



SHORE EXCURSIONS

7
nights

STAR FLYER
Northern Cyclades



Sat	Piraeus (port of Athens), Greece
Sun	At sea
Mon	Morning sailing through Samos Strait Kusadasi, Turkey (optional tour Ephesus)
Tue	Patmos, Greece
Wed	Amorgos, Greece
Thu	Mykonos, Greece
Fri	Spetses, Greece
Sat	Piraeus (port of Athens), Greece

What you need to know before booking your shore excursion:

- All our tours are offered with English speaking guides.
- The length of the tours and time spent on the sites is given as an indication as it may vary depending on weather, sea and traffic conditions and on the group's pace.
- The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication. Passengers should be fit and active to join tours which include hiking, biking, snorkelling, boating, or similar activities.

How you can book your shore excursions:

- You can book shore excursions onboard, using our "sign-up lists" available at the library.
- In order to provide the best service and to avoid disappointments, please book your shore excursions as early as possible: places are limited and there is a booking deadline for each port.
- A minimum number of participants is required for tours; if the required number is not attained, the tour may be cancelled.

Important notes:

- Departure times of the tour are mentioned on the daily program of each port.
- The Captain reserves the right to alter the itinerary in order to suit wind, weather and local conditions.
- Cancellation and changes are possible until the booking deadline. After the booking deadline, 100 % cancellation fees will be charged.
- All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However, Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes, which will be relayed to passengers during the Cruise Director's onboard information sessions. Last updated tour descriptions are available in a file at the library.

Date of last update: 15th of February 2023

KUSADASI, TURKEY

In the Hellenistic Era the resort town of Kusadasi, formerly known as Neopolis, was an outpost of the larger city of Ephesus and a minor port used by merchant ships plying their trade along the Aegean coast. However, its importance increased when Ephesus harbour became silted up, causing malaria and many deaths amongst its inhabitants. During the Middle Ages when Venetians and Genoese began trading along the coast the port was renamed "Scala Nuova" or new port. Kusadasi was brought into the Ottoman Empire by Mehmet I in 1413, and much of the city remains, including the city walls, date from this period. Nowadays with several new hotels, a marina and port, Kusadasi's major activity is tourism. Nevertheless, it retains a charming "small town" atmosphere, and you will enjoy strolling down the narrow walkways, exploring the local marketplace and seeing the shopkeepers playing backgammon and calling out to each other from across the street.

KUSADASI - Ephesus and Terrace Houses

Duration: 03:45 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned minibus

Price: 69 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 12 participants

Ephesus, which dates back to 3000BC, was one of the most important centres of the ancient world and is certainly the best preserved. The port city of Ephesus was the point of departure for the famous royal highway that led through Sardis into Lydia. Because of its strategic position, Ephesus developed into an important political and economic centre, and became the capital city of the Roman province of Asia. The remains of this important Ionian city are miraculously still standing today and bear witness to its glorious past. The well preserved ruins include the Theatre, the Hadrian Gate, the Celsius Library, Curetes Street, the Fountain of Trajan and the Odeon.

Opposite the Temple of Hadrian on the slopes of Bulbul Mountain you can see terraced houses, the roof of one house forming the terrace of the house above it. These dwellings were also known as the "Houses of the rich" as they are finely decorated with mosaics and frescoes and had heating and hot and cold water. Built in the period of Augustus, they continued to be inhabited until the 7th century, albeit in a modified form. Two of the houses have been totally restored.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility concerns, it involves extended walking / standing on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and steps to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

KUSADASI - Ephesus & the Virgin Mary's house

Duration: 04:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned minibus

Price: 69 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 12 participants

Ephesus was the "First and greatest metropolis of Asia". The city dates back to 3000BC and in its heyday was the Roman capital of Asia Minor with a population of a quarter of a million. The remains of this important Ionian city bear witness to its glorious past. The well-preserved ruins include a theatre, the Hadrian Gate, the Celsius Library, Curetes Street (one of the 3 main streets) the Fountain of Trajan and the Odeon (used for poetry readings and prize giving ceremonies).

