



Excursions in Kusadasi

Ephesus & the House of Virgin Mary

Adult: €65 (\$91), Child: €40 (\$56)

Duration: 3.5 hours

Drive through the colorful town of Kusadasi to reach Mt. Koressos. Situated in a small valley, the humble chapel lies on the site of the little house where the Virgin Mary is believed to have spent her last days. Despite the many controversies, the Christian World still favors this belief and the site has been officially sanctioned by the Vatican for pilgrimage. Continue on to Ancient Ephesus accompanied by your guide walk through the Magnesian Gate which is the entrance to the ancient city of Ephesus. Your guided walking tour will take you through one of the most magnificent excavations in the world. See the Odeon (concert hall), the Fountain of Trajan, the steam-heated Baths of Scolastika, the Temple of Hadrian and the Latrines, the Library of Celsus and The Great Theatre, the largest one in antiquity with a capacity of 24,000 seats where St. Paul preached. Walk back to the coach along the Arcadian Way, where Mark Anthony and Cleopatra once rode in procession. While driving back to Kusadasi and just outside Ephesus, view the Basilica of St. John, which was erected over his grave in the 6th century A.D. by Emperor Justinian. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi or get a cultural taste of Turkey by enjoying an exhibition of oriental carpets, jewelry or leather goods. *Tour not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties.*

Ancient Ephesus

Adult: €60 (\$84) Child: €37 (\$52)

Duration: 3 hours

Drive through the colorful town of Kusadasi and along the coast to reach Ephesus, famous in antiquity for its Temple of Diana—one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World—and later the home of St. John. During the years of the Roman Empire, the Greek port of Ephesus became the greatest city in Asia Minor. Upon arrival at Ephesus follow your guide to enter the ancient site through the Magnesian Gate. Discover innumerable monuments including the Forum, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Thermal Baths of Scolastika and the Great Theatre built in the Greek era and reconstructed in the Roman period, which is still noted for its remarkable acoustics. View the symbols all around and marvel at the fact that one is still able to read the inscriptions in the ancient Greek language. Walk back to your coach along the Arcadian Way, where once Mark Anthony and Cleopatra rode in procession. As you drive back to Kusadasi, on a hill above Selcuk, just outside Ephesus, view the Basilica of St. John, which was erected over his grave in the 6th century A.D. by Emperor Justinian. Before returning to the ship, enjoy free time in Kusadasi or get a cultural taste of Turkey by enjoying an exhibition of oriental carpets, jewelry or leather goods. *Excursion not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties.*

Ancient Ephesus and the Terrace Houses

Adult: €65 (\$91) Child: €40 (\$56)

Duration: 4 hours

During the years of the Roman Empire, the Greek port of Ephesus became the greatest city in Asia Minor. Upon arrival at Ephesus follow your guide to enter the ancient site through the Magnesian Gate. Discover innumerable monuments including the Forum, the Odeon, the Library of Celsus, the Thermal Baths of Scolastika and the Great Theatre built in the Greek era and reconstructed in the Roman period, which is still noted for its remarkable acoustics, and the great Temple of Hadrian.

Opposite of Hadrian's Temple, at the foot of Bulbul hill and the archaeological site, lie the Houses of Koressus or Terrace Houses. Here you will find the residences of the wealthy families of Ancient Ephesus. The oldest unearthed houses date to the 1st century B.C., were two-storied and evidence suggests that they even had heating, as well as, hot and cold water.

The excursion comes to a close at the vibrant Covered Bazaar in Kusadasi where you will have the opportunity to shop and bargain for local goods.

Excursions in Patmos

St. John's Monastery & Grotto of the Apocalypse

Adult: €65 (\$91) Child: €40 (\$56)

Duration: 2 hours

Depart from the port of Scala and enjoy a short drive to the village of Chora, where the Monastery of St. John is built within the walls of a strong fortification. As you walk uphill towards the entrance of the monastery marvel at this magnificent structure, which was built 900 years ago. View the courtyard, the monks' dining room and the old bakery before you visit the main church noted for its outstanding frescoes and interior decoration. Next, visit the small museum where priceless ecclesiastical treasures, books, manuscripts, mosaics, icons, splendid medieval textiles, vestments and jewelry are housed. Return to your motor coach and continue to the nearby Grotto of the Apocalypse. Walk down the steps to the Grotto of the Apocalypse. Here you will see the niches in the wall that mark the pillow and ledge used as a desk by the author of the Book of the Revelation and the crack in the rock made by the voice of God honoring the Holy Trinity. Afterwards, drive back to the port of Scala and enjoy some free time in this quaint and picturesque town. *Excursion not suitable for passengers with walking difficulties.*

