

# IONIAN ODYSSEY

EXCLUSIVE SHORE EXCURSIONS PACKAGE  
2025  
ATHENS TO ATHENS INCLUDING CANAL  
CROSSING

Pre-bookings required prior cruise, please see notes.







## DAY 2                      THIS TOUR **REQUIRES PREBOOKING** AHEAD OF CRUISE

### KEFALONIA

### UNCOVER THE ISLAND'S DIVINE BEAUTY

#### Orealios Gaea Winery – Nautical Museum – Melissani Cave

- Duration approx. 4hours
- Incl.transportation/Guide/Entryfee & a wine tasting
- Per Person: Euro 78

We'll depart from the port of Sami to explore some of Kefalonia's most stunning sights. Traveling past the slopes of Mount Ainos, we head to the Omalas plain to visit Orealios Gaea – Vine Growers of Robola, where we'll sample some of the island's renowned wines.

As mentioned by Homer, Cephalonia's wines were valued in ancient times for fostering friendship and unity. Today, two-thirds of the island's vineyards lie in mountainous or semi-mountainous terrain, mostly on limestone soil. The mild, rainy climate and the presence of Mount Enos create ideal conditions for grape cultivation, contributing to the unique character of Kefalonian wines.

On our return to Sami area, a town with a strong maritime legacy, we'll visit the private Nautical Museum of Mr. Sotiris Marketos. Moved by the absence of a local museum, he spent ten years building detailed models of traditional Greek ships. Crafted from various woods and ranging from 1.20 to 4 meters, these models now preserve and celebrate the island's seafaring history.

Our last stop is the captivating Melissani Cave, one of Greece's most remarkable natural wonders. The Melissani Lake, nestled within the cave, was explored in 1951 by renowned speleologist Yiannis Petrochilos and his wife Anna, who entered the cave using ropes through the opening above the lake. Thousands of years ago, part of the cave's roof collapsed due to an earthquake, creating an opening that allows sunlight to illuminate the lake, revealing its deep blue color. The water is so crystal clear that the lake's floor is visible even at its greatest depth of 30 meters.



## DAY 4                      THIS TOUR REQUIRES PREBOOKING AHEAD OF CRUISE

### CORFU

#### THE PRINCESS OF THE IONIAN SEA

Corfu old town (**Unesco** World Heritage site) – visit a noble 19<sup>th</sup> century Mansion now a living history museum - Kanoni Viewpoint -

- Duration approx. 3,5-4hours
- Incl.Round trip Bus /Guide/Entryfees and a Corfiot refreshment
- **Per Person: Euro 82**

Begin after a short ride with a guided stroll through Corfu's enchanting Old Town, set beneath a 14th-century Venetian fortress. With its blend of European architecture, elegant mansions, lively squares, and historic fortresses, it's no wonder Corfu is considered one of Greece's most beautiful towns. Our expert local guide reveals its secrets..

Step into 19th-century Corfu at Casa Parlante, where history comes alive in a noble mansion filled with animated figures, period décor, and the scents of traditional cooking. This immersive museum recreates the daily life of Corfiot aristocracy with charm and authenticity. It's not just a visit—it's a time-travel experience for all your senses.

After some free time to soak in the charm of the Old Town, we head to the iconic Kanoni viewpoint. Capture breathtaking views of Mouse Island and the picturesque Vlaherna Monastery—two of Corfu's most photographed landmarks and enjoy a local refreshment before returning to the port.





## DAY 5                      THIS TOUR **REQUIRES PREBOOKING** AHEAD OF CRUISE

### ITHACA

### THE SECRETS OF REMOTE NORTHERN ITHAKI

Monastery Panagia Kathariotissa - Anogi – Stavros, Kioni villages

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Incl. transportation/ local escort/ all fees & a local drink
- Per Person: Euro 78

Departing from Vathy, we journey through northern Ithaki, beginning with a visit to the Monastery of Panagia Kathariotissa. Perched high on Mount Niritos, this sacred site offers breathtaking island views and deep spiritual roots.

Next, we stop in the charming village of Stavros, where local legends of Ulysses come to life.

Passing through the quaint port of Frikes, we arrive in Kioni—an idyllic seaside village with traditional architecture, peaceful alleys, and nearby beaches like Filiatro and Sarakinari. Have a short stroll and enjoy a local drink at a seaside Café' and some free time.

