

# CLASSICAL GREECE 2026

ATHENS TO ATHENS • PRIVATE SHORE EXCURSIONS

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





## DAY 2

# DELOS

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

**NOTE: A pre-booking is required 14 days ahead of your cruise**

- Duration approx. 3,5-4 hours
- Incl. Round trip boat/Certified Guide/Entry fee
- 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, 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 3

## SANTORINI

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

**NOTE: A pre-booking is required 14 days ahead of your 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

## RETHYMNON/CRETE

### CRETE/RETHYMNO: KNOSSOS, LEGENDARY MINOANS & CRETAN FOOD SECRETS

**NOTE: A pre-booking is required 14 days ahead of your cruise**

- Duration approx. 5+ hours
- Incl. Bus/Certified Guide/Entry fee/a Cretan light lunch
- Per Person: Euro 147

After about an hour's drive eastwards along the coast — passing landscapes where Cretan vineyards flourish — we arrive at the **Prehistoric (2000 BC) Minoan Palace of Knossos** to explore this remarkable UNESCO **archaeological site**, set within uniquely picturesque surroundings.

The palace stands as a monumental symbol of the Minoan Civilization, renowned for its impressive scale and sophisticated architecture. It was excavated and partially restored in the early 20th century by the distinguished English archaeologist **Sir Arthur Evans**.

Was this the very palace of the mythical King Minos, home to the legendary labyrinth where the fearsome Minotaur was said to dwell?...

As we explore Knossos, you will walk through the grand **Central Court**, the heart of ceremonial and communal life. The site reveals remarkable engineering achievements for its time, including an **advanced drainage system, multi-storey buildings, light wells**, and vibrant **restored frescoes** depicting scenes of ritual, nature, and daily life.

You'll also discover areas believed to be storerooms, workshops, and royal quarters, illustrating how the palace functioned as a sophisticated administrative, economic, and religious center.

After our detailed visit, we will drive by the greater Heraklion area and return to **Rethymnon Old Town**. We will stroll through its charming Venetian-era alleys and **enjoy a sampling of healthy local delicacies** at a traditional Cretan taverna.



DAY 4

## RETHYMNON/CRETE

### CRETE'S HIDDEN SOUTH: Culture, Nature and the fine DAMNONI beach

- Duration approx. 5.5 hours
- Incl. bus/escort/entry fees/
- Per Person: Euro 84

Our day begins with a scenic mountainous ride leading us to the Late Minoan cemetery of **Armeni**. Nestled at the edge of an ancient oak forest, this remarkable archaeological site features plenty of **rock-cut chamber tombs** with dromos entrances—a unique window into Minoan funerary culture.

We then continue south across the Rethymno district toward **Spili**, the lush “green heart” of the region. Here, fresh mountain water flows from the town’s iconic fountain, lined with stone lion heads. Enjoy a stroll through the picturesque alleys, visit the local traditional museum, savor a Greek coffee, and browse shops filled with Cretan herbs and local products.

Our route then leads us through the breathtaking **Kourtaliotiko Gorge**, where towering cliffs create one of Crete’s most impressive natural passages. We pause at one of the island’s last remaining **Byzantine stone bridges**, beautifully set beside the Megas Potamos river—a perfect spot for photos.

Next, we arrive at **Damnoni Beach**, one of the finest beaches on Crete’s southern coast. Here, you’ll have free time to swim in the crystal-clear turquoise waters of the Libyan Sea, relax on the soft sand, or, if you prefer, enjoy lunch at a traditional Cretan taverna (optional, not included).

Afterwards, we ascend into the mountains once more, crossing another striking gorge as we return to the fertile heart of the district. Our scenic drive brings us back to **Rethymno**, where you will have free time to explore the enchanting Old Town with its narrow streets, Venetian architecture, and vibrant atmosphere.



DAY 7

## NAFPLION

### MYCENAE – AGAMEMNON AND THE CYCLOPEAN WALLS – NAFPLION OLD TOWN

**NOTE: A pre-booking is required 14 days ahead of your cruise**

- Duration approx. 3,5 hours
- Incl. Bus/Certified Guide/Entry fee
- Per Person: Euro 90

A pleasant drive through the fertile landscapes of Argolis brings us to the ancient city of **Mycenae**, legendary home of King Agamemnon.

The city, described by Homer as “*rich in gold*,” flourished from around 1650 B.C. until 1100 B.C., when the great Mycenaean civilization declined. Explore the impressive remains of this once-powerful kingdom, including the iconic **Lion’s Gate**, the **Royal Palace**, and the **Tomb of Agamemnon**.

In mythology, Mycenae was the seat of the storied House of Atreus, and it was from here that Agamemnon, “king of men,” set out to lead the Achaeans to the Trojan War. A major center of Greek civilization from 1600 B.C. to 1100 B.C., Mycenae is today a designated **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.

The tour concludes with a short guided stroll through the charming old town of **Nafplion**, the first capital of modern Greece, known for its imposing fortress walls, elegant neoclassical homes, and picturesque narrow streets.



## 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.

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