



# SHORE EXCURSIONS

**8**

nights

**STAR CLIPPER****Sicily & Greece** (*Athens to Malta - 18-October-2025*)

|            |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Sat</b> | <b>Piraeus (Athens), Greece</b> |
| Sun        | Nafplio, Greece                 |
| Mon        | Monemvasia, Greece              |
| Tue        | Pilos, Greece                   |
| Wed        | at sea                          |
| Thu        | Taormina - Sicily, Italy        |
| Fri        | Syracuse - Sicily, Italy        |
| Sat        | Gozo Island, Malta              |
| <b>Sun</b> | <b>Valletta, Malta</b>          |

**What you need to know before booking your shore excursion:**

- All our excursions are led by English-speaking guides. A second language may be used, depending on the number of non-English-speaking passengers.
- 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.

**How you can book your shore excursions:**

- Shore excursions can be booked onboard, using the "sign-up lists" available at the Library.
- The price of the excursion will be added to your on-board account.
- Transfers and debark tours ending at the airport can also be pre-paid prior to your cruise.
- 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.
- Booking deadlines will be indicated on the Daily Program and on the booking forms.
- Cancellation and changes are possible until the booking deadline. After the booking deadline, 100% cancellation fees will be charged.
- A minimum number of participants is required for each tour; if the required number is not attained, the tour may be cancelled.

**Important notes:**

- Departure times of the tour are mentioned in the Daily Program of each port. Excursions are operated with a ticketless system.
- All information concerning excursions is correct at the time of printing. However, Star Clippers reserves the right to make changes. The latest updated tour descriptions are available onboard the ship in a file at the Library and on Star Clippers' website (you can download the file using the QR code).



Date of last update: 18<sup>th</sup> of January 2025

## NAFPLIO - Ancient Mycenae



**3:30**



**75 €**



moderate to  
strenuous



motorcoach

Min 20 / Max -  
participants

History & Culture | Unesco

Visit the impressive ruins of Mycenae, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy a short scenic drive from Nafplio harbour to Mycenae through the beautiful orange and lemon groves of the Argolis.

First stop is the stunning Beehive Tomb on the Panagitsa hill at Mycenae. Schliemann, the famous amateur archaeologist who discovered both Troy and Mycenae, named the site the Tomb of Agamemnon or Treasury of Atreus because he believed it must have been the final resting place of Agamemnon, leader of the Greeks during the Trojan War. The tomb was built during the Bronze Age, around 1250 BC, and is the most impressive of the Mycenaean Tholos tombs that have survived. The tour continues to the citadel of ancient Mycenae on the spur of Mount Zara.

Follow the guide up the ramp of Ancient Mycenae and pass under the Lion's Gate, the main entrance to the Bronze Age citadel, Mycenae's magical castle! Everything here is reminiscent of Homer's Iliad: the Circle of Tombs, where Schliemann discovered the famous Golden Mask of Agamemnon, the Cyclopean Walls, the foundations of the palace where Agamemnon once lived, the Postern Gate and the entrance to the underground cistern. After the visit you will return to the picturesque harbour of Nafplio.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on uneven ground, with a lot of uphill walking and steps.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

The journey from Nafplio to Mycenae takes approximately 30 minutes each way.

## MONEMVASIA - Monemvasia and Liotrivi Mansion: history, local traditions and flavours



**4:00**



**105 €**



moderate



minibus

Min 20 / Max 64  
participants



tasting

History & Culture | Food & Wine

A short drive will take you to the castle of Monemvasia. Begin your visit by passing through the only gate in the old town (Monemvasia's name comes from Moni, meaning 'single', and Emvasia, meaning 'entrance') and then discover the main sites of the early medieval town. Walk through the narrow, picturesque streets within the castle walls, so narrow that in many places only two people can walk side by side. Admire old stone houses and ancient Byzantine churches, many of which are in ruins. After the orientation tour, enjoy some free time before boarding the bus to reach Liotrivi Estate.