Patmos Scenic Island Tour

Adult: €47 (\$66) Child: €34 (\$48)

Duration: 2 hours

An interesting scenic island tour has been designed for those passengers who prefer to discover the beauties of Patmos from the comfort of an air-conditioned motor coach. Start the tour from the port of Scala and drive to the central part of the island "Chora" which is the location of the Majestic Byzantine Monastery of St. John the Divine, built in 1088. Your sightseeing will first bring you to the Grotto of the Apocalypse, and then to the windmills of Chora, once upon a time the landmark of all Aegean Islands, from where you will enjoy a beautiful view and have the chance to take photos. Afterwards, continue around the island to see its landscape of outstanding natural beauty comprising of rocky hills, dozens of tongues of land reaching out into the sea, tranquil beaches and many picturesque inlets. Before arriving at

the port, a stop of 10 minutes is made at the square at Kambos in the north part of island. The tour ends at the port of Scala to enjoy free time in the quaint and picturesque little town. A refreshment or a coffee will be offered at Arion Café, the oldest and most beautiful café of the town.

Traditional Feast in Patmos

Adult: €49 (\$69) Child: €36 (\$50)

Duration: 3 hours

Join an unforgettable feast served in a traditional Patmos taverna. Your friendly hosts are eager to feed you the traditional dishes of their island in one of the loveliest classic hillside villages.

Board an air-conditioned bus in Skala for a scenic drive into the hills of Patmos. Patmos is comprised of three mountainous segments linked by two isthmuses at the center of the island. Although its infrastructure rivals that of its Dodecanese neighbours, Patmos still feels off the beaten path thanks to its natural beauty, quaint villages, postcard-quality vistas, and its sacred sites. In 2009, Forbes named the island one of the world's most idyllic places to live. When driving through the island's picturesque villages, be sure to look down for stunning views of the Aegean.

The scent of wildflowers greets you as you exit the bus for a short, scenic walk to the taverna, where our feast awaits. You'll have to decide where to look: at the incredible view of the Aegean or at the taverna's tables, overflowing with traditional Patmian delicacies. A local orchestra and dance troupe will perform for us while we feast. Welcome to the authentic heart of countryside Patmos. Kali Orexi!

Transfer to Agriolivadi Beach *(This optional excursion is sold only on the boat)*

Adult: €15 (\$21) Child: €10 (\$14)

Excursions in Crete

Knossos Palace

Adult: €53 (\$74) Child: €31 (\$43)

Duration: 3.5 hours

Crete is the largest and the most rugged of the Greek islands. It is also the home of the great Minoan Civilization and the mythological home of Zeus. After a short drive through the town of Heraklion the tour will arrive at the Knossos excavations. Here, Sir Arthur Evans's archeological discoveries revealed a civilization dating back to 4000 B.C., when a great empire flourished on the island of Crete. Based on the wealth of artifacts that were found, Evans theorized that this was the site of the ancient Minoan Kingdom. These findings will be viewed in detail, as your guide will lead you on a journey of discovery to learn of the sophisticated culture that flourished thousands of years ago on this island. The Palace, decorated with frescoes and shields houses the Hall of the Royal Guard, the Hall of the Double Axes, the King's Chamber with the alabaster throne, the Queen's Apartment, beautiful courtyards and shrines. Having visited this remarkable site your coaches will take you back to the Venetian lion-guarded port of Heraklion to rejoin your ship. *Walking in the archeological site of Knossos will be on uneven gravel surfaces. Passengers may not be allowed to enter the site with big bags or backpacks.*

Cretan Countryside and Lifestyle

Adult: €53 (\$74) Child: €31 (\$43)

Duration: 3.5 hours

The excursion begins from the Venetian lion-guarded port of Heraklion with a drive through the city to the famous wine producing area of Peza, south of Heraklion. The drive is through breathtaking landscape of countryside and vineyards as old as Minoan times. The first stop is a modern winery, where you will see the updated methods of wine making and sample some of the delicious Cretan wines. The drive continues through rural villages to the village of Archanes, the municipality in the area. On the way, a photo stop is made at Vathypetro to view one of the oldest farmhouses in Crete, dating to the Minoan period 16th century B.C.. The tour continues through the island's hilly countryside where olive groves and vineyards existed from as far back as 4,000 years. Arriving at the village of Archanes, which is situated 10km south of the Palace of Knossos, the quaint market town of Archanes has many restored sandstone houses dating from the Turkish period. At a taverna in the village's tree-shaded square, you can sample an assortment of Cretan snacks and locally produced wine, and have a chance to mingle with many of the locals themselves while listening to typical Greek music. You will have free time to browse before the return drive to the port of Heraklion and the ship.

