

2019 cruise excursions and costs: (no meals are included except in Kusadasi; optional gratuities are not included)

1. 10/7 (at sea)

2. 10/8 Katakolon: KATAKOLON - ANCIENT OLYMPIA

In the morning disembark from the cruise ship at the port of Katakolon to meet your private guide holding a sign with your name on it at the pre-arranged time. Enjoy a full day tour in Olympia (30 minutes from Katakolon). Ancient Olympia is the birthplace of the Olympic Games and the most important sanctuary of Zeus, father of all gods and goddesses. The starting line is still visible etched on the marble in the stadium there, inviting you to run and in your imagination compete with the ancient athletes. Enjoy the play of light on the soft greenery and dappled ancient columns in this wonderful and peaceful setting. We visit the archaeological museum beside the ancient site. It contains most interesting exhibits such as the pediments and the metopes of the Temple of Zeus, the Statue of Nike and of Hermes.

After your tour enjoy lunch at a local restaurant on your own.

Return back to the cruise ship.

FEATURES INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE PACKAGE RATES:

- Private Comprehensive sightseeing tours by local English-speaking government licensed guides as per itinerary
- Private transportation by deluxe air-conditioned motor coach as per itinerary
- Tolls, bus parking fees
- Entrance admission tickets to Ancient Olympia (12 € if purchased individually)
- Headsets
- Local taxes

FEATURES NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE PACKAGE RATES:

- Meals, snacks, beverages, drinks, etc.
- Any personal expenses
- All tips & gratuities to local coach drivers & tour guides,
- Travel insurance, health and medical insurance.
- Whatever not mentioned as being included above.

Cost: 56 € per person; wi-fi in vehicle

3. 10/9 Piraeus: **Private Athens full day program**

Your private guide will meet you at Piraeus port holding a sign with your name on it at the pre-arranged time. After meeting with your professional guide, start your journey in the birthplace of Western civilization, Athens the capital of Greece, 20-40 minutes from Piraeus depending on traffic.

To avoid long queues we go directly to **the Acropolis**, the sacred rock of Athens. We will see the Parthenon that was dedicated to the goddess Athena, Propylaea, the monumental entrance to the sacred area, the Temple of Athena Nike which was dedicated to Athena-Nike, the Erechtheion with its famous female figures-statues the Caryatids or maidens dedicated both to Athena and Poseidon.

The Acropolis Hill has a view of the Ancient Agora, the Tower of the Winds, Herodes Atticus Odeon, and the Theatre of Dionysus. You will have a chance to see them from Acropolis Hill.

We then drive to **the Temple of Olympian Zeus**, the largest in ancient Greece, taking over 700 years to build and **the Panathenaic Stadium** where the first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896.

We will see **the Parliament House**. We continue with the highlights of modern Athens stopping by **the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** in front of the Parliament House to see the highly stylized changing of the Presidential Guard called evzones.

Then we will have free time for lunch and souvenir hunting in the oldest and most picturesque neighborhood of Athens, **Plaka** (stone-paved narrow streets, traditional Greek tavernas -best gyros- antique and souvenir stores) clustered under the slopes of the Acropolis, known as the “Neighborhood of the Gods”.

After Plaka, because of our limited time in Athens, we can visit EITHER **the Ancient Agora** which was formerly the commercial hub of ancient Athens and birthplace of politics and philosophy, **OR** the new Acropolis Museum, **OR** the National Archaeological Museum, the largest museum in Greece with one of the most extensive and important archaeological collections in the world.

Drive back to the port and end of services.

Tour Includes

- ✓ Professional English Speaking tour guide
 - ✓ Private transportation with A/C vehicles
 - ✓ Local taxes
 - ✓ Parking fees
- ✓ Entrance fees (about 30 € purchased individually)

Tour Excludes

- ✗ Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- ✗ Any kind of other personal expenses
- ✗ Any tips to guide and driver

Cost: 64 € per person; wi-fi in vehicle

4. 10/10 Piraeus: bus or Metro ride to Athens for a self-guided tour.

5. 10/11 Mykonos: small town well suited to a self-guided tour.