Liotrivi Estate is a fully restored manor house set amidst extensive olive groves. Its history begins in the Byzantine years as a winery producing the popular Malvasia wine. In the 19th century it became the summer residence of the important Ritsos family, then in 1929 it was transformed into a traditional olive press, which served the area until 1967. Today it is a unique cultural monument and a centre of activities that has preserved its historical identity.

Enjoy a guided tour of the Liotrivi Historic Mansion and learn about the traditions, history and culture of this unique place. The tour includes a guided tour of the olive grove - where you will learn about the cultivation of the olive tree - and a visit to the old olive oil mill, where you will learn about the traditional method of extra virgin olive oil production. Watch the expert chef knead and bake the traditional bread of the day in the wood-fired oven

Taste local products in the open air of the estate, under the olive trees. The snacks will be accompanied by local Monemvasia wines from the Mansion's collection. You will also have the opportunity to sample other local products such as honey, homemade jams and pastries, while learning their special traditional recipes.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on uneven ground, with steps and inclines to negotiate in the old town, while at Liotrivi Mansion there is limited walking on flat surface.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

The drive from Monemvasia to the Liotrivi Estate takes approximately 30 minutes.

## MONEMVASIA - Monemvasia Castle



**2:30**



**49 €**



*moderate*



*shuttle bus,  
walking tour*

*Min 15 / Max 48  
participants*

### History & Culture

Monemvasia is sometimes referred to as the "Gibraltar of the East". The city was fortified in the 13th century under Byzantine rule and established as a successful trading port. The Pope ruled the city for a short period from 1460-1464 before the Venetians took over. During the Venetian rule the city flourished, the population reached 30,000 and many houses and churches were built. Later the city fell to the Turks who ruled for almost 300 years.

Your tour begins with a short shuttle bus ride to the entrance of the fortified lower town.

Walk through the narrow streets within the walls, so narrow that in many places only two people can walk side by side. You will see the ruins of houses and Byzantine churches - most in ruins, with the fortunate exception of the Church of Christ Elkomenos. This cathedral dates back to the 13th century, but shows alterations made during the Venetian occupation of Monemvasia.

Enjoy some free time to explore the medieval town before returning to the port.

Please note: The transfer from the port to the city centre (and back) is by shuttle bus.

This tour involves extensive walking (2 hours) over cobbled and uneven surfaces with inclines and many steps to negotiate. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

## PILOS - Nestor's Palace & Methoni Fortress



**4:00**



**85 €**



*moderate*



*motorcoach*

*Min 20 / Max -  
participants*

### History & Culture

A coach awaits you at Pylos harbour for the 30-minute drive to the ruins of Nestor's Palace, built in the 13th century BC. King Nestor is mentioned in the Homeric epics as a wise old ruler who took part in the Trojan wars.

The palace was strategically located on the top of Ano Eglianos Hill, overlooking the coastline, and was surrounded by a fortified wall. Excavations have revealed some early remains dating from before 1300 BC, an Old Palace (1280 BC) and a New Palace (1250 BC).

The Palace of Nestor is considered to be the best preserved Mycenaean palace in Greece, although there are only a few remains at ground level. It was originally a two-storey building, decorated with frescoes, with facilities such as storerooms, workshops, baths, light wells, reception rooms and a sewage system. The buildings were almost completely destroyed by fire in the 12th century BC, but hundreds of clay tablets with inscriptions remained intact and were unearthed during excavations.

The tour continues with a visit to the fortress of Methoni on the southernmost tip of the western Peloponnese coast. This site has had a turbulent past, changing hands many times throughout its history. It was fortified as early as the 7th century BC and was used as a Byzantine fortress between 395 AD and 1204 AD. It then passed to the Venetians, who reinforced the fortifications in the 13th century, and was contested by the Turks and Venetians.

