

ULTIMATE GREECE VACATION!

April 18th – 29th



4/18: Departure from US – LA, DC and JFK

4/19, 2:00 p.m.: Afternoon tour of Athens.

6:00 p.m. We will walk over to the Plaka, which is a wonderful place to stroll and offers lots of restaurants. See: <http://www.athensguide.com/plaka.html>

4/20: 8 a.m. Meet in the lobby with your bags for our transfer to the port of Piraeus. In route we will tour the Parthenon which was closed on May 1st. We will be taking the cruise ship over to Mykonos this morning. We will pull in to Mykonos at 4:30 p.m. and transfer to our hotel, Cavo Tago.

7:00 p.m. Meet in lobby to discuss tours of Mykonos and dinner plans.

4/21: 11 a.m. Meet in the lobby to break off into smaller groups. Mykonos is best seen when you have time to stroll. You might want to rent a scooter today to see the island, or take a tour. Try to get to Paradise Beach, which is a popular beach. Warning: Nudity is allowed.

7 p.m. Meet in the lobby for a meeting and to group together for dinner.

4/22: 10:30 a.m. For those who will sign up for the optional tour of Delos, meet in the lobby where we will walk to the dock. See following tour info.

7:00 p.m.: Meet in the lobby for a meeting and to head out for dinner.

4/23: Day at leisure. If you didn't get a chance to rent a scooter, today might be the time to do it. Or, stroll the beautiful streets and shops of Mykonos one last time. Enjoy a leisurely lunch and SHOP!!

6:00 P.M. We will leave our hotel to transfer to the cruise ship.

Day	Port	Arrival	Departure
Mon	Mykonos , Greece		23:00
Tue	Kusadasi (Ephessos), Turkey	07:00	12:00
Tue	Patmos , Greece	16:00	21:00
Wed	Rhodes , Greece	07:00	18:00
Thu	Heraklion (Crete), Greece	07:00	11:30
Thu	Santorini , Greece	16:00	

4/24: Stops at Kusadasi for the tour of Ephessos. Stop at Patmos

4/25: Stop at Rhodes.

4/26: Stop at Crete, then Santorini where we will be staying for the next 2 nights at the Santorini Palace Hotel. Meet Ed at the end of the gangway where he will direct you to our bus. Our hotel is called Hotel Santorini Palace: 011-286-22771.

4/27: 9:30 a.m. Meet in the lobby for the optional tour of Santorini and neighboring islands. See tour info. Below.

7:00 p.m. Meet in the lobby or hotel bar for a meeting and to group together for dinner.

4/28: This is a free day for you to explore this amazing island. Again, renting a scooter is a great way to go. Take in a couple of wineries! Find the red sand beach. I will be happy to lead the way. Otherwise, you will also enjoy yourself taking a nice walk up and around the caldera.

7:00 p.m. Meet in the lobby or hotel bar to group together for dinner plans.

4/29, 6:00 a.m. Be ready to leave our hotel (time may change). for the airport and our 7 a.m. flight to Athens. 11:20 a.m. international flight back to USA.

TOURS!!!

The cruise ship is offering tours at every stop. Since their rates were so high I have set up the same tours directly saving you all a lot of money.

Kusadasi – Ephesus

You've got to do this. It's a must see. Drive through the colourful 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 favours 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.

Cruise line price is \$91. Our direct price is - \$45 pp. That's right! This will include the transportation, guide and entrance fees.

Patmos:

I love Patmos! This island is known as the site of the apocalyptic Revelations of St. John the Apostle, written here during his exile from the Roman Empire. Here's the description of this tour: 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 jewellery are housed. Return to your motor coach and continue to the nearby Grotto of the Apocalypse and the Monastery of the Apocalypse above it. 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 honouring the Holy Trinity. Afterwards, drive back to the port of Scala and enjoy some free time in this quaint and picturesque town.

Cruise line price is \$ 70 pp. Our direct price is \$30!

Rhodes and Lindos:

Rhodes is also a great stop. The cruise ship sells a tour that will take you to Lindos and then a walking tour of Rhodes. We will organize the same tour for a lot less.

Drive along the picturesque south-eastern coastline, dotted with white-washed villages, to Lindos, one of the most important of the three great cities of ancient times. See how this entire city is guarded by medieval walls which were constructed by the knights of St. John in the 13th century. Within them stands the ancient Acropolis of Lindos, on the brink of a precipice 400 feet above the sea. From the Acropolis, marvel at the breathtaking views covering the great expanse of the Aegean Sea and St. Paul's Bay, where the apostle cast anchor during his historic voyage to Ephesus. Proceed on foot uphill, to the great staircase leading from the Hellenistic Portico to the Acropolis and Temple of Athena. Should you wish to make your way up by mule, a fee must be paid to the local muleteer. After the guided tour of the Acropolis, enjoy some free time on your own in Lindos village before meeting up with your motor coach. Return to Rhodes city and enjoy a panoramic drive through the new part of the city before continuing to Mount Smith to see the ruins of ancient Rhodes, the Temple of Apollo and Diagoras Stadium. Afterwards your motor coach will drop you off at Porte d'Amboise, the start of the walking tour through the medieval city of Rhodes. Follow your guide through the northern part where once lived the knights and their attendants. View the Palace of the Knights, continue your walk down Chevaliers Road to the Marine Gate and return back to the ship. – **Cruise ship price -\$72 pp. Our direct price - \$40**