6. 10/12 Kusadasi/Ephesus, Turkey:

- Your private guide will meet you at Kusadasi port at pre-arranged time. After greeting, we will have 20 mins. drive to Ephesus area. We will start visiting one of the main highlights in Turkey, Ephesus, one of the 12 cities of Ionian League (an ancient Greek district on the western coast of Asia Minor) is located near Izmir. As a port city it was a major departure point for trade routes into Asia Minor.
- Walk through history along marble streets lined with wonderful public buildings, among them the Baths of Scholastica, the Library of Celsus; it was built in the beginning of the 2nd century A.D. by Gaius Julius Aquila to be a memorial to his father Gaius Julius Celsus Polemanus, the proconsul of Province of Asia. , the Temple of Hadrian and The Grand Theater are two of the most impressive buildings in Ephesus. Grand theatre was built in 3rd century B.C and it was later expanded to 24.000 spectators by the Romans in the 1st century A.D.
- After visiting Ephesus drive to St. John's Basilica, it is believed that the evangelist St. John had spent his last years in the region around Ephesus and buried in the southern slope of Ayasolug Hill. We will stop at Artemission Temple where used to be one of the seven wonders of the ancient world as our last stop before drive back to Kusadasi town center and port.
- Drive back to Kusadasi town center and port. The end of our services.
- **Added stops: Terrace House and included lunch**.**
- **Cost: 33.00 US per person; wi-fi in vehicle.**

7. 10/13 Rhodes: Rhodes, in Rick Steve's words, is an exotic cultural cocktail of Greek and Turkish, with a dash of Crusaders from all over Europe. For those of you who remember your high school days, the movie Guns of Navarone was filmed on Rhodes. Here is the private tour of Lindos and old town Rhodes:

- Duration 09:30-17:00
- Pick up from the dock.
- 1 hr drive to Lindos with commentary on the way.
- 2.5 hrs stay time in Lindos - Guided tour with free time.
- 1 hr drive to Rhodes town with commentary on the way.
- Pass by the Acropolis of Rhodes.
- 2.5 hrs stay time in Rhodes - Guided tour with free time.
- Guided tour in Rhodes finishes at approx. 15:30.
- Cost: 30 € per person; optional entrance to Acropolis of Lindos is 12 € but I am going to advise against it: it is 300 steps up the hill or a donkey ride to eliminate $\frac{3}{4}$ of those steps; NO handrails; while the view is spectacular most people agree that there is not (too) much to see for the price.
- We'll be split into a 30-seat midi bus and a mini bus. No wi-fi in car.

8. 10/14 Santorini: 6-hour private tour including

- Oia; the most famous spot of the island where you can explore the local market and take unique photos
- Firostefani; a picturesque and peaceful neighborhood which is perfect on the cliffs of the Caldera with the famous blue dome.
- Imerovigli; Enjoy the breathtaking views overlooking the Aegean Sea and Caldera.
- Prophet Ilias; the highest spot of the island with the famous old monastery.
- Megalochori; Admire the traditional architecture.
- Akrotiri; Discover the Archaeological Site on your own, as your guide is not permitted inside. You will also be responsible for admissions fees here.
- Red Beach: Admire the red layer of sand at the famous red rocks.
- Perivolos (Black Beach); explore the Black Beach, or have lunch at a local restaurant (own expense).
 - **Cost: 37 € per person plus 12 € entrance to Akrotiri and 6 € cable car ride from the dock up to the town of Fira; no wi-fi in vehicle.**

9. 10/15 Chania: the ship docks at Souda Bay, a 15-minute bus ride from town; town is small so a self-guided tour is in order.

10. 10/16 (at sea)

11. 10/17 Naples: I originally considered splitting the group into two but all the people who wrote back said that we should stay in one group so I hope the people who have been on the previous excursion do not mind. In truth this is a nice excursion. The views along the Amalfi Coast are breathtaking. Sorrento is a nice town to visit and

shop (especially for the ladies). Pompeii was an ancient Greek settlement (from as far back as 8th Century BC) that was wiped out and buried by a volcanic eruption in 79 AD, and rediscovered in 1748. At the time of the eruption Pompeii was a thriving gathering place for wealthy Roman vacationers and showed amazing advancement of Roman engineering. For example, the public baths had central heating systems. The city had two parallel water supply systems: one for public places and one for private houses. During a drought the private system would be shut off first. The one thing they did wrong was using lead pipes for the water system. That, coupled with the amount of antimony in the ground water in the region, poisoned the Pompeii population to the point that they did not even live the life expectancy of 35 years* elsewhere in the Roman Empire. The excursion costs 58 € plus 17 € entrance fee to Pompeii (15 € plus 2 € for headset). I have also arranged a shuttle to take us down to the Sorrento ferry dock for a different look at Sorrento and a walk through the attractions there.

***The life expectancy reflected the high infant mortality rate at the time. Excluding the infant mortality rate would probably bump the life expectancy to 45 or 50. If we were Romans, most of us would be dead by now!**

****Lunch will be served in the garden of local handcraft center. Mezes, salad, grilled meat balls-chicken sish - meat sish with rice and vegetables, fruits will be served. Water is included. Other drinks are not included.**