



SHORE EXCURSIONS

11 nights	STAR CLIPPER Rome to Athens 19 September 2026
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	Sat	Civitavecchia (Port of Rome)
	Sun	Ponza – Pontine Islands Palmarola – Pontine Islands
	Mon	Sorrento
	Tue	Lipari – Aeolian Islands Stromboli (sailing in the area)
	Wed	Taormina – Sicily
	Thu	Syracuse – Sicily
	Fri	at sea
	Sat	Katakolon
	Sun	Gythio
	Mon	Monemvasia
	Tue	Hydra
	Wed	Piraeus (port of Athens)

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 and the availability of 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.

How you can book your shore excursions:

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

Important notes:

- Departure times of the excursions are mentioned in the Daily Program of each port, which you will receive in your cabin the evening before each stopover.
- 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 on board 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: 30th of January 2026

PONZA - Time at leisure (no shore excursions organized)

The pastel houses of Ponza Town rise in neat terraced rows from the busy harbour where sleekly groomed yachts and ramshackle fishing boats moor side by side. Happily, there are few tourists here, so it's a delight to wander through the unspoiled town. The ship will be at anchor (tender service). The tender pier is in the old port, right next to the town center and the waterfront.

SORRENTO - Pompeii



4:45



89 €



moderate to strenuous



motorcoach

Min 25 / Max 32 participants

History & Culture | Unesco

Ancient Pompeii was a prosperous provincial centre with an estimated population of 20,000. An earthquake destroyed much of the city in 63 AD. Reconstruction was still underway when the volcano erupted again 16 years later. The whole town was buried under more than 20 metres of ash and pumice.

Many inhabitants were killed by the deadly sulphur fumes or struck by the lava and pumice that rained down on the city, but others escaped. Abandoned until the 18th century, Pompeii was frozen in time until excavations revealed this amazing archaeological site. The eruption of Mount Vesuvius on 24 August 79 A.D. not only preserved the buildings, but also evidence of the ancient way of life, such as a fully equipped tavern with the last customer's money still on the counter. Visit some of the more modest homes and explore ancient baths, temples, theatres, markets and the vast forum. At the end of the visit, you will return to Sorrento, where you can choose to return to the pier or stay in the town centre and explore on your own.

Please note:

- ✓ This tour involves extensive walking (approximately 3 km) and standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces with many steps to negotiate. The time spent inside the site is approximately 2 hours. The site of Pompeii is very busy and extended; it is important to always stay with your guide.
- ✓ Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. It is not permitted to bring large bags or backpacks into the excavation site.
- ✓ The drive between Sorrento and Pompeii takes approx. 1:15, but it is subject to traffic, especially during high season. Large coaches cannot drive to the pier in Sorrento, so a minibus will shuttle tour participants between the pier and a main parking lot in Sorrento (same on the way back at the end of the tour).



SORRENTO - Herculaneum



4:30



89 €



moderate



motorcoach

Min 15 / Max 24
participants

History & Culture | Unesco

Herculaneum was destroyed by the eruption of Vesuvius on 2 August 79 AD. The town was not an important commercial centre like Pompeii, it was smaller, wealthier and more residential. There was no open space or forum, just streets lined with villas and shops and two very straight main roads that crossed in the middle, typical of Roman town planning. While Pompeii was buried under layers of ash, Herculaneum - which is much closer to the volcano - drowned in a sea of mud. Over time, the mud hardened into soft stone, preserving the town and almost everything in it as a kind of fossil, so that the furniture, clothes and even some of the goods in the shops have survived.

Excavations began by accident in 1709, when some workers digging a well discovered a wall that later turned out to be one of the stages of the ancient theatre. Later, many human skeletons were uncovered on the ancient shoreline, suggesting that many inhabitants tried to escape but perished when volcanic gases were released.

Excavations since then have revealed sumptuous villas, baths and theatres. Much of the city is still buried and excavations continue today. Many of the buildings and their contents are in remarkably good condition.

At the end of the tour you can choose to return to the pier or stay in Sorrento and explore the town on your own.

Please note:

- ✓ This tour involves extensive walking / standing over cobblestone and uneven surfaces with many steps (approximately 2 km). The time spent inside the site is approximately 1:30 hours.
- ✓ Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.
- ✓ It is not permitted to bring large bags or backpacks into the excavation site. The drive to Herculaneum site takes approx. 1 hour, but it is subject to traffic, especially during high season.

SORRENTO - Capri on your own



6:15



72 €



easy



public boat

Min 20 / Max 35
participants

lunch not
included
(free time)

Self-guided tour

Take the opportunity of discovering Capri on your own. Our local staff will give you some tips so you can make the most of your time on the island and will provide you with the tickets for the funicular ride between the port of Marina Grande (our landing point in Capri) and the village of Capri.

Capri is the outpost of the Sorrento peninsula. It is called the jewel of the Gulf of Naples because of its incomparable scenery, clear skies and beautiful climate. Capri has two harbours, Marina Grande to the north and Marina Piccola to the south. The village of Capri is 452 feet high and lies between them. The island's second residential centre, Anacapri, lies in a sweep of lush countryside to the west of Monte Solaro. Some Roman emperors lived part-time on Capri, and Roman nobles resided on or visited the island. In the early 19th century many artists, writers and poets settled here.

