



SHORE EXCURSIONS

7
nights

STAR FLYER
Sporades Highlights



Sat	Piraeus (port of Athens), Greece
Sun	At sea
Mon	Dikili, Turkey
Tue	Myrina Limnos, Greece
Wed	Skiathos, Greece
Thu	Skopelos, Greece
Fri	Poros, 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

DIKILI, TURKEY

Dikili is a sleepy little beach town, authentically Turkish. The harbour is lined with open air restaurants and shops selling local delicacies. Nearby Berama is well worth a visit especially for its two main monuments: the Acropolis perched at a height of 280m and the Asklepéion.

Pergamon

Duration: 04:30 approx.

Price: 69 €

Min 12 / Max 90 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Pick up from the pier of Dikili and will have short drive to ancient city of Pergamum. Board a cable-car to reach the Acropolis of Pergamum.

Initially a minor settlement during the earliest Archaic period, Pergamum became renowned after Philetairos, became an eminent personality after the fall of Lysimachus. For over a century, Pergamum was considered the centre of all cultural activities during the Hellenistic period. Travellers from all over the land knew about this great city and often journeyed over hundreds of kilometres to visit the beautiful and vibrant city. Pergamum witnessed the rise and fall of many rulers and during the rule of Eumenes the second, Pergamum became the richest city in the world after the spoils of war from Athens were brought to the city and used to fill the coffers of all rich men who lived there.

Art and science flourished in equal measure and some of the greatest artists of the land came from this great city.

After the Acropolis visit, descend to the coach parking and board the coach for a short drive to reach the Asclepion.

Visit one of the oldest therapy centre of the world. After the visit, you will drive back to our pier in Dikili.

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

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

Driving time from Dikili to Pergamum takes approx. 40 minutes (each way). There is a cable-car service between the coach parking of the site of the Acropolis and the site.

Ayvalik and Cunda island

Duration: 06:00 approx.

Price: 105 €

Min 10 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Lunch included

After a pleasant 45 minute drive through the countryside, dotted with pine trees and olive groves, you will reach the seaside town of Ayvalik.

During the Ottoman era, the town was mostly inhabited by Greek merchants and its Greek name is Kydonia.

This cultural melting pot including the former Greek residents and immigrants from the island of Crete, together with the Ottoman and modern Turkish inhabitants, has created a unique and richly flavour some cuisine using a wide variety of herbs, fresh vegetables, and olive oil. You will get the opportunity to sample some local specialties during a coffee shop stop on the way. The excursion continues with a short drive from Ayvalik to Cunda Island, which is connected to the mainland by a bridge. Here you will visit one of the Islands iconic landmarks, the Greek Orthodox cathedral which bears witness to the island's past. You will also see a windmill which has been converted into a library, holding the private collection of Necdet Kent, a diplomat who is said to have risked his life to save Turkish jews during the second world war.

Enjoy glorious views of the sea and the island itself and explore the picturesque village with its narrow streets and quaint old houses. There will be an Aegean style lunch at a local fish restaurant, and some leisure time to explore on your own before the 45-minute drive back to port.

Please note: This tour involves extended walking (approx. 2.5 km) on cobblestone and uneven surfaces.

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



water.

Driving time from Dikili to Ayvalik town takes approx. 45 minutes (each way).

MYRINA (LIMNOS), GREECE

According to the poet Hesiod, Zeus, the King of the Gods, threw Hephaestus (the Greek equivalent of the Roman God of Fire, Vulcan) off Mount Olympus, because he had come to the aid of his Mother Hera, who had incurred Zeus's wrath. Hephaestus fell for some time before landing on the island of Limnos, and the fall left him with a permanent limp. The story does not say whether he was restored to health by drinking the excellent red and white wines that are produced on the island, but they may well have helped to reconcile him to his fate!

The town of Myrina is dominated by the white ramparts of the Kastro, built in 1186, and even earlier ruins (some of the most ancient in Greece) are located in nearby Poliohni.

Lemnos at ease

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Price: 45 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 20 participants

The coach will leave the Port of Myrina for a scenic drive through the countryside to the town of Moudros. Moudros, the former capital of Lemnos, is the second biggest town on the island. During the ill-fated Dardanelles Campaign of the First World War, the town and its harbour were used as an Allied base. Hundreds of young men lost their lives and were buried in the Allied cemetery here.

You will have some free time to explore the seafront or just relax and soak up the atmosphere in one of the cafés.

