

# Best of Greece with 3-Day Aegean Cruise





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 Start Location


 Plane

 Cruise

 Over night

 Visited Location

 End Location

 Train

 Ferry

## Day 1 | Welcome to Athens



Put the 'oh' in opa and embark on an unforgettable exploration of an ancient land of gods and goddesses, myths and legends. Your springboard to your spellbinding holiday is the vibrant capital of Athens, an effortless mix of ancient treasures and modern verve, which you will have an opportunity to explore after being transferred to your hotel. This evening, join your Travel Director and travel companions for a light meal.

**Meals:** Dinner

**Hotel:** Divani Caravel / Radisson Blu Park / Crowne Plaza

## Day 2 | Explore Amazing Athens



Join your Local Specialist for a guided morning sightseeing tour to the ancient complex that was once the 'Cradle of Western Civilization'. Along our journey into antiquity, we'll have an opportunity to explore the Acropolis with its treasures and admire the Parthenon, dedicated to the goddess Athena, the Royal Palace and the Temple of Zeus. Dive Into Culture and see remarkable displays of an ancient world during an included visit to the Acropolis Museum, and see Hadrian's Arch and the stadium where the first modern Olympics took place in 1896. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy on your own. Stroll through the Plaka, people-watch in Syntagma Square or go in search of the city's tastiest souvlaki – the choice is yours.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Divani Caravel / Radisson Blu Park / Crowne Plaza

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Cape Sounion** - Take a relaxing trip down to the southernmost tip of Mainland Greece to see the fifth century BC Temple of Poseidon at Sounion. See if you can spot where Byron carved his initials on one of the temple's sixteen columns. Marvel at the sheer rugged beauty of the coastline and the ancient temple perched above a 197-foot drop down to the Aegean Sea below. Stand above the site of the world's first lighthouse, overlooking an area steeped in classical Greek history, ever since the tragic King Aegeas threw himself from the rocky precipice into the sea below, thereby giving his name to the Aegean Sea.

Adult: 60.00 EUR

**Dinner Meze Style & Athens Illuminations** - Enjoy a lovely dining experience at a wonderful restaurant located in the lively area of Psiri. Dining is "meze style", giving you the opportunity to taste many Greek cuisine dishes, which are served in the center of the table. Also enjoy the local free-flowing wine! Afterwards, see Athens illuminated as you return to your hotel.

Adult: 58.00 EUR



### Day 3 | Journey to Corinth, Mycenae and Nafplion



We depart Athens this morning, crossing the mighty Corinth Canal to the wild Peloponnesian Peninsula. Arriving in Corinth, we join a Local Specialist to explore an ancient city that several empires fought over throughout the centuries. We continue to Mycenae, a mighty kingdom of Ancient Greece, where we'll see the Beehive Tombs (the Treasury of Atreus), the Lion Gate and the remains of Agamemnon's Royal Palace, in the company of a Local Specialist. Later, we'll travel to Epidaurus to visit the ancient theater and view the Sanctuary of Asclepius, the God of Medicine, whose snake-entwined staff remains the symbol of medicine to this day. Arriving in the Venetian town of Nafplion later, we'll dine in our hotel this evening.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Amalia Nafplio/Ippoliti/Nafplia Palace

### Day 4 | Continue to Ancient Olympia



We traverse the Mountains of Arcadia to ancient Olympia, the site of the first Olympic Games held in 776 BC. This evening, we Connect With Locals joining the Karabelas family for dinner on their olive and wine farm at a Be My Guest experience featuring traditional dancing and characteristic Greek philoxenia.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Amalia Olympia

## Day 5 | Onwards to Patras and Delphi



We join a Local Specialist this morning to delve into centuries of history. We'll visit the ancient Olympic site, the museum and the ruined remains of the Temples of Zeus and Hera. Leaving Olympia, we skirt the coastline north to Patras, crossing the Gulf of Corinth to mainland Greece before continuing to Delphi, where you may wish to try your hand at preparing some local dishes during an interactive cooking lesson.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Amalia Delphi

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Greek Culinary Experience** - This evening enjoy a fun interactive Greek cooking lesson; try your hand at preparing various famous local dishes under the expert direction of your warm and hospitable chef and hosts.

Afterwards relax in the lovely surroundings and enjoy a scrumptious dinner including the dishes you have prepared!

Adult: 61.00 EUR

## Day 6 | Off to Thermopylae and Kalambaka



Tread in the footsteps of the ancient Greeks, who would descend on the sanctuary of Delphi to consult with the most important oracle in the classical world. Join your Local Specialist and walk the Sacred Way to the 4<sup>th</sup>-century Temple of Apollo. View the statues immortalizing the strength of the athletes who once competed in the Pythian Games, held in honor of Apollo and the Arts. Continue on to a family-ran honey farm for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience. Taste the rich thyme honey freshly collected from the hive and come up close to the unique biodiversity of the area. A scenic afternoon drive brings us to Thermopylae, famous for the heroic defense by Leonidas and his brave Spartans against the invading Persians. We cross the lush Thessaly region, traveling north through the 'breadbasket of Greece' towards Kalambaka.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Amalia Kalambaka

## Day 7 | Admire Meteora and Return to Athens



The UNESCO World Heritage monasteries of Meteora are your first stop today. Join a Local Specialist to visit two of the six Eastern Orthodox monasteries that cling impressively to immense, rounded rock towers overlooking the town. After a scenic drive back to Athens, settle in for a final dinner with your travel companions to reminisce over an incredible journey through Greece.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Divani Caravel / Radisson Blu Park / Crowne Plaza

