

# UNEXPLORED GREECE: AEGEAN ISLANDS

ATHENS TO ATHENS • PRIVATE SHORE EXCURSION PACKAGE 2025





## DAY 2 - AFTERNOON

### IKARIA

#### THERMA: TIMELESS CHARM AND THE HEALING SPRINGS OF IKARIA

- Roundtrip shuttle, a leisurely escorted walk with a swimming option and a treat
- Per Person: Euro 48

Leaving Ikaria's capital, **Agios Kirykos**, behind, we will head about 5km east to reach **Therma**, Ikaria's renowned thermal springs 'spa town.' Discover an old-world Greek village that was celebrated in ancient times for its healing waters. Since the **1st century B.C.**, Therma in Ikaria has been recognized as a center for hydrotherapy, as evidenced by numerous references in historical texts. One can still find ruins of the ancient baths there, while today's visitors have the option to take a humble jacuzzi or steam bath in the **Cave Spa\*\*** or even enjoy the natural sea pool.

The scenery is encircled by hills, and in the distance, on either side, rise the rocks of the gorge, at the mouth of which lies Therma. This secluded place overlooks the sea, and along the waterfront, encircling the small square, you will find a few traditional coffee shops, tavernas, and bakeries, where we will sample a local treat. The village boasts a small pier where fishers unload their catch and sort their nets. There is also a charming little beach with fine gray and golden sand for swimming. The whitewashed houses, some lower, others higher, stand side by side with their flowery balconies, appearing just a few meters from the beach.

**\*\*some thermal SPA amenities were still under renovation until early summer 2025**

*The hot mineral springs flow into the sea, creating a natural pool where you can enjoy the therapeutic waters while bathing in the sea. These springs are rich in minerals like radium and radon, which are believed to have various health benefits, including relief from ailments and skin conditions.*





## DAY 3 - MORNING

### PATMOS

#### The Historic Chora with the Monastery of Saint-John and the Cave of the Apocalypse

- Duration approx. 3 hours
- Transportation/ Guide/ Entry fees included
- Per Person: Included tour

Depart the picturesque **harbor of Skala** for a short drive to the **Cave of the Apocalypse** and the imposing Monastery of St. John, built 900 years ago, exceptional in its architecture. Its thick, high walls are crowned all around with battlements and eight chapels. Visit the **Treasury Museum** in the Monastery with its jeweled chalices, crowns, vestments, and old manuscripts dating back to 1073. We will then continue for an insight exploration in **Chora (Patmos main town)** led by our local expert. Chora is of unique charm not only because of the dominating Castle and Monastery but for the Byzantine residences said to be the strongest ones built in the Aegean. Whitewashed houses, mansions with antique furniture and embroideries, captain's residences, narrow streets and alleyways, all of which date back to the 15th century.

Enjoy some time at leisure before returning to our ship.



## DAY 3 - AFTERNOON

### LIPSI

#### Discovering secret Flavors and great views

- Duration approx. 2 hours
- Escorted shuttle transfer, winery visit and tasting with 4 local wines & nibbles
- Per Person: Euro 42

Experience the tranquil charm of Lipsi with our exclusive Sunday winery visit. After a brief drive through the serene landscapes, we arrive at a quaint winery where our guests are warmly welcomed by the owners and producers. Engage in an informative talk and tour the premises, learning about the rich history and craftsmanship behind the wines. The highlight of the visit is a delightful tasting session featuring four distinct local wines, perfectly paired with a selection of cheeses and olives. Enjoy these flavors at the outdoor terrace, offering a superb view of the area that enhances the experience. This enjoyable and sociable event is an excellent way to discover more about these unique wines and the indigenous grape variety, Fokiano. At the end of our visit, guests may opt to take a leisurely walk through the quaint village. Stroll down charming narrow streets lined with local yards and vibrant flowers, leading to the colorful port. This picturesque walk offers a glimpse into the everyday life of Lipsi and its welcoming people!





DAY 4 - AFTERNOON

## KALYMNOS

### **A Walk Through Pothia: Stories of Sponge Divers, Culture and Gastronomy**

- Duration approx. 2 hours
- One way fun ride with a mini train, a local escort, a Kalymnos meze (nibble), visiting and contribution fees
- Per Person: Euro 55

Embark on a journey through Pothia, where the tales of courageous sponge divers and their enduring cultural legacy come to life. This adventure through time intertwines the past with the present, preserving the memory of these brave souls. Our local guide will lead us on a short walk to a modest neoclassical house, established by Mr. Kyrannis, a former teacher with a profound love and respect for the island's heritage. Here, visitors can immerse themselves in Kalymnos' rich cultural tapestry. We will explore private folklore and historical collections, meticulously curated to narrate the vibrant history of Kalymnos, the traditional life of its people, and their sponge diving stories from centuries past. As we stroll past the captains' and sponge merchants' houses, tucked away in flower-adorned alleys, we will arrive at a charming meze taverna for a delightful Kalymnian treat. Finally, we will be welcomed by the owner of a small sponge factory, who will share insights into this long-standing fishing tradition.