The next stop is Kotsinas, a small fishing village situated on the north coast of Lemnos which in classical times was a commercial port belonging to the nearby town of Hephaistia.

Taverns line the seafront and on a hill above the village stands the church of Zoodochos Pigi (Life-Giving Spring) which is built above an underground well. Next to the church is a statue honouring the legendary heroine, Maroula. In 1478 Suleiman pasha besieged Kotsina, and when Maroula saw that her father had been struck down, instead of weeping and wailing, she grabbed his sword and carried on fighting thus saving the island from the Turkish invaders.

Afterwards we will return to Myrina town for a pleasant walk along the coast to admire the neo classical houses and the fortress.

You may then choose whether to return to the ship straightaway or enjoy some free time in Myrina and explore the town on your own.

Please note: Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat, sunscreen and a bottle of water. The order of visits may be changed.



SKIATHOS, GREECE

Skiathos is part of the Sporades archipelago. Its pine clad hills, coves and beaches lapped by a cobalt blue sea, make this fashionable Aegean island a place of great natural beauty. Skiathos town boasts a pretty harbour, filled with graceful yachts, and its narrow streets and sunlit waterfront are crowded with bars, restaurants and boutiques. In and around the walled town of Skiathos are many monasteries dating from the 17th to the 19th century.

Skiathos' beaches tour by boat

Duration: 04:30 approx.

Transportation: motorboat

Price: 59 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 30 / Max 70 participants

Leaving the port of Skiathos behind us, we will sail along the Eastern coast to reach our first stop – Lalaria beach situated on the northern part of the island and accessible only by boat. It is covered with grey pebbles and is famous for its crystal clear water and a huge arched rock forming a natural bridge between the beach and the sea.

After some leisure time on Lalaria we will get back on board and visit another beach, not too far away, called Castro. Above the beach you can see the remains of the old medieval city of Skiathos (1100-1600) which was once the island's capital.

You can either spend your time relaxing on the beach and swimming or take a walk uphill and explore the old town (15 minutes' walk) admiring the frescoes in the small Byzantine churches and soaking up the unique medieval atmosphere. If you climb to the summit you will be rewarded by breath-taking scenic views from the castle and get to take some wonderful photos.

From Castro beach we return to the port.

Please note: This tour is not suitable for guests with reduced mobility, back or neck issues and pregnant women.

The itinerary and the tour sequence may be changed depending on sea conditions. In case of adverse weather conditions and strong winds the beaches may not be accessible in which case with no prior notice these stops will be replaced by visits to Tsougria and Vromolimnos.

Guests are advised to wear your swimsuit under the clothes and to bring a hat, sunscreen, snorkeling equipment, a towel from the ship and water. On the boat guests are entitled to one soft drink free of charge.

Lalaria beach has no facilities (deckchairs sun umbrellas, restaurant), and pebbles instead of sand.

Castro beach has a stand where you can buy snacks and drinks.

In high season the beaches may be overcrowded. There are a limited number of deck chairs and sun umbrellas (these cost extra) but they are subject to availability.



SKOPELOS, GREECE

Skopelos is the largest of the Sporades islands and the capital of the archipelago. Its wealth is derived principally from the fine locally produced wine.

The "chora" or main town of Skopelos is considered by many to be one of the prettiest harborside towns in the Greek islands: the houses are built in tiers ascending the hillside and the port is lined with mulberry and plane trees.

Most of the town's tavernas and cafés are located on the waterfront; relax and enjoy traditional Greek refreshment as you watch the world go by. It is fun to wander down narrow cobblestone streets, discovering hidden courtyards filled with flowers and Byzantine churches, or just browse around the small craft shops and boutiques.

"Mamma Mia" island tour

Duration: 04:15 approx.

Transportation: minibus

Price: 45 €

Activity level: moderate

Min 15 participants

A coach will be waiting at the port to take you to the Northern part of the island, called Kastri, where you will visit the small church dedicated to St John the Baptist. Climb up the stone stairs, carved into the rock, and when you reach the top, you will be rewarded with stunning views of the archipelago.

This modest but picture-perfect chapel became well known following the filming of "Mamma Mia" in Skopelos in 2007 as it was the place that was chosen for Sophie's wedding. On the same spot, Donna (Meryl Streep) sings ABBA's famous hit "The Winner Takes It All" to Sam (Pierce Brosnan).

