



SHORE EXCURSIONS

7
nights

STAR CLIPPER

Delightful Dervishes (*Athens to Istanbul - 17-May-2025*)



Sat Piraeus (Athens), Greece

Sun Mykonos, Greece

Mon Patmos, Greece

Tue Chios, Greece

Wed Dikili, Turkey

Thu Bozcaada, Turkey

Fri At sea

Sat Istanbul, Turkey

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: 18th of January 2025

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



3:00



65 €



moderate to
strenuous



motorcoach

Min 25 / Max 70
participants

History & Culture | Unesco

The holy island of Patmos lies at the north-western end of the Dodecanese, between the islands of Ikaria and Leros. It is an island of rare beauty, captivating the visitor at first sight, with its picturesque harbour dominated by the imposing Monastery of St John on the hill above, set among gleaming white houses that form a startling contrast to its dark mass.

Leaving the harbour of Skala, drive to the impressive village of Chora. The Monastery of St John was built in 1088 by Blessed Christodoulos, the Servant of Christ.

The monastery has thick, high walls topped with battlements and a total of eight chapels. The courtyard is paved with pebbles and decorated with arches through which you can see the elaborate frescoes that decorate the entrance to the chapel. The museum houses a magnificent collection of jewelled chalices, crowns, crosses, old writings dating back to 1073, icons and religious paintings.

The tour then continues with a visit to the Cave of the Apocalypse (also known as the Cave or the Revelation), which takes the form of a 17th century monastery built around the cave where St John lived for two years (95-97 AD) and dictated his Gospel and the Book of Revelation.

After this memorable tour you will board the coach for the short journey back to the harbour.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on uneven ground and inclines, with approx. 100 steps to negotiate. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. Appropriate dress is required when visiting the monastery (no bare shoulders or shorts are allowed).

Photography is not allowed inside the chapel and cave.

PATMOS - Patmos' art & history



3:15



75 €



moderate



motorcoach

Min 15 / Max 30
participants

History & Culture | Unesco

Departing from the port of Skala, we drive to the impressive village of Chora, perched high on the hilltop and dominated by the imposing Monastery of St John. During our guided tour of the winding cobbled streets of Chora, you will enjoy breathtaking panoramic views, learn about the island's historical background and discover the stunning architecture of houses dating from the 15th to the 18th century.

At the Simandiris House you will have the unique experience of seeing the interior of a traditional Patmos house with antique furniture, embroidery and paintings collected over eight generations of the Simandiris family.

Just around the corner is the tiny monastery of Zoodochos Pigi, built in 1607, where you will discover a series of recently restored 17th century frescoes, the timeless art of icons and a beautifully carved icon wall.

Continue through a maze of atmospheric alleys that wind past the foot of the Monastery of St John to the Nikolaidis Mansion, a wonderful example of the large, luxurious houses built by wealthy shipowners and merchants in the 15th century as protection against the numerous pirate attacks.

The Nikolaidis Mansion shows not only the way of life of the islanders, but also a rich collection of local archaeological finds. On the ground floor there are food storage rooms, a cooking area with an original oven, water tanks for collecting rainwater and a private chapel. On the second floor there are verandas, the formal reception room and the sleeping area, as well as a magnificent "ambataros" (a wooden partition) decorated with traditional folk paintings.

Before returning to the port of Skala, you will finish your tour with refreshments in a beautiful setting with spectacular views. A little shopping in Chora is also an option.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on uneven ground and inclines and many steps.

Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. Appropriate dress is required



when visiting the monastery (no bare shoulders or shorts are allowed).

CHIOS - Discover the "mastic villages" of Chios



4:15

Sightseeing



69 €



moderate



motorcoach

Min 20 / Max 70
participants

Discover two of the most picturesque "mastic villages" of Chios, famous for the resin extracted from native trees. Every autumn the resin, or mastic, is collected from the lentisk bush and used to make chewing gum. Settled during the Genoese occupation of the island, there are 20 mastic villages, all of which retain their vibrant medieval character. Some of the villages were fortified against raiders from Asia Minor.

On our way to the village of Pirgi, we will make a brief photo stop at a mastic plantation and learn how local farmers scratch the bark of the lentisk tree, a member of the pistachio family, to collect its aromatic gum.

Our next stop is the delightful 13th century village of Pyrgi, with its central tower, winding streets and walled gates. Discover the wonderful architecture of medieval Pirgi, including the many buildings decorated with 'Xysta', a system of geometric designs in black and white plaster. You will have some free time to explore the local shops and cafes.

