



Excursions in Kusadasi

Ephesus & the House of Virgin Mary

Adult: €65 (\$91), Child: €40 (\$56)

Duration: 3.5 hours

Drive through the colorful town of Kusadasi to reach Mt. Koressos. Situated in a small valley, 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 favors this belief and the site has been officially sanctioned by the Vatican for pilgrimage. Continue on to Ancient Ephesus accompanied by your guide 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 and just outside Ephesus, view the Basilica of St. John, which was erected over his grave in the 6th century A.D. by Emperor Justinian. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi or get a cultural taste of Turkey by enjoying an exhibition of oriental carpets, jewelry or leather goods. *Tour not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties.*

Ancient Ephesus

Adult: €60 (\$84) Child: €37 (\$52)

Duration: 3 hours

Drive through the colorful 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 to 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, which is 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 A.D. by Emperor Justinian. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi or get a cultural taste of Turkey by enjoying an exhibition of oriental carpets, jewelry or leather goods. *Excursion not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties.*

Ancient Ephesus and the Terrace Houses

Adult: €65 (\$91) Child: €40 (\$56)

Duration: 4 hours

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 to 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, which is still noted for its remarkable acoustics, and the great Temple of Hadrian.

Opposite of Hadrian's Temple, at the foot of Bulbul hill and the archaeological site, lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses. Here you will find the residences of the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus. The oldest unearthed houses date to the 1st century B.C., were two-storied and evidence suggests that they even had heating, as well as, hot and cold water.

The excursion comes to a close at the vibrant Covered Bazaar in Kusadasi where you will have the opportunity to shop and bargain for local goods.

Excursions in Santorini

Oia Village

Adult: €57 (\$80) Child: €34 (\$48)

Duration: 3 hours

Driving along the road you will have the unique opportunity to admire the panoramic view of the Aegean Sea and the neighboring islands. The various layers of lava can be seen on the face of the rock, 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. Explore the village walking along the cobble-stone streets and the white washed houses with blue shutters. Your coach will bring you back to the port of Athinios, where you will embark on your tender boat. *It will be possible to remain in Fira and reach the port by cable car. Passengers will have to purchase the ticket at the cable car station.*

Cruise to Santorini's Islands and Volcanoes

Adult: €57 (\$80) Child: €34 (\$48)

Duration: 3 hours

Enjoy a motorboat 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 color of lava. Take a walk to the top of the volcanic island where sulphur is spewed into the air by 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 caique enters the narrows of the two lava islets, Palea and Nea Kameni, the color of the water changes from dark blue to sulphur green. In the distance, admire the breathtaking sight of Fira 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. Your excursion will end in Fira where your guide will show you the way to the cable car and you will make your own way back to the ship. *Excursion available from April to September, subject to weather conditions. Passengers should bring a swimsuit and towel. Please note that the water at the hot springs is reddish brown and may stain light colored swimsuits.*

Off-the-Beaten-Track Safari Adventure

Adult: €57 (\$80) Child: €34 (\$48)

Duration: 3 hours

Depart the ship by tender boat for Athinios port, where you will meet the guide and begin your jeep safari. Start by heading for the Faros ("lighthouse") at Akotiri, the most southern point of the island, for a quick photo stop. Then move on Vlychada Beach and the village of Vlychada, where all the local fishing boats are moored, for another photo opportunity. Then head to Perissa Beach, where the black sand is a gorgeous backdrop for a series of lively bars lining the beachfront. Here you'll have the opportunity to stop and enjoy refreshments in one of the many cafés, or walk around and stretch your legs before getting back into the jeeps. Continue on to the highest point of the island, Profitis Elias, where you'll enjoy the most amazing and dramatic panoramic view of the surrounding island. Head down the mountain and drive through the small sleepy village of Exo Gonia. Then continue to Kamari beach, a former fishing village that is now a hub of activity and a popular destination for tourists from all over the world, filled with hotels, restaurants and colorful shops. The last stop will be the lovely village of Monolithos, quieter and more sleepy than Kamari, but no less beautiful. Finish your safari tour at Fira Town, where you'll leave the jeeps behind and follow your guide up to the Metropolis Church of Fira town and return to the port by cable car.

Akrotiri Village Excavations

Adult: €57 (\$80) Child: €34 (\$48)

Duration: 4 hours

The people who lived on prehistoric Santorini called the island "Strongyle" (round). In 1650 BC the massive Thira volcano erupted, sinking the center of Strongyle and leaving behind an incredible caldera. You will marvel at its towering cliffs as tender boats take you to the port at Athinios, where our air conditioned bus waits to take you to Santorini's most significant archeological site, the village of Akrotiri.

From Athinios, we will drive south. Stop at the ruins of the island's famous windmill for photos, and to enjoy the incredible panoramic view. We leave the windmill for Akrotiri, where you'll have a chance to explore this ancient village. Marvel at the remnants of the ancient houses, shops and workshops that surrounded the village square thousands of years ago. Akrotiri was once a bustling town, but its inhabitants abandoned it before the Thira eruption, a mystery archeologists and historians are still trying to solve. The ash from the volcano buried the city, preserving many of its structures and some of its incredible frescoes.