Ephesus became one of the most important cities in early Christianity. Six years after the death of Christ it was visited by the Virgin Mary and Saint John, and the house where Mary is said to have spent her last days is situated at the top of "Bulbul" mountain, 9 km distance from the town. The building you will see on site is a church dating from the 7th century.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility concerns, it involves extended walking / standing on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and steps to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. Inside the house of the Virgin Mary no photos are allowed, and appropriate dress is required (no shorts or skirts above the knees, shoulders must be covered).



KUSADASI - Cooking class in Şirince

Duration: 04:15 approx.

Price: 85 €

Min 12 / Max 24 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned minibus

Activity level: easy

We will disembark in Kusadi and take the motorcoach to Şirince village.

You will have about half an hour to explore the village on your own and admire the 200-year-old Greco-Turkish houses before walking over to the cooking class (5 minutes) which is held in a typical village house. Turkish food is ranked as one of the top three world cuisines. It is incredibly varied and flavorful thanks to its unique historical heritage, a fusion of eastern and western traditions, using a wide variety of natural ingredients. Every region has made its own individual contribution to the colourful tapestry of Turkish cuisine. In Şirince, you will get the opportunity to cook deliciously flavorful, simple recipes using top quality ingredients and taste the fruit of your labour in a truly authentic setting. It is not so much an excursion but rather an unforgettable experience. After tasting the food you have prepared, you will be offered a choice of Turkish tea or coffee.

Please note: Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. Driving time between Kusadasi and Şirince takes approx. 30 minutes (each way).

PATMOS, GREECE

Known as the "Jerusalem of the Aegean", life on Patmos seems to revolve around its religious heritage. The island was home to the Apostle Saint John while in exile from Rome. It is here that he wrote the Book of Revelation. Patmos consists of three peaks connected by two isthmuses with a long, narrow coastline and many small bays. The main port Scala is traditionally Greek in style, with whitewashed houses, narrow lanes, flowered courtyards, tavernas and shops. The city of Chora is reputed to be a hideaway for the rich and famous (such as the Aga Khan). The Holy Monastery of the Theologian is situated on a hilltop and is a historical reminder of St John and his time on Patmos.

PATMOS - Saint John's monastery and the cave of the Revelation

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Price: 62 €

Min 20 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

The Sacred Island of Patmos lies at the northwestern extremity of the Dodecanese between the islands of Ikaria and Leros. An island of rare beauty captivating the visitor at first glance, with its picturesque harbor dominated by the imposing Monastery of St. John standing on the hill above.

Leaving Skala harbor, you take a drive to the impressive village of Chora. The Monastery of St. John is situated amongst gleaming white houses forming a startling contrast to its dark mass.

The Blessed Christodoulos, Servant of Christ, built the Monastery in 1088.

It has thick, high walls crowned all around with battlements and a total of eight chapels. The courtyard is laid with pebbles and decorated with arches through which one can see the intricately designed frescoes adorning the chapel entrance.

The museum houses a magnificent collection of jeweled chalices, crowns and crosses. In addition, there are old writings dating back as far as 1073, icons and religious paintings including an original El Greco. Many exhibits from the library, which unfortunately is not open to the public, can also be viewed in the museum.

The tour then continues with a visit to the Grotto of St. John, taking the form of a 17th century Monastery built around the cave where St. John lived for two years (95-97AD) during his writings of the Apocalypse. Inside one can see the stone which he is said to have used as a pillow. After this memorable tour, you will embark the coach for the short ride back to the port.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility concerns, it involves extended walking on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and approx. 100 steps to negotiate.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites (shoulders and knees must be covered). Taking photos inside the chapel and the cave is not allowed.