We then drive to the fortified village of Mesta. Dating back to the 14th century, it is a perfectly preserved example of a Byzantine castle town. There will be time to explore the churches, the ancient Aghia Paraskevi and the old church of small Taxiarchis, which contains a beautifully carved iconostasis. The central square of the village is an ideal place to enjoy a glass of ouzo (not included), the local liqueur, before returning to the port.

We return to our ship in Chios via the fishing village of Limenas, the port of Mesta and the Vessa road, which offers stunning views of the barren west coast with its many beautiful bays.

Please note: This tour involves moderate walking on cobbled and uneven ground with inclines and some steps.

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

Appropriate dress is required when visiting religious sites (no bare shoulders or shorts allowed).

DIKILI - Ancient Pergamon



4:30

History & Culture | Unesco



85 €



moderate



motorcoach,
cable car

Min 12 / Max 90
participants

Pick up from the pier at Dikili and have a short drive to the ancient city of Pergamum. Originally a small settlement during the earliest Archaic period, Pergamum became famous after Philetairos, who became an eminent personality after the fall of Lysimachus. For over a century, Pergamum was considered the centre of all cultural activity during the Hellenistic period. Travellers from all over the country knew of this great city and often travelled hundreds of miles to visit the beautiful and vibrant city. Pergamum saw the rise and fall of many rulers and during the reign 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 the rich men who lived there.

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

Take a cable car to the Acropolis of Pergamum. After visiting the Acropolis, you will descend to the coach park for a short ride to Asklepion, where you will visit the remains of the oldest therapeutic centres in the world.

At the end of your visit you will be taken back to our pier in Dikili.

Please note: This tour involves prolonged walking on cobblestones and uneven surfaces with inclines and steps.

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

The bus journey between Dikili and Pergamum takes approximately 40 minutes each way. The drive from the Acropolis car park and Asklepion takes about 15 minutes. There is a cable car service between the Acropolis coach park and the site.



DIKILI - Ayvalik and Cunda Island



6:00



109 €



moderate



motorcoach

Min 15 / Max 30
participants



lunch included

Sightseeing

Meet your guide and board the coach for a pleasant 45-minute drive through pine and olive groves to the seaside town of Ayvalik.

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

This cultural melting pot of former Greeks and immigrants from the island of Crete, together with the Ottoman and modern Turkish inhabitants, has created a unique and flavourful cuisine using a wide variety of herbs, fresh vegetables and olive oil. You will have the opportunity to sample some of the local specialities during a coffee shop stop along 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 island's iconic landmarks, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral, which bears witness to the island's past. You will also see a windmill converted into a library housing the private collection of Necdet Kent, a diplomat who is said to have risked his life to save Turkish Jews during World War II.

Enjoy stunning 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 time to explore on your own before the 45-minute drive back to port.

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

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

Driving time from Dikili to Ayvalik town is approximately 45 minutes (one way).

BOZCAADA - Troy ancient city and museum (with lunch)



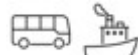
7:45



99 €



moderate



motorcoach,
ferry

Min 31 / Max 90
participants



lunch included

History & Culture | Unesco

The city of Troy is known throughout the world as the site of the mythological Trojan War, the subject of Homer's epic poem The Iliad. The events described were fictional, but the city itself existed.

The ruins of Troy are located on the mainland, 32 km from the island of Bozcaada. The ruins were discovered in 1870 thanks to the work of amateur archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann, and are so significant and extensive that UNESCO declared Troy a World Heritage Site.

During his excavations, Schliemann discovered no less than nine different levels of ruins, one on top of the other, showing that the city had been destroyed and rebuilt several times. Excavations on this level have revealed the presence of a metre-thick layer of ash, indicating that the city was almost certainly destroyed by fire during an invasion.

Founded between 3000-2500 BC, Troy I was a walled city with two towers. There was an imposing gate to the east measuring 3.50m, herringbone walls and the foundations of a house known as number 102 are all clearly visible. When the first incarnation of Troy was destroyed, a new, larger city, Troy II, was built on the same site. On this level we can see the remains of the so-called "megaron" houses (with a large central hall containing a hearth) and their foundations. It was here that Schliemann discovered some precious gold artefacts, which he thought must have belonged to King Priam. This treasure bears witness to the sophistication of Trojan history.

