




SHORE EXCURSIONS

7 nights	STAR CLIPPER Northern Cyclades (05-July, 26-July, 16-August 2025)
	<p>Sat Piraeus (Athens), Greece Sun At sea Mon Kusadasi, Turkey Tue Patmos, Greece Wed Amorgos, Greece Thu Mykonos, Greece Fri Spetses, Greece Sat Piraeus (Athens), Greece</p>

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

KUSADASI - Ephesus and Terrace house



3:45



89 €



moderate to
strenuous



motorcoach

Min 12 / Max -
participants

History & Culture | Unesco

Ancient Ephesus is one of the best preserved ancient cities in the world. The city dates back to 3000 BC and at its height 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, Hadrian's Gate, Celsus' Library, Curetes' Street (one of the 3 main streets), Trajan's Fountain and the Odeon (used for poetry readings and award ceremonies). Ephesus became one of the most important cities of early Christianity.

Opposite the Temple of Hadrian, on the slopes of Mount Bulbul, you can see terraced houses where the roof of one house forms the terrace of the house above. These dwellings were also known as the "houses of the rich" because they were finely decorated with mosaics and frescoes and had heating and hot and cold water. Built during the reign of Augustus, they were inhabited until the 7th century, although in a modified form. Two of the houses have been fully restored.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on cobbled and uneven surfaces with inclines and steps to negotiate (approximately 2km with 300 steps in Ephesus).

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

The journey between Kusadasi and Ephesus takes approximately 30 minutes each way.

KUSADASI - Ephesus, Virgin Mary house and Şirince



8:00



125 €



moderate to
strenuous



motorcoach

Min 12 / Max -
participants



lunch included

History & Culture | Unesco

Ancient Ephesus is one of the best preserved ancient cities in the world. The city dates back to 3000 BC and at its height 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, Hadrian's Gate, Celsus' Library, Curetes' Street (one of the 3 main streets), Trajan's Fountain and the Odeon (used for poetry readings and award ceremonies). Ephesus became one of the most important cities of early Christianity. Six years after the death of Christ, Ephesus was visited by the Virgin Mary and Saint John. Travel to the small house where Mary is said to have spent her last days, just a few kilometres from ancient Ephesus. The "House of the Virgin Mary" (Meryemana) is a small Byzantine church and a place of pilgrimage for both Christians and Muslims.

Stop at a local restaurant for lunch and continue your tour to Şirince, a pretty traditional hillside village of 600 inhabitants located 10 kilometres east of Ephesus. Şirince was settled when Ephesus was abandoned in the 15th century, but most of the houses date from the 19th century and are Greek-Ottoman in style.

Walk through the charming streets of the traditional village and enjoy some free time to explore the village and shop for souvenirs.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on cobbled and uneven ground with inclines and steps to negotiate (approx. 2km with 300 steps in Ephesus).

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. Inside the House of the Virgin Mary no photography is allowed and appropriate dress is required (no shorts or skirts above the knees, shoulders must be covered).

Driving time: between Kusadasi and Ephesus about 30 minutes; between Ephesus and the House of the Virgin Mary about 15 minutes; between the House of the Virgin Mary and Şirince about 30 minutes; between Şirince and Kusadasi about 40 minutes. The order of the visits is subject to change.

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).

AMORGOS - Hozoviotissa Monastery & Chora



3:00



69 €



strenuous



motorcoach

Min 20 / Max 60
participants

History & Culture | Unesco

Meet your guide at the pier and board a coach to the symbol of the island, the Byzantine Monastery of Hozoviotissa. It is the second oldest monastery in Greece, built in 1017 on the orders of the Byzantine Emperor Alexius Comnenus, and houses precious icons and rare manuscripts.

Enjoy an unforgettable panoramic view of the sea before climbing the 269 steps that lead to the monastery.

Continue your journey to the small emblematic village of Chora, dominated by its castle. Chora is the idyllic, picturesque Greek village of your imagination, with whitewashed houses, Byzantine or pre-Christian churches, windmills and winding stone paths. Climb to a panoramic plateau where you will be served 'rakomelo' (raki with honey and spices) and 'loukoumades' (local sweets), then walk down to the main square and enjoy some free time to wander the maze of cobbled streets. After free time in Chora, reboard the coach and return to the harbour.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking on cobbled and uneven ground with inclines and many steps (15 minutes uphill including 269 steps to reach the monastery).

Dress for the weather, 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; men should wear long trousers and women no trousers). Photography is not allowed inside the church.

The drive from the harbour to the monastery takes approximately 20 minutes.

In Chora, the pick-up point after the visit will be different from the drop-off point.

MYKONOS - Ancient Delos



4:00



89 €



moderate to
strenuous

public boat

Min 15 / Max 30
participants

lunch not
included *

History & Culture | Unesco

The Cyclades are so called because they form a kiklo, or rough circle, around the sacred island of Delos.

Despite its small size, Delos played an important role in antiquity for both commercial and religious reasons and is now considered one of the most important mythological, historical and archaeological sites in Greece.

The sanctuary dedicated to Apollo on 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. Today Delos is a desolate, windswept island; a 2001 census put the population at 14. Only tourists now flock to the shrines and temples, but a sense of awe and religious fervour still pervades the ruins.

The modern wharf leads directly into 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) where Apollo was born, and the unique marble lions of Delos. You will also visit impressive Hellenistic mansions with magnificent mosaics decorating the floors and walls.

At the end of the guided tour you will have free time to explore the site and visit the museum (guided tours are not allowed inside the museum) until the boat departs for Mykonos.

Please note: This tour involves extensive walking (approximately 2 hours) over steps and uneven ground. There is some uphill walking which can be avoided by arrangement with the guide.

Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. There is no shade at the site, take precautions against the sun.

The boat trip from Mykonos and Delos takes approximately 30 minutes (each way) on the local public ferry with a fixed timetable. The timing and duration of the tour may be subject to the ferry timetable (*: The excursion timing might not be compatible with lunch onboard the ship).

SPETSES - Time at leisure (no shore excursions organized)

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. 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

PIRAEUS (Port of ATHENS) - Panoramic Athens and Plaka exploration (ending at the airport)



4:00



75 €



easy



motorcoach

Min10 / Max 30
participants

Panoramic | Airport transfer

This excursion ends at Athens airport (ATH) and is suitable for guests with flight after 15:00

From the port of Piraeus you pass through the charming marina 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 only a short drive to cosmopolitan Athens, a mix of modern buildings and great monuments. You will pass the Temple of Zeus, the Panathenaic Stadium, the Parliament in Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the National Academy, the University, the Library and Hadrian's Arch before arriving in Plaka, the oldest and most picturesque neighborhood of Athens.

You will have approximately two hours free time to explore Plaka, strolling among the tavernas and boutiques, discovering architectural gems such as the ancient Agora, the Tower of the Winds and the monument to Lysicrates, and the neoclassical houses. At the end of your free time, you will be transferred to the airport.

Please note: Walking time in the city centre is at your own discretion.

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

Traffic in Athens may affect the duration of the drive between sites. The order of the visits is subject to change and the length of free time may vary depending on the day's traffic.

The guide will leave the group when the coach leaves Athens for the airport.

PIRAEUS (Port of ATHENS)

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

- Shared Transfer to Athens 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 08:45.

This transfer is suitable for guests whose flight departs after 12:00.

- Private transfers to Athens airport or to hotels in Athens.

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 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.

The ship will be alongside at one of the three cruise terminals at Piraeus port, located at approximately 10 km from Athens city center and 42 km from Athens 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.