PATMOS - Patmos'art and history tour

Duration: 03:15 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 65 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 15 participants

Our main destination is the old village of Chora, the island's capital, which stands high on the hilltop looking down over the port of Skala. From here we will have the opportunity to photograph the breathtaking panoramic view, learn a little about the island's historical background and discover the stunning architecture of houses dating from the fifteen to eighteen hundreds. After a short walk through the winding cobbled streets, we arrive at the House of Simandiris. Here we will have the unique experience of seeing the interior of a traditional Patmian house along with antique furniture, embroidery and paintings collected over 8 generations of the Simandiris family members. Just around the corner is the tiny Convent of Zoodochos Pigi built in 1607. On one side of the cobbled courtyard is the chapel, where we discover an array of recently restored 17th century frescoes, the timeless art of the icon along with a beautifully carved icon wall. On the other side is a small gift shop where one can purchase handicrafts made by the nuns.

We will continue by foot through a labyrinth of atmospheric lanes winding their way past the foot of the Monastery of St. John to the Mansion of Nikolaidis. This historical homestead has recently been restored under the supervision of the Greek Ministry of Culture to protect Byzantine Antiquities. After the fifteen hundreds Patmos enjoyed an influx of wealthy ship owners and merchants who built large luxurious houses displaying their powerful class and allowing them protection against numerous pirate attacks.

The Nikolaidis Mansion, built in the seventeenth hundreds, is a wonderful example of these grand houses – an excellent exhibition showing not only the islander's way of life but also a varied collection of local archeological finds. On the ground floor we find storerooms for foodstuffs, a cooking area with its original oven, water tanks for the collection of rainwater and its own private chapel named after St. Nickolas.

Three staircases lead to the 2nd floor where we find verandas, the formal reception room and the sleeping area, along with a magnificent ambataros (a separating wooden partition), decorated with traditional folk painting. The ambataros is a grand status symbol of that time.

Before returning to the port of Skala we conclude our tour with refreshments in a beautiful environment with a spectacular view. A bit of shopping in Chora is also an option!

Please note: Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites (shoulders and knees must be covered).

AMORGOS, GREECE

Situated in the eastern Cyclades close to the Dodecanese, Amorgos is a small peaceful island of only 121 square kilometres, with about 1650 inhabitants. The general atmosphere is one of great serenity and attractions include beautiful beaches, crystal clear waters, whitewashed houses, windmills and a Venetian castle. In recent years the island has become more popular as a holiday destination, especially since the Luc Besson movie "The Big Blue" was filmed there.

The most notable landmark on the island is the monastery of Panagia Hosviotissa, clinging to the cliff side some 300 metres above sea level. The monastery was founded by the Byzantine Emperor Alexios Komnenos. It was built to house a 9th century religious icon of the Virgin Mary. The icon, which is on public display inside the monastery, was said to have arrived mysteriously on the seashore aboard an unmanned boat coming from Palestine.

The capital of Amorgos is Chora, situated at the centre of the island. Here you will find wonderful examples of Cycladic architecture, picturesque churches and narrow cobbled paths leading to a Venetian fortress. Despite its small size, Amorgos has two ports: Katapola in the southwest, full of narrow little streets, windmills, and blue and white painted houses and Aegiali a smaller harbour in the northeast.



AMORGOS - Hozoviotissa Monastery & Chora

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Transportation: motorcoach

Price: 59 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 15 / Max 60 participants

The motor coach will be waiting for you at the port, ready to set off for Panagia of Hozoviotissa, the second oldest monastery in Greece (built 1017). It was commissioned by the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenus to house a 9th century icon of the Virgin Mary, patron saint of the island. The icon arrived mysteriously on the seashore aboard an unmanned boat coming from the Holy Land. Initially the monastery was to be built by the shore, near to where the icon had been found. However, every day when the builders returned to the site to carry on working they found that the previous day's labour had been mysteriously knocked down. After a few days the master mason lost his tool bag which was found hanging from a nail on the cliff above. They believed that this was a miraculous sign from the Virgin Mary indicating that the monastery should be built high up on the cliff face. The builders took the Virgin Mary's message very much to heart; the monastery is literally hanging off the cliff face 300 metres above sea level, directly below the point where the icon came ashore.