The Turks finally held the fortress until 1829, when they lost control of the Peloponnese during the Greek War of Independence. At the end of the visit you will reboard the coach for the short journey back to Pilos.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking and standing over cobbles and uneven surfaces.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

Estimated travel times: 30 minutes between Pilos and the ruins of Nestor's Palace; 30 minutes between Nestor's Palace and Methoni; 15 minutes between Methoni and Pilos.

### TAORMINA - Taormina and winery (with Greek Theater and lunch)


**7:30**

**135 €**

*moderate*

*motorcoach*
*Min 25 / Max 40  
participants*

*lunch & wine  
tasting*
*History & Culture | Food & Wine*

Situated on a natural terrace 200m above sea level, this picturesque town has many charming medieval features and a variety of interesting shops. Meet your guide at the pier and board a coach for a short drive through the town of Giardini Naxos. You will leave the coach at the car park and begin your guided walking tour of many of the town's highlights including the Greek Theatre (inside visit), the Cathedral, Palazzo Covaia and the Roman Odeon (all of these last sites are exterior views). You will also be able to stroll along Corso Umberto, the main shopping street in Taormina. After the guided tour you will have some free time to taste some local pastries, sit in a café and watch the people, browse in the shops or just walk around admiring the palaces, squares, staircases and narrow streets that give such charm to this delightful medieval town.

You will then return to the car park and board the coach for the journey south, leaving the motorway at Giarre and heading towards Mount Etna. The scenic route around the mountain takes you past the town of Giarre and the village of Santa Venerina, through orchards, vineyards and woodland.

Your next stop is the Gambino estate, where you will visit the cellar and winery and learn about the characteristics of Etna wines, which are shaped by unique geological and climatic conditions. You will also enjoy fantastic views over the fertile valley and the vine-covered fields that produce certified Etna wine. After the visit, you will be treated to a Sicilian brunch of local specialities and will be able to taste four different wines produced on the estate. Before returning to the pier, you will have the opportunity to purchase some wine from the estate shop.

Please note: This tour involves considerable walking over cobbles, uneven surfaces and inclines.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

The drive between Taormina and the winery takes approx. 50 minutes. The order of the visits is subject to change.

### TAORMINA - Mount Etna offroad adventure


**5:30**

**145 €**

*strenuous*

*4WD vehicle*
*Min 16 / Max 24  
participants*
*Active & Adventure | Nature*

Meet our guide drivers at the pier, board a 4WD vehicle and get ready for an off-road adventure on Mount Etna.

You will be driven towards the north side of Etna, passing through the villages of Piedimonte Etneo and Linguaglossa. We then set off on an off-road route through the pine forest of Bosco Ragabo to reach the lava cave of Grotta del Corruccio, which we visit by torchlight.

There will be a rest stop at a refuge with refreshments and snacks. Continue to the joy a comfort stop and a refreshment at an alpine refuge.

Then you will reach the seven inactive crater cones on Mount Sartorius (at 1800 m), formed during the 1865 eruption. Hike around the Mount Sartorius craters on the 1600m high trail to reach a panoramic viewpoint in a fascinating volcanic landscape. Due to the altitude, the vegetation is reluctant to take hold, but in sheltered areas you can see small birch groves that contrast with the black lava.

At the end of the walk, you will return to your 4WD vehicle and drive back to the pier.

Please note: This excursion involves off-road driving on rugged trails and winding roads and walking on uneven, slippery, uphill surfaces. This is a very active tour and is only recommended for guests in very good physical condition and it is not suitable for pregnant women or anyone with a medical condition (back, neck, etc.) that could be affected by bumpy roads. The 4WD vehicles are enclosed and can carry 4 passengers.

Dress for the weather (including a jumper or jacket as it can be windy and chilly), wear proper hiking shoes and bring a hat and water. Hard hats are provided for the walk through the caves.

The guide sits in one of the vehicles and provides explanations to the other participants other participants via a VHF radio connected to the other vehicles.

Snack at the hut consists of local biscuits and a coffee or cappuccino or chocolate or soft drink.