Return to Vathy via the dramatic western coast, crossing the narrow isthmus that links Ithaki's two halves.



DAY 6

## MESSOLONGHI

### SALT, BIRDS & HEROES

Salt-Museum, Klisova Lagoon, Garden of Heroes

- Duration approx. 3 hours
- Incl. transportation/Guide/Entry fee
- Per Person: Euro 64

Our local guide will take us on a short ride to the enchanting Salt Museum, a tribute to the city's deep connection with salt production and trade. This fascinating museum explores the history, importance, and diverse uses of salt—over 14,000 of them—including exhibits featuring multicolored salt crystals and salt-inspired art. After the tour, step outside to take in the stunning views of Klisova Lagoon from the museum's outdoor area.

As we approach the lagoon, you'll notice its unique split ecosystem. One side features rich reeds, freshwater, and a variety of bird species adapted to this habitat. The other side consists of shallow, hypersaline waters, salt marshes, and mudflats. At sunset, with wooden boats and stilted fishermen's houses in view, it becomes a dream setting for photographers.

Our next stop is at the edge of town, near the medieval city walls, where we'll visit the "Garden of the Heroes." This historic park honors the Greek War of Independence and features nearly 70 statues and busts of Greek heroes and philhellenes, including the British poet, Lord Byron, who literally gave his heart to Messolonghi.

After a brief visit, we follow the scenic road along another lagoon back to the port. You may choose to enjoy dinner either in the vibrant pedestrian quarter of the old town, just a 15-minute walk from the ship, or at one of the inviting seaside restaurants close to our ship.





DAY 7

## AEgina

### PISTACHIOS, SAINTS & ANTIQUITIES.

The ancient temple of Athina Aphaia & the lively town of Aegina

- Duration approx. 3,5 hours
- Incl. Bus/Guide/Entry fees
- Per Person: Euro 85

As we leave the port, the road winds through endless pistachio groves—Aegina's emerald treasure—leading us to our first highlight: The Sanctuary of St. Nektarios. This is one of the most revered pilgrimage sites in Greece, attracting thousands of faithful each year. It's the perfect spot for a memorable photo stop!

We continue past the hill of Palaiochora, the island's medieval capital now lying in atmospheric ruins, and drive through a fragrant pine forest to reach one of Greece's ancient wonders - the Temple of Aphaia. Perched high on a hill and dedicated to the goddess Athena, this stunning Doric temple is an architectural gem dating back to 480 BC. With 25 of its original 32 columns still standing, it offers not only a powerful glimpse into classical Greece but also panoramic views—on a clear day, you can see straight across to the Acropolis of Athens and the Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion!

Next, we return to charming Aegina Town, known for its authentic island character and elegant neoclassical architecture. Stroll through lively piazzas, browse artisan shops and souvenir stalls, or relax at one of the cozy cafés or traditional tavernas lining the seaside promenade. Keep an eye out for the home of Nikos Kazantzakis, the legendary author of *Zorba the Greek*.

And of course—no visit to Aegina is complete without tasting its world-famous pistachios, a local delicacy with protected designation of origin status. Don't forget to take some home—they truly are the best!

*If the ship docks in Agia Marina port, the tour will be done in a reversed order.*



## IMPORTANT NOTE:

To help us prearrange our excursions, **we kindly ask you to pre-book your tours at least 10 days before your cruise.** No prepayment is required, but please note that pre-bookings will be binding. Prices are valid for a minimum of 14 guests; **for smaller groups, a 10% surcharge** may occur depending on the tour. Cancellation fees apply for cancellations received less than 48hrs before each tour.

## REMARKS:

The tours are exclusively run for our Variety small groups and are led by our expert licensed guide, who at times may add an impromptu visit or activity..

Operations and pricing require a minimum of 14 guests.

They are subject to changes due to site restorations, weather, heavy traffic or other conditions. Should sites or museums be closed on our visiting days, alternative visits will be offered instead.

The tours are **quite active** and require good physical condition. Due to slippery or uneven sites we recommend comfortable shoes, a suntan lotion, a hat and water. Dress code for Church and Monastery visits.

Gratuities for drivers and guides are not included.

updapr282025