Before climbing up to the monastery there will be a short photo stop.

We will leave the monastery and proceed to CHORA the medieval capital of Amorgos. The village is situated on top of a hill some 400m above sea level and is dominated by a 13TH Century Venetian castle, the Kastro. Chora is the idyllic picture- perfect Greek village of your imagination: windmills, early Christian and Byzantine churches, dazzling white houses and winding stone paths, it's all there. We will walk up to a plateau offering panoramic views where you will be served rakomelo (Raki with honey and spices) and loukoumades (local sweets). We will then make our way down to Loza square.

After an orientation walk you can relax in a café under the shadow of the huge eucalyptus trees. You will have some time for sightseeing on your own. You can go up to the castle if you wish or take a look at the archaeological collection on display at Gavras House, a 16th century Venetian style building once the home of a wealthy merchant family. The exhibits include objects from the Bronze Age to the end of the Classical period and prehistoric finds as well as Scholar Ioannides private collection of antiquities. After the visit to Chora, we will return to port.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with mobility concerns, it involves extended walking on cobblestone and uneven surfaces with inclines and many steps.

Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. A proper attire is required when visiting religious sites (no bare shoulders or shorts are allowed, men should wear long trousers and women should not wear trousers).

The drive to the Monastery takes 20 minutes and then there is a 15-minute walk (incl. 200 steps) to the building itself. Photos are not allowed inside the church. In Chora, there will be no inside visit, just free time to explore the village.

In Chora, the pick-up point after the visit will be different than the drop-off point. Please follow attentively the instructions of the tour guide.

MYKONOS, GREECE

The reason for Mykonos's enduring popularity is immediately apparent.

A charming little harbor, lined with cafés and colorful fishing boats, greets the eye and provides a scenic back drop for the maze of narrow cobble stoned streets that lies behind. On either side of the streets, you will find picturesque, whitewashed houses, local handicraft shops, boutiques, waterfront cafés and of course the island's mascot: the pelican. Don't be surprised if you encounter one of them wandering around town alongside of you.

Two of the best places to visit are Little Venice, located on the south-western side of town, with its waterfront cafés and spectacular views of the sunset, and the famous Windmills (adjacent to Little Venice on Kato Myli Hill), one of the landmarks of Mykonos. Take the time to explore this captivating island; you won't have to venture very far before you come across beautiful beaches and coves with azure blue water lapping on the shore.

Be warned, this island casts a spell on all who visit her and your first trip to Mykonos will certainly not be your last!



MYKONOS - Delos

Duration: 03:30 approx.

Price: 75 €

Min 10 participants

Transportation: boat (ferry), then walking tour

Activity level: moderate

The Cyclades were so called because they formed a Kiklo, or rough circle, around the sacred island of Delos. Notwithstanding its small size Delos played an important role in antiquity for both commercial and religious reasons and is nowadays considered to be one of the most important mythological, historical and archaeological sites in Greece.

The sanctuary dedicated to Apollo on this, the island of his birth, was a magnet for pilgrims and brought wealth to Delos, making it one of the most important religious sites in the Greek world. These days Delos is a desolate windswept island; a 2001 census put the number of inhabitants at 14. Only tourists now flock to the shrines and temples, but a sense of awe and religious fervor still pervades the ruins.

The modern quay leads directly to the archaeological site. You will walk into the heart of the sanctuary where you will see the Temple of Apollo, the sacred lake (now dried up) which witnessed the birth of Apollo and the unique marble lions of Delos. You will also visit impressive Hellenistic mansions with superb mosaics decorating the floors and walls and, time permitting, the museum.

Please note: We recommend wearing comfortable walking shoes and weather-appropriate clothes and bringing a hat a bottle of water. There is some uphill walk involved during the tour which passengers can avoid in agreement with their guide.