### SYRACUSE - Baroque Noto


**4:00**

**65 €**

*moderate*

*motorcoach*
*Min 20 / Max 35  
participants*

History & Culture | Unesco

After a 45-minute journey by air-conditioned coach, you will arrive in Noto, considered one of the most beautiful towns in Sicily. Totally destroyed by an earthquake in 1693 and rebuilt in the 18th century, it is a perfect example of Baroque architecture.

UNESCO has declared it a World Heritage Site and is funding the restoration of monuments damaged in the last earthquake in 1990.

On arrival in Noto, disembark from the coach and start your tour of the town on foot. Admire the imposing gate known as the Porta Nazionale, which leads to the main street where the most important monuments can be seen.

At the heart of the city is the 18th-century Cathedral, which is currently being restored after being damaged in the 1990 earthquake.

Other impressive buildings include the Town Hall, the Archbishop's Palace, the Palazzo Sant'Alfano, the Church of Santissimo Salvatore and the Palazzo Villadorata, all fine examples of typical Sicilian Baroque architecture from the early 18th century. At the end of the visit, you will have some free time to do some shopping or perhaps enjoy an ice cream at the famous Caffé Sicilia before returning to Siracusa.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking over cobbles and uneven ground with some steps.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. Appropriate attire is required when visiting religious sites (no bare shoulders or shorts allowed).

The journey time between Syracuse and Noto is approximately 45 minutes each way.

### SYRACUSE - Classical Syracuse: archeological park and Ortygia


**4:15**

**65 €**

*moderate to  
strenuous*

*motorcoach*
*Min 20 / Max 35  
participants*

History & Culture | Unesco

Meet your guide at the pier and board a coach for a 15-minute drive to the Archaeological Park of Neapolis, the most impressive legacy of the ancient Greek city of Syracuse.

During a guided walking tour you will see the main highlights of the site, including the remains of the Greek theatre, the Roman amphitheatre, the quarry of Paradise and the famous "Ear of Dionysius".

The quarries of Syracuse were excavated using slave labour and then used as prisons. The "Ear of Dionysius" refers to an ear-shaped cave with unusual acoustics. Legend has it that Dionysius, the Greek tyrant who ruled Syracuse, used to listen to the prisoners' conversations to find out if they were plotting against him.

The Amphitheatre is one of the largest and most complete theatres left by the ancient world. The ruins give an idea of this huge arena.

After the visit, return to the lively Ortygia (Syracuse's old town) and continue on foot to discover its outstanding Baroque architecture and charming alleys. Starting from the Fountain of Arethusa, you will make a brief visit to the Cathedral and see other attractions such as the ruins of the Temple of Apollon, Archimedes Square with the Fountain of Diana and Corso Matteotti, the main shopping area of the Ortygia with its elegant boutiques. At the end of your visit, you will have some free time before walking back to the pier.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking and standing (approximately 3 hours) over cobbled and uneven surfaces with some inclines and steps to negotiate. The order of the visits is subject to change.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. Appropriate attire is required when visiting religious sites (no bare shoulders or shorts).



## GOZO - Highlights of Gozo



**4:00**



**65 €**



*moderate*



*motorcoach*

*Min 20 / Max 70  
participants*

Sightseeing | History & Culture | Unesco

The Ggantija Temples are two prehistoric temples on Gozo, Malta's second largest island. One is believed to be the oldest stone structure in the world, predating the Great Pyramids and Stonehenge by several hundred years. The temples are dedicated to the Great Earth Mother, and the round, curving architecture symbolises the body of a powerful, full-figured mother goddess. The temples were a place of pilgrimage and sacrifice for the ancient peoples of Malta.

Take a walk around this fascinating site before heading to Victoria, the capital of Gozo. Nestled beneath a mighty old citadel, Victoria was named in honour of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrations in 1887. The walled castle dominates the town and its fortifications offer a magnificent panoramic view of the whole island. Inside the citadel is the beautiful baroque cathedral, built on the site of a Roman temple dedicated to Juno.