After Akrotiri we'll drive to Fira, the capital of Santorini and its largest town, where we'll visit the Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral, also known as the Church of Ypapantis, famed for its elegant construction and its beautiful frescoes, which were painted by Santorini artist Christoforos Assimis. After our visit to the cathedral, you may stay in Fira to shop and enjoy a coffee or a snack, or you may take the Santorini Cable Car to the port below, an incredible descent of more than 200 meters toward the deep blue waters of the caldera. Our tender boats will be ready, once you disembark from the cable car, to return you to the ship.

Excursions in Crete

Elounda & Spinalonga

Adult: €57 (\$80) Child: €34 (\$48)

Duration: 4.5 hours

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. We leave Spinalonga for a small nearby bay to swim in its turquoise waters and enjoy a barbecue on the beach.

A Delectable Day in Crete

Adult: €53 (\$74) Child: €31 (\$43)

Duration: 5 hours

From Agios Nikolaos we drive to Elounda, a quiet resort on the beautiful Bay of Elounda. It is an unforgettable beauty, famed throughout the Aegean for its gorgeous green hills, its sugar-sand beaches and its pristine, inviting sea.

As we leave Elounda for lovely Kritsa enjoy an incredible view of the Bay of Elounda and spectacular Mirabello Bay. 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 2,000 square meter local olive farm we particularly love. Olive oil, wine and raki, the traditional drink of Crete, are produced here utilizing methods from the early 20th century. On arrival you will be welcomed with a glass of raki and a snack of traditional Cretan meze accompanied by Cretan music and folk dances.

Afterward, return to picturesque Agios Nikolaos, home to many charming cafes and restaurants. The city's most famous landmark is a small lake at the foot of a cliff known as "Voulismeni," where the goddess, Athena, is said to have bathed.

Knossos Palace & Cosmopolitan Heraklion

Adult: €53 (\$74) Child: €31 (\$43)

Duration: 5 hours

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 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.

Jeep Safari

Adult: €107 (\$137) Child: €65 (\$83)

Duration: Full Day

This tour will give you the opportunity to discover the wild Cretan landscape, meet the locals, enjoy typical Cretan villages, and to have fun as a team hunting for treasure. In every jeep there will be a team of 4 people that will be given printed material and allegoric maps. During stops on route you will have to use your imagination to search for hidden trails that represent points. The faster the trails are discovered the better your team will fare.

The top three winners will receive, respectively, gold, silver and bronze medals at a small ceremony during dinner in the evening.

River Trekking

Adult: €71 (\$91) Child: €43 (\$55)

Duration: 3 to 4 hours

The amazing Richtis Gorge is located between Agios Nikolaos and Sitia, in northeastern Crete. 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 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.

Excursions in Rhodes & Symi

Rhodes & Lindos Combined

Adult: €59 (\$83) Child: €36 (\$50)

Duration: 3 hours

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 motor 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 Diagoras Stadium. Afterwards your motor 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 once lived the knights and their attendants. View the Palace of the Knights, continue your walk down Chevaliers Road to the Marine Gate and return back to the ship. A short visit to a ceramic factory is included. *The journey from Rhodes to Lindos is approximately 50 min. Tour not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties.*

Old City & Philerimos

Adult: €59 (\$83) Child: €36 (\$50)

Duration: 4 hours

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 façades. 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 before you return to the ship.

Rhodes Medieval Walking Tour

Adult: €33 (\$46) Child: €20 (\$28)

Duration: 3 hours

Walking along the paved Street of the Knights, one of the best preserved medieval arteries, you will come across the residences of people 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 visit 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, and the Church of Our Lady of the Castle, which has guarded this area 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.

Transfer to Tsampika Beach *(This optional excursion is sold only on the boat)*

Adult: €20 (\$28) Child: €15 (\$21)

Authentic Symi Feast

Adult: €39/\$50 Child: €17/\$22

Duration: 4 hours

Let us take you for a delicious barbecue and a refreshing swim on the unspoiled, uninhabited island of Nimos just north of Symi. Known as Ymos to the ancient Greeks, today the island is an untouched natural wonderland and a protected archeological site. We'll sail in traditional boats, "caici" from Symi harbor to Nimos, where we'll swim in its pristine blue waters and enjoy a festive beach barbecue. Please note the minimum number of passengers for this excursion is 30, maximum 60.

Excursions in Chios & Mykonos

Anavatos, Nea Moni & Chios Town

Adult: €45 (\$57) Child: €20 (\$28)

Duration: 4 hours

We leave the port of Chios and climb the foothills of Mount Provatas to the center of the island to tour the Nea Moni Monastery, one of the most famous structures of the Byzantine period. See the cistern, still intact from the 11th century and the main church's catholicon, which is decorated with spectacular mosaics thought by some to be the pinnacle of this art form.