Venetian Heraklion and Archaeological Museum

Adult: €53 (\$74) Child: €31 (\$43)

Duration: 3.5 hours

Heraklion was founded in 824 and is an important homeland of many contributors to literature and art, some examples of which are the Nobel winning poet Odysseas Elytis, the Renaissance painter Domenikos Theotokopoulos (El Greco) and the writer Nikos Kazantzakis. Heraklion is also endowed with some wonderful edifices: the "Koules" fortress, the award winning Venetian structure of the Loggia, the Morosini Fountain, the Basilica of Saint Mark, the Church of Agios Titos, the medieval monastery of Saint Catherine, the Cathedral of Agios Mina, the Historical Museum of Crete and of course the Palace of Knossos are some exceptional examples.

The tour will come to an end at the Archaeological Museum of the city. Through the exhibits of the museum, the history of Cretan culture will unfold and be visualized before you.

Excursions in Santorini

Oia Village

Adult: €57 (\$80) Child: €34 (\$48)

Duration: 3 hours

Driving along the road you will have the unique opportunity to admire the panoramic view of the Aegean Sea and the neighbouring islands. A unique sight is the various layers of lava that can be seen on the face of the rock, each layer being another phase of the activity of the volcano. Built on the Caldera rim, Oia Village is an excellent example of Cycladic architecture. Explore the village walking along the cobble-stone streets and the white washed houses with blue shutters where one gets the impression that they are a beautiful travel poster. Your coach will bring you back to the port of Athinios, where you will embark your tender boat. *It will be possible to remain in Fira and reach the port by cable car. Passengers will have to purchase the ticket at the cable car station.*

Cruise to Santorini's Islands and Volcanoes

Adult: €57 (\$80) Child: €34 (\$48)

Duration: 3 hours

Enjoy a motorboat cruise around the active crater of Nea Kameni islet. Sail along the strange formations of its volcanic shores, where black lava rocks and white pumice are combined beautifully with the red color of lava. Take a walk to the top of the volcanic island where sulphur is spewed into the air by one of the craters. Enjoy this surreal landscape as your guide narrates the creation and history of the volcano and the last eruption leading to the destruction of the island of Santorini. The tidal wave created by the eruption was of such an immense magnitude, it destroyed the thriving city of Knossos on the island of Crete. As your caique enters the narrows of the two lava islets, Palea and Nea Kameni, the color of the water changes from dark blue to sulphur green. In the distance, admire the breathtaking sight of Fira town with its white washed houses clinging precariously on the rim of the Caldera. Take time to swim in the warm waters heated by Hot Springs on the sea floor. Your excursion will end in Fira where your guide will show you the way to the cable car and you will make your own way back to the ship. *Excursion available from April to September, subject to weather conditions. Passengers should bring a swimsuit and towel. Please note that the water at the hot springs is reddish brown and may stain light colored swimsuits.*

Off-the-Beaten-Track Safari Adventure

Adult: €57 (\$80) Child: €34 (\$48)

Duration: 3 hours

Depart the ship by tender for Athinios port, where you will meet the guide and begin your jeep safari. Start by heading for the Faros ("lighthouse") at Akotiri, the most southern point of the island, for a quick photo stop. Then move on Vlychada Beach and the village of Vlychada, where all the local fishing boats are moored, for another photo opportunity. Then head to Perissa Beach, where the black sand is a gorgeous backdrop for a series of lively bars lining the beachfront. Here you'll have the opportunity to stop and enjoy refreshments in one of the many cafés, or walk around and stretch your legs before getting back into the jeeps. Continue on to the highest point of the island, Profitis Elias, where you'll enjoy the most amazing and dramatic panoramic view of the surrounding island. Head down the mountain and drive through the small sleepy village of Exo Gonia. Then continue to Kamari beach, a former fishing village that is now a hub of activity and a popular destination for tourists from all over the world, filled with hotels, restaurants and colorful shops. The last stop will be the lovely village of Monolithos, quieter and more sleepy than Kamari, but no less beautiful. Finish your safari tour at Fira Town, where you'll leave the jeeps behind and follow your guide up to the Metropolis Church of Fira town and return to the port by cable car.