## DAY 5 - AFTERNOON

# AMORGOS

### **Amorgos: Afternoon included village walk**

- Duration approx. 2 hours
- Amorgos escort and "baked raki" drink
- Per Person: Included tour

Starting at the ancient port of Katapola, nowadays a bustling hub, we will stroll along the coastal road to Xylokeratidi, a settlement rich in naval history. Next, through small alleys lined with pretty houses and flowered yards, we'll visit Rahidi to see the old church of Agios Georgios. In Katapola, we'll explore the renovated church of Panagia Katapoliani. Our walk concludes at a traditional cafe, where we can unwind with Amorgos' famous drink, "Baked Raki."

*NOTE: An alternative visit may be announced by our staff, in case of port changes.*





## DAY 6 - MORNING

# AMORGOS

### Endless blue Aegean, Hozoviotissa Monastery and the whitewashed main town (Chora)

- Duration approx. 4,5 hours
- Incl. Bus/ Guide/ Entry fee
- Per Person: Euro 88

Starting from the bustling port of Katapola, we will embark on a short drive to the island's imposing 1000-year-old landmark, the Monastery of Hozoviotissa. Perched dramatically on the cliffside, about 100 meters above the sea, it offers breathtaking views. Built around 1017 and renovated in 1080 by Alexius Comnenus I, this monastery is a tribute to the Grace of Panagia, known as the Virgin Mary, the patron saint of the island. Each year, the holy icon is carried to all villages. We will ascend at a leisurely pace to admire the perfect blend of nature and human craftsmanship, which is undoubtedly the pride of Amorgos.

Our next stop is the famous capital of Amorgos, Chora: a medieval mountain village surrounded by windmills and dominated by a 13th-century Venetian castle. Strolling through Chora with our expert guide feels like stepping into a dream of the quintessential Greek village, with its narrow winding alleys, whitewashed houses, friendly locals, charming squares, and tiny churches that hold centuries of stories. Enjoy some leisure time or a coffee break at a traditional kafenio before we return to the port.



## DAY 7 - MORNING

### SERIFOS

#### Chora's Charm: An Artist's Guide to Sights & Bites

- Duration approx. 3,5 hours
- Transportation, local expert, typical drink with meze
- Per Person: Euro 56

Leaving Livadi port behind, we embark on a short ride, escorted by a talented artist who will guide us through the stunning vistas of the sea and rocky landscapes, adorned with tiny, whitewashed chapels and monasteries. Serifos, known as the "iron island" due to its rich subsoil ore, has a fascinating history. This wealth attracted businesses and led to significant labor migration. The 1916 strike is a pivotal moment in its history, symbolizing the pursuit of labor rights. This movement eventually led to the establishment of the first 8-hour workday in Greece in 1925, a law that had been voted on since 1920 but was never fully applied until then.

Our journey continues to Serifos Chora, a remarkable example of traditional Cycladic architecture. With impressive views from its 15th-century castle ruins, Chora is one of the most captivating villages in the Cyclades. As we wander through its flower-filled alleys, we'll encounter tiny white houses with colorful windows and doors, predominantly in shades of aqua and deep blue. Bougainvillea-covered corners, blooming gardens, numerous chapels, and windmills add to its charm. Built amphitheatrically on a rocky hill, Chora overlooks the island and harbor, brimming with life, artisan shops, small bars, tavernas, and incredible sunsets. We chose one of the oldest Kafenion to sip a glass of Serifiotiko wine and taste homemade meze bites.





## IMPORTANT NOTE:

Our curated tours are prearranged, therefore **we kindly ask you to pre-book your tours marked with “prebooking required” 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 require a minimum of 14 guests. If a tour cannot operate due to low occupancy our staff will suggest alternative options.

Our tailor-made tours do perfectly match with our cruise itinerary timings and are led by local certified English-speaking guides or professional escorts. Let us take you to the “must see” sites and show you some hidden spots at the same time.

The tours 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.

All tours are quite active and require good physical condition. Due to slippery sites, we recommend comfortable shoes, sun tan lotion, a hat and water. Dress code for Church and Monastery visits. Gratuities for drivers and guides are not included.