After leaving Victoria, drive to the Basilica of Ta Pinu, which became a centre of pilgrimage in 1883 after a local woman heard the voice of the Virgin Mary while praying in the small chapel that once stood on the site. The monumental sanctuary that stands today was built between 1920 and 1931. You can explore the church and take in the sweeping coastal views.

Next stop is Fungus Rock, also known as Dwejra Seascape. Admire this unique rock formation before continuing along the east coast to take in the coastal views of Ramla l-Hamara (The Red Beach). On the drive back to the pier enjoy views of the island of Comino.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking (approx. 2 hours) over uneven surfaces, with some inclines and steps.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. Appropriate attire is required when visiting religious sites (no bare shoulders or shorts).

The order of the visits is subject to change.

## GOZO - Salt Pans and hike to marvelous Wied il-Ghasri



**3:00**



**85 €**



*active (sport)*



*minibus, hiking*

*Min 15 / Max 18  
participants*

Active & Adventure | Nature

Embark on a captivating journey through picturesque landscapes, stopping to capture moments at the breathtaking Qala Belvedere and the iconic Kenuna Tower. Your adventure unfolds with a delightful excursion to the renowned Xwejini Bay Salt Pans, expertly guided by a local enthusiast.

The experience begins with an engaging introduction by an experienced salt harvester, who provides an insightful walkthrough of the intricate salt harvesting process. Following this enlightening overview, you will dive into the hands-on experience, equipped with a burlap sack to personally collect your sea salt, a distinctive souvenir of the charming island of Gozo. Indulge your senses as you taste the freshly harvested salt, take photo opportunities and immerse yourself in the history of the ancient salt store, which has a heritage dating back to the 1800s.

After absorbing the rich salt-inspired encounters, take a coastal walk to the fascinating Wied il-Ghasri.

Wied il-Ghasri is a secluded cove with a tiny pebble beach wedged between high cliffs. The view of the valley from the top of the cliffs is breathtaking. The outstanding natural beauty of this place will blow you away. At the end of your hike, enjoy a scenic drive back to the harbour where your waiting tender will ensure your return. This immersive experience offers a unique and unforgettable exploration of Gozo's cultural and scenic treasures.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking (approx. 2.5 km) over slightly elevated surfaces. The hike to Wied il-Ghasri takes approx. 50 minutes (2 km relatively flat but uneven).

Dress for the weather, wear proper hiking shoes and bring a hat and water.

The journey between the port and the salt pans takes approximately 40 minutes.

### MALTA (Valletta) - Malta's two capitals: Mdina & Valetta (ending at the airport)



**4:00**



**69 €**



moderate



motorcoach

Min10 / Max 30  
participants

History & Culture | Airport transfer

*The tour ends at the Malta airport (MLA) and it is suitable for guests with flights after 15:00.*

Take the scenic route to Malta's old capital, Mdina - one of the world's finest examples of a living medieval town. Wander the streets and listen to your guide's presentation of the city and its history. Take in the sweeping views from the bastions over the valley and surrounding countryside.

After the walking tour there is free time to visit the cathedral, do some souvenir shopping or just relax and watch the world go by in one of the street cafes.

Next, the coach will take you to the current capital, Valletta. Here you will see St John's Cathedral (external visit), one of the finest examples of high baroque architecture in Europe, and the Grand Master's Palace (external visit), originally the seat of the Grand Master of the Knights Hospitaliers of St John, it now houses Parliament and the President's Office. Your last stop will be at the Barracca Gardens, located at the highest point of the 16th century bastion walls built by the Knights of St John to protect the city. From this vantage point you can enjoy a splendid view of the Three Cities and Fort Ricasoli.

Board the coach for the final transfer to Malta Airport (arrival at 13:00).

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking (approximately 2km) over cobbles and uneven (but relatively flat) ground. St John's Cathedral is closed on Sundays.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. Appropriate clothing is required for visits to religious sites.