The use of cameras and video-cameras is free of charge in the site and the museum but flash, in the museum is prohibited.

Guiding is not allowed inside the museum.

After guiding and visits free time will be given till the departure time of the caique. Timing of the tour is subject to boat timetable.

Due to the ferry schedule, the tour of Delos is offered only when the ship arrives at 9:00 or earlier.

SPETSES, GREECE

Spetses is an island with a long naval tradition, famous for its significant contribution to the 1821 War of Independence. It was here that the revolutionary flag was raised on 3rd April 1821. On Poseidon Square near the harbour, a statue has been erected to honour the Greek War of Independence heroine Laskarina Bouboulina .

Laskarina, a wealthy 40 year old ship owner who inherited her second husband's trading business, espoused the cause of Independence with great fervour. This extraordinary woman, born in a prison in Constantinople, bought arms and ammunition at her own expense and used her own ships to bring them secretly to the island. She also took part in the naval blockade and capture of Monemvasia and Pylos. Her house, which is located nearby, has been converted into a Museum.

The Laskarina Bouboulina Museum contains many of her personal belongings and gives you a good sense of the heroic atmosphere of the period when sea captains from the islands of Hydra and Spetses converted a significant part of their commercial fleet into warships to support the Greek revolution. Considerable amounts of personal wealth were devoted to financing the cause and it is said that Boubilina sacrificed her own personal fortune "for the sake of my nation".

A visit to Spetses begins as soon as you step off the tender at Dapia, which means "fortified place"; you can still see canons protruding from the high walls. Nowadays it is the island's hub lined with cafés and shops, bustling with activity from morning to night.

Time at leisure (no tours in program)



PIRAEUS (ATHENS), GREECE

PIRAEUS (ATHENS) - Athens and Acropolis Museum (ending at the airport)

Drop off at airport: Price: 89 € Duration: 05:00 approx.
 Drop off in city center: Price 75 € Duration: 04:00 approx.
 Activity level: strenuous Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach
 Min 10 participants

This tour ends at Athens International Airport (ATH) and is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 15:30.

From the port of Piraeus you pass the charming yacht harbor of Zea, where the foundations of the dock dating from the 5th century BC are clearly visible. Next is the attractive Mikrolimanon waterfront lined with inviting al fresco fish restaurants. It is but a short drive into cosmopolitan Athens, a mixture of modern buildings and great monuments. You will pass by the Temple of Zeus, the Panathenaic Stadium, the Parliament at Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the National Academy, the University, Library and Hadrian's Arch, before you finally arrive at the New Acropolis Museum. This building, located only 300 meters southeast of the Rock of the Acropolis, was designed by Bernard Tschumi.

The museum was opened to the public in 2009 and nearly 4000 objects are exhibited on three levels with an area of 14.000 square meters. Exhibits include findings from the Acropolis archaeological site as well as artefacts from the Greek Bronze Age to Roman and Byzantine Greece.

For those returning to the ship, the tour ends in the center of Athens; the rest of the passengers will be transferred to the airport.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves considerable amount of walking over cobblestone, uneven surfaces and inclines.

We advise guests to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water. The use of cameras and video-cameras is forbidden in the museum. Museum has toilets, small souvenir shop, cafeteria and restaurant.

The order of the visits may vary. Traffic in Athens may affect the duration of the driving between the places.

The tour guide will leave the group when the coach leaves Athens in direction of the airport.

Star Clippers offers also the following transfer services (optional, upon reservation):✓ **Shared transfer to Athens Airport (ATH)**

Guests who have purchased a shared transfer cannot choose their pickup time. There will be one fixed departure from the port at about 09:00am, the arrival at the airport will be around 10:30 am. This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight leaves after 12:30 pm.

✓ **Private transfers to Athens Airport (ATH) / to hotels in Athens.**

Latest pick-up time from the pier will be at 10:00 am.