Nea Moni was founded by Byzantine emperor Constantine IX Monomachos in the middle of the 11th century and was, for many centuries, the religious center of Chios until its near-destruction in the 19th century. In 1822, during the Greek War for Independence, many Chians took refuge in the monastery, where they were ultimately slaughtered. Later, in 1881, an earthquake brought about the collapse of the dome, the bell tower, and the destruction of many mosaics.

The "ghost town" of Anavantos is a national monument in honor of the Chians who lost their lives in 1822. Built into a hillside 450 meters above the sea, the exterior walls of many of its 400 houses are part of its perimeter fortification. Within the walls, its narrow structures are an architectural marvel of grey stone with flat wooden roofs, low doors, tiny arched windows and wooden terraces. Following our tour of Anavantos we will enjoy a coffee break at a small cafe in the village before our return to Chios harbour.

Best of Chios Town & Spoon Sweet Citrus

Adult: €45 (\$57) Child: €20 (\$28)

Duration: 4 hours

Chios Town has always been the capital of Chios and the island's commercial and cultural center. Its castle, built by the Genoese during their occupation of the island, between the 12th and 14th centuries – looks out toward the harbor. Our tour takes you on a walk through the narrow streets of the fortress, past the old Turkish graveyard and the mosque. We will also visit the Giustiniani Museum, the former home of the island's governors, where you'll find 14th century frescoes and artifacts. Our tour takes you through the central square of Chios Town and through its public gardens. From there we stroll down the town's main market street, past the cathedral and the Korais Library.

We return to the harbor and drive north for a short photo stop at the famous windmills of Chios. We then journey to Daskalopetra (Teacher's Stone) which, according to local legend, is where Homer narrated his

poems and taught his students – Chios is one of seven locations claiming to be the birthplace of the legendary blind poet of antiquity.

We drive from Daskalopetra toward the orange and lemon plantations approximately seven kilometres south of Chios Town, to the village of Kambos, the island's center for citrus production. The two-storied mansions of Kambos, which are distinctive for their high, frescoed ceilings, large windows and expansive verandas, were built among the plantations by the Genoese and wealthy Chians of the period.

The Xydas family operates a small cafe and citrus museum on one of these grand estates. Visitors to the museum can study the history of the people of Kambos and see authentic tools used in the cultivation of the areas lemon and orange trees. After your visit to the museum, enjoy a locally-made spoon sweet in the courtyard of the estate.

Mesta Anavatos

Adult: €45 (\$57) Child: €20 (\$28)

Duration: 4 hours

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 built side-by-side, 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 intentionally planned and built as a maze, in order to prevent the pirate raiding parties from easily reaching the most important buildings located in the center of the village. The oldest monument of Mesta is the church of Palaios Taxiarchis in the north-west section. 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 wall paintings can be seen, although most of them have been covered with plaster. The iconostasis of the church is 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 outcrop with sides so steep it can only be approached from one point. The natural defenses of the site suggest that 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 *(This optional excursion is sold only on the boat)*

Adult: €15 (\$21) Child: €11 (\$14)

Walking Tour & Myconian Feast

Adult: €36 (\$50) Child: €17 (\$24)

Duration: 3.5 hours

This delightful excursion takes you up close on foot to the wonders of Mykonos Town. We'll start with a stroll along its narrow cobbled streets, past chic boutiques and white-washed churches and elegant cafes, until we arrive at Kastro, home of the famous Paraportiani Church. Next, we will visit the Folklore Museum*, found in an old two-story captain's house containing interesting costumes, furniture and household items typically found in Myconian homes during the late 19th and early 20th centuries alongside jewelry and textiles. While in Kastro, we will also visit the smaller chapels of Paraportiani.

Afterward, walk from Kastro to Alefkhandra. Alefkhandra, also known as "Little Venice," is a charming corner of Mykonos Town. See the homes and wooden balconies of wealthy merchants and sea captains, built in the 18th century, evoking the atmosphere along the canals of Venice. From here we will walk to Alefkhandra's windmills for a magnificent sunset and one of the best spots to take photos on this splendid island.

Your stroll through the quaint streets of Chora will bring you to a local tavern, where you are welcome to savor the tastes and aromas of genuine Greek cuisine during a grand Myconian feast.

*In the event that the Folklore Museum is closed, we will visit the Aegean Maritime Museum, which displays scale models of various rowing boats, sailing vessels and steam-powered ships from pre-history through the 20th century.

Myconian Countryside Tour with Hora & Little Venice

Adult: €41 (\$57) Child: €26 (\$36)

Duration: 4 hours.

Set off from Chora by motor coach with your tour guide. Travel south to the leeward beach of Ornos, a picturesque fishing harbor and then on to the small beach of Agia Anna and Kalafatis beach. During the trip back to Chora, you will visit the traditional village of Ano Mera and the monastery of Panagia Tourliani, founded in 1542. The village square is perfect spot for a short break and picture stop.

Returning to Chora you will stop at Paraportiani and the Mykonos Folklore Museum, housed in an old two-story merchant baron's house.

Afterward, continue towards the "Little Venice" of Mykonos, Alefkandra, with its windmills and beautiful sunsets.