In terms of customs and habits, the successive levels dating from 2200 to 1800 BC show that the cultural wealth of Troy II remained unparalleled. Visit the small museum of Troy before leaving the archaeological site.

Proceed to a coastal restaurant for lunch at a local tavern. After lunch you will return to the ferry terminal in Geyikli to catch the ferry back to Bozacaada.

Please note: This walk involves moderate walking over cobbles and uneven ground with some gradients.

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

There is a 40 minute ferry ride to Geikili (on the mainland) and a 40 minute bus ride to ancient Troy (each way).



BOZCAADA - Bozcaada old town and wine tasting



3:30



62 €



moderate



motorcoach

Min 12 / Max 35
participants



tasting

Sightseeing | Food & Wine

Known in ancient times as Tenedos, the island of Bozcaada is mentioned in the Iliad, Homer's epic poem written in 800 BC. Founded two thousand years ago, this beautiful island at the entrance to the narrow Dardanelles Strait was occupied and settled by the Persians, Alexander the Great, the Romans, the Crusaders and soldiers from Venice and Genoa before becoming part of the Ottoman Empire in the 15th century.

Follow our guide to visit the majestic and well-preserved 15th century castle of Bozcaada and enjoy a sweeping view of the town of Bozcaada below. The town has two distinct neighbourhoods: one Turkish and the other Greek. Each proudly presents its own cultural and architectural characteristics.

A walk with our guide through the narrow and picturesque cobbled streets of the Turkish and Greek quarters shows the differences between the old Greek and Turkish houses.

The islanders have been involved in viticulture for centuries and vineyards cover the southern hills of the island.

Drive to a winery to see the stages of wine production, from the vine to the palate, and enjoy a wine tasting.

Return to the harbour with plenty to think about after this interesting day.

Please note: This tour involves moderate walking on cobbled and uneven surfaces with inclines.

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

The visit to the village of Bozcaada is entirely on foot, and the journey from Bozcaada to the winery takes approximately 20 minutes (one way). The order of the visits is subject to change.

ISTANBUL - Gems of Istanbul (ending at the airport)



5:00



95 €



moderate



motorcoach

Min 10 / Max 30
participants

History & Culture | Unesco | Airport transfer

This excursion ends at Istanbul airport (IST) and is suitable for guests with flights after 16:30.

Take the opportunity to discover beautiful Istanbul, where East meets West, the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire. As you travel, your guide will tell you about the history of the magnificent Constantinople, as it was once called. You will cross the Galata Bridge and proceed to the Suleymaniye Mosque for an inside visit. Next up is the ancient Hippodrome followed by a visit to the Yerebatan or Underground Cistern.

The cistern was built to supply water to the city of Istanbul during the reign of Emperor Justinian I in the 6th century. It is an underground chamber with 336 marble pillars supported by columns and arches. Two Medusa heads are used as pedestals at the base of two columns.

After this visit, you will proceed to the Grand Bazaar, located inside the walled city of Istanbul. It is one of the largest covered markets in the world with 4400 shops, 64 streets, 25,000 employees, 4 fountains, 2 mosques and 22 gates. Its construction began in the winter of 1455/56, shortly after the Ottoman conquest of Constantinople.

You will have a few minutes free time to look around and then we will continue to the Hagia Sofia. This magnificent monument is one of the finest works of architecture in the world, so it is no surprise that it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was built in just five years (532-537 AD) on the orders of Emperor Justinian. For 900 years, Hagia Sophia was the centre of Orthodox Christianity until the city was conquered by the Ottomans in 1453. For the next 500 years it was used as the great mosque of the sultans. Its interior is decorated with marble columns and exquisite mosaics.

After this visit you can either collect your luggage from the coach and make your own way to your hotel (taxis are available) or continue by coach to Istanbul airport for your flight home.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on cobbled and uneven ground 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 clothing is required for visits to religious sites.

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



ISTANBUL

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

- Shared Transfer to Istanbul airport (IST).

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

There is a fixed departure from the port at approximately 08:45.

This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight departs after 13:00.

- Private transfers to Istanbul airport (IST) or to hotels in Istanbul.

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 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 pre-book it well in advance prior to your cruise, 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.

Ship will be alongside at Galataport Istanbul Cruise Ship Terminal, in Karaköy district, at approximately 5 km from the old town and 60 km distance from Istanbul International Airport (IST). 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.