

UNEXPLORED GREECE: AEGEAN ISLANDS

ATHENS TO ATHENS • PRIVATE SHORE EXCURSION PACKAGE
2026

IMPORTANT NOTE: SOME TOURS REQUIRE PRE-BOOKING
UP TO 14 DAYS AHEAD OF THE CRUISE (please see descriptions)





DAY 2 - AFTERNOON

IKARIA

THERMA: TIMELESS CHARM AND THE HEALING SPRINGS OF IKARIA

- Duration approx. 2-2,5hrs
- Roundtrip shuttle, a leisurely escorted walk with a swimming option and an Ikarian treat
- Per Person: Euro 45 **REQUIRES PRE-BOOKING - LIMITED BUS CAPACITY**

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 2026**

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 and exceptional in its architecture. Its thick, high walls are crowned with battlements and eight chapels. Visit the Treasury Museum within the Monastery, home to jeweled chalices, crowns, vestments, and rare manuscripts dating back to 1073.

We then continue with an insightful exploration of Chora, Patmos' main town, led by our local expert. Chora holds a rare charm not only because of the dominating Castle and Monastery, but also due to its remarkably preserved Byzantine residences, considered among the strongest built in the Aegean. Whitewashed houses, mansions adorned with antique furniture and embroideries, captain's residences, and narrow cobblestone alleyways create a timeless atmosphere dating back to the 15th century. **Perched on a hilltop, Chora offers sweeping views over the island and the sea, enhancing its serene and spiritual character. Its harmonious blend of religious heritage and traditional island architecture has earned it a place among the most beautiful historic settlements in Greece.**

Enjoy some time at leisure before returning to our ship.



DAY 3 - AFTERNOON

LIPSI

Discovering secret Flavors and great views: THE WINE TASTING

- Duration approx. 2 hours
 - Escorted shuttle transfer, winery visit and tasting with 4 local wines & nibbles
 - Per Person: Euro 47
- REQUIRES PRE-BOOKING**

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
- A short fun ride with a mini train, a local escort, a Kalymnos meze (nibble), visiting and contribution fees
- Per Person: Euro 58

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. At his private, old times small section 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

AMORGOS

Amorgos: Afternoon included village stroll

- 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.

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 or schedule changes.



DAY 6 - AFTERNOON AMORGOS

THE SOUL OF AMORGOS: Endless blue Aegean, Hozoviotissa Monastery and magical Chora

THIS TOUR REQUIRES PREBOOKING UP TO 14 DAYS AHEAD OF CRUISE

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

Beginning at the lively port of Katapola, we set off on a short yet scenic drive toward one of Amorgos' most iconic treasures: the 1,000-year-old Monastery of **Hozoviotissa**. Clinging majestically to the sheer cliff face, around 100 meters above the shimmering Aegean, the monastery is a breathtaking sight to behold. Originally built in 1017 and later restored in 1080 by Emperor Alexius Comnenus I, it stands as a remarkable tribute to the Grace of Panagia—Amorgos' patron saint. Each year, the revered holy icon is carried through the island's villages in a cherished tradition. We will ascend at a gentle pace, taking time to admire this extraordinary harmony between nature's wild beauty and human devotion—an enduring symbol of pride for the people of Amorgos.

Our guided journey continues to **Chora**, the enchanting capital of the island. This medieval mountain village, crowned by its 13th-century Venetian castle and encircled by timeless windmills, feels like a step back into a dreamlike past. Wandering through Chora's labyrinth of narrow lanes, past whitewashed houses, inviting courtyards, tiny centuries-old chapels, and friendly local shops, you'll experience the essence of authentic Cycladic life.

Enjoy free time to explore at your leisure or savor a relaxing coffee at a traditional kafenio before we make our way back to the port.



DAY 7 - MORNING

SERIFOS

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

THIS TOUR REQUIRES PREBOOKING UP TO 14 DAYS AHEAD OF CRUISE

- 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 more 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 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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