## Day 8 | Embark and Cruise to Stunning Mykonos



We leave the bustling city streets of Athens and cruise to Mykonos, where the Windmills of Kato Mili extend a warm evening welcome as they have to arriving seafarers for centuries. You'll have the evening free to explore the winding lanes of Chora, strolling past whitewashed cottages and tumbling cerise bougainvillea as you admire the pretty boutiques, then follow your nose to the best seafood in town. As the sun sets over Mykonos, there's no better place for cocktails than Little Venice.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Hotel:** MV Celestyal Discovery

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Mykonian Countryside Tour with Hora & Little Venice*** - Join our Local Specialist as we head south from Chora, stopping at the leeward beach of Ornos, a picturesque fishing harbor and popular anchorage. We'll continue to the small beach of Agia Anna and Kalafatis beach. Then, we'll visit the traditional village of Ano Mera and the monastery of Panagia Tourliani, founded in 1542. The pretty village square is a perfect spot for a short break. Returning to Chora, we'll stop at Paraportiani where we'll see the Mykonos Folklore Museum, housed in an old two-storied merchant baron's house. Continuing, we'll visit the "Little Venice" of Mykonos, Alefkandra, with its windmills and otherworldly sunsets that are a highlight of the island.

Adult: 79.00 EUR



## Day 9 | Continue to Ancient Ephesus and Patmos



Visit the Turkish shores of Kusadasi for a complimentary Shore Experience to ancient Ephesus. We continue to Patmos, the site where the Book of Revelation was written by St. John. Here, you could choose to see the Cave of the Apocalypse and St. John's Monastery as an Optional Experience.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Hotel:** MV Celestyal Discovery

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Patmos Countryside Tour with Hora and the Grotto of the Apocalypse*** - We'll visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Patmos to enjoy a panoramic guided tour of the island, including a magical visit to the Grotto of the Apocalypse, where it is said St John the Apostle wrote the Book of Revelation. We'll then reach the medieval town of Hora to enjoy a leisurely walk, marvel at the views of the Monastery of St John the Evangelist, and finish our tour at Scala, the port of Patmos, where we'll enjoy a welcoming coffee, tea or refreshment.

Adult: 79.00 EUR

## Day 10 | Cruise to Crete and on to Santorini



You may decide to explore Crete's ancient Minoan culture and heritage at the Palace of Knossos. Admire its bright wall paintings that were restored at the turn of the 20th century and explore centuries of history that predate Christ. Or choose to drive deep into the beautiful countryside and experience the true flavor of Cretan lifestyle. Continue to Santorini, watching as this Cycladic island comes closer on the horizon, rising out of the Aegean with its distinctive cliff-top towns. You could consider an optional Shore Experience this afternoon, passing villages and vineyards bound for Oia with its white buildings and blue-domed churches which vie for the best views over the caldera.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

**Hotel:** MV Celestyal Discovery

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Experience Cretan Countryside & Lifestyle** - Leaving the Venetian walls of Heraklion behind us, we drive deep into the beautiful countryside of Greece's largest island. We pass through Episkopi and Sgourokefali before arriving at the traditional village of Stironas. Wine has been in Crete since the Minoans and after a little wine tasting, visit a raki distiller and sample the product straight from the barrels in his cellar. Enjoy a Cretan meze with pure local olive oil and traditional dancers performance. You will have imbibed the true flavor of countryside life for a few hours. Subject to participation numbers.

Adult: 92.00 EUR

**Minoan Palace of Knossos - First European Civilization** - Visit the Palace of Knossos in Heraklion, walk through its imposing northern entrance and admire the bright wall paintings that were restored at the turn of the 20th century, revealing insights into Minoan civilization several thousand years before Christ. Subject to participation numbers.

Adult: 92.00 EUR

You will be offered one of the following two Optional Experiences depending on availability:

**Akrotiri Village Excavations** - Marvel at Santorini's towering cliffs, as tender boats convey you to the port at Athinios, where a coach will take you to Santorini's most significant archaeological site, the ancient village of Akrotiri. On the way we'll stop at the ruins of the island's famous windmill for photos and to enjoy the incredible panoramic view. You'll then have a chance to go back in time to explore the amazing ruins of Akrotiri. These advanced people grew crops and built two- and three-story homes, shops and workshops surrounding the village square thousands of years ago. Akrotiri was a bustling town, but its inhabitants abandoned it before the Thera eruption, a mystery archaeologists and historians are still trying to solve. The ash from the volcano buried the city, preserving many of its structures and some of its incredible frescoes. Driving on to Fira, the capital of Santorini and its largest town, we'll visit the Orthodox Metropolitan Cathedral famed for its elegant construction and its beautiful frescoes painted by Christoforos Assimis. Stay in Fira to shop and enjoy a coffee or a snack or take the Santorini Cable Car to the port below, an incredible descent of more than 200 meters toward the deep blue waters of the caldera. Our tender boats will be ready, once you disembark from the cable car, to bring you back to the ship.

Adult: 97.00 EUR

**Spectacular Oia Village Perched on the Caldera Rim** - We'll travel first to Megalochori village, one of the most authentic, unspoiled villages of the island with its distinctive architecture and character. We'll continue East, viewing distant settlements like Kamari and Monolithos, and pass through the island's capital Fira. Then, it's off to the small traditional villages of Firostefani and Imerovigli, with their delicate architecture, before eventually arriving at the settlement of Oia. You'll have plenty of time to stroll through the village's marble-paved alleys, gaze at the adorably cute



shops, and take Instagram-worthy pictures of the characteristic buildings carved into the rocks, including the distinctive captains' manors.  
Adult: 83.00 EUR

## Day 11 | Disembark in Athens



This morning, disembark from your cruise ship and board a transfer to your hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Divani Caravel/Radisson Blu Park Hotel  
Athens/Crowne Plaza Athens City Centre

## Day 12 | Journey Home



Transfers are provided to the airport for your return flight home.

**Meals:** Breakfast