Crete (Heraklion):

We are going to organize the same tour as the cruise ship for a lot less. Here is the description from the cruise ship's tour: 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 Evan's archaeological 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 artefacts 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.

- **Cruise ship's price: - \$ 80 pp; price of our tour: \$40**

Here are 2 other tours we have set up that have been huge hits in our past trips to Greece, so we strongly recommended them both...



TOUR FROM MYKONOS

ONE DAY CRUISE TO DELOS ISLAND

It is strongly believed by many, that this Ancient Archeological Island possesses and releases a heightened sense of light and energy, the very reason for ancient Greece's belief that Apollo, God of Light and Music, had to have been born there?

Imagine: The entire island of Delos, also known as the biggest open air museum in Europe, is an Archeological monument to what was the holiest place in the Aegean Sea. Currently, the only inhabitants on this historical island are the archaeologists who continue to conduct excavations, as well as the guards who are in place to protect it. Come with us and allow our guides to explain the spiritual, historical and cultural importance of Delos. With no traces of modern civilization you will be encompassed by the natural environment and will experience a serene, peaceful, luminous, and pure atmosphere. Witness how the ancient civilians lived their way of life. Visit their houses, walk into their living rooms, kitchens and bedrooms. Also witness Europe's first Synagogue, first Egyptian Temple, first Indian Temple and other Temples from many foreign Religions. And let's not forget, The Lions Terrace, Cleopatras House and The Temple of Apollo. So come and experience a glimpse of what it may have been like to live on Delos three thousand years ago. Duration:- Departure 11 am Return 12.20 noon OR 1.40 PM **Cost: \$40**

SEE SANTORINI IN A DAY

Bus and Boat Tour with lunch!

Visit: Akrotiri – Volcano – Hot Springs – Thirassia – Oia

This tour will include a land tour by bus, then a sailing tour with a fantastic lunch!

Program: First we visit the important archaeological site of [Akrotiri](#). Akrotiri Excavations brought to light a Minoan town preserved under the pumice for 3000 years. Our expert guide will lead an interesting and informative tour in the ancient town.



Then we go by bus to Athinios Port. There you will board the beautiful traditional boat that will sail on to reach the lava islet Nea Kameni where we leave the boat and walk an ascending soil path to approach the crater of the still active **Volcano**. Then back to the boat and we sail to the second lava islet called Palea Kameni. There we find **Hot Springs** and we can have a swim in the green sulphur waters or even take a bath in the warm therapeutic mud. After a half hour the boat will sail to the nice traditional island **Thirassia**. There we can explore the island or swim at the beach next to the port.

Back on board again for sailing to **Oia** that is our last destination. We arrive in Armeni, the small traditional port of Oia. There we will leave our beautiful boat as we approach Oia village by the stairs, either walking or riding a donkey. Oia is built along the rim of the caldera wall. You can walk in the village and enjoy the magnificent panoramic view. This is one of the best days of the entire trip. You've got to do this! **Cost: \$95**

LUNCH MENU:

BUFFET LUNCH ON THE BOAT:

Santorinian salad

Green salad

Eggplant salad

Assortment of Greek cheeses

Spinach pie

Fava (split pea puree) with capers

Pork souvlaki

Chicken souvlaki

Meat balls

Fresh fruit
Assortment of Greek sweets

Useful web sites:

Comprehensive and down to earth Greece guide that's fun to read with lots of links:
<http://www.greecetravel.com/>

Greece National Tourism Organization: Useful phone #'s to have in case of emergency:
<http://www.gnto.gr/1/01/ea0100000.html>

U.S. Department of State, current travel advisory report on Greece:
<http://travel.state.gov/greece.html>

Report on Paradise Beach in Mykonos:

<http://www.geocities.com/HotSprings/1794/cyclades/mykonos.html>

Here's a very good website with lots of useful information and maps of the islands of Mykonos and Santorini. Scroll down to the middle of the page where you'll see "popular Greece Destinations" and click on Mykonos and Santorini.

<http://www.greece101.com/home.display-lid1-slid10.html>

Good article on Mykonos: <http://www.greece101.com/destFullArticle.display-lid1-slid20-did10-cid61.html> Also, check out the other links on nightlife and restaurants.

Lots of great photos and useful information: <http://www.greekislands.com/santorini/>

Rhodes

