

# JEWELS OF THE CYCLADES 2026

ATHENS TO ATHENS • PRIVATE SHORE EXCURSIONS

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Pre-bookings are required ahead of the cruise





## DAY 3

# SANTORINI

### ESSENCE OF SANTORINI: From ancient Akrotiri to Iconic Oia

**NOTE: this excursion requires prebooking up to 14 days ahead of cruise**

- Duration approx. 4,5 hours
- Incl. Bus/Certified Guide/Entry fees
- Per Person: Euro 115

Experience the very best of Santorini on a captivating journey that blends history, tradition, and breathtaking scenery. Your adventure begins at **Athinios Port**, where you meet your guide and set off to explore some of the island's most iconic highlights.

Your first stop is the **Archaeological Site of Akrotiri**, often referred to as the "Pompeii of the Aegean." Walk through the remarkably preserved remains of this Bronze Age settlement, buried under volcanic ash for centuries. As your guide shares the stories and discoveries that shaped this ancient civilization, you'll gain a deep appreciation for Santorini's fascinating past.

Continuing your tour, enjoy a gentle stroll through the charming lanes of **Megalochori** or Pyrgos, some of the island's most picturesque traditional villages. With its narrow pathways, whitewashed houses, and serene atmosphere, it offers an authentic glimpse into everyday life on Santorini.

The tour culminates at the famous village of **Oia**. Wander through its iconic blue-domed churches, elegant boutiques, and cliffside paths as your guide unveils the area's history, culture, and local legends. Oia's dramatic vistas and postcard-perfect corners make it Santorini's most celebrated destination.

Your day concludes in **Fira**, the lively capital of Santorini, where you can continue exploring at your leisure or relax and enjoy the caldera views.

NOTE: \* Depending on cruise ship traffic or other conditions, the tour-start can be via cable car ride; the visiting order varies per real conditions.

A minimum of **14 guests** is required for the operation of the tour.



## DAY 4

# PAROS

### PAROS HERITAGE TOUR: Traditions, Craftsmanship & Island Life

- Duration approx. 4,5 hours
- Incl. Bus/Local escort/Entry fees/a specialty dessert tasting
- Per Person: Euro 76

As we pass through the heart of Paros, we enjoy tranquil Cycladic scenery. Our first stop is the charming and genuinely traditional village of **Marpissa**, one of Paros' most picturesque settlements, where time seems to move at a gentler pace. Depending on the season, we visit either a small **folk house-museum**, showcasing everyday life and traditions of the island, or a **typical home with a weaving loom workshop**. There, we meet the owner, who warmly introduces us to the art of weaving while we enjoy a **traditional local treat**.

We then continue to the cosmopolitan village of **Naoussa**, famed for its beautiful harbor and vibrant atmosphere. Here, you will have free time to take a leisurely stroll at the tiny streets, or capture photos among the colorful fishing boats overlooking the shimmering Aegean waters.

Our excursion concludes in **Parikia**, the island's capital. You may optionally visit (no guided tour) the renowned Byzantine church of **Panagia Ekatonpyliani**, one of the most significant religious monuments in Greece and a true jewel of Parian heritage.

Filled with authentic tastes, local traditions, and iconic Cycladic beauty, this excursion offers a memorable introduction to the true character of Paros.



## DAY 5 DELOS

### **DELOS: TIMELESS ESCAPE INTO THE BIRTHPLACE OF GODS**

**NOTE: This tour requires prebooking up to 14 days ahead of cruise**

- Duration approx. 3,5-4 hours
- Incl. Round trip boat/Certified Guide/Entry fees
- Per Person: Euro 90

In antiquity, Delos was revered as both the spiritual heart and the commercial hub of the Aegean. After a short ferry or tender ride, you will disembark on this legendary island and gather for a brief introduction before setting off with your lecturer-guide on a fascinating walk through the remarkably preserved ancient quarters.

Strolling along the original streets, you will encounter impressive Hellenistic houses adorned with exquisite mosaics, astonishingly vivid despite the passage of centuries. Continuing onward, you will reach the Sanctuary, where the remains of the temple dedicated to Apollo stand—a poignant reminder that Delos is celebrated in mythology as the birthplace of the god. Nearby, along the Sacred Way, you will admire the iconic row of five 7th-century B.C. marble lions, eternal guardians of the once-sacred lake.

Your exploration then leads to the ancient Theatre and the Roman Quarter, home to statues dedicated to Dionysus. Guests may also opt to visit the island's archaeological museum, currently undergoing renovation but renowned for its exceptional collection.

A visit to Delos is an encounter with history at its most vivid. It is rightfully recognized as one of the most important UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



## DAY 6 SYROS

### THE TRUE SPIRIT OF SYROS: Scenic Walks, Iconic Sights & Local Flavors

- Duration approx. 4 hours
- Incl. Bus/Guide/Entry fees/Local Meze treat
- Per Person: Euro 80

Syros has been continuously **inhabited for 7000 years**, and together we will explore why its path through history has been completely different than the rest of Greece. Admire the **European influence** which created a distinctive blend of **Neoclassic, Byzantine, Venetian and Greek culture**, present everywhere.

Our tour begins at **Ano Syros**, the **center of Greek Catholicism in the Aegean region**. This traditional neighborhood is built high up on a hill above the port - we will enjoy **stunning views of the Cyclades** as we stroll through its **picturesque narrow alleyways**, passing by the **Catholic Cathedral of San Giorgio**, and the Jesuit and Capuchin monasteries

We then head down to the glorious, aristocratic merchant town of **Ermoupolis**, a neoclassical wonder of rich houses, iconic public edifices, and marble-paved streets. Admire the impressive **Town Hall**, the **Apollo Theater** (a miniature version of Scala di Milano) and the elegant **Captain's Quarter** overlooking the sea. Last, but not least, we visit the local grocery, fish, fruit and pastry market, a chance for a culinary experience. **Taste authentic bites of the Cycladic cuisine** at our small family taverna.

An ever-changing tour where the locals are always ready to surprise us with something new, every time!



## IMPORTANT NOTE:

**Our curated tours are pre-arranged, therefore we kindly ask you to pre- book your tours at least 14 days before your cruise.**

No prepayment is needed. However, please note that pre-bookings communicated to us are considered as firm, and your account will be charged accordingly.

A minimum of **14 participants** is required for each tour to operate.

Cancellation fees apply for any cancellations made less than **48 hours** before the tour.

Cancellations must be acknowledged by our Cruise Coordinator.

## Further remarks:

- Our tours are offered exclusively for Variety' small groups. If a tour cannot operate due to low participation, our team will suggest suitable alternatives. Please note that descriptions, rates, and inclusions may vary for groups of less than 14 guests.
- All tours are designed to match our cruise itinerary and are led by local certified English-speaking guides or professional escorts. We'll take you to the "must-see" highlights while also revealing lesser-known gems.
- Tours may change due to site restorations, weather, traffic, or other conditions. If a site or museum is closed during our visit, an alternative experience will be provided.
- Tours are active and require a good level of physical fitness. Because some sites may be slippery, we recommend comfortable shoes, sunscreen, a hat, and water.
- Please protect your mobiles and cameras during tender rides.
- A modest dress code applies for visits to churches and monasteries.
- Gratuities for drivers and guides are not included.

•upd26feb26

**[WWW.VARIETYCRUISES.COM](http://WWW.VARIETYCRUISES.COM)**