A delightful climate, clear blue skies, beautiful scenery and a host of other attractions make the island a perfect holiday destination at any time of year. At the end of the tour, once you are back at the pier in Sorrento you may choose to go back on board the ship or explore Sorrento on your own.

Please note:

- ✓ This tour does not include a guide, the visit to Capri is entirely on your own (no sightseeing included, no lunch included). The tour includes: assistance service (local hostess travelling with the group to Capri), regular boat service in & out of Capri (Marina Grande) at a fixed time, disembarkation tax in Capri, ticket for the funicular (in & out) between Marina Grande pier / Capri (village).
- ✓ Follow attentively the instructions given by the hostess about meeting time and place for the return to Sorrento.
- ✓ Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, bring a hat and a bottle of water.
- ✓ The hydrofoil trip takes approximately 30 minutes. The hydrofoil/ferry is a public service, not exclusive to Star Clippers. The duration of the tour may vary depending on local boat schedules.
- ✓ Expect Capri to be crowded. There may be queues at the hydrofoil piers and at the funicular stations.



LIPARI - Panoramic Lipari (with malvasia and local pastries)



3:00



55 €



easy



motorcoach

Min 25 / Max 40
participants



tasting

Panoramic | Food & Wine

Our ship anchors off Lipari, the main island in the archipelago, and guests are taken ashore by tender to Marina Corta, where they meet their guide and walk through the village to reach the coach for a scenic tour of the island.

The excursion begins with a drive inland towards the hills to reach the panoramic viewpoint of Quattrocchi, 300 metres above sea level. From this high vantage point you can admire the cliffs of Lipari and the neighbouring island of Vulcano with its fumaroles, which are openings in the earth's crust and were once thought to be the entrance to the underworld.

During this panoramic tour there will be a stop at "Marisa's Place" where you will have the opportunity to taste local Malvasia wine and biscuits. The Malvasia grape has been cultivated in the Mediterranean region since ancient times and produces a sweet dessert wine that is strengthened by the strong rays of the island's sun.

Traditional Aeolian delicacies include nacatuli - small biscuits filled with almonds, cinnamon and tangerines. Sesamini, flavoured with vanilla and orange and covered with sesame seeds, and Spicchitedda, made with almonds, mulled wine and cinnamon. The next stop is a viewpoint over the island of Salina. If the weather is clear, you can also see other islands in the archipelago. For those who feel like exploring, there will be time to walk around the town before returning to the ship.

Please note:

- ✓ There is a 15 minute walk over cobbles and uneven ground between the tender jetty and the coach park.
- ✓ Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.

LIPARI – Vulcano island by boat



3:00



89 €



easy



motorized boat

Min 20 / Max 40
participants

Panoramic

After disembarking with the tender, you will reach Marina Corta, in the port of Lipari, where you will meet your guide and board a private motorboat for a short trip to Vulcano. Vulcano is a small volcanic island in the Aeolian archipelago. The island has three volcanoes. One is ancient and has been dormant since prehistoric times. It forms the main mass of the island. The highest points are Monte Saraceno at 481 metres, Monte Aria at 500 metres and Gran Cratere (or Fossa di Vulcano) at 386 metres. Gran Cratere, which is still active, dominates the northern part of the island. It is characterised by strange formations and colours, especially near the summit.

On arrival at Vulcano you can either walk to the base of the volcano or enjoy a short visit to the village.

The tour continues to the hot sea (you can swim in it if you wish), the fumaroles and the beach of Sabbie Nere ("black sand"). Return to the boat and sail back to Lipari on a scenic cruise along the west coast of Vulcano, Vulcanello, Spiaggia di Ponente, Grotta del Cavallo, I Faraglioni and Lipari. On the way back you will enjoy a scenic cruise of about an hour.

For those who feel like exploring, there will be time to walk around the town before returning to the ship.

Please note:

- ✓ This tour involves moderate walking on uneven ground.
- ✓ Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat, sunglasses and water. Wear a swimsuit underneath and bring a towel if you plan to swim. The entrance to the mud baths is not included (guests can do it during the free time, if the venue is open).
- ✓ The boat trip to Vulcano takes about 20 minutes. The return trip to Lipari takes approximately one hour (panoramic boat tour).



TAORMINA - Charming Taormina and Greek theater



4:00



75 €



moderate



motorcoach

*Min 25 / Max 40
participants*

History & Culture

Long a favourite of artists and writers, Taormina is one of the most beautiful places in Sicily. 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.

You will visit the Greek-Roman theatre, which is set against the magnificent backdrop of Mount Etna. During the tour you will also see (exterior views) Palazzo Corvaia, a 14th century palace that once housed the Sicilian Parliament, the remains of the Roman Odeon and the Cathedral, before continuing on to Corso Umberto, the lively main street and shopping area.