A drop off is also possible in the city center (Valletta) before the bus leaves for the airport.

### MALTA (Valletta)

**Star Clippers also offers the following transfer services (optional, on request):**

#### - Shared Transfer to Malta Airport.

Guests who have purchased a shared transfer cannot choose their own pick up time.

There is a fixed departure from the port at approximately 09:00.

This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight departs after 11:30.

#### - Private transfers to Malta airport or to hotels.

Pick up from the pier for private transfers is no later than 10:00.

Private transfers are operated by private cars (1-2 passengers) or private vans (3-4 passengers).

#### - Private transfers from hotels to the airport

Private transfers are operated by private cars (1-2 passengers) or private vans (3-4 passengers).

This service can only be pre-booked.

Transfers and excursions ending at the airport can also be booked prior to your cruise.

Bookings made onboard during the cruise are always subject to availability.

If you wish to book a private transfer, we recommend that you book well in advance, as the number of vehicles may be limited at certain times of the year.

For information and reservations please contact our reservations department or your travel agent.

The ship will be alongside at Valletta Cruise Port in Malta's Grand Harbour, close to the Valletta Waterfront (Pinto Wharf), just below the old town and at approximately 7 km distance from Malta airport. All guests must leave the ship by 10:00am.



### EXCURSIONS ACTIVITY LEVEL:

- ✓ **Easy:** excursion accessible to all participants, as it mainly takes place by bus or boat. Any footpaths and stairs that need to be negotiated are short or easy.
- ✓ **Moderate:** a certain basic level of fitness is required; excursion involving moderate walking - sometimes over uneven or unpaved paths and stairs.
- ✓ **Moderate to strenuous:** active participation is required; excursion involving walking long distances over uneven or steep terrain. May involve several flights of stairs or extended staircases.
- ✓ **Strenuous:** a good level of fitness is required; an excursion involving extensive uphill walking on inclines, uneven terrain with many steps. Excursion involving off-road driving, not suitable for pregnant women or anyone with a medical condition (back, neck, etc.) that could be affected by bumpy roads.
- ✓ **Active (sport):** Very good physical condition, stamina and skill are required. Passengers should be fit and active to participate in tours involving hiking, kayaking, snorkeling, cycling or similar activities.

The level of physical fitness required for our activities is given as a very general indication.

### MAIN EXCURSIONS CATEGORIES:

- ✓ **Culture & History:** it explores places of historical significance, visits ancient ruins or historic buildings, gives a deeper understanding of the region's heritage.
- ✓ **Sightseeing:** it gives a quick but enriching overview, visiting and seeing the main attractions, landmarks and places of interest in a particular area, often including popular spots and sometimes hidden gems.
- ✓ **Food & Wine:** it explores the culinary traditions of a region, from local markets and vineyards to cooking classes or wine tastings.
- ✓ **Panoramic:** it involves a limited number of long drives with commentary by the guide, no internal visits and - generally - limited walking between stops.
- ✓ **Active & Adventure:** Hiking, kayaking, cycling, ATV, 4x4 off-road.

### WHAT TO WEAR AND BRING WHEN GOING ASHORE ON EXCURSION:

- ✓ Unless special clothing suggestions are included in the excursion description, we recommend functional clothing and comfortable footwear.
- ✓ Comfortable shoes to help with any steep paths and uneven cobbles.
- ✓ A hat or cap and sun lotion.
- ✓ Water.
- ✓ For boat excursions or excursions including beach stop: swimsuit, beach towel, sunglasses, sunscreen, water shoes, snorkel mask.
- ✓ Mobile phone or camera to capture the moment.
- ✓ Ship card to get back on board.
- ✓ Some cash in local currency.
- ✓ A copy of the Daily Program, to check last tender or last gangway time, tender schedule, lunch time, etc.
- ✓ For ports with tender service (ship at anchor), bring a rucksack or fanny pack so that your hands are free to hold on to the safety grip when boarding the tender.