - Walking portions are generally over easy surfaces with few steps or inclines. Total time walking or standing is normally not longer than 1.5 hours.

Modifications based on current health and safety protocols may be applied to this shore excursion.