At the end of the guided tour, you will have some free time to explore Taormina on your own, discovering the palaces, squares, staircases and narrow streets that give this medieval town its charm. Alternatively, you may wish to browse the shops or relax and people watch in one of the small cafes. The choice is yours.

You will then walk to the parking lot and board the motorcoach for the drive back to the port.

Please note:

- ✓ This tour is not recommended for guests with limited mobility as there is considerable walking over cobbles, uneven surfaces and inclines.
- ✓ Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.
- ✓ 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



69 €



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 Syracuse.

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.

KATAKOLON - Ancient Olympia and Museum



4:00



75 €



moderate



motorcoach

*Min 25 / Max 70
participants*

History & Culture | Unesco

Visit the legendary home of the first Olympic Games at Olympia, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Experience the wonder and excitement of the original Olympic Games held from 776 BC to 393 AD!

From the small harbour of Katakolon it is a short drive through the pastoral landscape of Elis to the site of Olympia. Your Greek guide will take you to the heart of the site where athletes once honoured their gods. Discover the great monuments one by one: the ancient Temple of Hera and the huge Temple of Zeus, which once housed one of the Seven Wonders of the World - the golden and ivory Zeus, as well as the unique Stadium and Bouleuterion, where competitors swore an oath to play fair. Nearby were Phedias' workshop, the Palaistra and the gymnasium. The site is beautifully shaded by Judas and olive trees and dominated by the conical hill of Kronos. After a short break, the visit continues to the museum to see the wonderful marble statues in the Temple of Zeus, the famous Hermes of Praxiteles and a unique collection of ancient armour and bronze figurines, all well preserved for centuries in the mud of the adjacent Alpheios River.

Before returning to the port, you will have some free time in Olympia Village for a coffee or souvenir shopping.

Please note:

- ✓ This tour involves a considerable amount of walking (about two hours) on relatively flat but uneven ground.
- ✓ Dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water.
- ✓ The journey from Katakolon to Olympia takes approximately 40 minutes each way.
- ✓ The excursion includes transportation, guide and entrance fee to the site of Olympia and its museum (20 € pp).



GYTHIO – Medieval Mystras



5:30



125 €



moderate



motorcoach

*Min 20 / Max 40
participants*



lunch included

Sightseeing | Unesco

From the picturesque harbour of Gythio, enjoy a scenic one-hour drive through the land of Morea to reach the legendary site of Mystras, a UNESCO World Heritage treasure. Rising above the valley of the Eurotas and overlooking ancient Sparta, this medieval stronghold was founded around a fortress in 1249 and soon became a flourishing Byzantine city. Today its evocative ruins - palaces, mansions, fountains, arcades and fortified walls - offer a vivid glimpse into life centuries ago.

Following our local guide, wander through the lower town, exploring architectural jewels such as the Metropolis of St. Demetrius, the churches of St. Theodoroi and the Odigitria (Virgin Mary), all remarkable for their design and frescoes. Many of these wall paintings were inadvertently preserved when conquering Turks painted over them during the city's conversion to mosques.

Continue along the uphill path to the Pandanassa Monastery, still inhabited by nuns, where frescoes created over several centuries showcase a rich variety of styles. From here, enjoy sweeping views across the Eurotas valley before descending to admire the beautifully frescoed Perivleptos Church, nestled into the rock.

Before returning to the port of Gythio, enjoy lunch and some free time in the nearby town of Sparta.

Please note:

- ✓ This tour includes approximately 90 minutes of moderate-to-strenuous walking. There will be numerous steep paths and steps to negotiate. Guests with walking difficulties cannot visit most of the site (the climb to the city summit is too strenuous), but can visit the churches of Aghio Dimitrios, Evangelista and Odigitria.
- ✓ Dress for the weather, comfortable walking shoes and bring a hat and water. Appropriate dress is required when visiting religious sites (no bare shoulders or shorts allowed).
- ✓ The drive between Gythio and Mystras takes approximately 60 minutes (each way).
- ✓ The excursion includes transportation, guide, lunch and entrance fee to the site of Mystras (20 € pp).

MONEMVASIA - Monemvasia Castle



2:30



49 €



moderate



*shuttle bus,
walking tour*

*Min 20 / 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.



HYDRA - Time at leisure (no shore excursions organized)

Hydra is considered the most cosmopolitan of the Greek islands and many celebrities from Greece and abroad spend their vacations here. It is beloved for its natural beauty and distinctive architecture. It owes its unique character to the impressive mansions that were built in the late 18th century for wealthy Hydriot ship-owners by architects from Venice and Genoa.

The island is an irresistible mixture of old and new with bars, waterfront cafés, restaurants, and boutiques blending harmoniously with picturesque lanes and bare hills dotted with dazzling white chapels and windmills.

The town rises up like an amphitheatre from the port area, remaining hidden until the very last moment for those approaching by sea. No motor vehicles are allowed on Hydra and all transport is by boat, on foot or by donkey.

PIRAEUS (Port of ATHENS)

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 are requested to leave the ship before 10:00am.

Star Clippers 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 can also be booked prior to your cruise.

Bookings made on board 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.



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.