The tour continues to Kastani Beach, which is also featured in the film. The beach bar and the scene where the cast were all dancing on the jetty were filmed here, though the jetty was purpose built for the film and was dismantled afterwards. It was here that Tanya sang "Does your Mother Know", and Sophie and Sky were filmed singing "Lay all your love on me." It is also the back drop for Donna and the dads' farewell to Sophie and Sky where they sing "I have a dream".

You won't find Donna's bar, but there is a very nice privately-owned beach bar, where you can have a drink or go for a little swim.

On the way back to the port there will be a short stop at Agnondas beach, so you can catch a glimpse of Cape Amarandos.

This rocky peninsula with three isolated pine trees growing on it was also featured in the film.

Once you are back in Skopelos, you will have some free time to explore on your own or do some shopping before returning to the ship.

Please note: This tour is not recommended to guests with limited mobility since it involves extensive walking over cobblestone, uneven surfaces and there are 200 stone steps leading up to the chapel.

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

Due to the very narrow roads only small buses can be used. In peak season driving times can be longer.

The drive from the port to the chapel takes approx. 60 minutes.



POROS, GREECE

It is barely a hop, skip and a jump from the Argolid Peninsula to the island of Poros. The island is home to the Greek Naval Academy and in the morning visitors can enjoy the cadet's marching band. The views from the temple of Poseidon are hauntingly beautiful which may explain why the doomed orator Demosthenes chose to end his life here.

Epidaurus Theater & Museum

Duration: 03:00 approx.

Price: 65 €

Min 18 participants

Transportation: air-conditioned motorcoach

Activity level: moderate

Transfer by ship's tender to the port of Galatas on the Argolid Peninsula. Here you will meet your guide and board the coach for the short drive to Epidaurus. Epidaurus was the site of a shrine devoted to Aesculapius, the Greek God of Medicine. Patients would flock to the sanctuary seeking a cure for their ailments and Aesculapius would either effect a cure during their sleep or appear in a dream to the priests who would then treat the patient according to his instructions.

Apart from praying to be restored to health, Patients could indulge in thermal baths and hydrotherapy as well as "taking in a show"! Indeed, as soon as you arrive at the site you will walk through a beautiful grove to discover the famous theatre, one of the best-preserved monuments of the ancient world.

The theatre can seat 14.000 spectators and is famous for its acoustics. It is still in use today and modern visitors enjoy musical productions and performances of Greek drama there. You will have some time to wander around, so you can test the wonderful acoustics for yourself. The nearby museum houses fragments from the Asklepion sanctuary.

Please note: This involves extensive walking / standing (approx. 1.5 hours) over uneven surfaces. There is no uphill walking involved in this tour. Guests are advised to wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable walking shoes and to bring a hat and a bottle of water.

The drive to Epidaurus takes approx. 45 minutes each way.

ATHENS, GREECE

The earliest Athenians were of Ionian stock, arriving on the peninsula in about 2000 BC. Little is known of the early rulers, apart from the fact that they were kings. By the 7th century BC they had been superseded by Eupatrids, the aristocracy of the eleven noble families of Attica. The next development from aristocratic rule came with Solon, the "Father of Democracy", who initiated the idea of rule by the people, creating assemblies of ordinary citizens. Following Solon's democracy came the Age of the Tyrants, a system of rule largely established by Peisistratus in about 546 BC. The idea was to remove much of the power from the nobles and to favour merchants, farmers and ordinary people. Athens, particularly the Acropolis, became one of the chief religious centres in Greece and by 600 BC there were many temples, fragments of which are to be found in the Acropolis Museum. The year 450 BC saw the beginning of Pericles and his "Golden Age".

In 1832 Otto, a Bavarian prince descended from the Greek imperial dynasties of Komnenos and Laskaris through his ancestor the Bavarian Duke John II, became the first modern King of Greece. The new city of Athens was planned by the Greek architect Cleanthes and the German, Schaubert, around Otto's austere palace. Situated on a small promontory above the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers, the palace dominates Syntagma Square (Constitution Square).

From Syntagma Square, Amalia avenue, (named after Otto's Queen Consort), leads past the National Garden and the Zappion Park to Hadrian's Arch. Behind the park the stadium built for the first modern Olympic Games held in 1896 occupies the same site as that used in ancient times.

The mountainous region of Attica and Athens, though barren and infertile, enjoys a superb climate.



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

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

